

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 1 of 57

- [1- United Methodist Fall Dinner](#)
- [2- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [3- Hanten wins Peace Poster Contest](#)
- [4- Activities board gets advice about nine-man football](#)
- [5- SDHSAA board formalizes goals](#)
- [6- New Native America football conference a success](#)
- [6- Groton Prairie Mixed](#)
- [7- Groton Senior Citizens](#)
- [7- Co-ops Support Summer Study Recommendation](#)
- [8- Groton Legion Turkey Party Ad](#)
- [9- Weather Pages](#)
- [12- Daily Devotional](#)
- [13- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [14- News from the Associated Press](#)



Groton United Methodist Church

Fall Dinner

Sunday, November 10, 2019

11 am to 1:30 pm

Adults \$10 Children 6 - 10 \$5
Children age 5 and under Free

Roast Beef Dinner

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 2 of 57

It's Region 1A Volleyball on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank
Bulldogs** VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019
at Groton Area Arena

**Good Luck Lady Tigers
from these Broadcast Sponsors!**

- * Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass
- * Tyson DeHoet Trucking
- * Dakota Risk Management
- * Aberdeen Chrysler Center
 - * Weber Landscaping
 - * BaseKamp Lodge
 - * Groton Legion
 - * Jark Real Estate
 - * Lori's Pharmacy
- * Blocker Construction
- * Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
 - * Milbrandt Enterprises Inc.
 - * BK Custom T's & More
- * S&S Lumber & Hardware Hank
 - * Bierman Farm Service



Hanten wins Peace Poster Contest

Pictured is Tegan Hanten winner of the Groton Lion's Journey of Peace Poster Contest. She received a \$25 gift certificate to the Jungle and her poster was sent to compete in the State competition. Pictured with Tegan is Groton Elementary School Principle Brett Schwan. Tegan is the daughter of Cody and Sarah Hanten.

(Courtesy Photo)

Activities board gets advice about nine-man football

By Dana Hess
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Schools with vigorous youth football programs have better participation in nine-man football. That observation was offered to the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors at its meeting Wednesday.

During the public forum portion of the board's agenda, Dave Schumacher, a youth football coach from Herreid, told the board that numbers are slipping in nine-man football participation. He said the 9B teams average 22 players, 9A teams average 29 players and 9AA teams average 31 players.

Back when he played, Schumacher said, there were often as many as 50 players on a team.

"When you don't have enough (players) to practice with, games get cancelled," Schumacher said, and players lose interest.

Getting students interested in football at an early age is the key to maintaining that interest through the varsity level, according to Schumacher.

"Youth programs have successful varsity programs," Schumacher said.

Schumacher said more emphasis needs to be placed on junior varsity games.

"JV football has really been kicked to the curb," Schumacher said.

Schumacher said he would like to see a rule making it mandatory that junior varsity games must be played prior to varsity games at the nine-man level.

SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos said the association won't tell schools that they can't play JV games prior to varsity games. One of the problems, Swartos said, is when players are on both the JV and varsity squads.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch advised Schumacher to offer his idea to his school district as well as area nine-man football coaches. Then he could present the idea at the annual meeting of the football advisory committee.

The football advisory committee is scheduled to meet at the SDHSAA office in Pierre from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.

Rule changes backed by the SDHSAA's advisory committees are forwarded to the annual meeting of athletic directors. From there they go to the SDHSAA board for action.

SDHSAA board formalizes goals

By Dana Hess
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Having had a lengthy discussion at its strategic planning session in August, on Wednesday the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors formalized its goals for the 2019-20 school year.

Chief among the goals were plans to develop new revenue and explore new sports or activities.

SDHSAA Executive Director said he attended an electronic sports event at Dakota State University in Madison. He said 15 South Dakota schools have E-sports teams with as many as 50 other schools considering adding the activity.

Other new sports on the association's radar are girls' softball and girls' wrestling.

"We hear a lot about baseball," Swartos said.

The board's goal for new revenue includes exploring a bid process for SDHSAA state events. That goal also includes recommending changes to the management fees paid to schools that host state and sub-state events with the goal of being able to pay more to those schools.

Other goals include:

- Develop a request for proposal for merchandise sales at state events.
- Review the structure of advisory committees.
- Simplify and articulate the SDHSAA mission, vision and beliefs.

Board member Dave Planteen of Langford said another goal should be the recruitment and retention of officials.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch said that is an ongoing goal of the association. She reported that 47 new officials have been recruited for the basketball season.

New Native America football conference a success

By Dana Hess
For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — With the creation of the All Nations Football Conference, Native American schools in South Dakota have seen a 60% to 70% increase in participation.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors heard this news at its Wednesday meeting. SDHSAA Executive Director Dan Swartos characterized the conference's inaugural season as "very successful."

This year 12 tribal schools came together to form the conference. The conference's first championship game will be played Friday at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion.

"It seemed to bring a lot of life to those programs," Swartos said of the creation of the new football conference. "It did exactly what they wanted it to do."

Board member Dave Planteen of Langford had a chance to attend an All Nations game. "The atmosphere was just great," Planteen said.

Swartos was reporting to the board about a meeting of the association's Native American advisory board. Another topic of the advisory board meeting was increasing the number of Native American basketball officials.

A recruitment program had at one time been funded by the state, but that funding has since ended.

"We're still looking at how to fund that," Swartos said.

—30—

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Cheetahs 6, Foxes 5, Chipmunks 4, Coyotes 4, Shih Tzus 3, Jackelopes 2

Men's High Games: Brad Larson 210, TJ Sperry 199, Randy Stanley 197

Women's High Games: Lori Giedt 187, Sue Stanley 164, Brenda Waage 162

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 548, TJ Sperry 525, Roger Colestock 516

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 457, Sue Stanley 441, Lori Giedt 426

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 7 of 57

Groton Senior Citizens

The Groton Senior Citizens met October 14 with 13 members present. President opened with the flag pledge. Lee Schinkel played, "My Country Tis of Thee." Few of the members attended the fall festival at the Granary. Marilyn Thorson had back surgery. Meeting was adjourned. Cards and 50 with dice were played. The winners of the card games were Pinochle - Sarge Likness; Whist - Tony Goldade; 50- Pat Larson. Door Prizes - Kelly Miracle, Beulah Hoops and Sarge Likness. Lunch was served by Ruby Donovan, Balenda Nelson and Kelly Miracle.

On October 21, 13 members were present. A short meeting was held to have election of officers. They are: President - Ruby Donovan, Treasurer - Eunice McColister, Secretary - Elda Stange volunteered to serve another year, Vice-President - Sarge Likness. Meeting adjourned and cards were played. The winners were: Pinochle - Sarge Likness, Whist - Dick Donovan, Canasta - Pat Larson and Eunice McColister, Door Prizes - Ruby Donovan, Pat Larson and David Keinsassor.

Lunch was served by Darlene Fischer.

On October 28 the group met for a potluck dinner. Seventeen members were present. Bingo was played after dinner. Darlene Fischer won blackout. Cards were played after Bingo, Door prizes went to Tony Goldade, David Kleinsassor and Ella Johnson.

Co-ops Support Summer Study Recommendation

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota's electric cooperatives applaud an interim committee of the South Dakota Legislature for supporting a framework for a compromise which has the potential to bring long-needed improvements to electric service territory disputes.

An exception in current state law allows the 35 municipal electric systems in South Dakota to take territory in newly annexed areas from electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. That exception has been the focus of the nine-member Electric Services in an Annexed area legislative summer study committee for the past five months.

The framework of the compromise that was adopted on an 8-1 vote by the legislative committee on November 6 would require regular meetings and good faith negotiations between all utilities involved in electric service territory boundaries in newly annexed areas. The compromise framework further states that if the utilities cannot negotiate an agreement as to who will serve the newly annexed areas the Public Utilities Commission would settle the dispute.

"The framework of a compromise that was overwhelmingly adopted by the legislative summer study committee is a good start to bring long-needed improvements to the state law governing electric service territory," South Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Association (SDREA) General Manager Ed Anderson said.

South Dakota electric cooperatives have been telling lawmakers for the past year that it is fundamentally unfair for municipal electric systems to have the option to take service territory from another utility. The proposal passed by the nine-member legislative committee provides a path forward to solve this problem.

"This legislative committee spent a lot of time and effort to adopt this plan and we would like to thank them for their work," Anderson said.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives would especially like to thank Sen. Alan Solano (R-Rapid City) for chairing the committee and Rep. Thomas Brunner (R-Nisland) for serving as vice-chair of the panel. Co-ops would also like to recognize Sen. Susan Wismer (D-Britton), Sen. Jordan Youngberg (R-Madison), Rep. Shawn Bordeaux (D-Mission), Rep. Kirk Chaffee (R-Whitewood), Rep. Spencer Gosch (R-Glenham), and Rep. Tim Reed (R-Brookings) for supporting the compromise.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 8 of 57

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



Annual



Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

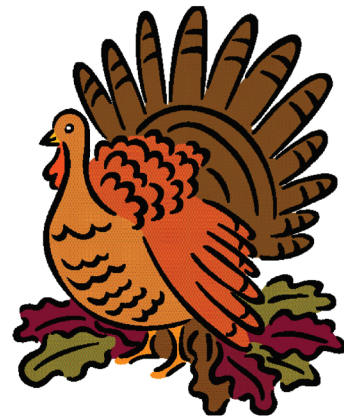
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 9 of 57

Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 30 °F

Tonight



Increasing Clouds

Low: 17 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 44 °F

Friday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

Saturday



Slight Chance Rain/Sleet then Mostly Cloudy

High: 49 °F

Cool Today...Warming into Saturday

Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Highs: 28-38 F	Lows: 17-23 Highs: 40-53 F	Lows: 27-32 F Highs: 45-58 F	Lows: 18-24 F Highs: 23-30 F
		Slight chance mixed precipitation northeast SD	BREEZY

National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD
 Created: 11/7/2019 6:21 AM
 www.weather.gov/abr
 US National Weather Service Aberdeen SD
 @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 11/07/2019 at 1:28AM

Surface high pressure will bring the region mostly sunny skies today with below normal temperatures in the upper 20s to the upper 30s. Warmer air will move into the region for Friday and Saturday with 40s and 50s for highs.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 10 of 57

Today in Weather History

November 7, 1986: A major winter storm dumped 10 to 25 inches of snow over most of North Dakota. The snow combined with winds of 30 to 50 mph, and gusts to 70 mph, creating blizzard conditions. Snow began over southern and eastern North Dakota on the morning of the 7th, and by late afternoon, had spread over the entire state. The snowfall was heavy at times and continued through the night of the 7th. In the southeast quarter, the snow alternated with rain, freezing rain, and sleet. By daybreak on the 8th, snow and blowing snow were occurring statewide. By late morning, the storm had intensified into a blizzard over almost all of North Dakota. The blizzard ended over extreme western North Dakota by late afternoon of the 8th and over the rest of the state that night. The most substantial snowfall occurred over south central and east central North Dakota. The highest wind gusts of the storm happened in the north central and northeast sections of the state. Several wind gusts to 58 mph were recorded at Grand Forks, and a gust to 55 mph occurred at the Minot Air Force Base. Wind chills dipped to 40 below over some parts of the state. The storm occurred on the opening day of deer hunting season and forced many hunters to cancel their trips. The storm stranded many motorists and delayed fire-fighting efforts which caused a few homes and buildings burn down. Snowplow activity had to be halted for many hours because of high winds and blowing snow.

November 6, 2000: Snowfall of 4 to 10 inches combined with northwest winds of 30 to 45 mph, with stronger gusts, to create blizzard conditions throughout much of the day. Numerous schools were canceled or started late. Many events were also canceled. Several accidents occurred due to the slick roads and low visibilities. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 9.5 inches in Selby; 8 inches in Glenham and 12SSW of Harrold; 7.3 inches near Onaka; 7 inches at Faulkton; and 6 inches in Miller.

1940: The Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which opened on July 1, 1940, spanned the Puget Sound from Gig Harbor to Tacoma. At the time of the opening, the bridge was the third longest suspension bridge in the world, covering nearly 6,000 feet. Before the bridge opened, high winds would cause the bridge to move vertically, giving the nickname Galloping Gertie. On this day in 1940, winds of 40 mph caused the bridge to collapse because of the physical phenomenon known as aeroelastic flutter.

1951: At 7 AM a blinding flash, a huge ball of fire, and a terrific roar occurred over parts of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, caused by a disintegrating meteor. Windows were broken in and near Hinton Oklahoma by the concussion.

1986 - An early season blizzard struck the Northern Plains Region. North Dakota took the brunt of the storm with wind gusts to 70 mph, and snowfall totals ranged up to 25 inches at Devils Lake. (Storm Data)

1987 - Heavy snow fell across parts of eastern New York State overnight, with twelve inches reported at the town of Piseco, located in the Mohawk Valley. A storm in the southwestern U.S. left nine inches of snow at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires reduced visibilities to less than a mile at some locations from North Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued across the state of Texas. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco and Del Rio with readings of 92 degrees. McAllen was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Shortly after daybreak strong thunderstorms developed over a narrow, but almost stationary, east-west band across New Orleans, in southeastern Louisiana. As a result, heavy rains persisted over the same area until mid afternoon before tapering off, and triggered flash flooding across a five county area. Eight to twelve inch rains deluged the area between 9 AM and 6 PM, and totals for the 48 hour period ending at 7 AM on the 8th ranged up to 19.78 inches, between Lake Lexy and Lake Borgne. Approximately 6000 homes in the area reported water damage. The rainfall total for November of 19.81 inches at New Orleans was their highest total for any given month of the year. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 11 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 27 °F at 12:59 AM

Low Temp: 11 °F at 8:09 PM

Wind: 23 mph at 7:41 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 75° in 1909

Record Low: -9° in 1991

Average High: 45°F

Average Low: 23°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.18

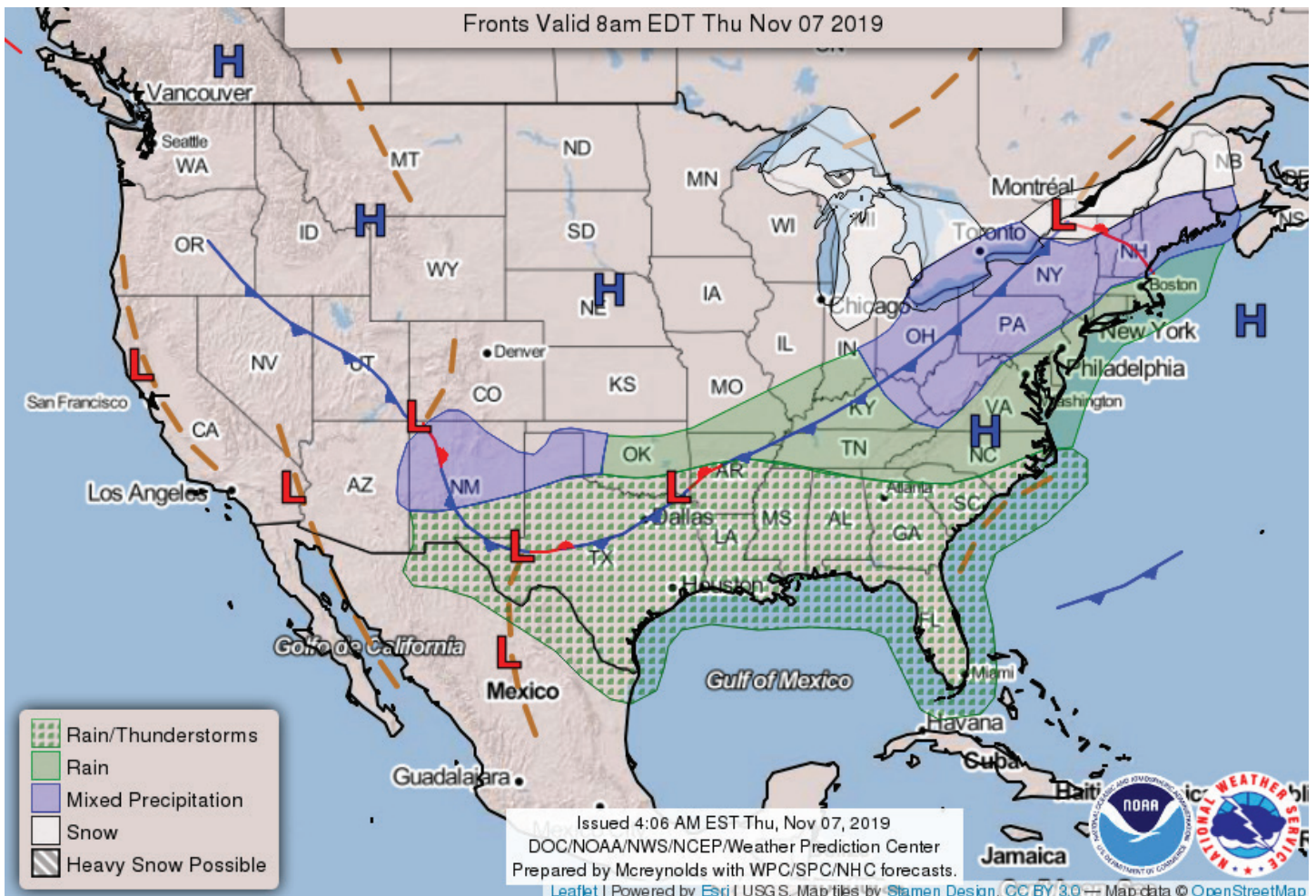
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.65

Precip Year to Date: 26.57

Sunset Tonight: 5:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23 a.m.





DOES PRAYER ALWAYS WORK?

An avid baseball fan was sitting next to a priest during a baseball game. Aware of the need to speak religiously, the fan did his best to speak of Godly things.

A player came to bat, and before stepping to the plate, bowed his head in prayer and made the sign of the cross. On the first pitch, he hit the ball over the bleachers and out of the park.

On his next trip to the plate, he followed the same routine: he bowed his head and made the sign of the cross. On the first pitch, he hit another home run. Amazed, the man turned to the priest and asked, "Does prayer always work like that?"

"It does," said the priest, "if you can hit a home run every time you are at bat!"

We must always remember that God has given each of us unique skills, talents, and abilities. And, we must also remember that we are responsible to develop our gifts and reach our potential. Then, we must ask God to bless and use them to honor Him.

Prayer: May we always remember, Lord, that You did not give us our skills for self-centered reasons. They are ours to bless You first, then others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 2:17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 13 of 57

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)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 14 of 57

News from the Associated Press

3 killed in crash near Scotland identified

SCOTLAND, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified the three people killed in a two-vehicle crash near Scotland.

The driver of a car, 72-year-old William Petershagen, and two passengers, 64-year-old Purcell Provost and 10-year-old Aileen Marsharl, died when their vehicle collided with a pickup truck Friday.

The patrol says Petershagen ran a stop sign at Highways 46 and 25 and struck the pickup and an attached trailer. The pickup did not have a stop sign. The pickup driver, a 26-year-old man, sustained minor injuries.

Marsharl, from Wagner, and Provost were pronounced dead at the scene. Petershagen died Sunday after being airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital. Petershagen and Provost were from Sioux Falls.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

05-09-19-32-34

(five, nine, nineteen, thirty-two, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$262,000

Lotto America

02-12-15-27-44, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2

(two, twelve, fifteen, twenty-seven, forty-four; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.47 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

Powerball

15-28-46-62-64, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 3

(fifteen, twenty-eight, forty-six, sixty-two, sixty-four; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Sheriff says driver died after northeast Nebraska collision

FORDYCE, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say an 86-year-old driver died at a South Dakota hospital after a collision in northeast Nebraska.

The collision occurred just before 5:30 p.m. Monday at the intersection of Nebraska Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 81, about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) northwest of Fordyce.

Cedar County Sheriff Larry Koranda says an eastbound pickup driven by Jacob Keiter didn't halt at a stop sign and collided with a southbound pickup driven by 45-year-old Shane Pedersen, of Pierce.

Keiter was taken to a hospital in Yankton, South Dakota and then transferred to a hospital in Sioux Falls. Koranda says Keiter died Tuesday. He lived in Hartington.

It's unclear whether Pedersen was injured.

Sioux Falls officer cleared in non-fatal shooting

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota attorney general says a Sioux Falls police officer was justified in shooting a fleeing suspect last month.

AG Jason Ravnsborg says a review of the Oct. 6 shooting by the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation found 29-year-old Trent Wagner fired a revolver at police before an officer shot and wounded him. Two police officers were responding to a 911 call reporting that Wagner had showed up at a residence uninvited and armed.

Investigators say officers who later encountered and chased Wagner on foot ordered him to drop the revolver before one fired 12 shots, hitting him three times and wounding him. The officers were not injured in the incident.

Officials say lab tests later found methamphetamine in Wagner's system.

Keystone line to remain closed until corrective action taken

By **JAMES MacPHERSON** Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal regulators have ordered the Keystone pipeline to remain shut down until its Canadian owner takes corrective action aimed at determining the cause of a breach that leaked an estimated 383,000 gallons (1.4 million liters) of oil in northeastern North Dakota.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued the order Tuesday to Calgary, Alberta-based TC Energy. The action comes one week after the pipeline leak was discovered and affected about 22,500 square feet (2,090 square meters) of land near Edinburg, in Walsh County.

The pipeline has been shut down since Oct. 29. It is designed to carry crude oil across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri on the way to refineries in Patoka, Illinois, and Cushing, Oklahoma.

The order requires the company to send the affected portion of the 30-inch (76-centimeter) steel pipeline to an independent laboratory for testing. The company also must develop a plan to restart the line and for remediation.

TC Energy, formerly known as TransCanada, said in a statement it expects to have the damaged portion of the pipeline excavated by the end of the week.

The company said it has about 200 people at the site working around the clock who are "focused on clean-up and remediation activities."

"We're continuing to monitor air quality around the site and the surrounding area throughout clean-up, with no concerns," TC Energy said.

Karl Rockeman, North Dakota's water quality division director, said Wednesday about 252,000 gallons (954,000 liters) of crude oil have been recovered.

Rockeman said some wetlands were affected, but not any sources of drinking water.

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

Iran injects gas in new centrifuges as atomic deal unravels

By **JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran injected uranium gas into centrifuges at its underground Fordo nuclear complex early Thursday, taking its most-significant step away from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran meanwhile also acknowledged blocking an official from the International Atomic Energy Agency from visiting its nuclear site at Natanz last week, the first known case of a United Nations inspector being blocked amid heightened tensions over its atomic program. Iran's representative to the IAEA said Tehran had asked the agency never to send the inspector again, without elaborating on what happened.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 16 of 57

These latest steps by Iran put additional pressure on Europe to offer Tehran a way to sell its crude oil abroad despite the U.S. sanctions imposed on the country since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal over a year ago.

The gas injection began after midnight at Fordo, a facility built under a mountain north of the Shiite holy city of Qom, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said. A U.N. official from the IAEA witnessed the injection, it said. The centrifuges ultimately will begin enriching uranium up to 4.5%, which is just beyond the limits of the nuclear deal, but nowhere near weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Fordo's 1,044 centrifuges previously spun without uranium gas for enrichment under the deal, which saw Iran limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. The deal had called for Fordo to become "a nuclear, physics and technology center."

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. Experts have suggested that the limits imposed under the 2015 deal, when obeyed, meant that Iran would need a year to gather enough material to build a nuclear weapon if it chose to do so — a time known as a "breakout period."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo criticized Iran's decision to inject gas into the Fordo centrifuges in a statement Thursday. He made no reference to Trump's decision to leave the deal in May 2018, sparking the crisis.

"Iran's expansion of proliferation-sensitive activities raises concerns that Iran is positioning itself to have the option of a rapid nuclear breakout," Pompeo said. "It is now time for all nations to reject this regime's nuclear extortion and take serious steps to increase pressure."

Pompeo did not elaborate on what those serious steps should be. The U.S. earlier this week imposed sanctions on members of the inner circle of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Meanwhile, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said it had blocked a female IAEA inspector from its facility at Natanz, where centrifuges also enrich uranium. Iran said an alarm went off while the woman tried to enter the facility, causing officials there to stop her from going in.

The state-run IRNA news agency, citing Iran's atomic agency, said the woman was stopped "due to concerns over carrying suspicious materials." The inspector later left Iran without completing her visit, it said.

This marks the first known time of Iran blocking an inspector amid the tensions. Kazem Gharib Abadi, Iran's representative to the IAEA, described the breach the inspector allegedly caused a "serious security concern." He did not elaborate, other than to deny she had been detained.

"Due to the nature of the incident, Iran officially has asked the agency to remove her name from the list of designated inspectors for the Islamic Republic of Iran and to designate an alternative inspector instead," Abadi said.

Jackie Wolcott, the U.S. representative to the IAEA, called the inspector's rejection an "outrageous provocation."

"All board members need to make clear now and going forward that such actions are completely unacceptable, will not be tolerated, and must have consequences," Wolcott said in remarks released to journalists. "If the Iranian regime thinks it can test the international community's resolve on this issue, then we assure you the United States will not waver."

Iranian officials repeatedly have 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.

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.

___ Associated Press writers Kiyoko Metzler and Philipp Jenne in Vienna and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Auschwitz survivor a symbol of Italy's anti-Semitic tensions

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — An 89-year-old Auschwitz survivor who is a senator-for-life in Italy has unwittingly provoked one of the country's most intense confrontations with anti-Semitism since the end of Italy's Fascist dictatorship during World War II.

In response to revelations that she is subject to 200 social media attacks each day, Liliana Segre called for the creation of a parliamentary committee to combat hate, racism and anti-Semitism. Parliament approved her motion — but without votes from Italy's right-wing parties.

Matteo Salvini's euroskeptic League party, Silvio Berlusconi's center-right Forza Italia and Giorgia Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy all abstained, in a move that defied the social consensus that has marked Italian post-war politics.

The vote last week, along with a round of racist chants in a soccer stadium, has focused attention on a growing boldness in anti-Semitic and racist attitudes in Italy, and the role of politicians in sanctioning them.

On Thursday, Italian state radio said Milan's prefect, who reports to the interior minister, has assigned a Carabinieri paramilitary police security detail to Segre because of the threats against her.

Meloni said she abstained because the commission didn't address the role of Islamic extremism in anti-Semitism. Salvini said he was worried the motion would introduce limits on freedom of expression and that "the left would pass off for racism what for us is the belief or the right to say 'Italians first.'" In a similar vein, Forza Italia called the commission an attempt at "political censure."

Riccardo Pacifici, the former leader of Rome's Jewish community and a member of the Shoah Foundation of Rome, said the reasons given for the abstentions could be taken at face value.

"But if we should discover that the real reason for which they didn't vote was because they feared losing the consensus of the extreme right, I believe that Jews will have a problem also in Italy," Pacifici said.

The Milan-based Center of Contemporary Jewish Documents' Observatory on Anti-Jewish Prejudice, which disclosed the hateful messages directed toward Segre on social media, says anti-Semitic attacks are on the rise in Italy, particularly online. Through the end of September, 190 anti-Semitic incidents had been reported this year to the observatory, 120 of them on social media. That compares with 153 anti-Semitic incidents for all of 2018 and 91 for all of 2017.

Examples include defamation, direct insults or downplaying Nazism, with rare cases of threats or aggression, including a Jewish woman who was slapped this year in the northern province of Cuneo and a Jewish professor who was spat upon in Rome.

Prominent Jews are often the main targets, researcher Stefano Gatti said.

"These are not coming just from extremists," Gatti said of the attacks on Segre. "This is very worrying."

Still, Gatti said "anti-Semitism in Italy is not a social emergency. Episodes of anti-Semitism are not violent," in comparison to Germany and France, which have much larger Jewish communities. Italy's Jewish community numbers around 30,000, compared with half a million in France, Europe's largest Jewish population, and 200,000 in Germany.

The rise in anti-Semitism has come alongside a rising climate of intolerance toward migrants arriving from Libya that was stoked during Salvini's tenure as interior minister, which was marked by his refusal to allow humanitarian rescue ships to land in Italy.

Incidents of racism are also making headlines, such as monkey chants aimed at forward Mario Balotelli during a top-tier soccer game Sunday. Balotelli, who is black, was visibly upset and threatened to leave the field, but Salvini, a soccer fan, told the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper that "the fuss has been exaggerated."

The head of Italy's largest Jewish community in Rome, Ruth Dureghello, said the commission vote alongside "the manifestation of anti-Semitism, racism, discrimination and hatred are signals of a climate that has changed."

"The right-wing (politicians) made a choice that I see as mistaken and dangerous at a crucial moment. Above all, for the history of the person who proposed the commission, they should have taken deeper consideration," Dureghello, said by telephone from Poland, where she was visiting Auschwitz with students.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 18 of 57

Segre was 13 when she was sent to Auschwitz, where her father and paternal grandparents were killed. She has spent the last several decades recounting her experiences during the Holocaust to young people.

She was on such a visit Tuesday in Milan when asked if she would respond to a statement by Salvini, who in the wake of the commission controversy said he would like to meet her.

"I will meet him, of course, why shouldn't I?" she asked. "If I don't hate, why should I not open the door?"

Donald Trump works up a sweat at a Louisiana campaign rally

By AAMER MADHANI and MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

MONROE, La. (AP) — President Donald Trump worked up a sweat in a steamy Louisiana arena Wednesday night as he attempted to boost Republican businessman Eddie Rispone's effort to unseat incumbent Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards in the nation's last governor's race of the year.

"It may be 120 degrees in this room," Trump told the crowd at the end of a rally in the northeastern Louisiana city of Monroe.

"Somebody is saving on air conditioning," Trump joked. "That's all right. You've always got to save a little money. You go home and you lose about nine pounds and you say, 'What happened?'"

The gubernatorial runoff election in Louisiana offers Trump an opportunity to pick up a win in a rare Democratic-held governor's seat in the Deep South and change the narrative after a pair of apparent setbacks this week for the Republican party in Kentucky and Virginia.

"You're going out to replace a radical, liberal Democrat as your governor," Trump said. "John Bel Edwards has not done the job."

Trump is going all in with the Louisiana governor's race.

The White House confirmed he would visit Bossier City on Nov. 14, two days before Louisiana voters head to polls. Trump also visited Lake Charles last month to encourage voters to back one of the Republicans ahead of the state's open primary. Because no candidate won a majority in the October primary, the top two vote-getters — Bel Edwards and Rispone — advanced to the Nov. 16 runoff.

Trump told the friendly audience that a vote for Rispone is a vote for his agenda, which he said Democrats have tried to hamstring through an impeachment inquiry.

"The American people are fed up with Democrat lies, hoaxes, smears, slanders and scams. The Democrats' shameful conduct has created an angry majority. And that's what we are," Trump said. "We're a majority, and we're angry, that will vote the do-nothing Democrats out of office in 2020."

With Wednesday's visit to Monroe, Trump waded into the heart of the congressional district represented by Republican Ralph Abraham, the third-place finisher in last month's gubernatorial primary. Both Rispone and Edwards are competing for Abraham's voters. Polls show a tight race, with few undecided and both campaigns hoping Trump will mobilize voters in their bases.

Trump called Abraham "a better man" than him for getting behind Rispone after a hard-fought primary. Abraham urged voters to get out the vote for Rispone.

"Eddie, let's get this thing done," Abraham said. "Put the horse in the barn."

A longtime Republican political donor who has poured millions of his own dollars into the campaign, Rispone has tied his candidacy to Trump, introducing himself to voters in TV ads by talking about his support for the president.

"We need a pro-Trump, good servant," Rispone said at the rally. "Someone who is not beholden to special interests, ... someone like Trump."

The owner of an industrial contracting firm, Rispone avoids many specifics about what he would do in office. He regularly compares himself to Trump, declaring both are "conservative outsiders."

Edwards, a former state lawmaker and military veteran, has downplayed national issues in favor of a defense of his own performance. Both anti-abortion and pro-gun, Edwards in many ways doesn't match the platform of the national Democratic Party. But he holds positions that helped him draw support in 2015 from the Republican and independent voters he needs to win again.

At a campaign stop Wednesday in Monroe, Edwards pointed to the Kentucky governor's race, where results

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 19 of 57

showed Democrat Andy Beshear in the lead by a few thousand votes over Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, a Trump ally. Edwards said Kentucky voters didn't cast their ballots based on Trump's visits, and he expects Louisiana voters won't either. Trump had joined Bevin at a Kentucky rally hours before Tuesday's vote.

"The people of Louisiana, like the people of Kentucky, they will decide this race based on Louisiana issues, not Washington, D.C., issues," Edwards said.

At the Monroe rally, Trump was also joined by Louisiana's two Republican senators and two of its biggest TV celebrities: "Duck Dynasty" star Willie and Phil Robertson.

"I got it down to this," said Phil Robertson. "If you are pro-God and pro-America and pro-gun and pro-duck hunting, that's all I want."

Deslatte reported from Baton Rouge.

Follow Melinda Deslatte on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/melindadeslatte>

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. 'IT'S JUST THE OPTICS'

The Oval Office has emerged as such a sought-after destination that Ukraine's new president was hell-bent on getting there and the White House unafraid to dangle it as leverage.

2. MASSACRE ILLUMINATES MEXICAN DRUG WAR VIOLENCE

The slaughter of three U.S. women and six of their children wasn't the first or only time Mexico's drug war claimed foreigners, women or children.

3. US, CHINA TEAM UP IN OPIOIDS FIGHT

A Chinese court sentences nine fentanyl traffickers in a multinational crack down on global networks that manufacture and distribute lethal synthetic opioids.

4. 'END OF HISTORY': MAYBE NOT 30 YEARS AFTER FALL OF BERLIN WALL

The world is more splintered and perhaps dangerous decades after the end of the Cold War when political scientist Francis Fukuyama made his famous declaration in 1989.

5. CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE TRANSFORMS CITY THAT DIDN'T BURN

Chico has been struggling with unprecedented growth — and strain on its infrastructure and resources — a year after blazes nearly wiped out the neighboring town of Paradise.

6. PACIFIC BIRD SANCTUARY RAVAGED BY PLASTIC, DEATH

Hawaii's Midway Atoll, where debris accumulates at an alarming rate, is littered with bird skeletons that have brightly colored plastic protruding from their decomposing bellies.

7. JEFF SESSIONS TO ANNOUNCE SENATE BID

Trump's former attorney general will announce that he is entering the race for his old congressional seat in Alabama, AP learns.

8. WHO MADE ELECTION GAINS ACROSS US

Female candidates — most of them Democrats and many of them women of color — a troubling signal for Trump ahead of his reelection bid.

8. HOW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FEELS ABOUT NDAs

A new book on Ruth Bader Ginsburg explores her thoughts on the #MeToo movement and her hope that non-disclosure agreements "will not be enforced by the courts."

10. FREEDOM AND FOOTBALL

Jermaine Birdow, released last November after serving a long prison sentence, will get to see his son, Air Force senior fullback Taven Birdow, play in person for the first time.

Diplomat Taylor expected to testify 1st in public hearings

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats announced they will launch public impeachment hearings next week, intending to bring to life weeks of closed-door testimony and lay out a convincing narrative of presidential misconduct by Donald Trump.

First to testify will be William Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine, who has relayed in private his understanding that there was a blatant quid pro quo with Trump holding up military aid to a U.S. ally facing threats from its giant neighbor Russia.

That aid, at the heart of the impeachment inquiry, is alleged to have been held hostage until Ukraine agreed to investigate political foe Joe Biden and the idea, out of the mainstream of U.S. intelligence findings, that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

The testimony of Taylor, a career envoy and war veteran with 50 years of service to the U.S., is what Democrats said Wednesday they want Americans to hear first.

Taylor has told investigators about an "irregular channel" that the Republican president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani set up for Ukraine diplomacy and how the White House was holding up the military aid, according to a transcript of his closed-door interview released Wednesday.

"That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president committed to pursue the investigation," Taylor said.

He was asked if he was aware that "quid pro quo" meant "this for that."

"I am," he replied.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing, and Republicans largely dismiss the impeachment inquiry, now into its second month, as a sham.

But Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the probe, said that with two days of hearings next week Americans will have a chance to decide for themselves.

"The most important facts are largely not contested," the California Democrat said. "Those open hearings will be an opportunity for the American people to evaluate the witnesses for themselves, to make their own determinations about the credibility of the witnesses, but also to learn firsthand about the facts of the president's misconduct."

Along with Taylor, the public will hear from former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whom Trump fired after what she and others say was a smear campaign against her, and career State Department official George Kent. Taylor and Kent will appear Wednesday, Yovanovitch on Friday.

To prepare for what's ahead, the White House is beefing up its communications operations.

Trump ally Pam Bondi, the former attorney general of Florida, and Tony Sayegh, a former Treasury Department spokesman, are expected to join the White House team to work on "proactive impeachment messaging," a senior administration official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal staffing.

The Trump administration has ordered officials not to participate in the House inquiry. But lawmakers have spent weeks hearing from current and former government witnesses, largely from the State Department, as one official after another has relayed his or her understanding of events.

The testimony from Taylor further connected Trump, Giuliani and the administration to a quid-pro-quo agreement that came to light after a government whistleblower's complaint about Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Even before that call, Taylor said, he and other diplomats involved in Ukraine policy started having concerns about a shadow foreign policy being run by Trump and his private attorney.

Taylor testified that the concerns reached high levels at the White House. In a July 10 meeting with Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton, Trump's ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland raised the idea of Ukrainian investigations.

That "triggered Ambassador Bolton's antenna, political antenna, and he said 'we don't do politics here,'" Taylor testified, noting that Bolton ended the meeting.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 21 of 57

Bolton, who resigned from the administration later, has been asked to appear before the House investigators for a closed-door interview this week. His lawyer said he would not come without a subpoena.

All three of those scheduled to appear in public hearings next week have already testified behind closed doors, and investigators in recent days started releasing hundreds of pages of transcripts from their interviews.

Yovanovitch, who was ousted in May at Trump's direction, testified that she had been told to "watch my back" and that people were "looking to hurt" her. Kent and Taylor testified about their concerns about her dismissal at the same time Giuliani was taking a leading role on Ukraine policy.

The spark for the inquiry was the July phone call from Trump to the new Ukrainian president. According to a rough transcript, released by the White House, Trump asked Zelenskiy to probe Biden and his family and interference in the 2016 election.

Taylor, who testified in October, had repeatedly conveyed concerns about the "irregular channel" that Giuliani had set up at Trump's instruction to bypass the embassy and the State Department.

"The security assistance got blocked by this second channel," he said.

In his appearance last month, Taylor told lawmakers that it was the "unanimous opinion of every level of interagency discussion" that the military aid should be resumed without delay.

Republicans, signaling a line of attack they may pursue during the open hearings, argued that he received none of the information firsthand.

In the final stretch of questioning, Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., grilled him on whether he had primary knowledge that Trump was demanding that Ukraine investigate the Bidens. Taylor said he had not spoken directly to Trump or Giuliani. Zeldin says that information was "secondhand or thirdhand."

Trump allies also have argued that there couldn't have been an inappropriate arrangement because Ukraine didn't even know the aid was being held up. But Taylor said the new government under Zelenskiy recognized it had to commit to investigations to get the aid or a promised meeting with Trump at the White House.

He said the Ukrainians worried that opening the investigations, in particular of the gas company Burisma, which had Biden's son on its board, would have involved them in the 2020 election campaign in the U.S.

They didn't want to do that, he said.

Taylor said he had specifically raised his concerns with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and told him he would resign if strong U.S. support for Ukraine somehow evaporated.

"This would have been throwing Ukraine under the bus," he said. "And I told the secretary: 'If that happens, I'll come home. You don't want me out there, because I'm not going to defend it, you know. I would say bad things about it.'"

Taylor told investigators that the "Russians are paying attention to how much support the Americans are going to provide the Ukrainians."

He said, "So the Russians are loving, would love, the humiliation of Zelenskiy at the hand of the Americans, and would give the Russians a freer hand, and I would quit."

At one point, Taylor said he was hearing from colleagues in Washington that it was difficult for them to arrange a meeting with Trump to try to persuade him to release the aid.

Why? It was around the time the president was interested in buying Greenland from Denmark, he said, and that "took up a lot of energy" at the National Security Council.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Ben Fox, Laurie Kellman, Michael Balsamo, Matthew Lee and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Immigration opens ideological fault lines for 2020 Democrats

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders is adding his support to a call by some of his fellow presidential hopefuls for decriminalizing illegal border crossings, a proposal that's further exposing deep ideological divides in the Democratic primary and may prove politically treacherous for the party in the general election.

The Vermont senator released a detailed immigration policy proposal on Thursday, writing, "Unauthorized presence in the United States is a civil, not a criminal, offense." He vowed to repeal existing statutes that put "border crossings on par with other forms of immigration violations, such as overstaying a visa."

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren called in July for repealing the criminal prohibition against crossing the border illegally, promising in her own immigration plan to "immediately issue guidance to end criminal prosecutions for simple administrative immigration violations." South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg has suggested he'd support making illegal border crossings civil offenses, but not in cases in which "fraud is involved," a potentially key caveat. Former Vice President Joe Biden also hasn't fully backed decriminalization of illegal border crossings, saying during a July presidential debate, "If you cross the border illegally, you should be able to be sent back. It's a crime."

The issue illustrates another important fault line between relative moderates like Biden and Buttigieg and those White House candidates willing to openly embrace progressive values like Sanders and Warren. Still, grappling with full decriminalization could be a tough sell for Democrats after the primary when their nominee will face voters who may disagree with President Donald Trump's hard-line U.S.-Mexico border policies — he leads cheers of "Finish the wall!" at his rallies — but worry about moving too far in the other direction.

"The problem with decriminalizing undocumented crossings is it fulfills the Republican narrative that Democrats want open borders, and that will be an absolute killer for us in November," said Colin Strother, a Texas Democratic strategist who lived for years along the Rio Grande.

In Thursday's plan, Sanders also promised to use executive orders to halt construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, put a moratorium on all deportations until current federal policy can be audited and allow people seeking U.S. asylum to remain in the country while their claims are processed rather than being sent to Mexico or elsewhere. And he vowed to break up the Department of Homeland Security.

Sanders said he was taking back an issue that should be about humanitarianism and not be viewed through the national security prism it often has been since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — nor used to stoke racist fears for political gain like he said Trump has done. His advisers shrugged off concerns that decriminalizing illegal border crossings may make their campaign, or those of other Democrats, seem soft on immigration.

"As sure as the sun coming up tomorrow, Trump will still be racist," Sanders national policy director Josh Orton said. "But Bernie will never waver from his commitment to a humane and rational immigration system, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans."

Even as Trump, who has denied being racist, makes immigration a centerpiece of his reelection strategy, however, it has largely been overshadowed in the Democratic primary by other issues like universal health coverage under "Medicare for All." It was most championed by two White House hopefuls from Texas, one of whom has already dropped out of the race and another who may do so soon.

In April, former Obama Housing Secretary Julián Castro became the first Democratic presidential hopeful to release a comprehensive immigration plan and to support making crossing the border illegally a civil rather than criminal offense. But Castro is winding down his presence in the key early state of New Hampshire and isn't likely to qualify for the debate later this month in Georgia, raising questions about how much longer he can continue.

One of his campaign's best moments came during the July debate when he scolded former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke — who hails from the U.S.-Mexico border city of El Paso and spoke frequently about immigration — for not being willing to decriminalize illegal border crossings. O'Rourke abandoned his once-promising White House bid last week.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 23 of 57

Strother noted that the Obama administration set records for the number of immigrants it deported from the U.S. and that Biden and other top 2020 Democrats have tried to distance themselves from that, calling it too harsh.

"I think that over the years as a party, in a rush to try and satisfy the middle, we've bought into the Republican narrative and even adopted the Republican narrative a little too much," he said. "But we can't go too far in the other direction."

China sentences 9 in fentanyl trafficking case after US tip

By ERIKA KINETZ Associated Press

XINGTAI, China (AP) — A Chinese court sentenced nine fentanyl traffickers on Thursday in a case that is the culmination of a rare collaboration between Chinese and U.S. law enforcement to crack down on global networks that manufacture and distribute lethal synthetic opioids.

Liu Yong was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve, while Jiang Juhua and Wang Fengxi were sentenced to life in prison. Six other members of the operation received lesser sentences, ranging from six months to 10 years. Death sentences are almost always commuted to life in prison after the reprieve.

Working off a 2017 tip from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security about an online drug vendor who went by the name Diana, Chinese police busted a drug ring based in the northern Chinese city of Xingtai that shipped synthetic drugs illicitly to the U.S. and other countries from a gritty clandestine laboratory. They arrested more than 20 suspects and seized 11.9 kilograms (26.2 pounds) of fentanyl and 19.1 kilograms (42.1 pounds) of other drugs.

In form, the enterprise resembled a small business, with a perky sales force that spoke passable English, online marketing, contract manufacturing, and a sophisticated export operation, according to U.S. and Chinese law enforcement.

But the business had grave implications. Police photographs of the seizure show a dingy, chaotic scene, with open containers of unidentified chemicals and Chinese police in rubber gloves and breathing masks.

Liu and Jiang were accused of manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs. The others were accused of trafficking.

Chinese officials said the Xingtai case was one of three fentanyl trafficking networks they are pursuing based on U.S. intelligence, but declined to discuss the details of the other cases, which are ongoing.

Austin Moore, an attaché to China for the U.S. Homeland Security Department, said the Xingtai case was "an important step" showing that Chinese and U.S. investigators are able to collaborate across international borders.

Moore said Chinese police identified more than 50 U.S. residents who tried to buy fentanyl from the Xingtai organization. Those leads prompted over 25 domestic investigations and have already resulted in three major criminal arrests and indictments in New York and Oregon, he said.

Scrambling to contain surging overdose deaths, Washington has blamed Beijing for failing to curb the supply of synthetic drugs that U.S. officials say come mainly from China. In August, President Donald Trump lashed out at Chinese President Xi Jinping for failing to do more to combat illicit opioid distribution in China's vast, freewheeling chemicals industry. U.S. officials have reportedly moved to link Beijing's efforts on fentanyl to U.S. trade talks.

Yu Haibin, deputy director of the Office of China National Narcotics Control Commission, on Thursday called allegations that Chinese supply is at the root of America's opioid problem "irresponsible and inconsistent with the actual facts."

"Drug crime is the public enemy of all humankind," he added. "It's about the life of human beings. It should not be related with the trade war or other political reasons."

Chinese officials have been at pains to emphasize the efforts they have made to expand drug controls and crack down on illicit suppliers, even though synthetic opioid abuse is not perceived to be a significant problem in China.

But prosecuting cases against a new, rising class of Chinese synthetic drug kingpins has remained a

challenge. Profit-seeking chemists have adroitly exploited regulatory loopholes by making small changes to the chemical structure of banned substances to create so-called analogs that are technically legal.

U.S. officials have been hopeful that China's move earlier this year to outlaw unsanctioned distribution of all fentanyl-like drugs as a class will help constrain supply and make it easier to prosecute Chinese dealers.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 500,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in the decade ending in 2017 — increasingly, from synthetic opioids like the ones sold by the Xingtai network.

The American opioid crisis began in the 1990s, when the over-prescription of painkillers like OxyContin stoked addiction. Many people who became hooked on pain pills later moved to heroin. Fentanyl — an even more potent lab-made drug that raked in profits — then entered the U.S. illicit drug supply, causing overdose deaths to spike.

Associated Press researcher Chen Si contributed to this report.

This article has been corrected to change the spelling of Jiang Juhua.

Bevin seeks vote recanvass while Beshear starts transition

By **BRUCE SCHREINER** Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Republican Gov. Matt Bevin asked Wednesday for a recanvass of Kentucky election results that showed him more than 5,000 votes behind Democrat Andy Beshear, who discounted the challenge and began preparing to take office.

Beshear, the state's attorney general, said he's confident in the election outcome, saying any review would show he won the hard-fought campaign.

"Whatever process that the governor chooses to go down, it's not going to change this overall number of votes," Beshear said at a news conference. "We are going to take the steps to move forward to make sure that we are ready ... on the day that we're inaugurated."

With 100% of precincts reporting, Beshear led by a little over 5,000 votes out of more than 1.4 million counted, or a margin of less than 0.4 percentage points. That's inside the margin that would trigger a recount in most states, and it's AP policy not to call races that could go to a recount. Although there is no mandatory recount law in Kentucky, the AP is applying that same standard here.

At a news conference late Wednesday in Frankfort, Bevin said he wanted to ensure integrity in the process even as he hinted without offering evidence that there had been irregularities in the voting.

"We're in the process of getting affidavits and other information that will help us to get a better understanding of what did or did not happen," he said.

Bevin said any information turned up won't be "followed through on" until after the recanvass — an indication he could seek further review of the election results.

Kentucky's secretary of state, Alison Lundergan Grimes, scheduled the recanvass for Nov. 14. A recanvass is a check of the vote count to ensure the results were added correctly.

Beshear's campaign responded with a statement repeating that he hopes Bevin honors the election results. The campaign noted that a recanvass has never led to a reversal of an election result in Kentucky.

The governor claimed Wednesday that thousands of absentee ballots may have been illegally counted. He suggested people may have improperly turned away from the polls, and said such claims need corroboration.

Kentucky inaugurates its governors in the December following an election. Beshear — the son of Kentucky's last Democratic governor, Steve Beshear — named his top deputy in the attorney general's office, J. Michael Brown, to lead his transition team.

Beshear said his budget proposal in early 2020 will reflect his priorities on public education, health care and infrastructure.

He promised a quick follow-through on some key campaign pledges. Those include appointing new

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 25 of 57

members to the Kentucky Board of Education, rescinding Bevin's proposed work-related requirements for some Medicaid recipients and restoring voting rights for more than 140,000 nonviolent felons who completed their sentences.

Bevin said it's appropriate for his rival to form a transition team to be prepared to assume office if the review ends favorably for him.

Kentucky has no mandatory recount law. If Bevin decides to take that step, he would need a court's approval for a recount.

Bevin won the 2015 GOP primary for governor by just 83 votes. A recanvass confirmed that margin. He noted wryly Tuesday night: "Would it be a Bevin race if it wasn't a squeaker?"

But the gap is much larger this time. Bevin hinted for the first time Tuesday night there might be "irregularities" to look into but didn't offer specifics. Asked about Bevin's remark, Beshear said Wednesday: "I don't know what information he's working off of."

While Bevin wasn't conceding, some prominent Kentucky Republicans acknowledged that Beshear won. Republican strategist Scott Jennings referred to Beshear as Kentucky's next governor, wishing him "goodspeed" and saying he "ran a good race" in a social media post.

Also on social media, GOP state Rep. Jason Nemes said: "Governor-elect Beshear is entitled to the democratic legitimacy that comes with loser's consent. So let's go through the process honorably and expeditiously and give it to him."

The final hours of campaigning were dominated by Bevin's endorsement from President Donald Trump at an election eve rally in Lexington. Trump had loomed large in the race as Bevin stressed his alliance with the Republican president.

But the combative Bevin struggled to overcome some self-inflicted wounds, including a running feud with teachers who opposed his efforts to revamp the state's woefully underfunded public pension systems.

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

Bevin lagged well behind the vote totals for other statewide Republican candidates, who swept Kentucky's races for attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and agriculture commissioner.

Trump took credit Wednesday for the near sweep, tweeting, "Our big Kentucky Rally on Monday night had a massive impact on all of the races. He claimed without citing specific polls that Bevin "picked up at least 15 points in last days, but perhaps not enough (Fake News will blame Trump!)."

Turnout in Kentucky was up by nearly 50% over the state's 2015 governor's race, increasing from 974,000 voters to more than 1.4 million. The number of voters Tuesday equaled turnout in Kentucky's 2014 race for U.S. Senate, rare for an election in an odd-numbered year.

Turnout for both political parties increased over the 2015 race, but the gains were more dramatic for Beshear. Some of the biggest increases were in the counties where Beshear fared best, especially in Jefferson and Fayette counties, where Beshear won about two-thirds of the vote.

Location, location: Why Ukraine leader aimed for Oval Office

By AAMER MADHANI and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The room features a couple of couches, an extremely old desk and a pair of classic wing chairs by the fireplace. But the location conveys power and instantly elevates the stature of any guest.

Through weeks of impeachment hearings and investigation, the Oval Office has emerged as such a sought-after destination that Ukraine's new president was hell-bent on getting there and the White House unafraid to dangle it as leverage.

From the moment of his landslide victory last April, comedian-turned-president Volodymyr Zelenskyy single-mindedly pushed for a face-to-face meeting at the White House with President Donald Trump.

It would be a quick win, he thought, and more importantly send a message to his Russian adversaries that the U.S. had his back.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 26 of 57

Why the Oval Office or its environs?

"It's just the optics," diplomat Kurt Volker explained to House investigators. Beyond the substance of the meeting, "the imagery of the Ukrainian president, you know, at the White House, walking down the colonnade, in the Rose Garden, whatever it might be, that imagery conveys a message of U.S. support."

It wasn't just Zelenskiy who was intent on a White House sit-down. Diplomats, White House aides and Ukrainian officials were united in their determination to bring Zelenskiy to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

The push for a White House meeting by Zelenskiy is central to what House Democrats allege was a quid pro quo: Trump and his allies made clear that the meeting and millions of dollars in military aid were contingent on Ukraine agreeing to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and the dealings in Ukraine of Biden's son Hunter. The proposed tradeoff triggered the whistleblower complaint that led to the impeachment inquiry now imperiling Trump's presidency.

On its face, an Oval Office visit would seem more perk than substance for a foreign dignitary. But for the untested leader of Ukraine, who inherited a 5-year-old war with Russia-backed separatists, a trip to the White House would demonstrate strength early in his tenure.

"It was important for him, because he wanted to let Vladimir Putin know that his relationship with Trump was going to be a strong one," said Ivan Katchanovski, a Ukraine expert at the University of Ottawa.

Over the nearly three years of his presidency, Trump has flattered and cajoled dozens of foreign leaders with meetings at the White House and at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

His hearty, white-knuckled handshake with France's Emmanuel Macron went viral. Trump informed China's Xi Jinping that the U.S. military had launched missiles against Syria as they ate chocolate cake at Mar-a-Lago. And he angered lawmakers on both sides of the aisle last month by offering Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan a November visit, extending the invitation just one day after pulling back U.S. troops supporting Syrian Kurdish forces in northwest Syria. Days after U.S. troops withdrew, Erdogan launched a military operation against the Kurdish forces.

For Zelenskiy, a White House meeting would have been enormously valuable.

"Even though we may throw those around like candy, they didn't read it as that," said Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union and a central figure in the impeachment inquiry.

Trump has long harbored unproven suspicions that Ukraine conspired to undercut his candidacy during the 2016 election. He kept Zelenskiy's predecessor, Petro Poroshenko, at arm's length.

Uncertainty about Trump's commitment to Ukraine was heightened when Poroshenko visited Washington in June 2017 and was granted only a brief "drop-in" meeting with Trump in the Oval Office.

It was a starkly cooler reception than Trump gave Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Moscow's ambassador to Washington, Sergey Kislyak, weeks earlier when Trump met with them in the same location.

Zelenskiy's prospects with the Americans became increasingly complicated as Trump administration officials eventually put a hold on the release of \$391 million in military aid. Administration officials wanted Zelenskiy to state publicly that his government was investigating the Bidens before the money would be released or a meeting with Trump scheduled.

Diplomats saw a sit-down between Trump and Zelenskiy as crucial to improving relations between the two nations. Their long effort to make it happen has been laid out in testimony before the impeachment investigators.

"We hoped that such a meeting would help undo President Trump's long-held view of Ukraine as a corrupt country," foreign service officer Catherine Croft told legislators.

Sondland, for his part, told investigators that he and other members of a delegation to Zelenskiy's inauguration in May told White House officials upon their return that they wanted to arrange an Oval Office visit for the new president.

But Trump said he was skeptical that Ukraine was serious about anti-corruption reforms and told Sondland and others to instead talk to his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, about his concerns. Trump "went on and on and on about how Ukraine is a disaster and they're bad people" and insisted they interfered in the 2016 election, Sondland said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 27 of 57

"I was kind of pissed, actually," he added, laying out the bind facing diplomats.

"Based on the President's direction, we were faced with a choice: We could abandon the goal of a White House meeting for President Zelenskiy, which we all believed was crucial to strengthening U.S.- Ukrainian ties and furthering long-held U.S. foreign policy goals in the region," Sondland said. "Or we could do as President Trump directed and talk to Mr. Giuliani to address the President's concerns."

Sondland, however, was surprised that days after Trump pushed back against the advice to host Ukrainian leader, Trump "sent essentially an unconditional invitation to President Zelenskiy to come visit him at the White House."

At a July conference in Toronto, foreign service officer Christopher Anderson recalled, Zelenskiy spoke of reforms Ukraine had already underway and pressed the American delegation to firm up a date for the White House visit.

"The Ukrainians remained focused on scheduling a White House visit — seeing such a visit as a critical step in empowering Zelenskiy in his negotiations with the Russians," Anderson said.

Trump and Zelenskiy did eventually meet in September on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. Even then, though, Zelenskiy gently needled Trump in front of reporters that he was waiting for a date for their White House meeting.

"You invited me, but I think — I'm sorry. ... But I think you forgot to tell me the date," Zelenskiy told Trump.

Trump said his staff would be in touch.

Associated Press writers Ben Fox, Alan Fram, Matthew Daly, Deb Riechmann and Dustin Weaver contributed to this report.

Mexico farm town prepares funerals after 9 Americans slain

By PETER ORSI and MARIA VERZA Associated Press

LA MORA, Mexico (AP) — Under a strong security presence, this remote farming community prepared to hold the first funerals Thursday for some of the nine American women and children killed by drug cartel gunmen.

Dozens of high-riding pickups and SUVs, many with U.S. license plates from as far away as North Dakota, bumped across dirt and rock roads over desert, arid grasslands and pine-covered mountains Wednesday as night fell on this community of about 300 people. Many of the residents are dual U.S. and Mexican citizens who consider themselves Mormon but are not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At least 1,000 visitors were expected to bunk down in the hamlet overnight ahead of Thursday's funerals, filling floor space in the 30 or so homes or sleeping in tents they brought with them. At least one cow was slaughtered to help feed the masses, as well as the few dozen Mexican soldiers guarding the entrance to La Mora.

Steven Langford, who was mayor of La Mora from 2015 to 2018, said he expected the killings to have a "major" impact on the community. Once upon a time he didn't think about moving around the area in the middle of night, but in the last 10 to 15 years things "got worse and worse and worse." As many as half of the residents could move away, he feared.

"It was a massacre, 100% a massacre," said Langford, whose sister Christina Langford was one of the women killed. "I don't know how it squares with the conscience of someone to do something so horrible."

When gunmen opened fire on them Monday, the Mexican army, the National Guard and Sonora state police were not there to protect them. It took them about eight hours just to arrive.

To many, the bloodshed seemed to demonstrate once more that the government has lost control over vast areas of Mexico to drug traffickers.

"The country is suffering very much from violence," said William Stubbs, a pecan and alfalfa farmer who serves on a community security committee in the American-dominated hamlet of Colonia LeBaron. "You

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 28 of 57

see it all over. And it ain't getting better. It's getting worse."

The lack of law enforcement in rural areas like the northern states of Chihuahua and Sonora once led the dual U.S.-Mexican residents of places like Colonia LeBaron to form their own civilian defense patrols.

Stubbs said that after the 2009 killing of anti-crime activist Benjamin LeBaron, residents positioned themselves each night for two years with high-powered binoculars to keep watch from the large "L" for "LeBaron" that stands on a hillside above the town.

Since then, he said, the cartels have left Le Baron and the town of Galeana a few kilometers to the north alone. But he said they have watched the cartels get stronger in the past two decades, with nearby communities in the mountains suffering from violence and extortion.

This week, he said, the military told him that the town of Zaragoza had been about 50% abandoned.

The army's chief of staff, Gen. Homero Mendoza, said Wednesday the attack that killed three American mothers and six of their children started at 9:40 a.m. Monday, but the nearest army units were in the border city of Agua Prieta, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) and 3½ hours away.

Soldiers didn't start out for the scene until 2:30 p.m. and didn't arrive until 6:15 p.m. — even while five surviving children lay hiding in the mountains with bullet wounds.

"There are areas where the government's control is very fragile," said Alejandro Hope, a Mexican security analyst.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador created the militarized National Guard after he took office last December to help law enforcement, but its 70,000 troops have to cover a vast territory.

"The government's main policy tool, the National Guard, is not where it should be," Hope said. "It should be in the mountains, and it's not there."

He noted that Sonora and Chihuahua states, with over 160,000 square miles (420,000 square kilometers) between them, have only about 4,100 National Guard agents stationed there, or about one for every 40 square miles.

Questions have also arisen over whether the army can do its job even when it is present. On Oct. 17, in Sinaloa state, soldiers were forced to release the captured son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to avoid further bloodshed after Sinaloa cartel gunmen counterattacked in greater numbers in the city of Culiacan.

Colonia Le Baron is a place where the U.S. influence is evident everywhere: pickup trucks with license plates from California, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, and English-speaking customers eating hamburgers at Ray's Restaurant, Coffee & Grill. Many of the dual citizens were born here, and their families have been here for decades.

Stubbs predicted that some people will move their families to the United States out of fear but will ultimately come back, as happened after the 2009 killing.

He dismissed López Obrador's "hugs, not bullets" security strategy of trying to solve underlying social problems instead of battling drug cartels with military force.

"I'm really shocked actually of his way of thinking, and it ain't going to solve the problems," Stubbs said.

Residents know they can't fight the cartels on their own.

"We're not experts in military and war and weapons," Stubbs said. "We're farmers, and we have great families and big families, and we definitely want our families to be peaceful."

Mexican officials said the attackers may have mistaken the group's large SUVs for those of a rival gang. The Juarez drug cartel and its armed wing, known as "La Linea," or "The Line," are fighting a vicious turf war against a faction of the Sinaloa cartel known as the "Salazar."

"Those who attacked the occupants (of the vehicles), they let the children go, so we can deduce that it was not a targeted attack" on the families, said Mendoza, the army chief of staff.

Most of the victims lived in La Mora, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Douglas, Arizona. Many in the hamlet are related to the extended LeBaron family.

The killers were believed to be from La Linea, whose gunmen entered Sinaloa cartel territory the previous day and set up an armed outpost on a hilltop near La Mora and an ambush farther up the road. The

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 29 of 57

Juarez cartel apparently wanted to prevent Sinaloa gunmen from entering their territory in Chihuahua state. On Wednesday dozens of army soldiers, federal and state police and National Guard troops provided security along the bumpy route from Chihuahua state to La Mora, in neighboring Sonora, retracing in reverse the route the victims were on when they were ambushed. People in the caravan clapped the agents on the back in thanks and gave them food, bottles of water and baseball caps.

Langford said he and others come and go frequently between La Mora and the United States, working north of the border to build lives and families in a place he described as a "paradise" for children to grow up. Behind the lot where he and his wife raised 11 kids, they are fond of fishing and swimming.

"We've always known the dangers. We've seen the people doing their deal. We always had the policy, 'We don't bother them.' We never dreamed something like this could happen," said Langford. "Now this place is going to become a ghost town. A lot of people are going to leave."

'End of history'? 30 years on, does that idea still hold up?

By TAMER FAKAHANY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Months before the Berlin Wall fell on Nov. 9, 1989, with the Soviet stranglehold over the Eastern Bloc crumbling, a young political scientist named Francis Fukuyama made a declaration that quickly became famous. It was, he declared, "the end of history."

But the heralded defeat of Communism didn't usher in a lasting golden age for Western, capitalist-driven liberalism. Far from it.

In the decades since, seismic events, movements and global patterns have shaped the 21st century into a splintered, perhaps more dangerous era than the Cold War.

The 9/11 attacks happened; the Iraq and Syria wars helped produce the bloody emergence of the Islamic State group and, later, a refugee crisis. The economy tanked in 2008. China became a superpower. Russia resurged. A new populism took root.

All have had a transcendent impact. History, it seemed, didn't "end."

Today, Fukuyama acknowledges that some developments over the decades have disappointed him. He says his book wasn't a prediction, but an acknowledgement that many more democracies were coming into existence.

Now the world is in a phase he didn't anticipate. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Fukuyama took time to reflect on some of what he has seen — and what could still happen.

AFTER THE WALL: THE FIRST YEARS

With the passage of the decades, Fukuyama says, now "you have a whole generation of people who didn't experience the Cold War or Communism."

In those initial years after the wall came down, new countries were born and Germany reunified. But wars and conflicts also erupted after the Soviet Union collapsed and postcolonial debt-settling spiked.

Some of the 1990s' bloodiest civil wars — Congo, Liberia — became footnotes to history. Rwanda endured a genocide that killed hundreds of thousands. Yugoslavia, ripped asunder by sustained violence, massacres and displacement, produced far more coverage and even new nations.

Western military intervention at the end of the 1990s blunted Serbia's nationalism and unshackled Kosovo. A weakened Russia was in no position to help its traditional ally in Belgrade. But the global economy was generally strong.

Then came 9/11.

THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY: TECTONIC SHIFTS

Al-Qaida took terror to a never-before-seen level that was watched in real-time around the world. In response, the Bush administration invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban, which had hosted Osama bin Laden as he plotted against the West. Eighteen years later, the United States is still there.

The Iraq War was based on false intelligence that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, backed by the U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 30 of 57

when he fought Iran, possessed weapons of mass destruction. Washington pushed a “you’re either with us or against us” global outreach that backfired in some places — most notably in Britain, where then-Prime Minister Tony Blair remains a political outcast to this day for following Bush.

Fukuyama was once aligned with neo-conservatives and supported the Iraq invasion, but later declared his opposition to the war. Now, he says the Iraq war undermined American policy around the world, while the 2008 financial crisis undercut the U.S. claim that it had established a good economic international order.

Says Fukuyama: “I think those two events paved the way for a lot of the populist backlash that we’re seeing now.”

POPULISM AND THE CULT OF PERSONALITY

Fukuyama says he’s dismayed so many voters could choose divisive populist leaders who lack a formula for governing democratically.

A marriage of populism and nationalism is a dominant dynamic now in many places — from Trump’s “America First” to Brexit, from Israel’s refusal to give up settlements in occupied Palestinian territory to India’s accelerated crackdown in disputed Kashmir and Turkey’s recent invasion of Syria.

Fukuyama says the populist leader’s playbook typically goes something like this: “I represent you, the people. You are pure and the elites are corrupt, and I need to eliminate them from our political system.”

But Fukuyama says he still believes that the checks and balances in democracies’ long-established institutions will continue to work.

Populism, he argues, isn’t conducive to good governance — or, necessarily, prosperity. “Launching a trade war ... doesn’t seem like a very good idea for continued prosperity,” he says. “It could be that these types of movements will be self-limiting in the future.”

SYRIA, THE ISLAMIC STATE AND THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

The ruinous civil war in Syria, in its ninth year, began with an uprising against President Bashar Assad as part of the ill-fated 2011 Arab Spring that deposed autocrats but replaced them with more dictatorship, war and chaos.

The Syrian conflict brought suffering of a monstrous magnitude: hundreds of thousands killed, millions displaced and the rise of the barbaric Islamic State group, which at one point controlled vast swaths of both Syria and Iraq and carried out terror attacks across Europe.

A byproduct of IS’ rise was the global refugee crisis and the flight of persecuted millions on a scale not seen since World War II.

To Fukuyama, the rapid rise in migration produced cultural backlash and an anti-immigrant feeling that was exploited by “a lot of pretty opportunistic politicians who saw this as a big opportunity to mobilize new sources of support for themselves.”

THE RESURGENCE OF RUSSIA

The road from the dissolution of the Soviet Union to today’s powerful Russia has been messy and not without its initial humiliations for Moscow.

Boris Yeltsin’s years in power after Mikhail Gorbachev’s ouster as the last Soviet leader were characterized by a freewheeling approach to the free market which introduced kleptocracy, the selling off of state industries and the era of oligarchs, mafia and defeat in the first Chechnya war.

Then, on the stroke of the new millennium, Vladimir Putin came to power as a counterbalance to the Western liberalism he so often rails against.

On his watch, a second war with Chechnya killed thousands. Russia invaded Georgia and annexed Crimea from Ukraine after backing Russian separatists.

With fresh dominance in its own backyard, Russia began to look further afield, most notably meddling in the U.S. election, which some say helped Trump reach the White House.

In 2018, Putin — still in power, still a risk-taker — boasted of the development of new nuclear weapons that have no equivalent in the West. They came, he said, in response to U.S. withdrawal from a Cold War-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 31 of 57

era treaty banning missile defenses and U.S. efforts to develop a missile defense system. "No one has listened to us," he said. "You listen to us now."

Fukuyama says of Putin: He "has created a form of Russian nationalism that is dependent on empire, (on) his control of all of the countries surrounding Russia. He feels that he is basically at war with the West. This is a hangover from Soviet times because that is the world he grew up in."

CHINA THE SUPERPOWER

China's authoritarian grip on anything it perceives as its internal affairs, from mass detentions and abuse of Muslims in Xinjiang Province to its no-patience approach to Hong Kong protesters, continues unabated.

Beijing's rise in the last three decades has redrawn the geopolitical map. Its financial clout, its attempts to extend its footprint with its Belt and Road Initiative and unresolved trade issues with the United States make it a wildcard more than ever.

Fukuyama says China's increased wealth and power is upending the international system — no matter how that power is used. But, he notes, since Xi Jinping came to power, China has moved in "a much more authoritarian direction."

The new landscape, he says, "has led to the current deterioration of U.S.-China relations. And I'm afraid that's a situation that is going to persist even if you had a different (U.S.) administration in power."

FROM 1989 TO 2019: THE BIG SWEEP

Looking back from today, Fukuyama still thinks the Berlin Wall's fall was, on balance, a huge gain for human freedom.

One of the darker historical ironies of the past 30 years — primarily in Europe — has been the shift by once-communist states to the far right, in some cases embracing ideologies not far from fascism. But despite "worries about countries like Hungary and Poland," Fukuyama believes they are still much better off than under a communist dictatorship.

Many people don't quite understand how being part of the European Union, for example, has afforded them peace and stability that didn't exist before.

Today, Fukuyama looks to other uprisings — protest movements in Hong Kong, Algeria and Sudan, for example — and says he holds out hope for a new moment when history might encounter another crossroads.

He calls it the "spirit of 1989."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Tamer Fakahany is AP's deputy director for global news coordination and has helped direct international coverage for the AP for 16 years. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tamer-fakahany>

Associated Press journalist Haven Daley in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Iconic Pacific bird sanctuary ravaged by plastic and death

By CALEB JONES Associated Press

MIDWAY ATOLL, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (AP) — Flying into the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Midway Atoll appears out of the vast blue Pacific as a tiny oasis of coral-fringed land with pristine white sand beaches that are teeming with life.

But on the ground, there's a different scene: plastic, pollution and death.

With virtually no predators, Midway is a haven for many species of seabirds and is home to the largest colony of albatross in the world.

But Midway is also at the center of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast area of floating plastic collected by circulating oceanic currents. The Hawaiian Islands act like a comb that gathers debris as it floats across the Pacific. A recent analysis found that the patch is accumulating debris at a faster rate than scientists previously thought.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 32 of 57

Midway is littered with bird skeletons that have brightly colored plastic protruding from their decomposing bellies. Bottle caps, toothbrushes and cigarette lighters sit in the centers of their feathery carcasses.

"There isn't a bird that doesn't have some (plastic)," said Athline Clark, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which Midway is part of. They "fill their bellies up with plastics instead of food and eventually either choke or just don't have enough room for actual nourishment and perish."

Sharp plastic pieces can also perforate their intestines and esophagus.

Papahānaumokuākea, which quadrupled in size under President Barack Obama in 2016, is the world's largest marine conservation area and was inscribed in 2010 as a UNESCO mixed World Heritage site.

"Papahānaumokuākea is both a biologically rich and culturally sacred place," Clark said. "The Hawaiians call it a place of abundance, or *aina momona*."

But circulating currents now bring an abundance of plastic and other trash from all around the Pacific Rim to Hawaii's beaches. The debris ranges from tiny microplastics that nearly every animal in this marine ecosystem ingests to huge fishing nets that gather plants, animals and other debris while bulldozing across fragile coral reefs.

"The estimates are that there's about 57,000 pounds of marine debris that washes ashore within this part of the archipelago annually," Clark said.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Kelly Goodale lives and works on Midway, the site of a decisive World War II battle, and said the plastic that washes ashore there each year is just part of the problem.

"Not only are our beaches getting it, but also our albatross will bring it and feed it to their chicks," Goodale said.

Albatross spend much of their lives at sea feeding and flying thousands of miles across the oceans before returning to Midway each year to lay eggs and raise their young.

"So we estimate about 5 tons (4.5 metric tons) of plastic being brought to Midway every year just by adult albatross feeding it to their chicks," Goodale said.

The albatross tend to seek out squid eggs that attach themselves to floating pieces of plastic, which is why so many birds are eating the material, Clark said.

And it's not just the seabirds that are harmed by ocean plastic. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles can die while entangled in plastic nets. Sharks and other apex predators eat smaller fish that feed on microplastic. Whales drag fishing line and buoys behind them during their long migrations across the world's oceans.

It's important to understand the relationship between the oceans, marine life and humans, Clark said.

She shared a Native Hawaiian proverb: "*Ma o ke kai pili ai kakou*." It means, "The ocean connects us all."

Follow Associated Press Hawaii correspondent Caleb Jones on Instagram and Twitter .

US: Saudis recruited Twitter workers to spy on critics

By DAISY NGUYEN and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Saudi Arabia, frustrated by growing criticism of its leaders and policies on social media, recruited two Twitter employees to spy on thousands of accounts that included prominent opponents, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

The complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco detailed a coordinated effort by Saudi government officials to recruit employees at the social media giant to look up the private data of Twitter accounts, including email addresses linked to the accounts and internet protocol addresses that can give up a user's location. It appeared to link Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the powerful 34-year-old son of King Salman, to the effort.

The accounts included those of a popular critic of the government with more than 1 million followers and a news personality. Neither was named.

The complaint also alleged that the employees — whose jobs did not require access to Twitter users'

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 33 of 57

private information — were rewarded with a designer watch and tens of thousands of dollars funneled into secret bank accounts. Ahmad Abouammo, a U.S. citizen, and Ali Alzabarah, a Saudi citizen, were charged with acting as agents of Saudi Arabia without registering with the U.S. government.

The Saudi government had no immediate comment through its embassy in Washington. Its state-run media did not immediately acknowledge the charges.

The complaint marks the first time that the kingdom, long linked to the U.S. through its massive oil reserves and regional security arrangements, has been accused of spying in America.

The allegations against two former Twitter employees and a third man who ran a social media marketing company that did work for the Saudi royal family comes a little more than a year after the execution of Jamal Khashoggi. The Washington Post columnist and prominent critic of the Saudi government was slain and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Saudi Arabia under King Salman and Prince Mohammed has aggressively silenced and detained government critics even as it allows women to drive and opens movie theaters in the conservative kingdom.

Prince Mohammed also has been implicated by U.S. officials and a United Nations investigative report in the assassination of Khashoggi. The prince has said he bears ultimate responsibility for what happens in the kingdom's name, though he denies orchestrating the slaying.

The criminal allegations reveal the extent the Saudi government went to control the flow of information on Twitter, said Adam Coogle, a Middle East researcher with Human Rights Watch.

The platform is the main place for Saudis to express their views, and about a third of the nation's 30 million people are active users. But the free-wheeling nature of Twitter is a major source of concern for its authoritarian government, Coogle said.

The kingdom has used different tactics to control speech and keep reformers and others from organizing, including employing troll armies to harass and intimidate users online. It has even arrested and imprisoned Twitter users.

The crown prince's former top adviser, Saud al-Qahtani, who also served as director of the cyber security federation, started the "Black List" hashtag to target critics of the government. He ominously tweeted in 2017 that the government had ways of unmasking anonymous Twitter users.

"If you combine that with what we know about at least these two individuals and what went on in 2014 and into 2015, it's pretty chilling," Coogle said.

Al-Qahtani has been sanctioned for his suspected role in orchestrating the brutal killing of Khashoggi. His Twitter account was suspended in September for violating the platform's manipulation policy.

Twitter acknowledged that it cooperated in the criminal investigation and said in a statement that it restricts access to sensitive account information "to a limited group of trained and vetted employees."

"We understand the incredible risks faced by many who use Twitter to share their perspectives with the world and to hold those in power accountable," the statement said. "We have tools in place to protect their privacy and their ability to do their vital work."

A critic said Twitter didn't live up to its principle of restricting access to information about private individuals to the smallest possible number of employees.

"If Twitter had implemented this principle, this misappropriation of information would not have been possible," said Mike Chapple, who teaches cybersecurity at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "Social media companies must understand the sensitivity of this information and restrict access to the smallest possible number of employees. Failing to do so puts the privacy, and even the physical safety, of social media users at risk."

Abouammo was also charged with falsifying documents and making false statements to obstruct FBI investigators — offenses that carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison if convicted.

At his appearance in Seattle federal court Wednesday, Abouammo was ordered to remain in custody pending a detention hearing set for Friday.

His lawyer, Christopher Black, declined to comment, as did Abouammo's wife, who did not give her name.

The complaint said Abouammo, a media partnership manager for Twitter's Middle East region, and Alz-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 34 of 57

abarah, a site reliability engineer at Twitter, worked with an unnamed Saudi official who leads a charitable organization belonging to a person named Royal Family Member 1.

Prosecutors said a third defendant, a Saudi named Ahmed Almutairi who worked as a social media adviser for the Saudi royal family, acted as an intermediary with the Twitter employees.

The complaint said Almutairi recruited Alzabarah and flew him to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2015, when a Saudi delegation visited the White House. Based on the context and times mentioned in the complaint, including Alzabarah taking a selfie with the royal while in Washington, it appears Prince Mohammed is that royal. The crown prince had traveled there as part of the delegation when he served as deputy crown prince.

"Within one week of returning to San Francisco, Alzabarah began to access without authorization private data of Twitter users en masse," the complaint said.

The effort included the user data of over 6,000 Twitter users, including at least 33 usernames for which Saudi Arabian law enforcement had submitted emergency disclosure requests to Twitter, investigators said.

After being confronted by his supervisors at Twitter, Alzabarah acknowledged accessing user data and said he did it out of curiosity, authorities said.

Alzabarah was placed on administrative leave, his work-owned laptop was seized, and he was escorted out of the office. The next day, he flew to Saudi Arabia with his wife and daughter and has not returned to the United States, investigators said.

A warrant for his and Almutairi's arrests were issued as part of the complaint.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Eugene Johnson in Seattle and Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco contributed to this report.

California's worst wildfire transforms city that didn't burn

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Amber Blood got to Chico on Nov. 8, 2018, wearing pink slacks and her favorite white peacoat. It was all she had left.

Blood was among tens of thousands forced to flee as a wildfire roared through Paradise and nearby communities in Northern California, killing 85 people and destroying roughly 19,000 buildings.

Nothing burned in Chico, the closest big city. And within hours, another city had moved in — filling up hotels, living in trailers, sleeping on friends' couches and buying up every available home, apartment and spare room.

A year later, most are still there. State officials estimate Chico has added 20,000 people, boosting the population from 92,000 to more than 112,000. The city didn't expect that number until at least 2030.

"We all feel lost, still," said Blood, who has since bought a home in Chico. "This house is beautiful, and I don't even feel like it is my home. It's weird."

What's happened in Chico in the year since California's deadliest wildfire shows how blazes — growing more frequent and destructive with climate change — have lasting effects far beyond the flames.

"You normally would have a decade to prepare for such growth," Chico Police Chief Michael O'Brien said. "We had about 10 hours."

Chico officials say they need close to half a billion dollars to improve infrastructure and hire enough police officers and firefighters to cover the surge in people. But because the city is outside the burn area, it isn't eligible for most state and federal disaster funds. The most it's gotten is \$3 million from the Legislature.

Aside from housing shortages and more traffic, the influx has strained the city in unexpected ways. About three weeks after the fire, Chico's sewer system was handling an additional million gallons (4 million liters) a day, or the equivalent of adding an extra 5,000 homes.

City officials had hoped the increase was temporary. But now, the system is handling an additional 600,000 gallons (2.3 million liters) a day from fire survivors, costing an extra \$53,000 per month. That's money Chico doesn't have.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 35 of 57

City Manager Mark Orme says Chico will likely have to raise rates to pay for it.

"It's one of the unanticipated consequences of being the friendly neighbor," he said.

The effects go beyond government services. The region had four hospitals before the fire. But Feather River Hospital in Paradise closed and has not reopened. Since then, Enloe Medical Center in Chico has seen up to an extra 700 patients per month, according to Judy Cline, director of the emergency department.

The hospital has added seven around-the-clock nursing shifts to keep up, but it's having trouble filling the positions because potential employees can't find places to live.

"Our community is completely different than it once was, and it will always be completely different," Cline said.

Even before the fire, Chico's home sales vacancy rate was below 1%. Along with hospital workers and others, former Paradise residents have struggled to find a place to call home.

Laura Smith and her family had 2 acres in Paradise. Now, they live in a small apartment where the neighbors complain if you shut your door too hard. She dreams of moving back.

"We're in Chico, but we're Paradise residents," Smith said. "There is something separate about us."

It was even hard for Blood, a real estate agent in Paradise, to find somewhere for her and her children.

They lived in a cramped, two-bedroom apartment for months. It was unfurnished, but shopping was exhausting. The first thing she bought after the fire was an expensive fake plant because it was one of the few things left in the store.

When Blood finally bought a house a few months later from a woman who was moving overseas, she said she paid the seller an extra \$7,000 to leave the furniture.

"We literally walked in, the house was ready to go," Blood said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law this summer designed to speed up construction of new housing by temporarily suspending the state's lengthy environmental review process for fire-affected areas. But the law does not include Chico because Mayor Randall Stone and most of the City Council opposed it.

Some residents were so angry they launched an effort to remove Stone and another councilman from office. Stone said he is "beyond confident" the recall won't succeed, saying the state law would strip authority from local governments and was an attempt by Republican lawmakers to dodge environmental protections.

The mayor said he plans other actions to address the housing crisis, including adjusting fees for developers so they build more affordable housing. He said he was proud of Chico for coming together to help.

"We didn't literally have fire on our homes in this community, but we're impacted by it," Stone said. "We're all burdens on each other."

The recall has added to tension in the community, compounded by small things like longer wait times at restaurants and heavier traffic.

But Chico residents are careful when they complain, said Katy Thoma, president and CEO of the Chico Chamber of Commerce.

"We're trying to be sensitive to the people in Paradise who lost everything," Thoma said. "Chico is a real friendly, warm town, and it's the kind of town where you don't honk at people when the light turns green. You let people in. There seems to be less of that."

All of these are signs of a city getting to know itself.

"I don't think we know what the new normal is," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, executive director of the Chico-based North Valley Community Foundation, which has given \$27 million in grants since the fire. "But we're figuring out how to take care of everybody here. I think we have a heart and a will to do that."

Massacre of Americans shows drug war worse this time around

By MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — There was a time when the violence of Mexico's 2006-2012 drug war shocked Americans, but barely touched them. This time around — like everything else about the country's renewed cartel conflict — it's worse.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 36 of 57

The slaughter of three U.S. women and six of their children, some infants, in the northern state of Sonora Monday punctured the old belief that the drug cartels would avoid killing foreigners, women or children. But it wasn't the first, or the only, such case.

Children are being killed with chilling frequency as the unwritten rules of Mexico's drug war appear to fade. In August, gunmen burst into a house in Ciudad Juarez, home of the Juarez cartel, and fired 123 bullets that killed girls aged 14, 13 and 4, along with an adult male who apparently was the real target.

A few days before the Sonora massacre, police arrested a suspect in the state capital of Hermosillo who was holding a New York-based businessman for ransom, in a case of a foreigner being targeted. The man was kidnapped near Tucson, Arizona, and apparently moved across the border in the trunk of a car.

The shocking killings of the nine Americans by gang gunmen prompted an offer from U.S. President Donald Trump to help Mexico wage a war to wipe cartels "off the face of the earth." Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador rebuffed the offer, but others at home and abroad are wondering if the time has come for him to change his "hugs not bullets" policy of avoiding confrontations with gangs and instead addressing social problems.

Breaking the old rules against killing children, families or attacking foreigners no longer appears to be a priority — or even a concern — for criminals anymore, given the weak law enforcement in Mexico.

"From the criminal's perspective, killing one person or killing nine, it's all the same," said security analyst Alejandro Hope. "They don't see any increased risk in committing these kinds of acts of extreme brutality."

"The same goes for killing children, they don't see any line drawn in the sand," said Hope. "And the reason they don't see it is that the government hasn't drawn it."

The Americans lived in communities in Mexico founded decades ago by an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Moving reports of mothers trying to protect their children from the hail of bullets and wounded children walking for hours to get help for the youngest survivors intensified calls from abroad for a new war on drug cartels.

Mexico's militarized war on drug cartels began in 2006 under President Felipe Calderón and was continued by his successor, President Enrique Peña Nieto.

The center-left López Obrador has rejected this approach, instead creating a National Guard and saying the way to fight Mexico's violent crime is with work programs and opportunities for youths.

He stuck to that position following Monday's massacre, rejecting Trump's and others' calls for a war on cartels.

"We declared war, and it didn't work," Lopez Obrador said Tuesday, referring to the policies of previous administrations. "That is not an option."

He didn't even budge after the army was humiliated by the Sinaloa cartel on Oct. 17, after soldiers were forced to release the captured son of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to avoid further bloodshed after cartel gunmen counterattacked in greater numbers in the city of Culiacan.

The cartels got the message they can face down authorities, analysts say. After the confrontation in Culiacan, an official in the Sonora border city of Nogales reported that police stopped a carload of armed suspects there who told police to back off or they would "do what they did in Culiacan" to them.

Former anti-drug prosecutor Samuel Gonzalez said that "sooner or later, the government is going to have to adjust its strategy."

"It is not that the government would have to declare war on the drug cartels, it is rather that the drug traffickers have declared war on the government," Gonzalez said, "and in that situation the government has to respond in legitimate self-defense and with proportional force."

While the president holds fast, buoyed by still-high poll numbers, the drumbeat of massacres goes on.

In April, gunmen burst into a party in the Gulf coast city of Minatitlan and killed 14 people, including two Filipinos. In August, Jalisco cartel gunmen stormed into a nightclub in the nearby city of Coatzacoalcos, blocked the exits and set a fire that killed 28 people trapped inside, including 10 women. Earlier that month, the same gang hung 19 bodies from an overpass or scattered them nearby in the western city of Uruapan.

"This should have been an opportunity for them (the government) to reflect on what they're doing, and

they don't," said Hope said of the government. "Minatitan didn't spark it, Coatzacoalcos didn't spark it, Uruapan didn't spark it, nothing sparks it."

AP journalist Maria Verza in Mexico City contributed to this report.

3rd-party bid? Gabbard's denials don't ease Democrats' fears

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

Tulsi Gabbard keeps making her fellow Democrats nervous.

The Hawaii congresswoman and Democratic presidential candidate appeared on Tucker Carlson's show on Fox News. She wrote for the conservative-leaning editorial pages of The Wall Street Journal.

She denounced Hillary Clinton as the "personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long." And facing a stiff primary challenge for her congressional seat, she recently announced her retirement from Congress.

That's feeding fears among party leaders and pundits that Gabbard isn't necessarily aiming to win a Democratic primary but is laying the groundwork to run as a third-party candidate. Such a scenario, they fear, could slice off just enough support from the ultimate Democratic nominee that President Donald Trump could win reelection.

Gabbard repeatedly denies planning an independent candidacy, as she did Wednesday when she told ABC's "The View" that she's "running to build a new Democratic Party."

Tom Perez, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, also sought to quell the rumors Wednesday.

"Tulsi Gabbard and every single candidate running for president understands that it's not about them," he told reporters, noting that Gabbard is among the Democrats who have pledged not to run as a third-party candidate. "It's about something much bigger."

But the anxiety isn't going away.

Often expressed privately for fear of pushing Gabbard further from the party, the concerns mirror the handwringing over the abortive presidential bid by former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz earlier this year. Then, Democrats feared Schultz would peel off enough affluent, suburban voters to reelect Trump. Now, they worry Gabbard's vocal anti-interventionist stance could do the same with younger liberal voters and others unhappy with the Democratic establishment.

Trump was able to win in 2016 with a minority of the popular vote in part because those who disapproved of him in a handful of battleground states split their votes between Clinton and third-party candidates, giving an unusually large share to the Green Party's Jill Stein and the Libertarian Party's Gary Johnson.

Democrats fear a repeat. Only this time, Gabbard, a 38-year-old Samoan-American congresswoman with an unusual mix of political views who has participated in three of the Democrats debates and, on Wednesday, qualified for a fourth, could draw far more attention than Stein and Johnson did.

Some political analysts say Democratic worries may be excessive.

"This is something that's significantly fueled by the 2016 experience," said Josh Putnam, a political scientist who carefully tracks presidential elections through the site FrontloadingHQ.com.

During elections for open presidential seats, third-party votes tend to spike. But during an incumbent president's reelection campaign, they usually dwindle.

In 2000, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader netted 2.74% of the popular vote and was blamed by Democrats for tipping Florida, and the presidency, to Republican George W. Bush. Nader ran again in 2004 during Bush's reelection campaign and got less than 0.4% of the vote.

"We've got an incumbent seeking reelection — that triggers partisanship," Putnam said. "Democrats are going to support Democrats, and Republicans are going to support Republicans."

Gabbard would have a hard time running alone as a third-party candidate — she doesn't have the financial resources of a Schultz and would have to spend mightily and work for months to qualify for a spot on 50 state ballots. But if she joined a more established political operation like the Green Party or the Libertarian

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 38 of 57

Party, their volunteers and positions on dozens of state ballots could help her.

Still, time is running out for Gabbard to win the Green Party nomination, said Holly Hart, a party official who sits on the committee overseeing the presidential contest.

"I know a lot of Greens like her a lot," Hart said of Gabbard, but "she'd have to get in in the next couple of months" to make it onto the party's primary ballot in major states like California.

The Libertarian Party, which appeared on all 50 state ballots in 2016, is fairly flexible in its nominating process, according to its executive director, Daniel Fishman. Delegates chosen by its state chapters can select anyone they wish as its presidential nominee during the party convention in May 2020, after almost all states have voted in the Democratic contest.

"Technically, it is very possible that she could come and compete for the nomination," Fishman said of Gabbard.

Gabbard has been causing unease among some Democrats since 2016, when she served as vice chair of the DNC as a nod to her status as a rising young star in the party. But she resigned in protest, saying the party was rigging the presidential primary election for Clinton at the expense of her preferred candidate, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Gabbard stood out from other Democrats by criticizing President Barack Obama for not using the phrase "Islamic fundamentalism" to describe terrorism — picking up a GOP attack line — and for being one of two Democratic representatives to vote for a Republican bill to essentially block Syrian refugees from entering the United States for six months.

She drew widespread condemnation for meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad during the country's civil war and for appearing on RT, Russia's state television network in the U.S.

Still, Gabbard is hard to pigeonhole politically — she's also a civil libertarian and longtime critic of the drug war, supporter of legalizing marijuana and advocate for ending fossil fuel use, all positions that have at various times endeared her to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

Women keep up wins in Trump-era political surge

By SARAH RANKIN and SARA BURNETT Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — In its 400-year history, Virginia's House of Delegates has never been led by a woman.

There's a good chance that might change soon. Two women are among the contenders for the powerful role of House speaker after Virginia Democrats continued their winning streak under President Donald Trump on Tuesday, seizing control of both the House and Senate from Republicans for the first time in more than two decades.

"Long overdue," said House Minority Leader Eileen Filler-Corn, a top candidate for the job.

It's just one example of the gains made around the country by women — most of them Democrats and many of them women of color — who have aimed their energy and political might at Trump since the 2016 election. The surge of female winners that continued Tuesday was a troubling signal for the president ahead of his reelection bid, but it also revealed political shifts already underway.

Tuesday's results also mean women will hold majorities in places like the Boston City Council, long seen by many as a "boys' club," and lead communities such as Scranton, Pennsylvania, where voters elected the city's first female mayor, just weeks before she's due to give birth.

A cyclist who lost her job after she flipped off a Trump motorcade won a seat on a county board in Virginia in a district that's also home to one of Trump's golf courses. In Maine, a 23-year-old Somali American woman was elected to the Lewiston City Council, defeating another Democrat and what she described as "internet trolls" who lobbed racist and sexist attacks via social media in the campaign's final weeks.

While Republicans have struggled to match Democrats in electing and elevating women in office, Tuesday's elections did show a bright spot in Trump territory.

GOP women were behind record wins in Mississippi, where 12 women — eight Republicans and four Democrats — won seats in the state Senate. The previous record was nine, set in 2016.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 39 of 57

But there's little doubt the increased involvement of women in politics is poised to benefit Democrats in the near term.

Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton prompted millions of women across the U.S. to march in protest and organize against him and his policies. Women also began running for office in larger numbers, picking up seats in the 2017 election and the 2018 midterms, when a record 102 women were elected to Congress, helping Democrats win House control. A record number of women then jumped into the race for the Democratic nomination for president.

The latest wins show that what happened in 2017 and 2018 wasn't just a moment but has created lasting change, said Amanda Renteria, interim president of Emerge America, which recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office. She noted that women first elected in 2017 such as Virginia Rep. Danica Roem, the first openly transgender person elected and seated in a state legislature, were reelected Tuesday.

"Women continue to win, but we are now here to stay," said Renteria, who was national political director for Clinton's 2016 campaign. "We absolutely believe this is a warmup for 2020."

Virginia has been a hotbed for the trend. The Virginia General Assembly, for centuries dominated by white men, has been dramatically reshaped over the past two election cycles, due in large part to gains by Democratic women. A record number of women — 30 Democrats and nine Republicans — were elected to the legislature Tuesday, topping the previous record of 38 in 2018, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute. The shift could mean passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia, which activists argue will put the constitutional amendment passed by Congress in 1972 over the threshold it needs for adoption.

Tuesday was an extension of the blue wave in 2017, when Democrats picked up 15 Virginia House seats, with 11 won by women. The next year, three women in the state defeated incumbent Republicans in the U.S. House.

One of those women, Rep. Abigail Spanberger, said the campaigns in Virginia haven't just been won by women, but they've also been powered by female volunteers and animated by issues women prioritize — such as gun violence prevention and health care.

Spanberger read Tuesday's results as evidence of the success of centrist, pragmatic politics. She advised Democrats with national ambition to "pay attention."

"People want us to act, to focus on solving problems, not be the most ideologically pure," she said. "People are not expecting perfection. But they are expecting you to try."

The growing ranks of women in power have also meant growing diversity.

Ghazala Hashmi, a first-time candidate who unseated a Republican incumbent to help Democrats flip the Virginia Senate, will become that chamber's first Muslim female member.

Hashmi said her campaign was determined to prove that "women of color, in particular, are electable, that we can compete aggressively in the area of fundraising and that there are just so many more opportunities for women to participate in the political arena."

While fundraising has been a hurdle for female candidates in the past, the former community college administrator didn't want for cash. She raised over \$2 million, according to the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project, in line with her Republican opponent. She beat him by about 9 percentage points.

Shelly Simonds, who lost in 2017 after her GOP opponent's name was pulled out of a bowl to settle a tie in a Virginia House race, flipped the seat this time. She said she spent a lot of time knocking on doors and talking to people about issues such as gun control, health care and clean water. Many voters were upset about the daily news coming out of the White House. Simonds compared it to daily "electroshock therapy" that made voters want to do something to get Trump out.

Trump's approval rating among women has been lower than with men throughout his presidency.

Pew Research Center data shows Trump's average approval rating over his first two years in office was 44% among men, compared with 31% among women, a gap in presidential approval wider than for other recent presidents, including Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush.

Juli Briskman, the cyclist who went viral for her gesture at Trump, said women in Virginia have been

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 40 of 57

working "night and day" since Trump was elected - generating campaign volunteers, writing postcards, making phone calls, encouraging young women to get involved and stepping into leadership roles in local political committees and grassroots organizations.

"I just have to say that women have played a huge role, and I think that women will continue to be reckoned with as we move forward into the 2020 election, for sure," she said.

Briskman said her run-in with Trump inspired her to get involved in politics, which led to her deciding to run for office for the first time.

"I think this administration has done that for a lot of women," said Briskman, a single mom. "They've just decided, 'OK, if someone like this can get elected, something is very, very wrong, and we need to start speaking up and changing it.'"

Burnett reported from Chicago. Associated Press writers Michael Tackett and Hannah Fingerhut contributed from Washington.

US: Saudis recruited Twitter workers to spy on critics

By DAISY NGUYEN and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Saudi government, frustrated by growing criticism of its leaders and policies on social media, recruited two Twitter employees to gather confidential personal information on thousands of accounts that included prominent opponents, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

The complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco detailed a coordinated effort by Saudi government officials to recruit employees at the social media giant to look up the private data of Twitter accounts, including email addresses linked to the accounts and internet protocol addresses that can give up a user's location.

The accounts included those of a popular critic of the government with more than 1 million followers and a news personality. Neither was named.

The complaint also alleged that the employees — whose jobs did not require access to Twitter users' private information — were rewarded with a designer watch and tens of thousands of dollars funneled into secret bank accounts. Ahmad Abouammo, a U.S. citizen, and Ali Alzabarah, a Saudi citizen, were charged with acting as agents of Saudi Arabia without registering with the U.S. government.

The Saudi government had no immediate comment through its embassy in Washington. Its state-run media did not immediately acknowledge the charges.

The complaint marks the first time that the kingdom, long linked to the U.S. through its massive oil reserves and regional security arrangements, has been accused of spying in America.

The allegations against two former Twitter employees and a third man who ran a social media marketing company that did work for the Saudi royal family comes a little more than a year after the execution of Jamal Khashoggi. The Washington Post columnist and prominent critic of the Saudi government was slain and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Saudi Arabia under King Salman and his son, 34-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, have aggressively silenced and detained government critics even as it allows women to drive and opens movie theaters in the conservative kingdom.

Prince Mohammed also has been implicated by U.S. officials and a United Nations investigative report in the assassination of Khashoggi. The prince has said he bore ultimate responsibility for the kingdom, though he denies orchestrating the slaying.

The criminal allegations reveal the extent the Saudi government went to control the flow of information on Twitter, said Adam Coogle, a Middle East researcher with Human Rights Watch.

The platform is the main place for Saudis to express their views, and about a third of the nation's 30 million people are active users. But the free-wheeling nature of Twitter is a major source of concern for the authoritarian regime, Coogle said.

The government has used different tactics to control speech and keep reformers and others from or-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 41 of 57

ganizing, including employing troll armies to harass and intimidate users online. It has even arrested and imprisoned Twitter users.

The crown prince's former top adviser, Saud al-Qahtani, who also served as director of the cyber security federation, started the "Black List" hashtag to target critics of the government. He ominously tweeted in 2017 that the government had ways of unmasking anonymous Twitter users.

"Does a pseudonym protect you from #the_black_list? No," al-Qahtani wrote, according to a report by Google released this week. "1) States have a method to learn the owner of the pseudonym 2) the IP address can be learned using a number of methods 3) a secret I will not say."

"If you combine that with what we know about at least these two individuals and what went on in 2014 and into 2015, it's pretty chilling," Google said.

Al-Qahtani has been sanctioned for his suspected role in orchestrating the brutal killing of Khashoggi. His Twitter account was suspended in September for violating its platform manipulation policy.

Twitter acknowledged that it cooperated in the criminal investigation and said in a statement that it restricts access to sensitive account information "to a limited group of trained and vetted employees."

"We understand the incredible risks faced by many who use Twitter to share their perspectives with the world and to hold those in power accountable," the statement said. "We have tools in place to protect their privacy and their ability to do their vital work."

A critic said Twitter didn't live up to its principle of restricting access to information about private individuals to the smallest possible number of employees.

"If Twitter had implemented this principle, this misappropriation of information would not have been possible," said Mike Chapple, who teaches cybersecurity at the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. "Social media companies must understand the sensitivity of this information and restrict access to the smallest possible number of employees. Failing to do so puts the privacy, and even the physical safety, of social media users at risk."

Abouammo was also charged with falsifying documents and making false statements to obstruct FBI investigators — offenses that carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison if convicted.

At his appearance in Seattle federal court Wednesday, Abouammo was ordered to remain in custody pending a detention hearing set for Friday.

His lawyer, Christopher Black, declined to comment, as did Abouammo's wife, who did not give her name.

The complaint said Abouammo, a media partnership manager for Twitter's Middle East region, and Alzabarrah, a site reliability engineer at Twitter, worked with an unnamed Saudi official who leads a charitable organization belonging to a person named Royal Family Member 1.

Prosecutors said a third defendant, a Saudi named Ahmed Almutairi who worked as a social media adviser for the Saudi royal family, acted as an intermediary with the Twitter employees.

The complaint said Almutairi recruited Alzabarrah and flew him to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2015, when a Saudi delegation visited the White House.

"Within one week of returning to San Francisco, Alzabarrah began to access without authorization private data of Twitter users en masse," the complaint said.

The effort included the user data of over 6,000 Twitter users, including at least 33 usernames for which Saudi Arabian law enforcement had submitted emergency disclosure requests to Twitter, investigators said.

After being confronted by his supervisors at Twitter, Alzabarrah acknowledged accessing user data and said he did it out of curiosity, authorities said.

Alzabarrah was placed on administrative leave, his work-owned laptop was seized, and he was escorted out of the office. The next day, he flew to Saudi Arabia with his wife and daughter and has not returned to the United States, investigators said.

A warrant for his and Almutairi's arrests were issued as part of the complaint.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Eugene Johnson in Seattle and Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected by dropping a reference to Twitter employee Alzabarah meeting with a Saudi royal family member. Prosecutors say he met with a third defendant.

Deadly ambush shows Mexico lost control of area

By PETER ORSI and MARIA VERZA Associated Press

COLONIA LEBARON, Mexico (AP) — When drug cartel gunmen opened fire on American women and children in northern Mexico, the Mexican Army, the National Guard and Sonora state police were not there to protect them. It took them about eight hours just to arrive.

To villagers and others, the bloodshed seemed to demonstrate once more that the government has lost control over vast areas of the country to the drug traffickers.

"The country is suffering very much from violence," said William Stubbs, a pecan and alfalfa farmer who serves on a community security committee in the American-dominated hamlet of Colonia LeBaron. "You see it all over. And it ain't getting better. It's getting worse."

The lack of law enforcement in rural areas like the northern states of Chihuahua and Sonora once led the dual U.S.-Mexican residents of places like Colonia LeBaron to form their own civilian defense patrols.

Stubbs said that after the 2009 killing of anti-crime activist Benjamin LeBaron, residents positioned themselves each night for two years with high-powered binoculars to keep watch from the large "L" for "LeBaron" that stands on a hillside above the town.

Since then, he said, the cartels have left Le Baron and the town of Galeana a few kilometers to the north alone. But he said they have watched the cartels get stronger in the past two decades, with nearby communities in the mountains suffering from violence and extortion.

This week, he said, the military told him that the town of Zaragoza had been about 50% abandoned.

Army chief of staff Gen. Homero Mendoza said Wednesday that Monday's ambush — which killed three American mothers and six of their children — started at 9:40 a.m., but the nearest army units were in the border city of Agua Prieta, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) and 3½ hours away.

Soldiers didn't start out for the scene until 2:30 p.m. and didn't arrive until 6:15 p.m. — even while five surviving children lay hiding in the mountains with bullet wounds.

"There are areas where the government's control is very fragile," said Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador created the militarized National Guard after he took office last December to help law enforcement, but its 70,000 troops have to cover a vast territory.

"The government's main policy tool, the National Guard, is not where it should be," Hope said, noting that Sonora and Chihuahua states, with over 160,000 square miles (420,000 square kilometers) between them, have only about 4,100 National Guard officers stationed there, or about one for every 40 square miles. "It should be in the mountains, and it's not there."

Questions have also arisen over whether the army can do its job even when it is present. On Oct. 17, soldiers were forced to release the captured son of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman to avoid further bloodshed after Sinaloa cartel gunmen counterattacked in greater numbers in the city of Culiacan.

Colonia Le Baron is a place where the U.S. influence is evident everywhere you look: pickup trucks with license plates from California, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, and English-speaking customers eating hamburgers at Ray's Restaurant, Coffee & Grill. Many of the dual citizens were born here, and their families have been here for decades.

Stubbs predicted that some people will move their families to the United States out of fear but will ultimately come back, as happened after the 2009 killing. He seemed dubious about López Obrador's "hugs, not bullets" security strategy of trying to solve underlying social problems instead of battling the drug cartels with military force.

"I'm really shocked actually of his way of thinking, and it ain't going to solve the problems," he said.

Residents know they can't fight the cartels on their own.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 43 of 57

"We're not experts in military and war and weapons," Stubbs said. "We're farmers, and we have great families and big families, and we definitely want our families to be peaceful."

Mexican officials said the attackers may have mistaken the group's large SUVs for those of a rival gang. The Juarez drug cartel and its armed wing, known as "La Linea," or "The Line," are fighting a vicious turf war against a faction of the Sinaloa cartel known as the "Salazar."

"Those who attacked the occupants (of the vehicles), they let the children go, so that we can deduce that it was not a targeted attack" against the families, Mendoza said.

Most of the victims lived about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Douglas, Arizona, in the hamlet La Mora, 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 the church. Many are related to the extended LeBaron family.

The killers were believed to be from La Linea, whose gunmen had entered Sinaloa cartel territory the previous day and had set up an armed outpost on a hilltop near La Mora and an ambush farther up the road. The Juarez cartel apparently wanted to prevent Sinaloa gunmen from entering their territory in Chihuahua state.

It was this force that the American mothers drove into.

This story has been corrected to show that Mendoza's first name is Homero.

AP sources: Jeff Sessions to announce Alabama Senate bid

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions will announce that he is entering the race for his old U.S. Senate seat in Alabama, two Republicans with direct knowledge of his plans said Wednesday.

Sessions, 72, will be making a return to the political stage a year after stepping down as President Donald Trump's first attorney general when their relationship soured over his recusal from the Russia investigation.

The two Republicans confirmed to The Associated Press that Sessions is expected to announce his candidacy Thursday. They were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. They said Sessions has not spoken to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell about it, nor has he informed Trump of his decision.

The longtime senator's candidacy upends the 2020 Republican primary, which has a crowded field competing to challenge Democratic Sen. Doug Jones for the once reliably red seat.

Some GOP primary rivals wasted no time going on the offensive.

Former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville said Sessions has been "out of the swamp for less than two years, and now he's itching to go back."

"He's another career politician that the voters of Alabama will reject. As Attorney General, he failed the President at his point of greatest need," Tuberville said in a statement.

U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, the first Republican to announce a run for the Senate seat, played up his loyalty to Trump when asked about Sessions' plans to enter the race.

"Alabama deserves a Senator who will stand with the President and won't run away and hide from the fight," Byrne said in a Wednesday statement.

Sessions was the first U.S. senator to endorse Trump's 2016 campaign, and the two supported similar policies on immigration and law enforcement. But Sessions' recusal from the Russia inquiry prompted blistering public criticism from Trump, who eventually asked him to resign.

Despite enduring repeated public mocking, Sessions has remained a Trump loyalist who continues to back the president's policies.

In a speech last month at a Republican Party fundraiser in Huntsville, Sessions reiterated his support for the president even as he joked about life after being "fired" from a job. Sessions praised Trump's effort on trade, immigration and foreign policy.

"That's why I supported him and why I still do support him," Sessions told the crowd of about 500. "He

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 44 of 57

is relentlessly and actually honoring the promises he made to the American people.”

Sessions, for years a popular figure among state Republicans, represented Alabama in the U.S. Senate from 1997 to 2017. He will enter the race as a presumed front-runner, but the effect of Trump’s online and verbal lashings has yet to be seen in Alabama, where the president remains popular.

In June, Trump called his selection of Sessions as attorney general his “biggest mistake.”

“I would say if I had one do-over, it would be, I would not have appointed Jeff Sessions to be attorney general,” Trump said in an interview on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

One of the Republicans who spoke anonymously to the AP sees no indication that Trump has changed his feelings about Sessions and thinks he’ll eventually fall back because of the president’s attacks.

But David Hughes, a political scientist at Auburn University at Montgomery, said there is no reason to think Sessions wouldn’t immediately be a front-runner.

“He has a baked-in constituency. He has a huge donor network. ... He’s got name recognition and the people of Alabama still largely like him,” Hughes said.

In Alabama, midterm voters gave mixed assessments of their former senator. About as many said they had a favorable opinion of Sessions as unfavorable, 45% to 42%, according to AP VoteCast, a midterm survey of more than 750 voters in Alabama.

Democratic voters were overwhelming negative, with 75% saying they view Sessions unfavorably. Even among Republican voters, about a quarter said they had a negative impressions; about two-thirds rated Sessions favorably.

The Republican primary also includes Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill; former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who lost to Jones in a special election two years ago; state Rep. Arnold Mooney; and businessman Stanley Adair.

Chandler reported from Montgomery, Ala. Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report from Washington.

Chris Brown holds high-end yard sale at his Los Angeles home

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Brown held a high-end yard sale Wednesday at his Los Angeles home, with hundreds of fans, gawkers and bargain-seekers waiting for hours to try to get a piece of the singer’s stuff.

Brown posted a flyer on his Instagram and Twitter accounts Tuesday night that included the address of his suburban mansion in the Tarzana neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley.

“Featuring significantly marked-down high-end items,” the flyer said.

Brown captioned the posts “DA CRIB ... 2 day event” and included a heart emoji.

Brown, often called by his nickname Breezy, burst onto the music scene as a teen in 2005, won a Grammy Award in 2011 for best R&B album and remains a major hitmaker. His newest album “Indigo” went to No. 1 when it was released in June, he has a current top 10 hit, “No Guidance” featuring Drake and he’s nominated for a pair of American Music Awards.

But he’s also in the past decade been nearly as well known for a stream of highly publicized run-ins with law enforcement, starting with a felony assault of then-girlfriend Rihanna in 2009 to which he pleaded guilty.

The crowd of hundreds began gathering late Tuesday for the yard sale, who were joined Wednesday by news trucks documenting the scene and news helicopters hovering overhead.

A long line that stretched down the sidewalk for several blocks ended at a driveway filled with large canvas canopies shading rows of clothes.

Some said they had driven from as far away as Arizona and didn’t care what they walked away with as long as it belonged to Brown.

Symone Maddox of San Bernardino, California, said she took the day off work to check out the yard sale, hoping to get hats and hoodies. “I already told my boss. She told me to bring something back,” Maddox said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 45 of 57

The 23-year-old, a hip-hop artist who goes by the name Young Maddox, said she's been a Brown fan since the beginning of his career and was hoping that she could pass some of her music on to him and get him to sign some merchandise. She said despite owning much of the singer's apparel already, it'd be nice to get something directly from singer.

"I think this is a dope opportunity to be personal with his fans," she said.

The crowd appeared orderly, remaining mostly on a sidewalk. Police said they had received no complaints. A news release said the singer plans to donate some of the proceeds to unspecified charities. It was not clear whether he would make an appearance.

The same home attracted reporters and helicopters to a very different scene in 2016, when Brown and police had an hourslong standoff that ended in his arrest on suspicion of assault. Brown's attorney denied any wrongdoing, and police did not file any charges.

Brown was most recently arrested early this year in France along with two other people on suspicion of aggravated rape and drug infractions — allegations that Brown and his lawyer have denounced as false and defamatory. Brown was released and allowed to leave the country without charges being filed as Paris prosecutors continued their investigation.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

Trump plows ahead despite fresh signs of trouble in 2020

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his supporters insisted on Wednesday that no course correction is needed despite stinging Republican defeats in battleground suburbs and a Democrat on the verge of victory in the governor's race in deep-red Kentucky.

But the blue wave that swept through the suburbs in 2018 and gave Democrats control of the U.S. House barreled through communities outside Philadelphia, Washington and Cincinnati on Tuesday, sending a clear signal that Trump faces potential trouble in areas that have generally sided with Republicans for decades. Voters — many of them Democrats — participated at levels rarely seen in years when control of Congress or the White House isn't at stake.

In Kentucky, turnout was up by nearly 50% from 2015, when the state last held a governor's race. Turnout was higher for both parties, but the increases were much more dramatic for Democratic challenger Andy Beshear. Some of the biggest increases were in the counties where Beshear fared best, particularly in Jefferson County, home to Louisville, and Fayette County, which encompasses Lexington. Meanwhile, the counties where incumbent Republican Gov. Matt Bevin did best underperformed compared with Democratic counties.

More than twice as many people in Virginia voted in state legislative races than in the last similar election four years ago.

With nearly a year until the presidential election, there is a risk of drawing firm conclusions about the meaning of Tuesday's results. But coming amid an intensifying impeachment inquiry, they raise questions about Trump's ability to help other Republicans across the finish line. At a minimum, some GOP strategists say the party needs to confront its eroding support in the suburbs.

"There are some troubling signs amongst some of the areas that are going to matter most in 2020: suburban areas in major metro areas in battleground states," said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist who was a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. "For instance, in the Philadelphia suburbs, there were big GOP losses in a state where Trump won by a slim margin. The path to victory is in these suburbs, but there are a lot of warning signs that the environment is going to be tougher in 2020 than in 2016."

Trump tried to avoid this dynamic, holding an election-eve rally with Bevin and acknowledging the governor's fate would be intrinsically linked to his own.

"If you lose, they're going to say, 'Trump suffered the greatest defeat in the history of the world. This was

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 46 of 57

the greatest.' You can't let that happen to me!" Trump implored the crowd in Lexington on Monday night.

His staff late Tuesday began quickly trying to distance the president from Bevin, who was saddled with poor poll numbers. Trump's reelection campaign manager, Brad Parscale, tweeted that Beshear "didn't talk about impeachment or Trump, and (he) acts like a Republican."

White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway claimed that Bevin would have lost in a rout had Trump not entered the fray.

"I think the president made this race competitive," Conway told Fox News. "And the president got 62.5% of the vote in Kentucky three short years ago. He'll dominate next year."

Republicans claimed victory with the Mississippi governor's race, but the Democrats otherwise dominated the day. Not only did Democrats excel around Philadelphia, they won majorities in both Virginia's House and Senate, giving the party full control of the state's government and solidifying what had once been a swing state as a stronghold for the party.

The headline race was in Kentucky, however, where Bevin asked for a recanvass of results that showed him more than 5,000 votes behind Beshear, who has declared victory. With 100% of precincts reporting, Beshear led by a little over 5,000 votes out of more than 1.4 million counted, or a margin of less than 0.4 percentage points. That's inside the margin that would trigger a recount in most states, and it's the policy of The Associated Press not to call races that could go to a recount. Although there is no mandatory recount law in Kentucky, the AP is applying that same standard here.

The results raised the question of why the president embraced an unpopular governor so late in the campaign. Ahead of the voting, some in Washington mused that a defeat in a ruby red state called into question the length of Trump's coattails, potentially emboldening Senate Republicans to rebuke him during a possible impeachment trial. Most immediately, it underscored GOP worries about a shifting electoral playing field ahead of 2020.

"It means we're bleeding in suburban areas, again," said Sarah Chamberlain, president of the Republican Main Street Partnership, an organization of centrist GOP lawmakers. "We have to be aware that suburban women are no longer voting for the Republican Party."

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who faces a tight reelection race next year in a swing state, said that he didn't "see a wave there. I see those as really natural cycles that you see in certain state legislatures." But asked about electoral lessons in the suburbs, he acknowledged: "If you take a look at North Carolina, where we've lost ground in the suburbs, we've got to be sure that we continue to maintain a good conservative posture."

But the Trump campaign, which did not moderate despite the 2018 midterm defeats, signaled Wednesday that it would continue on the same track, believing that the president will come out from the impeachment inquiry unscathed, will wield a massive financial advantage over his eventual Democratic opponent and will firmly take control of the race once the field officially narrows to the two nominees next year.

"The American people are fed up with Democrat lies, hoaxes, smears, slanders and scams," Trump said Wednesday night at a rally in Louisiana. "The Democrats' shameful conduct has created an angry majority. And that's what we are. We're a majority ... that will vote the do-nothing Democrats out of office in 2020."

Democrats pored through the results for lessons of their own. As the party's presidential candidates debate ambitious, big-ticket items such as "Medicare for All," moderates urged caution.

"To those who want to win nationally with a whole lotta votes, pay attention," said Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a Democrat who represents a swing district in the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia. "People want us to act, to focus on solving problems, not be the most ideologically pure."

One Democrat running for president, Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, seemed to echo that.

"I think that augers very well for us in 2020, if we nominate somebody who can win tough states, and Kentucky's a really tough state," he said. "I guarantee you that the gubernatorial candidate for the Democrats did not run on Medicare for All in Kentucky."

But Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez dismissed the suggestion that Democrats may seal their defeat next year by nominating a candidate who is too left wing for voters, instead predicting that Trump's divisive approach to the presidency would ultimately prove to be "terrible politics."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 47 of 57

"The extreme party in America right now is the Republican Party, and that's why we've been winning elections," Perez said. "Because independent and moderate voters and Lincoln Republicans have been voting for Democrats."

Lemire reported from New York. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko, Stephen Ohlemacher and Michael Tackett in Washington, Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa., Holly Ramer in Concord, N.H., and Anthony Izaguirre in Ashland, Ky.

Hawaii may subpoena Airbnb for tax records of rental hosts

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A judge ruled Wednesday that Hawaii tax authorities may subpoena Airbnb for records of its hosts as the state investigates whether operators of vacation rentals have been paying their taxes.

First Circuit Court Judge Bert Ayabe approved the subpoena after a brief hearing. Airbnb and the state Department of Taxation have already agreed which records the company will provide: those of 1,000 Hawaii hosts who received the most revenue from 2016 through 2018.

The company also will provide data for hosts who had more than \$2,000 in annual revenue during those years, but their identities will remain anonymous. The state may then request individual records for those hosts, but it will be able to obtain information on only 500 hosts every two weeks.

If a host files a legal challenge, Airbnb won't provide the data until the case is resolved.

The subpoena sets the foundation for similar enforcement action the state may take with other vacation rental platforms, Department Director Rona Suzuki said in a statement.

"We look forward to receiving the data specified in the agreement with Airbnb," she said.

Hawaii said it needs the subpoena because it can't get the data another way and requires the court's permission to serve it because the investigation targets a group of taxpayers, not specific individuals.

In court filings, the state said many hosts don't generate enough revenue for Airbnb to send the IRS relevant tax forms for them. Another challenge is the relative anonymity hosts are given on the website, where rental operators are often identified by a first name.

An investigation by tax authorities found 70.4% of Hawaii listings on Airbnb's website in April didn't include tax identification numbers in violation of Hawaii law.

The state first sought to subpoena tax records from Airbnb last year when it asked a judge to order the company to hand over a decade of vacation rental receipts. But a judge denied the motion.

The state filed a new petition in June seeking approval for a revised subpoena. The department and Airbnb began negotiations after that.

Cities and states for years have been grappling with how to best to regulate short-term rentals. Earlier this year, Honolulu enacted strict penalties on those operating vacation rentals without permits. On Tuesday, voters in Jersey City, New Jersey, approved new regulations on short-term rentals.

Europeans look to China as global partner, shun Trump's US

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — When France's president wants to carry European concerns to the world stage to find solutions for climate change, trade tensions or Iran's nuclear ambitions, he no longer calls Washington. He flies to Beijing.

President Emmanuel Macron's visit to China this week suggests that the United States risks being sidelined on the global stage under President Donald Trump. One moment spoke volumes: Chinese President Xi Jinping sampling French wines, which Trump's administration recently slapped with heavy new tariffs.

Macron portrayed himself as an envoy for the whole European Union, conveying the message that the bloc has largely given up on Trump, who doesn't hide his disdain for multilateralism.

Just as the Trump administration formally launched the process of pulling out of the 2015 Paris climate

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 48 of 57

agreement, France and China issued a "Beijing call" on Wednesday for increased global cooperation in fighting climate change and better protecting biodiversity. Both countries have deplored the U.S. withdrawal.

"One country's isolated choice can't change the course of the world. It only leads to marginalization," Macron said.

While China's president tasted French wines and high-quality beef at an import fair in Shanghai, Macron was pushing for a broader opening of the Chinese market to European products.

"I think he discovered Languedoc wine. He wasn't familiar with it, he liked it. He tasted a Burgundy and a classic Bordeaux wine," Macron told reporters.

Xi said the two leaders were sending "a strong signal to the world about steadfastly upholding multilateralism and free trade, as well as working together to build open economies."

During his first state visit to China in January 2018, Macron vowed to return every year in an effort to establish "mutual trust."

Since then, Xi has travelled to France, when China signed an agreement in March to buy 300 aircraft from European plane maker Airbus.

This time, Macron travelled east, bringing with him an ambitious agenda that includes establishing a joint stance on reforming the World Trade Organization, fighting climate change and saving the nuclear accord with Iran.

After Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 U.N. nuclear pact, France and China reiterated their support for the hard-fought deal both countries had helped negotiate.

In Beijing, Macron described recent Gulf tensions as "the negative impact of the non-respect of a multilateral agreement. ... The American error has been to leave (the pact) unilaterally."

"Strong multilateralism is more efficient than shrill unilateralism," Macron said, praising China's support for de-escalation of the tensions as the Europeans try to save the nuclear deal with Iran.

"China and France are together with the Europeans and Russians," he said. "We are convinced that we should increase our joint efforts to bring Iran back into compliance."

On trade, the EU often joins U.S. criticism of China's protectionist policies, government subsidies and other restrictive practices.

But whereas Trump has responded by aggressively imposing tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars worth of goods from China, Europe and elsewhere, bypassing rules set by the WTO, the EU considers that a trade war is not the appropriate response.

"We must get stable and cooperative trade rules at the international level," Macron said, referring to a plan to reform the WTO. Trump complains that the WTO, which is tasked with resolving trade disputes, is weak and ineffective as China flouts its rules and it takes years to address trade complaints.

Macron said it is Europe and China's shared responsibility to make proposals to reform the WTO, because it would be a "fundamental error" to wait for "those who are calling into question the multilateral system."

The White House did not immediately comment on Wednesday.

Besides the tariffs on China, the U.S. has hit EU steel, aluminum and agricultural products with tariffs, drawing retaliation from the 28-country bloc. And the Trump administration is due to decide this month whether to impose tariffs on Europe's massive auto exports, a move that would significantly escalate tensions that are already hurting the global economy.

Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the International Monetary Fund's China division, said "the Trump administration's antipathy to multilateralism, its repudiation of many international agreements, and hostility toward even longstanding allies, have all eroded U.S. economic and geopolitical influence."

"The U.S. is now seen by other countries as an unreliable and untrustworthy partner, leaving them to maneuver around the U.S. by striking bilateral and multilateral deals that protect and advance their own interests," Prasad said.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman in Washington and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed

to this report.

Removing King's name in Kansas City opens wounds, discussion

By MARGARET STAFFORD Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City leaders and residents on Wednesday began what is likely to be a challenging conversation about how to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recover from wounds inflicted during a nearly yearlong debate over naming a street for the civil rights icon in the majority white city.

On Tuesday, Kansas City voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure to rename a 10-mile boulevard from King's name back to The Paseo, which it has been called since it was completed in 1899. The vote came less than a year after the city council approved renaming the boulevard for King, after years of advocacy from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and mostly black civic leaders.

Representatives from both sides of the issue vowed Wednesday to find another way to honor King and perhaps show other cities how to peacefully unify around the issue.

Diane Euston, a spokeswoman for the "Save the Paseo" group that led the successful petition drive, said the group has been brainstorming for months about ways to honor King if the ballot measure passed, and in a meeting last week with Mayor Quinton Lucas, who strongly supported the King name, members made it clear they intend to be part of that conversation.

"I believe we are going to take positive strides," she said. "We can in the long run be an example across the nation about what unity is going to look like, what consensus looks like. The people have spoken, and people need to continue to speak in a positive manner in order to show Kansas City is an example of the democratic process while continuing to ensure we honor Martin Luther King."

Save the Paseo members, many of whom are black, said throughout the campaign that the effort to replace King's name was not about race. They contended the council didn't follow proper city process when it voted in January to rename the boulevard for King and didn't properly engage residents affected by the change. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other mostly black leaders accused Paseo supporters of being motivated by racism. Kansas City is 60.3% white and 28.7% black, according to the U.S. Census.

Whether the SCLC will join in the new discussions remains unclear. Its representatives didn't return messages Wednesday seeking reaction to the vote.

Lucas, who is black and was on the city council when the name was changed, acknowledged that city leaders and the SCLC could have handled the renaming decision better and will learn from Tuesday's vote. He expects the community outreach and conversation to take some time but said that effort is important.

"I think in terms of the next steps, most everybody I talked to remains committed to honoring Dr. King and his service to the country," Lucas said. "We have a positive opportunity coming out of this. Every now and then we might need a painful start, but people want to make sure we get it right, that we get the collaboration right."

Alissia Canady, a former city councilwoman who was one of the few black leaders in the city to object to renaming The Paseo, said she also sees the controversy as an opportunity to honor King but also address other issues such as crime and economic inequity.

"We need to have a citywide conversation and be intentional about manifesting King's dreams, rather than just building another statue or duplicating what others have done," she said. "It's a huge opportunity for us to be innovative."

The next steps are crucial for Kansas City, both to heal from the campaign and to protect its national reputation, said Derek Alderman, a geography professor at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville who has studied the naming of streets for King for decades. Kansas City is one of the largest cities in the U.S. without a street named for King, in a country where, as of 2017, 955 U.S. cities had streets named for him.

"It's a good sign that people are wanting to come forward and work with the city, but they need to understand it's going to require sacrifice," Alderman said. "It's not as easy as 'let's find a convenient street to name for Dr. King.' They'll have to change the identity of a street they've known for a long time, with

business and property owners to bear some costs, along with hard discussions of racism and exclusion. I'm not saying it should be divisive, but it needs to be accompanied with really genuine, hard conversations."

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a former Kansas City mayor who unsuccessfully tried early on to negotiate a compromise on the naming issue, said he's concerned how Kansas City's image will suffer when pictures of city workers taking the King signs down are transmitted nationwide. That will occur at some point after the election board certifies Tuesday's results.

Cleaver said he chooses to believe most of the people who supported The Paseo name were not motivated by racial bias, but that message will be hard to communicate to others.

When he called U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi Wednesday, the first thing Thompson said to Cleaver was "What in the world are you guys up in Kansas City doing?" Both men are black.

"When you have to try and explain it, it's already a problem," Cleaver said. "You're trying to undo the beliefs that people have developed based on what they've seen and heard. It can take a long time to fix that damage."

Canady said Kansas City leaders can't be concerned about the optics of how the decision would look to others because they need residents' confidence to address larger problems and repair the relationships with those who believed their voices were not heard in the street naming debate.

"This is a huge opportunity for Kansas City to be spotlighted for how it unified and engaged people in the civic process in a way we haven't seen in years," she said. "Hopefully as we go forward we can start with a clean state and consider all the possibilities."

Standing tall: Scientists find oldest example of upright ape

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The remains of an ancient ape found in a Bavarian clay pit suggest that humans' ancestors began standing upright millions of years earlier than previously thought, scientists said Wednesday.

An international team of researchers says the fossilized partial skeleton of a male ape that lived almost 12 million years ago in the humid forests of what is now southern Germany bears a striking resemblance to modern human bones. In a paper published by the journal *Nature*, they concluded that the previously unknown species — named *Danuvius guggenmosi* — could walk on two legs but also climb like an ape.

The findings "raise fundamental questions about our previous understanding of the evolution of the great apes and humans," said Madelaine Boehme of the University of Tuebingen, Germany, who led the research.

The question of when apes evolved bipedal motion has fascinated scientists since Charles Darwin first argued that they were the ancestors of humans. Previous fossil records of apes with an upright gait — found in Crete and Kenya — dated only as far back as 6 million years ago.

Boehme, along with researchers from Bulgaria, Germany, Canada and the United States, examined more than 15,000 bones recovered from a trove of archaeological remains known as the Hammerschmiede, or Hammer Smithy, about 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of the Germany city of Munich.

Among the remains they were able to piece together were primate fossils belonging to four individuals that lived 11.62 million years ago. The most complete, an adult male, likely stood about 1 meter (3 feet, 4 inches) tall, weighed 31 kilograms (68 pounds) and looked similar to modern-day bonobos, a species of chimpanzee.

"It was astonishing for us to realize how similar certain bones are to humans, as opposed to great apes," Boehme said.

Thanks to several well-preserved vertebra, limb, finger and toe bones, the scientists were able to reconstruct how *Danuvius* moved, concluding that while it would have been able to hang from branches by his arms, it could also straighten its legs to walk upright.

"This changes our view of early human evolution, which is that it all happened in Africa," Boehme told The Associated Press in an interview.

Like humans, *Danuvius* had an S-shaped spine to hold its body upright while standing. Unlike humans, though, it had a powerful, opposable big toe that would have allowed it to grab branches with its foot and

safely walk through the treetops.

Fred Spoor, a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum in London, called the fossil finds "fantastic" but said they would likely be the subject of much debate, not least because they could challenge many existing ideas about evolution.

"I can see that there will be a lot of agonizing and re-analysis of what these fossils mean," said Spoor, who wasn't involved in the study.

Impeachment going public: Hearings next week for all to see

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats announced Wednesday they will launch public impeachment hearings next week, intending to bring to life weeks of closed-door testimony and lay out a convincing narrative of presidential misconduct by Donald Trump.

First to testify will be William Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine, who has relayed in private his understanding that there was a blatant quid pro quo with Trump holding up military aid to a U.S. ally facing threats from its giant neighbor Russia.

That aid, at the heart of the impeachment inquiry, is alleged to have been held hostage until Ukraine agreed to investigate political foe Joe Biden and the idea, out of the mainstream of U.S. intelligence findings, that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

The testimony of Taylor a career envoy and war veteran with 50 years of service to the U.S., is what Democrats want Americans to hear first.

Taylor has told investigators about an "irregular channel" that the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, set up for Ukraine diplomacy, and how the White House was holding up the military aid, according to a transcript of his closed-door interview released Wednesday.

"That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president committed to pursue the investigation," Taylor said.

He was asked if he was aware that "quid pro quo" meant "this for that."

"I am," he replied.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing, and Republicans largely dismiss the impeachment inquiry, now into its second month, as a sham.

But Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the probe, said that with two days of hearings next week Americans will have a chance to decide for themselves.

"The most important facts are largely not contested," the California Democrat said. "Those open hearings will be an opportunity for the American people to evaluate the witnesses for themselves, to make their own determinations about the credibility of the witnesses, but also to learn firsthand about the facts of the president's misconduct."

Along with Taylor, the public will hear from former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whom Trump fired after what she and others say was a smear campaign against her, and career State Department official George Kent. Taylor and Kent will appear Wednesday, Yovanovitch on Friday.

To prepare for what's ahead, the White House is beefing up its communications operations.

Trump ally Pam Bondi, the former attorney general of Florida, and Tony Sayegh, a former Treasury Department spokesman, are expected to join the White House team to work on "proactive impeachment messaging," a senior administration official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal staffing.

The Trump administration has ordered officials not to participate in the House inquiry. But lawmakers have spent weeks hearing from current and former government witnesses, largely from the State Department, as one official after another has relayed his or her understanding of events.

The testimony from Taylor further connected Trump, Giuliani and the administration to a quid-pro-quo agreement that came to light after a government whistleblower's complaint about Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 52 of 57

Even before that call, Taylor said, he and other diplomats involved in Ukraine policy started having concerns about a shadow foreign policy being run by Trump and his private attorney.

Taylor testified that the concerns reached high levels at the White House. In a July 10 meeting with Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton, Trump's ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland raised the idea of Ukrainian investigations.

That "triggered Ambassador Bolton's antenna, political antenna, and he said 'we don't do politics here,'" Taylor testified, noting that Bolton ended the meeting.

Bolton, who resigned from the administration later, has been asked to appear before the House investigators for a closed-door interview this week. His lawyer said he would not come without a subpoena.

All three of those scheduled to appear in public hearings next week have already testified behind closed doors, and investigators in recent days started releasing hundreds of pages of transcripts from their interviews.

Yovanovitch, who was ousted in May at Trump's direction, testified that she had been told to "watch my back" and that people were "looking to hurt" her. Kent and Taylor testified about their concerns about her dismissal at the same time Giuliani was taking a leading role on Ukraine policy.

The spark for the inquiry was the July phone call from Trump to the new Ukrainian president. According to a rough transcript, released by the White House, Trump asked Zelenskiy to probe Biden and his family and interference in the 2016 election.

Taylor, who testified in October, had repeatedly conveyed concerns about the "irregular channel" that Giuliani had set up at Trump's instruction to bypass the embassy and the State Department.

"The security assistance got blocked by this second channel," he said.

In his appearance last month, Taylor told lawmakers that it was the "unanimous opinion of every level of interagency discussion" that the military aid should be resumed without delay.

Republicans, signaling a line of attack they may pursue during the open hearings, argued that he received none of the information firsthand.

In the final stretch of questioning, Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., grilled him on whether he had primary knowledge that Trump was demanding that Ukraine investigate the Bidens. Taylor said he had not spoken directly to Trump or Giuliani. Zeldin says that information was "secondhand or thirdhand."

Trump allies also have argued that there couldn't have been an inappropriate arrangement because Ukraine didn't even know the aid was being held up. But Taylor said the new government under Zelenskiy recognized it had to commit to investigations to get the aid or a promised meeting with Trump at the White House.

He said the Ukrainians worried that opening the investigations, in particular of the gas company Burisma, which had Biden's son on its board, would have involved them in the 2020 election campaign in the U.S.

They didn't want to do that, he said.

Taylor said he had specifically raised his concerns with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and told him he would resign if strong U.S. support for Ukraine somehow evaporated.

"This would have been throwing Ukraine under the bus," he said. "And I told the secretary: 'If that happens, I'll come home. You don't want me out there, because I'm not going to defend it, you know. I would say bad things about it.'"

Taylor told investigators that the "Russians are paying attention to how much support the Americans are going to provide the Ukrainians."

He said, "So the Russians are loving, would love, the humiliation of Zelenskiy at the hand of the Americans, and would give the Russians a freer hand, and I would quit."

At one point, Taylor said he was hearing from colleagues in Washington that it was difficult for them to arrange a meeting with Trump to try to persuade him to release the aid.

Why? It was around the time the president was interested in buying Greenland from Denmark, he said, and that "took up a lot of energy" at the National Security Council.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 53 of 57

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Ben Fox, Laurie Kellman, Michael Balsamo, Matthew Lee and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Trump to kick off NYC Veterans Day Parade, offer tribute

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will speak at the opening ceremony of the New York City Veterans Day Parade next week as he returns to a city he no longer calls home, organizers and the White House announced Wednesday.

United War Veterans Council Chairman Douglas McGowan said Trump will offer a tribute to veterans ahead of Monday's 100th annual parade. While presidents have always been invited, McGowan said that, as far as he knows, Trump is the first to accept.

The announcement came just days after Trump said he has officially changed his residency from New York to Florida, where he owns several properties, including the Mar-a-Lago club, where he spends many winter weekends.

The Republican president was born in Queens and his brand has long been synonymous with the city. But he is deeply unpopular in the liberal bastion and has bashed New York's politicians for treating him badly.

Trump did not serve in the military, receiving multiple deferments that allowed him to avoid the Vietnam War draft. That included a medical exemption for bone spurs in his heels — a convenient diagnosis that many have questioned. Nonetheless, Trump has been a longtime promoter of the parade.

During the 1990s, he pledged \$200,000 and offered to raise money from friends in exchange for being named the parade's grand marshal, The New York Times reported at the time. He also donated toward the creation of the city's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"This is a day when we put politics aside to focus on honoring our veterans, and to re-commit ourselves as a community to providing them with the services they have earned, the services they deserve and, for many, the services they were denied," McGowan said in a statement.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has often traded barbs with Trump, told reporters he hoped the president would attend the event with a recognition that it "is not about him, this is about our veterans."

"It should not be politicized. It should not be turned into a spectacle," de Blasio said. "If he's coming here to truly honor veterans, God bless him. But I'd really like to see something a little different than what we've seen in some of his other appearances."

More than 25,000 parade participants, including veterans, active-duty military personnel and their supporters, are expected to march along Fifth Avenue during this year's event.

In addition to speaking at the kickoff event, Trump will lay a wreath at the Eternal Light memorial in Madison Square Park, White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

At last year's parade, marching bands played patriotic songs and onlookers waved American flags. That parade commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

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A CGI James Dean is cast in new film, sparking an outcry

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — James Dean hasn't been alive in 64 years, but the "Rebel Without a Cause" actor has been cast in a new film about the Vietnam War.

The filmmakers behind the independent film "Finding Jack" said Wednesday that a computer-generated Dean will play a co-starring role in the upcoming production. The digital Dean is to be assembled through old footage and photos and voiced by another actor.

Digitally manipulated posthumous performances have made some inroads into films. But those have been largely roles the actors already played, including Carrie Fisher and Peter Cushing, who first appeared together in "Star Wars" and were prominently featured in the 2016 spinoff "Rogue One."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 54 of 57

But the prospect of one of the movies' most beloved former stars being digitally resurrected was met with widespread criticism after the news was first reported by The Hollywood Reporter . Chris Evans, the "Captain America" actor, was among those who called the plans disrespectful and wrongheaded.

"Maybe we can get a computer to paint us a new Picasso. Or write a couple new John Lennon tunes," said Evans on Twitter. "The complete lack of understanding here is shameful."

Rights to Dean's likeness were acquired by the filmmakers and the production company Magic City Films through CMG Worldwide. The company represents Dean's family along with the intellectual property rights associated with many other deceased personalities including Neil Armstrong, Bette Davis and Burt Reynolds.

Mark Roesler, chairman and chief executive of CMG, defended the usage of Dean and said the company has represented his family for decades. Noting that Dean has more than 183,000 followers on Instagram, Roesler said he still resonates today.

"James Dean was known as Hollywood's 'rebel' and he famously said 'if a man can bridge the gap between life and death, if he can live after he's died, then maybe he was a great man. Immortality is the only true success,'" said Roesler. "What was considered rebellious in the '50s is very different than what is rebellious today, and we feel confident that he would support this modern day act of rebellion."

Adapted from Gareth Crocker's novel, "Finding Jack" is a live-action movie about the U.S. military's abandonment of canine units following the Vietnam War. Directors Anton Ernst and Tati Golykh are to begin shooting Nov. 17. In an email, Ernst said they "tremendously" respect Dean's legacy.

"The movie subject matter is one of hope and love, and he is still relevant like the theme of the film we are portraying," said Ernst. "There is still a lot of James Dean fans worldwide who would love to see their favorite icon back on screen. There would always be critics, and all we can do is tell a great story with humanity and grace."

Dean had just three leading roles before he died in a car crash in 1955 at the age of 24: "Rebel Without a Cause," "East of Eden" and "Giant."

California discloses Facebook probe, sues for documents

By TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writer

California's attorney general disclosed an ongoing probe into Facebook's privacy practices Wednesday, as it sued the company over its repeated refusal to turn over documents and answer questions.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said his probe has been going on for more than a year. He said he was disclosing it now because his office was making a public court filing to force the company to comply with subpoenas and requests for information.

"Facebook is not just continuing to drag its feet in response to the Attorney General's investigation, it is failing to comply," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court in San Francisco.

The California probe, one of many legal and regulatory inquiries into Facebook, began as a response to the Cambridge Analytica scandal and grew into an investigation into whether Facebook misrepresented its privacy practices, deceived users and broke California law.

Cambridge Analytica, a data mining firm, gathered details on as many as 87 million Facebook users without their permission. The Federal Trade Commission fined Facebook \$5 billion this summer for privacy violations in an investigation that also grew out of that scandal. California officials say questions have been raised about what Facebook knew and why it didn't prevent third parties such as Cambridge Analytica from misusing user data.

The court filing said Facebook hasn't given answers on 19 of the attorney general's questions and hasn't given any new documents in response to six document requests. The filing also said Facebook has refused to search the emails of top executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, as the state requested.

Becerra's office said it requested additional information after Facebook took a year to respond to an initial subpoena.

Investigators sought communications among executives on developers' access to user data, the relation-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 55 of 57

ship between ad spending and access to data and the introduction of new privacy features and privacy-related news stories. Officials also sought information on the effects of privacy settings on third-party access to data and Facebook's enforcement of policies.

Facebook, which has its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, didn't respond to requests for comment. California hadn't joined a separate probe involving attorneys general from New York and other states. The New York probe is looking into Facebook's dominance and any resulting anticompetitive conduct. California is also a holdout in a separate probe into Google's market dominance.

The District of Columbia and Massachusetts have also gone after Facebook on privacy. The Massachusetts attorney general's office is set to argue in a state court Thursday why Facebook should be compelled to stop resisting and turn over documents for its investigation.

Facebook's various legal troubles have yet to make a significant financial dent on the company. Even the FTC's \$5 billion fine, the largest ever for a tech company, came to just under one-tenth of Facebook's revenue last year. The penalty was criticized by consumer advocates and a number of public officials as being too lenient.

AP Technology Writers Mae Anderson and Frank Bajak contributed to this report.

Asian stocks mostly lower after US indexes hit pause

By PENNY YI WANG Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian stocks were mostly lower Thursday after a meandering day of trading in the U.S. left stock indexes close to their record highs.

The Shanghai Composite Index declined 0.3% to 2,969.81. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 was down 0.1% at 23,275.17. Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 0.4% to 27,589.65 and South Korea's Kospi shed 0.2% to 2,140.64.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.9% to 6,717.40, making it the best performer across regional markets. India's Sensex gained 0.5% to 40,651.44. Benchmarks in New Zealand advanced while Taiwan and Singapore declined.

Earlier, a Reuters report that the United States and China may delay signing "Phase 1" of their trade deal until December sent U.S. shares decisively lower by midday. However, the drop didn't last long.

After sinking 0.3%, the S&P 500 erased its loss within about two hours. The index closed 2.16 points, or 0.1% higher, at 3,076.78. It's within two points of its record.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average less than 0.1% to 27,492.56, and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.3% to 8,410.63.

The U.S.-China trade war has been a top concern for investors since early 2018, and momentum has recently been tilting toward at least a partial agreement. That, combined with encouraging reports on the economy and corporate profits, have recently propelled U.S. indexes past their prior peaks from July to all-time highs.

While acknowledging that trade talks could easily falter again, Jeff Mills, chief investment officer at Bryn Mawr Trust, said both sides have an incentive to come to a deal. China's economic growth has slowed under the weight of increased U.S. tariffs. President Donald Trump's chances of re-election, meanwhile, likely hinge in large part on the economy, and a worsening trade war would only sour it.

Mills is optimistic the economy will show more life after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates three times this year, if trade tensions continue to ratchet lower. It would be a sharp turnaround from just a few months ago, when worries were spiking that Trump's trade war and four interest-rate increases by the Federal Reserve in 2018 could tip the economy into a recession.

"People know this intellectually but tend not to focus on it: Changes in interest rates impact the economy with a significant lag," Mills said. "What we've been seeing the last year or so is the economy absorbing the rise in interest rates that we experienced in 2018."

Early next year, the economy should start to get a boost from the Fed's three rate cuts since the summer, "and I would expect the market to see the recession narrative as overblown," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 56 of 57

Until then, though, markets are still trading on every whiff of news about trade. Wednesday's moves following the report of a possible "phase one" delay demonstrated that.

"Trade is a key issue but it's difficult to gain an edge because no deal has been signed," said Tom Hainlin, national investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "It's proving to be challenging for investors."

One thing more certain for investors has been the steady flow of better-than-expected profit reports from big companies. Over the last month, hundreds have told investors how much they made from July through September, and in most cases the declines were not as steep as analysts had forecast.

Benchmark U.S. crude lost 3 cents to \$56.32 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 12 cents to close at \$56.35 per barrel.

Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 2 cents to \$56.33.

The dollar fell to 108.68 Japanese yen from 108.96 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1058 from \$1.1068.

AP Business Writers Stan Choe and Damian J. Troise contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2019. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern. On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln replaced replace Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside.

In 1912, black boxing champion Jack Johnson was indicted in Chicago for allegedly violating the Mann Act with a white woman, Belle Schreiber. (Johnson was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison; he fled the U.S., later returning to serve his term. The Mann Act was also known as the White Slave Traffic Act, but was used in all types of cases.)

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1962, Richard M. Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore."

In 1966, John Lennon first met Yoko Ono at the Indica Gallery in London.

In 1967, Carl Stokes was elected the first black mayor of a major city -- Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for HIV, and was retiring. (Despite his HIV status, Johnson has been able to sustain himself with medication.)

In 2001, the Bush administration targeted Osama bin Laden's multi-million-dollar financial networks, closing businesses in four states, detaining U.S. suspects and urging allies to help choke off money supplies in 40 nations.

In 2005, President George W. Bush, in Panama, defended U.S. interrogation practices and called the treatment of terrorism suspects lawful, saying, "We do not torture."

In 2013, shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion.

Ten years ago: In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed, 220-215, landmark health care legislation to expand coverage to tens of millions lacking it and

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 07, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 129 ~ 57 of 57

place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry. David Haye won the WBA heavyweight title with a majority decision over Nikolai Valuev in Nuremberg, Germany.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama authorized a broad expansion of the U.S. military mission in Iraq that called for boosting the total number of American troops there to about 3,100.

One year ago: A gunman killed 12 people at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, Calif., before apparently taking his own life as officers closed in; the victims included a man who had survived the mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas. After more than a year of blistering attacks from President Donald Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions was pushed out of that post. The White House suspended the press pass of CNN correspondent Jim Acosta after he and Trump had a heated confrontation during a news conference. (A federal judge later ordered the administration to immediately return Acosta's press credentials; the White House dropped its effort to bar Acosta but warned he could have his credentials pulled again.) Eighty-five-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fractured three ribs in a fall in her office.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., is 89. Actor Barry Newman is 81. Actor Dakin Matthews is 79. Singer Johnny Rivers is 77. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 77. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 76. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 67. Jazz singer Rene Marie is 64. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 62. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 59. Actress Julie Pinson is 52. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 51. Actress Michelle Clunie is 50. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock is 49. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 47. Actors Jeremy and Jason London are 47. Actress Yunjin Kim is 46. Actor Adam DeVine is 36. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 36. Actor Lucas Neff is 34. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 31. Rock singer Lorde is 23.

Thought for Today: "All forms of totalitarianism try to avoid the strange, the problematic, the critical, the rational. To do so, they must deny the metropolitan spirit, equalize everything in city and country, and retain a center which is not the center of anything because everything else is swallowed up by it." — Paul Tillich, American theologian (1886-1965).

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