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“THE KEY IS NOT
THE WILL TO WIN...
EVERYBODY HAS
THAT. IT IS THE
WILL TO PREPARE
TO WIN THAT IS
IMPORTANT.”

-BOBBY KNIGHT-



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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It's SoDak16 Volleyball on GDILIVE.COM



**Pine Ridge
Thorpes** VS



Groton Area Tigers

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019
at Parkview Gym, Ft. Pierre

**These Broadcast Sponsors wish the
Lady Tigers**

**GOOD LUCK
at the SoDak 16 !!!**

**Aberdeen Chrysler Center
Allied Climate Professionals
BaseKamp Lodge
Bierman Farm Service
BK Custom T's & More
Blocker Construction
Dakota Risk Management
Tyson DeHoet Trucking
Groton American Legion Post #39
Groton Chiropractic Clinic
Harr Motors
Jark Real Estate
Lori's Pharmacy
Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass
Milbrandt Enterprises Inc.
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
Olson Development
Professional Management Services
S & Lumber
Weber Landscaping**

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The Chamber Choir sang, "Star Spangled Banner" at the Veteran's Day Program.



Doug Hamilton and Bob Wegner presented the Colors.

GHS Veteran's Day Program

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The High School Choir sang, "O, America!"



The junior high band, under the direction of Desiree Yeigh, performed, "Let Freedom Ring."

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The JK/kindergarten and first grade students (pictured in left photo) sang, "Oh, I Love American."

The rest of the elementary students are picture above with two groups singing. The second and third graders sang, "Give Love with Down by the Riverside" and the fourth and fifth graders sang, Three Cheers for America."

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Karen Wolter had a vision of making quilts for the Veterans and this year, she pulled it off. Six Honor Quilts were presented at the Veteran's Day Program. Here a quilt is presented to George Alberts.



A quilt of honor was presented to Wayne Cutler.

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A quilt of honor was presented to Carroll Dean.



A quilt of honor was presented to Clarence Erickson.

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A quilt of honor was presented to Richard Helmer.



A quilt of honor was presented to Robert Pray Sr.

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GI Bears were presented to Desiree Yeigh's children. Her husband and their father, Caleb, is stationed overseas.



The high school band, under the direction of Austin Fordham, played the "Service Songs." At the conclusion, "Taps" was played by Sierra Ehresmann as the colors were retired.



Photos Lifted from the GDILIVE.COM Video

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Principal's Report

MS/HS Building

Mrs. Sombke

November 11, 2019

1) Current Enrollment

- Grade 6= 46
- Grade 7= 41
- Grade 8= 43
- MS Enrollment Total= 130
- Grade 9= 43
- Grade 10= 44
- Grade 11= 51
- Grade 12= 41
- HS Enrollment Total= 179
- Total MS/HS Enrollment= 309**

2) JR Rural Economic Leadership and Development

- Was held on October 30th at Groton Area High School
- Grade 9-12 participated
- Students learned about Kindness, Leadership, Fiscal Responsibility, and Community Involvement
- Visit the Groton Area School Website and go to "News" to view a picture of students participating, and to read more about the presentation
- Event was sponsored by the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation

3) FBLA Blood Drive

- Wednesday November 13th
- In the Old GHS Gym from 9:00-1:30pm
- Please contact Mrs. Compton or an FBLA member if you would like to make an appointment to donate by calling 605-397-8381

4) FCCLA Food Drive

- Wednesday November 13th
- Students will come door to door from 6:00-7:00pm
- Residents are welcome to leave a donation out on their porch for students to collect
- Please call Mrs. Tietz with any questions you may have at 605-397-8381

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Board Report

Elementary Principal

11/11/19

Enrollment:

- JK: 13
- KG: 48
- 1st: 42
- 2nd: 45
- 3rd: 39
- 4th: 48
- 5th: 43
- Total: 278
- PS: 8
- EC: 1

South Dakota Comprehensive Needs Assessment: We had 246 parents/families fill out surveys, 30 teachers, and a number of students. Our plan is to have all student surveys done by the end of the month.

Veterans Day Breakfast: We had a number of veterans and family members attend our annual breakfast. A big thank you to Mike Nehls, BJ Clocksene, Joe Schwan, and Heidi Krueger for helping out.

Teacher Observations: I have completed my required amount of informal evaluations for our teachers this semester. I am currently working on our longer formal evaluations. Formal evaluations are a scheduled observation that usually lasts around 45 minutes to an hour. I expect teachers to showcase some of their favorite lessons and activities. I specifically focus on climate, student engagement, classroom behaviors, routines, discussion/questions, etc.

5th Grade Robotics: Becca Tullar from the the SDSU Extension 4-H office will be working with students and teaching them about robotics the week of December 9, during their science classes.

4th Grade STEM with NSU: Rebeccah Johnson from NSU recently reach out to me. She asked if a small group of NSU Students, along with a Graduate Assistant could visit our elementary schools once per month to do a fun project to promote science in the classroom.

Dakota Prairie Museum in JK: Ms. Mary from the Dakota Prairie museum continues to come to our JK class once per month with her big trunk of "goodies."

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Superintendent's Report to the Groton Area School District 06-6 Board of Education

November 11, 2019

School Crisis Response Team. We will be hosting this training in Groton on December 2 and December 3, and our mental health/administrative teams will be participating. The training event is full and will include over 35 professionals from schools across our region.

19-20 School Calendar Development. I have begun work on the 2019-20 school calendar and will plan to put a draft out for staff feedback in early December. If you have things that you'd like to see in next year's calendar, please let me know.

Needs Assessment Progress. We've completed the parent/family survey during parent/teacher conferences and are in the process of collecting survey responses from the teaching staff, the auxiliary staff, and the students. Ms. Seeklander is going to be conducting "interviews" with each building principal. We are planning to work with Stephanie Weideman to conduct some teacher and student observations between now and Christmas break to provide an additional source of data for the team to consider.

NE Area Superintendent Meeting. I attended the NE Area Superintendent Meeting in Watertown on Wednesday, November 6. Rob Monson, Executive Director of School Administrators of South Dakota was the guest presenter. He spoke about SASD programs and offerings but primarily focused on potential legislative issues for the 2020 session.

GOAC (Government Operations and Audit Committee) has appointed a special panel to study the state Department of Education. This committee will be chaired by Representative Sue Peterson (R-Sioux Falls). According to Representative Chris Karr (R-Sioux Falls), the Department failed under previous leadership.

There will be discussion at the legislative level about the capital outlay levy limitations scheduled to take effect for next year.

The Ag Land Assessment Task Force is continuing to study the ag land assessment issues in SD. According to Mr. Monson, one of the primary issues the task force is looking at is the taxation of grassland as crop land. SDSU has studied two alternative ag land assessment methods and presented their findings to the committee. This group is scheduled to meet at the end of the week. Any changes to the valuation system that drives down our local tax effort will mean less revenue for our school district unlikely to be otherwise made up by the State.

The Special Education Interim Legislative Committee is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, 11/13/19. It was believed this group would be examining the use of the extra-ordinary cost fund for special education. Rather, it has been more of a discussion on students with Autism and Dyslexia. The agenda for Wednesday's meeting includes 90 minutes of discussion on out-of-district placements and a short 15 minute presentation on Dyslexia Workshops.

Mr. Monson believes we will see legislation brought forward on the issue of transgender students.

Mr. Monson believes that Representative Johns may bring legislation on the issue of vaping – potentially requiring vaping devices to be somehow registered.

He believes that Dual Credit courses will be discussed again and, possibly, provided with additional revenue to further expand the program.

The two biggest issues of the session are likely to be legalization of hemp production and funding for medical providers and nursing homes.

2020 Legislative Session. The annual budget address by Governor Noem is scheduled for December 3, 2019 at 1:00 PM. CPI currently sits at 2%. The legislative session opens on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and ends on Thursday, March 12, 2020 (veto day on March 30, 2020).

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Clean Diesel Grant Application. I have begun to work on the application process for this grant program. If awarded, it appears that this grant could fund the reimbursement of 25% of the cost of a bus meeting EPA emission standards (estimated reimbursement at approximately \$20,000). We are most likely going to propose the removal of bus #16 (a 1996 GMS bus) from the fleet. We would purchase an activity bus similar to our most recent purchase nearly four years ago and put bus #04 (2004 International activity bus) on a route in place of bus #99 (1999 International route bus) which would become a spare. Reimbursement would occur after the delivery of the new bus and disposal of the retiring bus (FY2021).

SD Week of Work. Governor Noem has created an initiative called Week of Work aimed at connecting sophomores with work experiences in South Dakota during the week of April 20-24th, 2020. Participation is not mandatory, but according to the webinar hosted by project coordinators last week, there are four ways that we could choose to participate:

1. Job shadowing for HS sophomores
2. Hosting guest speakers on employment issues
3. Business or industry tours
4. Celebrating existing successes

Doeden talks about Life after High School

Toby Doeden used the public participation time to talk about student athletics and the future - Life after High School.

Doeden said that "we are not doing near enough to prepare the students for the future. The athletic culture in Groton is broken. Casting blame will get us no where." He said that athletics play a role in preparing a student for the future. "Sports is a necessity. I use everything that I learned in athletics in my every day business life. He said it was not about him or his son who will be graduating this spring. He said that it's about future students and parents.

A full manuscript of Doeden's speech will be made available to the GDI.

You can read the superintendent's and principal's reports in the previous pages.

Business Manager Mike Weber reported that five auditors were here to review the financial books and said there were no new findings.

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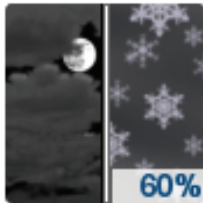
Today



Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 28 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Snow
Likely

Low: 22 °F

Wednesday



Snow Likely
then Partly
Sunny

High: 30 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 11 °F

Thursday




Sunny

High: 38 °F

Today
Breezy West - Windy East
Temps From
Mid-20s to Mid-40s

Tonight
Light Snow (Inch or Less)
Temps in The 20s

 Updated: 11/12/2019 4:40 AM Central

Published on: 11/11/2019 at 11:41PM

As high pressure departs, we will see increasing southerly winds today, along with a little warmer air. A weak system crosses the Dakotas tonight with generally light snow. Thereafter temperatures will be much closer to average.

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Today in Weather History

November 12, 1993: A winter storm moved through the area on November 12th and 13th. A wintry mix of precipitation in the form of freezing rain, sleet, and snow began during the afternoon on the 12th in western portions of Minnesota, while heavy snow fell in a swath from southwest South Dakota through central and northeast parts of the state, with generally four to eight inches reported. Freezing rain also preceded the snow in south-central South Dakota. Significant accumulation of ice occurred within about a 70-mile wide area from west central Minnesota into the Arrowhead region. Up to five inches of snow fell on top of the ice, making travel extremely hazardous. In South Dakota, locally heavier snowfall amounts included 12 inches at Midland and 10 inches central Hughes County. Several schools and other community events were closed due to the ice and snow. In south central South Dakota, trees were damaged by heavy ice, some of which fell on power lines, causing an outage. Other snowfall amounts include; 8.0 inches in Blunt; 7.0 inches in Murdo and near Victor; and 6.0 inches near Onida, Faulkton, Highmore, and Leola.

November 12, 2003: High winds brought down a 70-foot gas station sign in Kennebec. The sign fell onto a shed, causing considerable damage to the shed. A 25-foot radio tower on the Kennebec courthouse was also knocked down by the winds.

1970: The deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded, and one of the deadliest natural disasters in modern times occurred on this day in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The Bhola Cyclone first formed over the Bay of Bengal on November 8 and traveled north. This cyclone reached peak intensity, Category 3, on the 11, and made landfall on the coast of East Pakistan the following afternoon. The Bhola Cyclone killed an estimated 500,000 people and caused nearly \$90 million in damage (1970 USD).

1906 - The mercury soared to 106 degrees at Craftonville, CA, a November record for the U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Between Noon on the 11th and Noon on the 12th, a winter storm buried Helena, MT, under 21.5 inches of snow, which surpassed their previous 24 hour record by seven inches. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - A severe coastal storm produced high winds and record early snows from Georgia to Maine. Winds reached 90 mph in Massachusetts, and ten inches of snow blanketed interior Maine. (David Ludlum)

1974 - A great Alaska storm in the Bering Sea caused the worst coastal flooding of memory at Nome AK with a tide of 13.2 feet. The flooding caused 12 million dollars damage, however no lives are lost. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Heavy snow spread across much of New England. Totals in Massachusetts ranged up to 14 inches in Plymouth County. The seven inch total at the Logan Airport in Boston was their highest of record for so early in the season, and the 9.7 inch total at Providence RI was a record for November. Roads were clogged with traffic and made impassable as snowplow operators were caught unprepared for the early season snowstorm. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather in the Lower Mississippi Valley during the afternoon and early evening hours. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Bovina MS. Morning thunderstorms drenched Atlanta TX with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-three cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast Region. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Scottsbluff NE was a record for November, and highs of 76 degrees at Rapid City SD and 81 degrees at Chattanooga TN were the warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003 - Thunderstorms developed in southern California and produced torrential downpours across parts of the Los Angeles area. More than 5 inches of rain fell in just 2 hours in southern Los Angeles, producing severe urban flooding. Small hail also accompanied the storms, accumulating several inches deep in some areas of the city. Nearly 115,000 electrical customers lost power as the storms affected the area (Associated Press).

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 14 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Temp: 0 °F at 9:57 PM

Wind: 24 mph at 1:33 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 68° in 1905

Record Low: -14° in 1896

Average High: 42°F

Average Low: 21°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.32

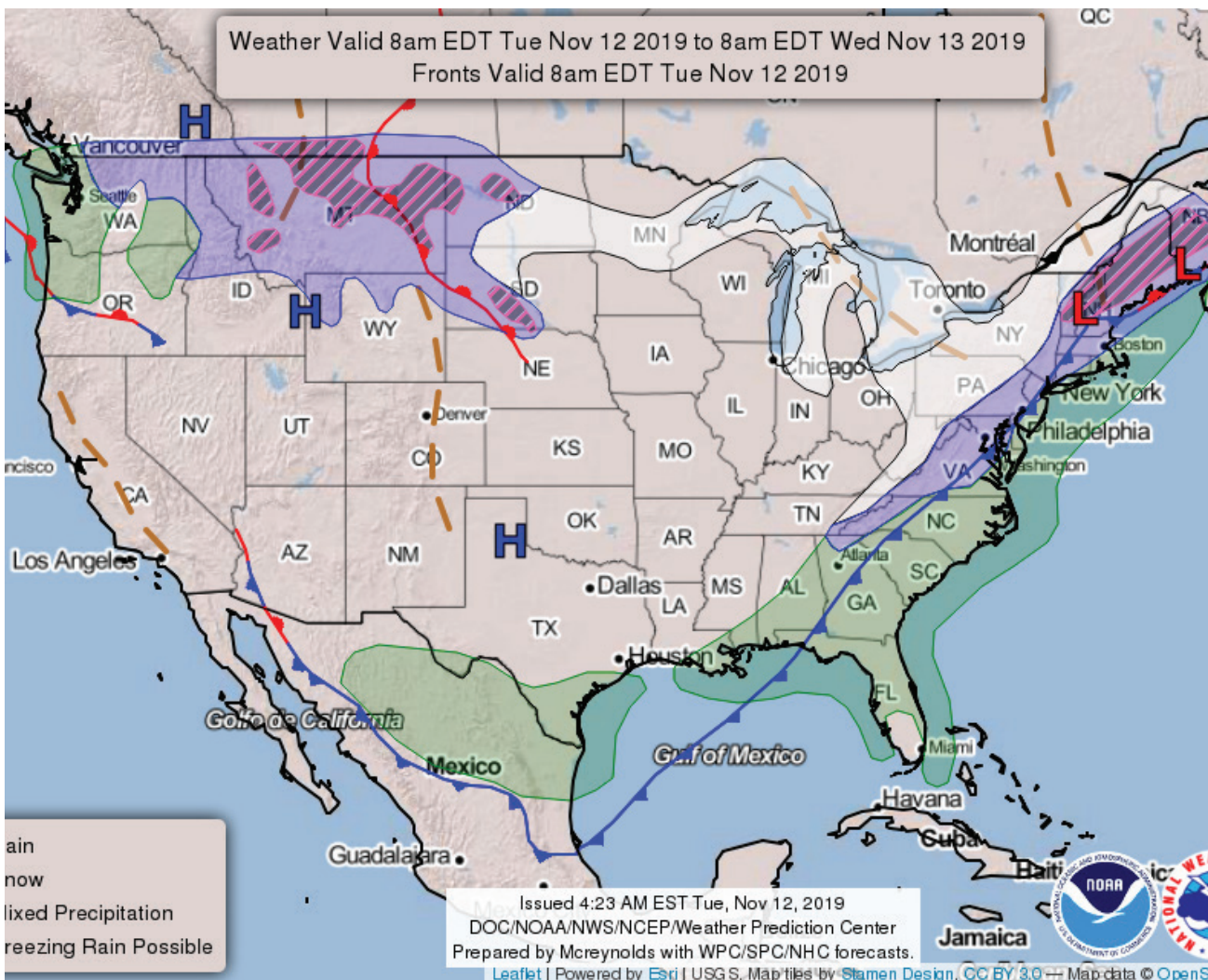
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.79

Precip Year to Date: 26.57

Sunset Tonight: 5:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.



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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

During a lunchtime conversation, a friend said to Samuel Coleridge, the famous poet, "Children should be given a free rein to think and act at an early age, and to make their own decisions."

"Interesting," said Coleridge. "Come with me. Let's visit my flower garden."

Walking outdoors together they came to a plot of ground that was in complete disarray. They stopped and Coleridge pointed and said, "Look at that."

"That's nothing but a bed of weeds," protested the guest.

"It was a rose garden," said the poet. "But this year I just let it grow as it willed, and look what happened to it."

Children, like gardens, need to be well cared for and nourished, given structure and attention. It is critical that parents accept their responsibility to God as well as their children and provide a nurturing and disciplined lifestyle where Christ is always present.

Prayer: We ask, Father, that You give Your insight, strength, and direction to parents as they raise their children to honor You. May You be their example. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 22:6 Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

South Dakota State-Tribal Relations body to meet

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's State-Tribal Relations body is meeting in Pierre to discuss ways the state can work with Native American groups.

Tuesday's meeting is the first since tension between Gov. Kristi Noem and some tribes over laws passed aimed at potential protests of the Keystone XL pipeline. Noem pushed for the laws, and the Oglala Sioux subsequently banned her from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, a Democrat from Mission, says the meeting is an opportunity to discuss how the state and tribes can move forward.

South Dakota recently settled a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union over the law, agreeing not to enforce some of its aspects.

S. Dakota holds off Florida A&M 85-82 in chaotic ending

HONOLULU (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn scored 23 points and Triston Simpson added 22 and South Dakota beat Florida A&M in the finale of the Outrigger Resorts Rainbow Classic on Monday night.

The Coyotes are off to their second 3-0 start in the last four seasons.

Stanley Umude made a pair of free throws with 18:16 remaining for a 50-48 advantage and South Dakota led the rest of the way. Two minutes later his 3-pointer made it a 60-50 contest.

With 27 seconds to go, Rod Melton Jr.'s layup brought Florida A&M within 85-80. Melton missed the foul shot and a chance for a three-point play. On the other end, Hunter Goodrick missed a pair of foul shots and a chance to extend the lead. Then Kamron Reaves missed a jumper for the Rattlers with 19 seconds to play.

Reaves fouled Simpson with 11 seconds to go, and he proceeded to miss both free throws. Melton then made a layup to make it 85-82 with seven seconds left, but he also missed a chance for a three-point play after being fouled. On the miss Bryce Moragne secured the offensive rebound, threw the ball to Reaves, but Kruz Perrott-Hunt blocked his shot attempt to end the game.

Melton led Florida A&M (0-4) with 27 points.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Nov. 7

Football playoffs: Home away from the dome?

South Dakota high school football spent many decades (and countless prep football careers) determining its state champions by polling rather than on the field. It wasn't until the debut of the DakotaDome at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion did the state finally adopt a playoff system in the early 1980s.

There was a reason for that wait (or, perhaps there were two if you count the lawsuit that eventually forced the issue), and we may well be remembering it next week.

This year's title games have been moved to Brookings due to construction work at the DakotaDome. (This hasn't stopped the USD football team from playing there ... but whatever.) The games will be squeezed into two days at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium on the campus of South Dakota State University up in Brookings. The games will return next year to the DakotaDome, which has a contract with the South Dakota High School Activities Association to host the title games until 2026.

However, there remains "That Reason" why South Dakota didn't offer playoffs until 1981.

"That Reason," of course, is the weather.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), a major cold front is expected to sweep across the

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state early next week that will deliver some of the coldest weather of what's already been a chilly autumn to the area. A forecast map that the NWS posted on Twitter the other day looked like someone had spilled a bottle of deep-blue ink across the center of the nation. The highs in Brookings on the two days of the football championships (Nov. 14-15) are only expected to be about 30 degrees, and any breeze at all will make it feel even colder.

That will be a far cry from the 72-degree indoor climate of the DakotaDome.

We're so accustomed to having the dome's indoor luxuries available that we often forget what a tremendous shelter it can be when the weather outside turns frightful.

I do recall a few times back in my days as a sports journalist when the weather the day of a championship game in Vermillion was seasonably pleasant and probably would have been great for an outdoor autumn game.

But I also remember many more years that were otherwise; it was sometimes downright cold, and I recall a few snow events. In those years, covering a championship game at the dome meant getting inside and — here's the important part — throwing off our jackets and taking in a pleasantly climate-controlled event.

It wasn't always so ideal, though. One year, back in the days of the inflatable roof and concerns about collapses due to weather, it was snowing quite heavily outside, so dome officials decided the best approach was to crank up the heat indoors to the low 80s in order to prevent any snow from accumulating on the rooftop. It was miserably warm, especially up by the press boxes. But it sure beat being outdoors trying to cover a game in all that.

The ultimate test of the dome's all-weather value probably occurred in 1991 when the region was smothered by a Halloween blizzard that was then followed by several days of bitterly cold temperatures. At least 17 games — both high school and college; and from South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa — that were not originally scheduled in the DakotaDome were moved to Vermillion. The schedule was stacked; on a couple days, the contests ran until well after midnight. One day saw five games played. Then-USD Athletic Director Jack Doyle told me the phone was always ringing and they had never been so busy fielding reservation inquiries. Vermillion had not missed out on the storm — it received 15 inches of snow — but local officials made it possible to play.

The ability to offer indoor football finally ushered in the playoff era in South Dakota. It may not have been the only reason for the delay, but the arrival of the dome certainly rendered any remaining resistance moot.

I understand that there is a big cost savings by moving the games this year out of the DakotaDome, where the rental fee for the playoffs is \$50,000. But a lot is done in Vermillion to accommodate the games. The dome also happens to be THE most comfortable place in South Dakota to watch a football game on a typical mid-November night, and that comfort is a bankable thing that's guaranteed year after year.

I'm sure Dykhouse Stadium or, for that matter, Howard Wood Stadium in Sioux Falls are great football venues, but that's not the point. It's never been the point.

Weather trumps all, and with wintry uncertainty always in the air in November, there really is no place like the dome.

Madison Daily Leader, Nov. 4

Pipelines should focus more on prevention

We've heard this story before.

During the endless battle over oil pipelines, a spill occurs on an existing line. Opponents say it's an example that pipelines inevitably leak and that no more of them should be built. Supporters of pipelines say the leak was a good example that they can be found quickly, the flow stopped and spilled oil cleaned up quickly.

The Keystone pipeline in North Dakota leaked an approximate 383,000 gallons in the northeastern part of the state last week, affecting a wetland. The cause of the leak is under investigation. Coincidentally, the leak occurred during hearings of the South Dakota Water Management board. Pipeline opponents emphasized the risk of leaks, especially near any water, such as rivers, lakes or aquifers.

The Keystone pipeline leaked in 2017 in Marshall County, South Dakota. That spill was reported as 210,000

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gallons of oil spilled but revised in April 2018 as 407,000 gallons.

Both opponents and supporters make good points, but at the moment, we're wondering about the leak detection technology. In both cases, about 400,000 gallons of oil leaked before it was stopped. It's possible the initial estimate of 383,000 gallons last week will be revised.

We believe the focus should be on more preventive measures or detection. Shouldn't financial resources be directed more to preventing leaks, or even detecting weaknesses that could cause a break? At the worst, technology should be implemented that would shut the flow much faster than after 400,000 gallons.

We believe the technology is available, and frankly, we think the money is available for it, also. Oil pipelines are big money, and there should be no reason to spend money on building and maintaining them to state-of-the-art standards. A better track record of prevention and earlier detection would go a long ways.

Black Hills Pioneer, Spearfish, Nov. 9

Is it time for the Mercy Rule in Class AA High School sports?

On Oct. 31 the Spearfish High School football team headed to Pierre for the opening round of Class 11AA state playoffs. Pierre boasted a 9-0 record in the regular season and attained a national ranking in high school football, while Spearfish struggled this season with a 0-9 record.

In the opening kickoff, Pierre returned the ball for a touchdown, which foreshadowed the rest of the game that unceremoniously ended in a blowout.

Spearfish fumbled thrice in the first quarter, and each time Pierre recovered the ball and ultimately scored. By the end of the first half Pierre led 72-0.

The final score was a 103-0 shellacking.

This wasn't the only blowout game of the year in South Dakota High School football. There were 74 games that were won by 50 points or more. However, the vast majority of games that were won by such a wide margin were in classes lower than 11AA. Only two classes in the state do not have a mercy rule — Class 11AA and Class AAA. In all other classes, once the score reaches a 35-point margin, there is a running clock. This spurs the issue, should there be a mercy rule for all classes of football.

We asked two of our reporters to take a pro and con stance regarding the implementation of a Mercy Rule across the board in football. Then you the reader can decide for yourself, what you think is the best solution going forward.

HAVE MERCY

There needs to be a mercy rule in 11AA and 11AAA football

No one wins a football game when the score ends 103-0.

The team that scored the most points knows they will face public scrutiny for such a lopsided victory, and the team that scored no points will feel the sting of such a loss for some time to come.

The solution to preventing such an outcome in 11AA football in South Dakota in the future could be a mercy rule or even a running clock.

A mercy rule is when the game is stopped because one team is ahead by a certain number of points at a certain time in the game — say 50 points in the second half.

A running clock is implemented when a team takes a 35-point lead in the second half. The clock is only stopped during an official's timeout, a charged timeout, the end of a period or after a score.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association does have a mercy rule and running clock rule in 11A, 11B and 9-man, but not in the larger 11AA and 11AAA classifications.

Black Hills State University football coach John Reiners, whose son played at Spearfish High School, has been on both sides of the dilemma.

"It puts both teams in a tough situation," he said.

Reiners said he would rather see a running clock than halting the game early.

"We talk about wanting to give opportunities for kids, but we don't want these kids to get discouraged to the point that there is no way for them to improve," he said.

His advice: "If you don't like the situation you are in, you need to find a way to change it."

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SDSU football coach John Stiegelmeier knows about being on the winning end of a lopsided victory. His Jackrabbits beat Arkansas Pine Bluff 90-6 last year.

"One of the foundational principles of sport is to build individuals up and create memories. A rout surely doesn't do any of those things," he said.

Stiegelmeier reminds us that there is no mercy rule in college and there never will be, but after their win over Pine Bluff he implemented what he calls the Pine Bluff Postulate.

"If we find ourselves ahead by a wide margin, we run the same plays over and over. If you do that, they are going to figure it out," he said.

For that reason, Stiegelmeier believes in some sort of mercy rule at the high school level.

Dan Swartos, executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, said it is his hope that the association gets something in place concerning wide margin wins in football.

"If that looks like a running clock, it's better than nothing," he said.

Swartos believes that sometimes the perfect storms happen and a bad situation comes about such as the Pierre vs. Spearfish game.

"Not Pierre, or Spearfish, or us wanted something like this to happen. This is not something anyone is happy about, and I hope that we can put something in place to prevent it from happening again," he said.

So put a mercy rule in place. Have a running clock once the score goes beyond a recoverable place.

NO MERCY

There should not be a running clock or mercy rule in Class 11AA and Class 11AAA

In this everyone-gets-a-trophy era, we should not be implementing mercy rules in the largest classes of South Dakota High School football.

What message does that send to players?

The players on the winning side may wonder if they are being punished because their effort is better than that of the opposing teams' players.

Smaller schools voted for the mercy rule and running clock several years ago, but large schools did not want it due mostly to travel concerns.

"It's tough for, say Spearfish, to go all the way to Yankton and play one half of football and then the game is over," said Dan Swartos, executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association. "If they played the whole game, it would give them an opportunity to get the younger players time on the field and get them experience under the lights."

Sturgis Brown High School Activities Director Todd Palmer agrees about the travel issue, and how that plays into a mercy rule.

"I don't know if that is a fiscally responsible choice to end a game at half time when you're traveling that distance," he said. "It's a little different when we are here in the Black Hills Conference."

Sturgis has traveled to Yankton and next year will play at Brookings, both approximately 400 miles away.

For the most part, coaches do a great job of slowing the pace and rotating players if their team is significantly ahead in the contest.

Black Hills State University football coach John Reiners said only playing one half of a game ends up hurting both teams in the long run.

"Players need reps and game time. If they end the game at half, it is not preparing them for a game of four quarters," Reiners said.

And that has been evident in smaller classes in western South Dakota. A football team runs through the season and dominates the competition, but may have only played two or three full games because of the mercy rule.

"When they go East River they get beat because the kids aren't ready for a four-quarter game," Reiners said.

Chris Koletzky, the head coach for the Sturgis Brown Scoopers, which play in Class AA, said he did not favor a mercy rule.

"Regardless of your current position in a game, (we have been on both sides), you still want reps in game

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for your younger kids. Picture this. We drive to Yankton (six hours) and the mercy rule goes into effect by half time. We drove six hours to play for an hour? Not a good look," Koletzky said.

Perhaps no other football team in South Dakota knows this better than the Scoopers.

In 2006, they broke a 79-game losing streaking, recording their first win since 1997.

Mercy rules foster a "give-up" mentality.

You are basically bailing them out of a bad situation, and that's not a life lesson we want our kids to learn. In life when you are in a bad situation there is no mercy rule.

Lopsided games are a fact of life in high school and college sports, and young athletes should be prepared for them. Whether you are on the losing side or the winning side of lopsided games, both experiences are valuable.

Things happen in life that you can't control. No matter how hard we prepare, things don't always go our way, and sometimes things end badly. How are kids going to learn how to deal with real life situations if we keep trying to protect them from it.

Character isn't built when you are ahead by 50 points, it is built when you are behind and you keep fighting to try and dig yourself out of a hole.

While a running clock/mercy rule may prevent another 103-0 score, teams will still get blown out by margins of 50-75 points.

For these reasons, and more, there should be no mercy rule or running clock in 11AA or 11AAA football.

Sage grouse court order trims energy lease auction in Nevada

By **SCOTT SONNER Associated Press**

RENO, Nev. (AP) — U.S. land managers have withdrawn more than 500 square miles (1,295 sq. kilometers) of public land from a swath of eastern Nevada where oil and gas drilling leases are set to go to auction.

The move came after a judge blocked a Trump administration attempt to curtail protection of habitat for endangered sage grouse in seven states.

The acreage pulled from Tuesday's auction amounts to more than half of what the Bureau of Land Management initially planned to offer in Nevada.

The withdrawn area roughly corresponds to habitat designated in a 2015 sage-grouse plan completed under President Barack Obama for Nevada and northeastern California.

The downsizing won the agency praise from conservationists who secured the court order in Idaho last month.

"Taking sensitive sage-grouse habitats off the auction block is the right thing for the BLM to do, because public lands that aren't leased for fossil fuel extraction don't suffer from future industrial impacts," said Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist and executive director of the Western Watersheds Project.

The Trump land-use plans finalized in March had removed the most protective sage grouse habitat designations across millions of acres. Administration officials also dropped requirements to prioritize leasing for oil and gas outside sage grouse habitat and allowed more waivers for drilling.

But on Oct. 16, U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill in Boise, Idaho, granted a temporary injunction sought by Western Watersheds and others to block those plans after concluding such activities left unchecked were likely to harm the struggling bird species in the West.

The judge's order required the administration to revert to the more stringent rules adopted under Obama.

The auction of leases in Nevada initially covered 263 parcels across about 850 square miles (2,201 sq. km).

Kemba Anderson, chief of the BLM's mineral resources branch, said she removed more than half of the proposed lease area from the auction on Oct. 28 "for further analysis to comply with the judge's order.

Leases for the remaining 380 square miles (984 sq. km) are still scheduled to be auctioned Tuesday. Developers must have such leases before seeking permits for energy exploration on federal land.

The conservation groups have said in a statement that despite minimal industry interest in drilling, the Trump administration has fueled a speculative frenzy by leasing hundreds of thousands of acres of public land in Nevada that is critical for sage grouse.

"This leasing frenzy needs to stop," said Patrick Donnelly, Nevada state director of the Center for Biological Diversity. "Leasing Nevada's public lands out for oil and gas threatens the survival of greater sage-grouse, as well as our scarce groundwater and our chance at a livable climate."

Trump wants to curtail sage grouse habitat in Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California and Oregon. Sage grouse territory in Montana, Washington and the Dakotas has not been affected.

Many areas of Nevada taken off the auction block are within the traditional homeland of the Shoshone and Paiute tribes, including the head of the Ruby Valley and the neighboring Maverick Mountains, the Egan Range and neighboring Steptoe Valley, in the headwaters of Spring Valley and in Jakes Valley.

This story has been corrected to ... Minor edits.

Israeli airstrike kills Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza home

By **FARES AKRAM and ARON HELLER** Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A pair of Israeli airstrikes targeted senior Islamic Jihad commanders in Gaza and in Syria early on Tuesday, escalating Israel's confrontation with Iran across the region and threatening to unleash another devastating round of cross-border violence with Palestinian militants.

In eastern Gaza, the Israeli strike killed Bahaa Abu el-Atta and his wife, setting off a furious barrage of dozens of rocket attacks reaching as far as the Tel Aviv heartland as Islamic Jihad vowed further revenge. The Israeli military said Abu el-Atta was the mastermind of recent attacks against it and the militant group's top commander in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Syrian officials said an Israeli airstrike in the capital, Damascus, targeted another Islamic Jihad commander, Akram al-Ajouri, who was not harmed.

Syria's state-run news agency said Israeli warplanes fired three missiles at al-Ajouri's home, killing his son and granddaughter. The Israeli military had no comment.

The sudden surge in violence looked to awaken Israel's increasingly open conflict with Iran and its proxies in the region. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a series of warnings recently about alleged Iranian aggression.

Netanyahu also has been criticized by southern border residents and political rivals for a tepid response to recent militant attacks. Netanyahu's Security Cabinet held a lengthy emergency meeting to discuss further action.

Netanyahu said afterward, speaking alongside military chief, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, that el-Atta, an "arch-terrorist," was the main generator of terrorism from the Gaza Strip.

"He was in the midst of plotting additional attacks these very days," Netanyahu said. "He was a ticking bomb."

The airstrikes come at a tenuous time politically for Israel, as Netanyahu leads a caretaker government after two inconclusive elections. His chief challenger, former military chief Benny Gantz, is currently trying to build a coalition government of his own. Gantz said the airstrike was "the right decision."

A successful military operation could bolster Netanyahu as he seeks to hold onto power — especially if he is indicted on corruption charges.

Israel's attorney general is expected to make a decision in the coming weeks, and an indictment would increase pressure on Netanyahu to step aside. Netanyahu has sought to portray himself as the only leader capable of steering the country through its many security challenges.

The Gaza airstrike took place overnight, killing Abu el-Atta as he slept at home.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, told reporters that Abu el-Atta was responsible for several recent rocket attacks on southern Israel and that he was actively planning new attacks. "We essentially over the last week have been waiting for the opportune moment to conduct this surgical strike," he said.

Conricus said the airstrike had destroyed only the floor of the building in the Shejaeya neighborhood, in the eastern part of Gaza City, to minimize "collateral damage."

His relatives and the Islamic Jihad said the woman killed in the strike was Abu el-Atta's wife and the two wounded were their children.

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The militant group said the 42-year-old Abu el-Atta was undergoing "a heroic act" when he was assassinated. Abu el-Atta's father said the Islamic Jihad commander had been in hiding in recent weeks fearing he would be targeted.

Minutes after the Iran-backed Palestinian group confirmed the death, barrages of rockets were fired toward Israel. Air raid sirens continued to go off throughout the morning as far as Tel Aviv. In one instance, a rocket landed on a highway, landing just meters from a passing vehicle.

The military said more than 50 rockets were fired in just a few hours, with 20 intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defense system. There were no Israeli casualties.

In response, Israel shut down crossing points into Gaza and reduced the permissible fishing area off the territory's coast to 6 nautical miles. Schools were closed, and people were instructed to stay home in communities stretching from the Gaza border all the way to Tel Aviv, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) away. Public shelters were opened and restrictions placed on large gatherings.

Islamic Jihad gets its funding, weapons and guidance from Iran. It often carries out attacks independently of Hamas, the larger militant group that controls Gaza. Conricus described Abu el-Atta as a powerful figure in Gaza who often acts alone without instruction even from Tehran.

Israel had no further plans to resume its assassinations of militant leaders — a practice that in the past has triggered heavy fighting. "There was no other choice," Conricus said.

But at midmorning, the army said it struck two Islamic Jihad militants from the group's rocket launching unit. It claimed a direct hit but gave no further details. The Gaza Health Ministry said a Palestinian man was killed and another wounded in that strike.

One of the rockets from Gaza hit a residential house in Netivot in southern Israel, penetrating the roof of the home, the army said. No one was hurt.

The attacks also come at a tense moment for Islamic Jihad's Iranian patrons, who are struggling under crippling U.S. sanctions.

Iran's regional influence is also being challenged by unprecedented, economically-driven mass protests in Iraq and Lebanon — two countries where Tehran wields major influence. The protests are creating unrest that Tehran fears would spark a backlash against Iran-backed proxy militias in those countries. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has accused the U.S. and its regional allies of fomenting the Iraq and Lebanon unrest.

In Damascus, a military official said Israeli warplanes fired three missiles toward the Syrian capital, with one being destroyed by Syria's air defenses before reaching its target.

The two others struck the home of al-Ajouri, the official said. Al-Ajouri's son Muath was killed, along with his granddaughter Batoul. A second man identified as Abdullah Yousef Hassan was killed and nine civilians wounded, the unidentified official said according to Syrian state-media.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene said the attack destroyed the three-story building in Damascus, located on a main highway about 50 meters (yards) across from the Lebanese Embassy.

Israel frequently strikes Iranian interests inside Syria and has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in the course of Syria's civil war, now in its ninth year. Tuesday's attack however was a rare assassination attempt of a Palestinian militant in the Syrian capital.

Just this week Netanyahu appointed hard-line politician Naftali Bennett as Israel's new defense minister to fortify his political base. Bennett has long advocated tougher action against Palestinian militants. But Bennett only formally took office Tuesday and the military said the operation had been planned long in advance.

Netanyahu said the Cabinet approved the strike 10 days ago and waited for "a unique window of opportunity to carry out the operation in optimal conditions with maximum chances of success and minimum collateral damage."

The operation appeared to have wide backing despite the fraught political climate and Israel's ceremonial president, who has been working to establish a unity government between Netanyahu and Gantz, called for it not to enter the fray.

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"We stand behind the security forces, who have been working for the success of this morning's operations for a long time," said President Reuven Rivlin. "This is no time for political squabbles."

Since Hamas took over Gaza by force in 2007 from the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, Israel and Gaza militants have fought three wars, with the third in 2014 lasting for 50 days.

Short-but-frequent spasms of violence have occurred, the latest earlier this month when about 10 projectiles were fired at Israel, which accused Abu el-Atta of being behind them.

Heller reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem, Zeina Karam in Beirut and Albert Aji in Damascus contributed to this report.

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. WHO ARE ABOUT TO BECOME HOUSEHOLD NAMES

Diplomats and career government officials, little known outside professional circles, will be testifying in live public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry this week.

2. BOLIVIA'S MORALES GRANTED ASYLUM IN MEXICO

The crisis-torn Andean nation's first indigenous president steps down, and then flees, after violence followed allegations of electoral fraud. Morales has called it a coup by the opposition.

3. ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES TARGET ISLAMIC JIHAD COMMANDERS

The attacks in Gaza and in Syria escalate Israel's confrontation with Iran and its proxies across the region and threaten to unleash another devastating round of cross-border violence with Palestinian militants.

4. US HELD RECORD NUMBER OF MIGRANT KIDS IN CUSTODY IN 2019

Tens of thousands of migrant children have been sent to 170 shelters in 23 states where mental health experts say they risk being exposed to trauma that can cause lifelong problems, AP reports.

5. WHAT'S ON THE LINE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Supreme Court justices are hearing arguments on the Trump administration's bid to end DACA, which shields immigrants brought to the U.S. as children from deportation.

6. CONGRESS HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lawmakers are pressing for an agreement on \$1.4 trillion worth of federal agency budgets or finalizing a rewrite of North American trade rules.

7. CHINA AIMS TO BUILD OWN YELLOWSTONE

Beijing wants to set limits on the Tibetan plateau's growth to implement its own version of one of the U.S.'s proudest legacies — a national park system, AP discovers.

8. 'MAKING HARD CHOICES TO BRING CHANGE'

In the wake of an internal survey that detailed multiple allegations of rape and sexual harassment of its female staffers, the leader of the World Food Program vows to go after abusers, AP learns.

9. NATION'S MIDSECTION BRACES FOR BITTER COLD

Forecasters say the southern Plains to the Great Lakes could experience record cold, thanks to what it calls an "arctic airmass."

10. NINERS UNBEATEN NO MORE

Jason Myers kicks a 42-yard field goal in overtime and the Seattle Seahawks hand San Francisco (8-1) its first loss of the season with a 27-24 victory.

Former President Jimmy Carter enters hospital for surgery

By JAY REEVES and SHAMEKA DUDLEY-LOWE Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was admitted to a hospital on Monday evening for a surgery to relieve pressure on his brain, caused by bleeding due to his recent falls, his spokeswoman said.

The procedure is scheduled for Tuesday morning at Emory University Hospital, Deanna Congileo said in

a statement.

Carter has fallen at least three times this year, and the first incident in the spring required hip replacement surgery. He traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, and helped build a Habitat for Humanity home after getting 14 stitches following a fall on Oct. 6. And he was briefly hospitalized after fracturing his pelvis on Oct. 21. He received a dire cancer diagnosis in 2015 but survived and has since said he is cancer-free.

Nearly four decades after he left office and despite a body that's failing after 95 years, the nation's oldest-ever ex-president still teaches Sunday school roughly twice a month at Maranatha Baptist Church in his tiny hometown of Plains in southwest Georgia. His message is unfailingly about Jesus, not himself.

Rev. Tony Lowden, Carter's pastor, said the ex-president was hospitalized Monday on what he called "a rough day."

"We just need the whole country to be in prayer for him," Lowden said in a telephone interview.

The church has announced that Carter will not be teaching his Sunday school class this week.

Carter is resting comfortably, and his wife, Rosalynn, is with him, Congileo said.

Police, protesters face off in renewed clashes in Hong Kong

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Police and protesters battled outside university campuses and several thousand demonstrators blocked roads as they took over a central business district at lunchtime on Tuesday in another day of protest in Hong Kong.

The clashes followed an especially violent day in Hong Kong's five months of anti-government demonstrations, in which police shot one protester and a man was set on fire.

Protesters littered streets with bricks and disrupted train service during the morning rush hour on Tuesday. Commuter train passengers were escorted along the tracks, and subways were shut because of disruptions.

Police used tear gas in faceoffs with protesters in and around universities, where classes were canceled.

Following a standoff outside Chinese University, scores of officers charged onto the campus after firing tear gas, arresting student protesters who tried to block their way with makeshift barricades, including a burning car.

A few thousand protesters took over several blocks of the central business district at lunchtime. The demonstrators chanted "Five demands, not one less" holding up one hand with five outstretched fingers. Their demands include democratic changes and investigation of police treatment of protesters.

Traffic was blocked on two major roads by the crowds, with half a dozen of Hong Kong's famous trams lined up unable to move. The words "Join Us" were spray painted on the front window of a halted double-decker bus abandoned by the driver and passengers and one of its windows was broken.

Office workers filled the sidewalks and overhead walkways to watch the action, with some joining the protesters in chanting.

One 24-year-old man, who would not give his name, said he was there to support the protesters and accused the police of using excessive force, a common complaint among the city's 7.4 million people.

Police fired tear gas to disperse protesters and onlookers who were hurling abuse at the officers. At least one person was injured when he was struck on the head by a tear gas canister. But protesters returned by evening and were again blocking roads with bricks and commandeered buses.

Recent weeks have been marked by escalating vandalism against shops linked to mainland China and train stations, and assaults by both protesters and pro-Beijing supporters.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, speaking to news media after a weekly meeting with advisers, called the blocking of the morning commute "a very selfish act."

"People from different sectors in society are holding fast to their positions and refusing to concede to violence or other radical actions," she said. "I hereby express my gratitude to those who are still going to work and school today."

On Monday, a police officer drew his gun during a struggle with protesters, shooting one in the abdo-

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men. In another neighborhood, a 57-year-old man was set on fire after an apparent argument.

Both remained hospitalized Tuesday, the shot protester in serious condition and the man who was burned in critical condition, the Hospital Authority said.

Video of another incident showed a policeman on a motorcycle riding through a group of protesters in an apparent attempt to disperse them.

Police say those events are being investigated but defend the officers' actions as necessary for their own safety.

Police spokesman Kong Wing-cheung said the burning had been registered as a case of attempted murder and called on the public to provide information about the assailant.

"Hong Kong's rule of law has been pushed to the brink of total collapse," Kong said, calling those who defend or maintain ties with violent protesters "accomplices."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang lambasted the U.S. and Britain over statements of concern over the spike in violence.

"The United States and Britain pretend to be fair on this incident, but it only reveals how they confuse right and wrong and how hypocritical they are. And their verbal justice once again exposes their double standards and ulterior motives," Geng said at a daily briefing.

China accuses the U.S. and other foreign powers of fomenting and encouraging the protests.

Lam pledged Monday to stop the violent protests in comments suggesting harsher legal and police measures could be coming.

"I do not want to go into details, but I just want to make it very clear that we will spare no effort in finding ways and means that could end the violence in Hong Kong as soon as possible," she said.

Lam refused to accept the protesters' demands. "These rioters' actions have far exceeded their demands, and they are enemies of the people," she said.

One of their five demands is for the government to stop labeling the demonstrators as rioters, which connotes that even peaceful protest is a criminal activity. They also want criminal cases to be dropped against protesters.

In Washington, the U.S. government said it is watching the situation with "grave concern."

"We condemn violence on all sides, extend our sympathies to victims of violence regardless of their political inclinations, and call for all parties — police and protesters — to exercise restraint," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

She urged the government to address the underlying concerns behind the protests and the protesters to respond to efforts at dialogue.

Police said they arrested more than 260 people on Monday, raising to 3,560 the number of arrests since the movement erupted in June. The Hospital Authority said 128 people were taken to hospitals, with one in critical condition and five others in serious condition on Tuesday.

The protests began over a proposed law that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China, where they could face opaque and politically sensitive trials. Activists saw the bill as another sign of an erosion in Hong Kong's autonomy and civic freedoms, which China promised would be maintained for 50 years under a "one nation, two systems" principle when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997.

Lam eventually withdrew the extradition bill but has insisted the violence stop before any further political dialogue can take place.

District council elections on Nov. 24 are seen as a measure of public sentiment toward Hong Kong's government. Pro-democracy lawmakers have accused the government of trying to provoke violence to justify canceling or postponing the vote.

Associated Press news assistant Phoebe Lai contributed to this story.

Afghan president: 3 Taliban released for held US, Australian

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday announced that his government has released three prominent Taliban figures in an effort to get the insurgents to free an American and an Australian professor they abducted in 2016 and have held captive for over three years.

At a press event broadcast live on state television, Ghani told the nation the release was a very hard decision he felt he had to make in the interest of the Afghan people.

The announcement comes at a sensitive time for Ghani, as President Donald Trump halted talks between the U.S. and the Taliban in September, after a particularly deadly spate of Taliban attacks, including a Kabul suicide bombing that killed a U.S. soldier.

Also, the future of Ghani's government is in doubt as the results from the Sept. 28 presidential elections have not been released yet. Preliminary results are expected on Nov. 14.

The three members of the Taliban-linked Haqqani network that Ghani said were released include Anas Haqqani, Haji Mali Khan and Hafiz Rashid. Ghani added that they are being released "conditionally in exchange" for the two professors.

The three were under the custody of the Afghan government, Ghani said, and were held at the Bagram prison, an air base that also houses U.S. troops just outside Kabul. The Afghan president didn't elaborate or say when or where the three were released. They were most likely sent to Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office.

"In a demonstration of respect for humanity by the government and nation of Afghanistan, we decided to conditionally release these three Taliban prisoners who were arrested in close cooperation with our international partners from other countries," Ghani said.

The Taliban have long demanded the release of Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of Sirajuddin, the deputy head of the Taliban and leader of the Haqqani network, often considered the strongest of the Taliban factions fighting in Afghanistan.

Anas Haqqani was arrested in Bahrain in 2014 and handed over to the Afghan government, which later sentenced him to death. It was not clear when his execution was supposed to take place.

The two captives held by the Taliban — an American identified as Kevin King and an Australian man identified as Timothy Weekes — were abducted in 2016 outside the American University in Kabul where they both work as teachers.

The following year, the Taliban released two videos showing the captives. A January 2017 video showed them appearing pale and gaunt. In the later video, King and Weekes looked healthier and said a deadline for their release was set for June 16 that year.

Both said they are being treated well by the Taliban but that they remain prisoners and appealed to their governments to help set them free. It was impossible to know whether they were forced to speak.

Subsequently, U.S. officials said that American forces had launched a rescue mission to free the two, but the captives were not found at the raided location.

There was no immediate statement from the Taliban or any indication when they would release the captive American and Australian.

In Tuesday's address, Ghani added that the Taliban kidnapping of the two American University teachers was not representative of Islamic and Afghan traditions.

"We have decided to release these three Taliban prisoners who were arrested outside of Afghanistan," Ghani said, adding that it was meant "to facilitate direct peace negotiations."

In a statement, the American University of Afghanistan said it welcomed the development and was "encouraged to hear reports of the possible release of our two colleagues, Kevin King and Timothy Weeks."

The statement added that while the university was not part of any negotiations with the Taliban or government discussions, it continues "to urge the immediate and safe return of our faculty members who have been held in captivity, away from their friends and families, for more than three years."

Ghani said the release of the teachers was "part of our main demands during the indirect negotiations

with the Taliban.”

“We can assure the families of both teachers that we welcome and honor those who come to our country to pursue education,” Ghani said.

Meanwhile, talks are underway about another round of so-called “intra-Afghan dialogue,” this time in Beijing, which would include a wide selection of Afghan figures and Taliban representatives. The meeting was initially to take place last month but has been postponed with no new date set. The last time it was held was in July in Qatar.

The dialogue is a separate process from the U.S.-Taliban talks under U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad that collapsed in September.

The Taliban have refused to talk directly with the Kabul government while Ghani insists his government must lead any talks with the Taliban.

Associated Press writer Tameem Akhgar in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the American and Australian professor were abducted in 2016, not 2017.

Evo Morales flees crisis-torn Bolivia after deadly clashes

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and CARLOS VALDEZ Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia faced its worst unrest in decades amid a political vacuum Tuesday, while Evo Morales, who transformed the Andean nation as its first indigenous president, fled the country following weeks of violent protests.

Morales flew out on a Mexican government plane late Monday hours after being granted asylum as his supporters and foes fought on the streets of the capital while an opposition leader tearfully laid out a possible path toward new elections in the wake of the president’s resignation.

Morales stepped down Sunday following weeks of widespread protests fed by allegations of electoral fraud in the Oct. 20 presidential election that he claimed to have won. Resignations by every other constitutionally designated successor left unclear who would take his place and how.

His flight from the country was a dramatic fall for the llama shepherd from the Bolivian highlands and former coca growers’ union leader who as president helped lift millions out poverty, increased social rights and presided over nearly 14 years of stability and high economic growth in South America’s poorest country. In the end, though, his downfall was marked by his insistence on holding onto power.

“It pains me to leave the country for political reasons, but I’ll always be concerned,” Morales said on Twitter. “I’ll return soon, with more strength and energy.”

Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard published a photo of Morales holding the flag of Mexico, saying that the plane had left Bolivia and that Morales was safe.

In an earlier tweet, Morales posted a photo of his first night after he resigned showing him lying on a floor with an improvised blanket as a bed. He said had been forced into these conditions after what he has called a coup by the opposition.

Angry supporters of the socialist leader set barricades ablaze to close some roads leading to the country’s main airport Monday, while his foes blocked most of the streets leading to the capital’s main square in front of Congress and the presidential palace. Police urged residents of La Paz to stay in their homes and authorities said the army would join in policing efforts to avoid an escalation of violence.

The Senate’s second vice president, opposition politician Jeanine Añez, said in an emotional address that she would take temporary control of the Senate, though it was unclear if she would be able to get approval from Congress, which is controlled by Morales supporters. She would become next in line for the presidency if chosen to head the Senate.

“Please excuse me if my voice breaks,” Añez said between tears after arriving in Congress under heavy guard. “It’s so hard to see Bolivians clashing, no matter which side they’re on. They are being mistreated,

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and I'm asking you to cease the violence."

Añez said she would convene a legislative session Tuesday to consider accepting the formal resignation of Morales. It was unclear, however, if lawmakers could meet that soon because of insecurity in the capital.

As tensions grew, local media reported that Morales supporters were marching on La Paz from the nearby city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold, to try to break the street blockades thrown up by his opponents and reach the capital's main square.

Gen. Williams Kaliman, the chief of the armed forces, announced the joint police-military operation in a television address. He said the hope was to "avoid bloodshed and mourning of the Bolivian family," and he urged Bolivians to help restore peace.

Anti-Morales demonstrators in downtown La Paz set tires and other barricades on fire as other people went onto their rooftops to yell, "Evo, murderer!" Rock-throwing demonstrators also clashed in Cochabamba and other cities.

His presidency, the longest among serving leaders in the region and the longest ever in Bolivia, ended abruptly Sunday, hours after Morales had accepted calls for a new election by an Organization of American States team. The team reported a "heap of observed irregularities" in the Oct. 20 election whose official results showed Morales getting just enough votes to avoid a runoff that analysts said he could lose against a united opposition.

Morales stepped aside only after the military chief called on him to quit, saying that was needed to restore peace and stability. His vice president also resigned as did the Senate president. The only other official listed by the constitution as a presidential successor, the head of the lower house, had resigned earlier.

Morales has lashed out at his political opponents, calling his removal a return to the bleak era of coups overseen by brutal Latin American militaries that ruled over the region.

Former President Carlos Mesa, who finished second in the election, said Morales was brought down by a popular uprising, not the military. He noted that troops did not take to the streets during the unrest.

"Academics and the press have been very critical of the Bolivian military. But this might be the only time in Bolivian military history that the military is on the right side for once," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian political scientist at Florida International University.

"There's nothing here that remotely mirrors a traditional military coup," Gamarra added. "Perhaps this is a time that the military is playing a role that it should play. It's not intervening in what are essentially civilian affairs."

Michael Shifter, head of the Washington-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue, warned that Bolivia's polarization needs to be healed by new leadership.

"The temptation for any vengeance against Morales supporters needs to be resisted," Shifter said. "That would be a recipe for continued conflict and chaos that could well put at risk some of the country's undeniable socio-economic gains over the past decade."

People waiting for flights Monday morning at the airport in the eastern Bolivian city of Santa Cruz listened to the national anthem played on television and then watched replays of Morales resigning in his televised address and news of the street clashes.

"At first people believed in him as an Indian. He was much more humble and accessible, but during these 14 years, he changed," España Villegas, a linguist, said while she waited for a flight to La Paz.

Morales, who was from the poor Andean highlands, had promised to remain austere when he became president in 2006. But shortly after, he bought a new airplane and built a 26-story presidential palace with a heliport.

"He fought poverty, he lifted our economy, but perhaps he wasn't well advised," Villegas said.

Morales ran for a fourth term after refusing to accept the results of a referendum that upheld term limits for the president — restrictions thrown out by a top court that critics contend was stacked in his favor.

"The whole population was tired of him because it's been nearly 14 years of government," said a businessman from the city of Cochabamba, who asked to be identified only by the name Walter, fearing reprisals by Morales supporters.

"There was no respect anymore. We're hurt. He believed himself to be a god."

Associated Press writers Paola Flores in La Paz, Franklin Briceno in Lima, Peru, and Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

Seahawks knock 49ers from unbeaten ranks with 27-24 OT win

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Russell Wilson high-stepped his way down the sideline before hugging coach Pete Carroll after Jason Myers' kick split the uprights.

After a wild overtime that featured a rare Wilson interception, a missed field goal by San Francisco and a questionable decision from 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, the Seahawks had knocked the Niners from the ranks of the unbeaten and made sure the NFC West would remain tight down the stretch.

Myers kicked a 42-yard field goal after Chase McLaughlin missed a kick earlier in overtime, and the Seahawks handed the San Francisco 49ers their first loss with a 27-24 victory on Monday night.

"That was the craziest game I've ever been a part of," Wilson said.

Myers gave Seattle (8-2) its second straight overtime win after Wilson got the Seahawks into position with an 18-yard scramble on third-and-3. After being iced by a timeout, Myers delivered one week after missing two field goals and an extra point, moving Seattle on the heels of San Francisco (8-1) in the NFC West.

"We practice these situations every day," left tackle Duane Brown said. "Russell Wilson is the best quarterback in the league. When you have him under center, I don't care how much time is on the clock. We feel like we have a chance."

The Seahawks blew an opportunity to win the game on the opening possession of overtime when Wilson was intercepted at the 4 by Dre Greenlaw.

It was Wilson's second interception of the season and just the second red-zone interception in overtime in the last 25 years, according to STATS, with Jacoby Brissett having the other in 2017 against San Francisco.

Greenlaw returned it 47 yards to the Seattle 49 and the Niners moved the ball 20 yards before McLaughlin missed badly to the left on a 47-yard attempt. McLaughlin had made his first three field goals after being signed earlier in the week when Robbie Gould went down with a quadriceps injury.

"Just rushed it a little bit, hit it a little high and unfortunately missed it," McLaughlin said.

The teams then traded punts, the Seahawks took over at their 36 with 1:25 remaining after Jimmy Garoppolo threw three straight incompletions as San Francisco burned only 14 seconds off the clock with Seattle out of timeouts.

"Definitely wish we had taken more time off the clock, but was counting on us catching one of those balls," Shanahan said.

After the defenses dominated much of the game with each team scoring a defensive touchdown and generating three takeaways apiece in regulation, the quarterbacks traded late drives for field goals that set the stage for overtime.

Wilson drove the Seahawks 47 yards before Chris Carson was stuffed on third-and-1, leading to a 46-yard field goal by Myers with 1:45 to play.

Garoppolo and the Niners took over from there and used short passes to move the ball down to the 29 where McLaughlin kicked a 47-yard field goal with 1 second left to tie it at 24.

MAKING A POINT

The Seahawks shut down San Francisco's running game, allowing only 3.2 yards per carry and forced Garoppolo into an off night with his receivers contributing with several drops. Garoppolo finished 24 for 48 for 248 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

He was sacked five times and missed injured tight end George Kittle and Emmanuel Sanders, who left in the first quarter with a rib injury.

"We wanted to prove we were the best defense on the field today," Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "We understood what people were thinking because of the last two weeks. We felt like we had some-

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thing to prove.”

CLOWNEY’S DAY

Jadeveon Clowney had his biggest impact since joining Seattle this season. He returned a fumble 10 yards for the Seahawks’ first touchdown, set up another with a strip sack and had five quarterback hits on the day.

BONE HEAD PLAY

The 49ers got a defensive score of their own in the fourth quarter. K’Waun Williams sacked Wilson, knocking the ball loose to right tackle Germain Ifedi. Ifedi tried to run with the ball but Fred Warner knocked it loose again and DeForest Buckner ran it in 12 yards for the score.

“What was he thinking? He thought he was going to score,” coach Pete Carroll said.

BIG PLAY

The Seahawks were poised to take the lead into halftime when D.K. Metcalf took a short pass from Wilson and ran it inside the 5. But as he was fighting for more yardage, safety Jaquiski Tartt ripped it out of his hands at the 2-yard line for an impressive fumble recovery.

DEBUT PERFORMANCES

Diggs started in his first game for Seattle since being acquired last month in a trade from Detroit.

Receiver Josh Gordon also made his Seahawks debut after being claimed off waivers last week from New England. He caught a 13-yard pass to convert a third down on the late field-goal drive in the fourth quarter and another to convert a third down in overtime.

INJURIES

Seahawks: WR Tyler Lockett left with a bruised leg and might have to stay in the Bay Area overnight. TE Luke Willson left with a hamstring injury.

49ers: Sanders (ribs) left in the first quarter. DT D.J. Jones was sidelined later in the first half with a groin injury. LB Azeez Al-Shaair left with a concussion in the third quarter. RB Matt Breida left in the second half with an ankle injury. DL Ronald Blair left the game with a knee injury.

UP NEXT

Seahawks: Week off before visiting Philadelphia on Nov. 24.

49ers: Host Arizona on Sunday.

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

Impeachment witness: Ukrainians asked about holdup of aid

By **LISA MASCARO** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The view among the national security officials was unanimous: Military aid to Ukraine should not be stopped. But President Donald Trump’s acting chief of staff thought otherwise.

As the aid was being blocked this summer, Ukraine officials began quietly asking the State Department about the hold-up. The concern was clear for the young democracy battling an aggressive Russia.

“If this were public in Ukraine it would be seen as a reversal of our policy,” said Catherine Croft, the special adviser for Ukraine at State, who fielded the inquiries from the Ukrainians.

“This would be a really big deal,” she testified. “It would be a really big deal in Ukraine, and an expression of declining U.S. support for Ukraine.”

Croft’s remarks were among the transcripts released Monday from the House impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

And they begin to chisel away at a key Republican defense of Trump. Allies of the president say Trump did nothing wrong because the Ukrainians never knew the aid was being delayed.

Eventually, the White House released its hold and the funds were sent to the ally.

The impeachment inquiry is looking at whether Trump violated his oath of office by holding back the congressionally approved funds while he asked the new Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a favor— to investigate political rival Joe Biden’s family and the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

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Transcripts of testimony from closed-door interviews with Croft and another Ukraine specialist at State, Christopher Anderson, as well as the Defense Department's Laura Cooper, come as House Democrats are pushing ahead to this week's live public hearings.

Cooper told investigators that, in a series of July meetings at the White House, she came to understand that Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, was holding up the military aid for the U.S. ally.

"There was just this issue of the White House chief of staff has conveyed that the president has concerns about Ukraine," she said.

When she and others tried to get an explanation, they found none.

"We did not get clarification," she said.

"My sense is that all of the senior leaders of the U.S. national security departments and agencies were all unified in their — in their view that this assistance was essential," said Cooper, an assistant defense secretary. "And they were trying to find ways to engage the President on this."

Croft and Anderson testified about the oversized reach of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani into foreign policy on Ukraine in unsettling ways as he portrayed Zelenskyy's new government as an "enemy" of Trump.

Croft told investigators of her "trepidation" of taking on the role in spring of adviser to the special envoy to Ukraine, Kurt Volker, because she worried that Giuliani was influencing Trump to change U.S. policy toward the ally.

She said she theorized that by "painting sort of Ukraine as being against Trump" it could help the president "distract from a narrative" that Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election to help him.

Anderson, who held the special adviser role before Croft, said, "I had the fear that if Giuliani's narrative took hold, that the Ukrainian Government was an enemy of the President, then it would be very hard to have high-level engagement."

He said Volker had warned him, "Giuliani is not moving on to other issues, and so this might still be a problem for us moving forward."

Cooper said she and other aides were asking questions about what legal authority the White House had to halt congressionally approved aid for Ukraine.

She said it was "unusual" to have the congressional funds suddenly halted that way. The Pentagon was "concerned."

Cooper told investigators that it was when Volker visited in August that he explained there was a "statement" that the Ukraine government could make to get the security money flowing.

It was the first she had heard of what is now the quid pro quo central to the impeachment inquiry — the administration's push for the Ukraine government to investigate Trump's political rivals as the funding was being withheld.

"Somehow an effort that he was engaged in to see if there was a statement that the government of Ukraine would make," she said, "that would somehow disavow any interference in U.S. elections and would commit to the prosecution of any individuals involved in election interference."

Cooper described the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, saying it involved a range of items such as night vision goggles, vehicles, sniper rifles and medical equipment.

"Security assistance is vital to helping the Ukrainians be able to defend themselves," Cooper said.

Because Ukraine and Georgia are two "front-line states" facing Russian aggression, the U.S. needed to "shore up these countries' abilities to defend themselves."

"It's in our interest to deter Russian aggression elsewhere around the world," she said.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Zeke Miller, Eric Tucker, Mike Balsamo, Matthew Daly and Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

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US held record number of migrant kids in custody in 2019

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, MARTHA MENDOZA AND GARANCE BURKE** Associated Press

COMAYAGUA, Honduras (AP) — The 3-year-old girl traveled for weeks cradled in her father's arms, as he set out to seek asylum in the United States. Now she won't even look at him.

After being forcibly separated at the border by government officials, sexually abused in U.S. foster care and deported, the once bright and beaming girl arrived back in Honduras withdrawn, anxious and angry, convinced her father abandoned her.

He fears their bond is forever broken.

"I think about this trauma staying with her too, because the trauma has remained with me and still hasn't faded," he said, days after their reunion.

This month new government data shows the little girl is one of an unprecedented 69,550 migrant children held in U.S. government custody over the past year, enough infants, toddlers, kids and teens to overflow the typical NFL stadium. That's more kids detained away from their parents than any other country, according to United Nations researchers. And it's happening even though the U.S. government has acknowledged that being held in detention can be traumatic for children, putting them at risk of long-term physical and emotional damage.

Some of these migrant children who were in government custody this year have already been deported. Some have reunited with family in the U.S., where they're trying to go to school and piece back together their lives. About 4,000 are still in government custody, some in large, impersonal shelters. And more arrive every week.

This story is part of an ongoing joint investigation between The Associated Press and the PBS series FRONTLINE on the treatment of migrant children, which includes the film "Kids Caught in the Crackdown" premiering on PBS and online Nov. 12 at 10 p.m. EST/9 p.m. CST.

The nearly 70,000 migrant children who were held in government custody this year — up 42 percent in fiscal year 2019 from 2018 — spent more time in shelters and away from their families than in prior years. The Trump administration's series of strict immigration policies has increased the time children spend in detention, despite the government's own acknowledgment that it does them harm. In 2013, Australia detained 2,000 children during a surge of maritime arrivals. In Canada, immigrant children are separated from their parents only as a last resort; 155 were detained in 2018. In the United Kingdom, 42 migrant children were put in shelters in 2017, according to officials in those countries.

"Early experiences are literally built into our brains and bodies," says Dr. Jack Shonkoff, who directs Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child. Earlier this year, he told Congress that "decades of peer-reviewed research" shows that detaining kids away from parents or primary caregivers is bad for their health. It's a brain-wiring issue, he said.

"Stable and responsive relationships promote healthy brain architecture," Shonkoff said. "If these relationships are disrupted, young children are hit by the double whammy of a brain that is deprived of the positive stimulation it needs, and assaulted by a stress response that disrupts its developing circuitry."

Younger children are at greater risk, because their biological systems are less developed, he said. Previous harm, and the duration of separation, are also more likely to lead to trauma.

One Honduran teen who was held in a large detention center for four months before reuniting with his mother said that, as each day passed, his fear and anxiety grew.

"There was something there that made us feel desperate. It was freedom. We wanted to be free," he recalled. "There was despair everywhere."

Another Honduran teen, who arrived in the U.S. at 16 and was detained in a series of increasingly secure shelters for more than a year, said he saw his peers harm themselves.

"They would cry sometimes, alone, or they would hit themselves against the wall," he said. "I thought that was because of them being here for such a long time."

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The teens spoke on condition of anonymity out of concerns for their safety.

The 3-year-old Honduran girl was taken from her father when immigration officials caught them near the border in Texas in March 2019 and sent her to government-funded foster care. The father had no idea where his daughter was for three panicked weeks. It was another month before a caregiver put her on the phone but the girl, who turned four in government custody, refused to speak, screaming in anger.

"She said that I had left her alone and she was crying," said her father during an interview with the AP and Frontline at their home in Honduras. "I don't love you Daddy, you left me alone," she told him. The father agreed to speak about their case on condition of anonymity for safety reasons.

What the little girl didn't, or couldn't, tell her dad was that another child in her foster home woke her up and began molesting her, according to court records. As the days passed, she began urinating on herself and seemed unable to eat or drink, a foster parent said in the records.

"She's so small for something like that to happen," said her father, who found out about his daughter's abuse while he was in detention. "I felt like I couldn't do anything to help her."

Desperate to see his daughter, he begged for a DNA test which, four months into his detention, proved their relationship. Still the government kept them apart. In June, he gave up and asked a judge to reunite him with his daughter and deport them. The government sent him back to Honduras alone. His daughter followed a month later in mid-August.

On an August afternoon in their hometown, the little girl had her hair tied up in pigtails. Her dress was a frilly lavender and her pink sneakers were decorated with bows. She played with her younger sister and snuggled up beside her grandfather, but ignored her father's entreaties and refused to hold his hand, convinced he tried to leave her for good.

"When I wanted to cradle her in my arms she started to cry," he said.

He didn't know of any psychological support in their town to help her process the abuse she suffered.

"For now we're going to try to give her more affection, more love and then if there isn't a change we're going to try to find some help," he said.

The U.S. government calls migrant children held without their parents "Unaccompanied Alien Children" — UAC in bureaucratic jargon. Federal law requires the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide them food and shelter, and medical and mental health care. But the HHS Office of Inspector General found there aren't enough clinicians or specialized care in shelters holding migrant children.

HHS spokesman Mark Weber said that, with the largest number of migrant children in their program's history, "you must give credit to the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the shelter network staff for managing a program that was able to rapidly expand and unify the largest number of kids ever, all in an incredibly difficult environment."

In an urgent request to fund an emergency shelter earlier this year, HHS warned "Without a way to provide these services, there is an unacceptable risk that thousands of UAC would be without their basic human needs, which would result in injury/death of children."

In the September issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, the American Academy of Pediatrics says migrant children who are detained "face almost universal traumatic histories." The group recommends specific therapies to help children recover and reunite with their families, warning of serious consequences if left untreated. But few of the thousands of children separated from their parents are receiving therapy after being deported back to Central America. Many are from impoverished communities where there are few, if any, accessible mental health resources.

The U.S. is now being sued for hundreds of millions of dollars by some families who say their children were harmed by being held in detention, and on Nov. 5 a federal judge ordered the government to immediately provide mental health screenings and treatment to immigrant families traumatized by family separations. The judge found attorneys for separated families presented evidence that the government's policy "caused severe mental trauma to parents and their children" and that U.S. government officials were "aware of the risks associated with family separation when they implemented it."

Child trauma expert Ryan Matlow at Stanford University says toxic stress in children is associated with

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higher rates of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress syndrome, heart disease, cancer, and even early death.

"So we want to be a country that inflicts further trauma on individuals who are experiencing intensive adversity and are seeking refuge and help in a neighboring nation?" asked Matlow, who has met with detained migrant children inside several of the largest migrant detention facilities. "Are we okay with the implications of doing harm to vulnerable children - to 2 and 3-year-olds and to teenagers as well? Is that something that we can accept?"

This year President Donald Trump signed a law approving \$2.8 billion for the government to house, transport and care for migrant children. Nine out of 10 come from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with fewer than 3% from Mexico. They're fleeing Central America often to save their own lives, because violence and abuse, even murder, are committed with impunity under corrupt governments the U.S. has supported for decades.

While children have been arriving alone at the U.S. border for more than a decade, the number of children in government custody has grown sharply over the last two years, largely because they have been held for longer time periods. A few months after Trump took office, the federal agency was caring for about 2,700 children, reuniting them with awaiting relatives or sponsors in about a month. This June, that topped 13,000, and they stayed in custody for about two months.

U.S. immigration authorities have separated more than 5,400 children from their parents at the Mexico border, before, during and after a controversial "zero tolerance" policy was enacted and then ended in the spring of 2018.

Eskinder Negash, who heads the nonprofit U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, knows the trauma of separation and detention all too well, and has spent his life seeking solutions.

"I was a refugee, I know what they have gone through," said Negash, who fled Ethiopia alone as a teen after his country was thrown into chaos by a military coup.

Negash also knows what it's like to suddenly have to care for tens of thousands of migrant children caught at the border. He was heading the Office of Refugee Resettlement in 2014 under the Obama administration when more than 60,000 children surged over the border, mostly unaccompanied. Negash and his team scrambled to shelter them in a variety of situations, including on military bases. The fallout, at the time, was harsh: human rights advocates who today decry the way children are treated in government custody were, under Obama, frustrated with their care and urged that children be swiftly granted asylum.

Leaving government to head the nonprofit refugee support agency USCRI, Negash wanted to do better for children, both in the U.S. and abroad.

In El Salvador, USCRI now runs the Livelihoods project, teaching young adults who were deported from the U.S. skills to support themselves. On a recent visit, students clustered in small groups around workbenches to practice building circuits that would make small motors run. They learn everything from residential and commercial electrical installation to building substations and transformers. Other career tracks include auto mechanic, chef and bartender. Since 2016, about 400 young adults have graduated from the program, which is a partnership with the El Salvador government.

"I don't think about migrating anymore," said José Fernando Guillén Rodríguez, 21, who was apprehended in the U.S. at 18 and spent time in adult detention before being deported. Now he's completed a year of daily electrical classes and works as an apprentice at an electrical construction company.

Meanwhile, in the U.S. this summer, USCRI also opened what Negash hopes is a model government-funded shelter in southern Florida, just down the road from Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club. Rinconcito del Sol, which translates to "A Little Corner of Sunshine," is different than other facilities holding migrant children.

There is no uniformed security guard at the entrance. The residents, girls 13-17, can call their families as needed, staff say, and there are more therapeutic services — including intensive treatment for victims of trafficking and abuse — throughout the week. They sleep two to a room, and are free to wander in a large, outdoor area, or "shop" in a store filled with donated items. Case workers hustle to reunite them with family in the U.S. quickly, averaging four weeks. And costs to taxpayers are a third of the \$775 per

day costs at large, emergency shelters where kids sleep 100 to a room.

"Here, we change lives," said shelter director Elcy Valdez, who worked as an ORR federal field specialist visiting a variety of facilities for six years. She saw a variety of operations, and took note of best practices. Today they hope to share their practices with some 170 shelter programs in 23 states.

"The girls come in very sad, nervous, not knowing what to expect, unsure what the future holds for them," she said. "We give them that sense of security, of safety for the first time."

Sherman reported from Comayagua, Honduras and Santa Tecla, El Salvador. Burke reported from Lake Worth, Florida. Mendoza reported from Washington, DC. FRONTLINE reporters Daffodil Altan and Andrés Cediell, and AP Data Journalist Larry Fenn contributed to this report.

WFP chief vows more 'aggressive' action on sexual harassment

By MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — In the wake of an internal survey that detailed multiple allegations of rape and sexual harassment of its female staffers, the leader of the World Food Program is vowing to go after abusers.

David Beasley, the U.N. agency's executive director, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press that he is "making hard choices to bring change" to the WFP.

"If we have a claim of rape by anyone in the WFP, if we can substantiate, I can't begin to tell you how aggressive" actions will be, he told the AP in a phone interview from the agency's Rome headquarters.

The warning comes after an internal survey which Beasley commissioned found that at least 28 employees said they experienced rape or sexual assaults while working at the agency. More than 640 others said they were victims of or witnessed sexual harassment, or 8% of the total sample of 8,137. The survey was first reported last month by The Italian Insider.

The findings are lower than the U.N. Safe Space Survey, which was conducted across the world body's agencies and was published in January. Of its more than 30,000 respondents, 38.7 percent said they experienced sexual harassment while working in the U.N.

Over the past year, Beasley said that the agency fired and banned five staffers implicated in sexual abuses, doubled the number of its investigators, lifted the time limit on reporting abuses, and is spreading the message among staffers to speak up about abuses of power.

Some advocates and WFP employees question whether the agency had the ability to adequately investigate itself. The two staffers spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

"They love PR, but in reality nothing changes," said one female employee who filed a sexual harassment report in one of the agency's regional offices this year. She said it was largely ignored and was never investigated.

She also said that harassers are typically forced to resign, not fired, allowing them to seek employment with other U.N. agencies. She said her agency recently hired an official accused of harassment at the World Health Organization.

A second senior official at WFP ticked off a list of names of officials at the agency's regional offices he said have been accused of sexual abuses but remained in their positions because of they were protected by managers.

"When managers are powerful, they become like mafias," he said.

Paula Donovan, a former U.N. employee who founded the Code Blue Campaign, which seeks to end impunity for sexual offenders in the U.N. system, called the 28 cases of rape and sexual assault "shocking and disgusting."

Donovan said the U.N. has a conflict of interest. "We are the employer of the accused and the accuser," she said, calling for an independent body from outside the U.N. to investigate.

"You can double, triple the number of investigators," she said. "But as long the results are handled internally and turned over to other biased individuals to make judgments and final decisions, none are real

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changes.”

Sexual abuses are rife especially in remote areas away from the spotlight.

Local employees in other international agencies operating in Yemen complain that senior officials have free rein to exploit female staffers. The staffers said women are also prevented from speaking out against sexual abuses by broader cultural and social restraints in Yemen, where women who complain of harassment often face punishment.

A senior female employee at one non-U.N. group said, “the strong majority of Yemeni women working for international agencies suffer silently from sexual harassment.”

The United Nations has been in the spotlight for several years over allegations of child rape and other sexual abuses by its peacekeepers, especially those based in Central African Republic and Congo.

According to U.N. figures, there were 80 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving peacekeepers and 65 allegations involving U.N. civilian staff in 2016 — an increase from 2015, according to the most recent data.

In 2017, new allegations were leveled against several agencies, including the UNHCR, the refugee agency, which helps more than 22 million people. Other allegations of misconduct involved civilians working for the U.N.’s International Office for Migration, and one with the children’s agency UNICEF.

Cases of sexual harassment have also rocked other international aid agencies.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, the Switzerland-based agency also known as Doctors Without Borders, said last year it has taken action on 24 cases of sexual harassment or abuse among employees last year and dismissed 19 people.

The British-based aid agency OXFAM has also been engulfed with scandals for covering up cases of workers involved in sexual exploitation of women and girls they were supposed to help in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

WFP’s Beasley said over the past year he has increased the number of investigators at the agency to 22 to look into allegations of misconduct, including a number who specialize in dealing with victims of sexual violence.

He said he lifted the time limit on reporting abuses and granting anonymity to the victims to encourage them to speak up. The agency has launched awareness-raising sessions for more than 3,400 staffers on “behavioral standards” to help employees identify abusive conduct and learn how to report it. He said he is also working for “gender parity,” appointing more women to senior positions.

Beasley said he was working to ensure staffers removed for sexual abuse or harassment don’t work at any U.N. agency. Besides two staffers fired by the WFP, three others who left the agency were banned from future employment elsewhere in the world body. He said managers who recommend those who proved to be abusers will also be questioned and could face discipline.

“I have said before and I will say it again any allegation of sexual assault will be vigorously investigated and, where substantiated, people will lose their jobs,” Beasley warned in an email to WFP staffers obtained by the AP. “Not only that, I will not hesitate to take appropriate steps to refer criminal behavior to law enforcement authorities.”

Asked if he is facing resistance from inside the agency, Beasley told the AP, “There are a lot of good people ... but there are also a lot of people who need to improve their management skills. It’s an old culture with good and bad.”

“People don’t like change,” he said. “We seek to be a role model to the world ... I am not happy, but we are making progress.”

Meet the witnesses: Diplomats start off impeachment hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diplomats and career government officials, they’re little known outside professional circles, but they’re about to become household names testifying in the House impeachment inquiry .

The witnesses will tell House investigators — and Americans tuning into the live public hearings — what they know about President Donald Trump’s actions toward Ukraine, including the July phone call with

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President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that ignited the impeachment inquiry.

First up will be William Taylor, the charge d'affaires in Ukraine, and George Kent, the deputy Assistant Secretary in the European and Eurasian Bureau, both testifying on Wednesday. On Friday, lawmakers will hear from former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch.

Meet the witnesses:

WILLIAM 'BILL' TAYLOR

A longtime diplomat with a 50-year career of government service, Taylor returned to Ukraine this year after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asked him to lead the U.S. Embassy.

The graduate of West Point and infantry officer with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam had a storied career working around the globe, including on Iraq reconstruction and as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 2006-09.

Trump recalled Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch after what others would testify was a smear campaign against her. When Taylor returned to Kyiv, he said he was stunned at what he found.

"I discovered a weird combination of encouraging, confusing and ultimately alarming circumstances," Taylor testified on Oct. 22.

The diplomat went on to describe the "irregular" channel of U.S. policymaking, outside the official one. He soon learned it was being run by Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and others from the administration. "A confusing and unusual arrangement," he testified.

Taylor has served under every presidential administration, Republican and Democrat, since 1985, and also worked for then-Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J.

More recently he was an executive vice president at the nonpartisan U.S. Institute of Peace.

GEORGE KENT

The bow-tie wearing career foreign service officer speaks Ukrainian, Russian and Thai and has worked in Poland, Uzbekistan and Bangkok. He joined the State Department in 1992.

Kent testified on Oct. 15 there were three words Trump wanted to hear from the Ukraine president: "Investigations, Biden and Clinton."

He also told the investigators about the "campaign of lies" against Yovanovitch that he said was waged by the president's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani.

Kent is a graduate of Harvard and the Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies, as well as National Defense University's Eisenhower School. He is a fan of the Red Sox.

MARIE 'MASHA' YOVANOVITCH

She had twice served as an ambassador — to the Kyrgyz Republic and to Armenia — before being confirmed as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in a Senate voice vote in July 2016.

Seen as a tough ambassador, at a time when the U.S. was trying to root out corruption in the young democracy, she was recalled from Ukraine by Trump last spring.

Known as Masha, Yovanovitch testified on Oct. 11 that she was told that people were "looking to hurt" her. One senior Ukraine official said she needed to "watch my back."

She is a career diplomat having served in several top positions as a principal deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, a senior adviser and the dean of the language school at the Foreign Service Institute.

She is now working as a senior State Department fellow at Georgetown University.

Protections for 660,000 immigrants on line at Supreme Court

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protections for 660,000 immigrants are on the line at the Supreme Court.

The justices are hearing arguments Tuesday on the Trump administration's bid to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that shields immigrants brought to the U.S. as children from deportation

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and allows them to work in the United States legally.

The program was begun under President Barack Obama. The Trump administration announced in September 2017 that it would end DACA protections, but lower federal courts have stepped in to keep the program alive.

Now it's up to the Supreme Court to say whether the way the administration has gone about trying to wind down DACA complies with federal law.

A decision is expected by June 2020, amid the presidential election campaign.

Some DACA recipients who are part of the lawsuit are expected to be in the courtroom for the arguments. People have been camping out in front of the court since the weekend for a chance to grab some of the few seats that are available to the general public. Chief Justice John Roberts has rejected a request for live or same-day audio of the arguments. The court will post the audio on its website .

A second case being argued Tuesday tests whether the parents of a Mexican teenager who was killed by a U.S. border patrol agent in a shooting across the southern border in El Paso, Texas, can sue the agent in American courts.

If the court agrees with the administration in the DACA case, Congress could put the program on surer legal footing. But the absence of comprehensive immigration reform from Congress is what prompted Obama to create DACA in 2012, giving people two-year renewable reprieves from the threat of deportation while also allowing them to work.

Federal courts struck down an expansion of DACA and the creation of similar protections for undocumented immigrants whose children are U.S. citizens.

Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric was a key part of his presidential campaign in 2016, and his administration pointed to the invalidation of the expansion and the threat of a lawsuit against DACA by Texas and other Republican-led states as reasons to bring the program to a halt.

Young immigrants, civil rights groups, universities and Democratic-led cities and states sued to block the administration. They persuaded courts in New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., that the administration had been "arbitrary and capricious" in its actions, in violation of a federal law that requires policy changes be done in an orderly way.

Indeed, the high court case is not over whether DACA itself is legal, but instead the administration's approach to ending it.

Impeachment aside, federal budget remains a pressing matter

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Impeachment hearings for President Donald Trump come at the very time that Capitol Hill usually tends to its mound of unfinished business.

The hearings and the possibility of impeachment and a trial create yet another layer of complications for senior lawmakers pressing for an agreement on \$1.4 trillion worth of federal agency budgets or finalizing a rewrite of the North American trade rules.

Public hearings into Trump's actions with Ukraine promise to suck the air out of Washington and stoke the partisan flames inside the Capitol ever hotter. Yet they could still be the last, best opportunity for lawmakers to wrap up their work on the budget and the trade deal.

As the House returns from a quick break, the sole piece of must-do business is to pass a governmentwide stopgap spending bill to avert the second government shutdown within a year.

Avoiding a shutdown shouldn't be a problem, at least for now, with passage of a temporary, government-wide spending bill to perhaps Dec. 20 virtually assured. Top leaders on Capitol Hill, however, are struggling with a full-year solution on the appropriations work, where progress is overdue and at least some risk of being derailed entirely remains.

Most notably, a recurring fight over Trump's U.S.-Mexico border fence and immigrant detention practices is making it difficult for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to make progress on a broader, full-year \$1.4 trillion spending bill. That measure is needed to

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implement the terms of last summer's hard-won budget agreement, which distributed budget increases to both the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

McConnell is personally invested in a successful budget outcome and both he and Pelosi have long histories on appropriations. A meeting on Tuesday among the bipartisan leadership of the Appropriations committees could produce an agreement on the stopgap measure — but efforts to smooth agreement on wall funding aren't going nearly as well.

The other top issue is a legislative update to the landmark North American Free Trade Agreement, which is especially sought by Trump's GOP allies and the party's Main Street supporters.

Pelosi is the key figure on trade, which is always a tricky issue for Democrats, even if the politics of the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement are nowhere nearly as divisive as NAFTA was 26 years ago.

Passage of NAFTA in 1993 badly split House Democrats, but Pelosi, who represents the Port of San Francisco, voted "aye," as did Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and powerful Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass.

Neal is leading a working group on the measure and says the group is "on the 5-yard line" and the optimistic take is that he and Pelosi will bring USMCA in for a touchdown.

The trade updates are generally seen as an improvement over NAFTA, whose provisions enforcing Mexican labor and environmental rules are seen as inadequate by many Democrats. The selling points for the new pact are that it updates NAFTA for the 21st century with hard-won provisions on digital trade, intellectual property, financial services and agriculture trade.

Still, any impeachment-related delays could tax patience and thrust politically freighted issues like the border wall and the GOP's top goal of an updated U.S. trade pact with Mexico and Canada directly into the heat of the presidential primary campaign.

On spending, Trump is a wild card as usual. He singlehandedly drove the 35-day partial shutdown that spanned the changeover between GOP and Democratic control of the House last winter. He has struggled to win much wall funding from Congress, where lawmakers in both parties have other designs for the money.

Trump has had more success in exploiting his transfer powers to siphon money from Pentagon anti-drug and military base construction accounts toward the wall, and construction is finally beginning on the new segments he has long promised.

Trump could easily spin a successful wall narrative without much more in new appropriations and simply funding the government on autopilot — though hardly anyone is advocating that — would give him perhaps \$6 billion more.

Trump's anger at impeachment, his poisonous relationship with Pelosi, and his unpredictability and volatility are red flags for optimists. But the forces favoring an agreement are powerful, and McConnell — a top force behind the July budget pact — appears ready to get engaged more actively.

The odds for a spending deal could be helped by the apparent sidelining — because of impeachment — of acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and budget office chief Russell Vought, two hard-liners with whom McConnell has clashed in the past.

And there is still time for action, even if the odds get more dicey in a presidential election year.

One of the benefits of limiting the duration of the upcoming stopgap spending bill, known as a continuing resolution or CR, is that it means another is needed before Congress adjourns for the year.

Any December stopgap measure could also provide a way to ship some unfinished business on taxes, health care and pensions to Trump's desk as part of a must-pass package. Top lawmakers hope that a full-year spending bill would serve the same purpose but acknowledge there are considerable obstacles.

"I think it would be a terrible mistake if we were still in a continuing resolution after the first of the year for a whole host of reasons," said top Senate Appropriations Committee Democrat Patrick Leahy of Vermont, citing shifting signals from the White House as contributing to the delays. "It has been difficult with the White House because ... they have not always been consistent in what they want."

China aims to build its own Yellowstone on Tibetan plateau

By CHRISTINA LARSON and EMILY WANG Associated Press

XINING, China (AP) — There's a building boom on the Tibetan plateau, one of the world's last remote places. Mountains long crowned by garlands of fluttering prayer flags — a traditional landscape blessing — are newly topped with sprawling steel power lines. At night, the illuminated signs of Sinopec gas stations cast a red glow over newly built highways.

Ringed by the world's tallest mountain ranges, the region long known as "the rooftop of the world" is now in the crosshairs of China's latest modernization push, marked by multiplying skyscrapers and expanding high-speed rail lines.

But this time, there's a difference: The Chinese government also wants to set limits on the region's growth in order to design its own version of one of the U.S.'s proudest legacies — a national park system.

In August, policymakers and scientists from China, the United States and other countries convened in Xining, capital of the country's Qinghai province, to discuss China's plans to create a unified park system with clear standards for limiting development and protecting ecosystems.

The country's economy has boomed over the past 40 years, but priorities are now expanding to include conserving key natural resources, says Zhu Chunquan, the China representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a Switzerland-based scientific group.

"It's quite urgent as soon as possible to identify the places, the ecosystems and other natural features" to protect, Zhu says.

Among other goals, China aims to build its own Yellowstone on the Tibetan plateau.

Zhu serves on an advisory committee providing input on the development of China's nascent national park system, expected to be officially unveiled in 2020. Chinese officials also have visited U.S. national parks, including Yellowstone and Yosemite, and sought input from varied organizations, including the Chicago-based Paulson Institute and the Nature Conservancy.

The ambition to create a unified park system represents "a new and serious effort to safeguard China's biodiversity and natural heritage," Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm says.

One of the first pilot parks will be in Qinghai, a vast region in western China abutting Tibet and sharing much of its cultural legacy. The area also is home to such iconic and threatened species as the snow leopard and Chinese mountain cat, and encompasses the headwaters of three of Asia's great waterways: the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong Rivers.

"This is one of the most special regions in China, in the world," says Lu Zhi, a Peking University conservation biologist who has worked in Qinghai for two decades.

While construction continues at a frenzied pace elsewhere on the Tibetan plateau, the government already has stopped issuing mining and hydropower permits in this region.

But a key question looms over the project: Can China marry the goals of conservation and tourism, while safeguarding the livelihoods and culture of the approximately 128,000 people who live within or near the park's boundaries, many of them Tibetan?

"China has a dense population and a long history," Zhu says. "One of the unique features of China's national parks is that they have local people living either inside or nearby."

Yellowstone is widely considered the world's first national park. After it was created in 1872, the U.S. government forced the Native Americans who lived in the area to resettle outside the park boundaries, in keeping with the 19th-century notion that wilderness protection meant nature apart from people. But countries that attempt to establish park systems in the 21st century now must consider how best to include local populations in their planning.

"Figuring out how to achieve ecological conservation and support for the communities at the same time — that's the most complicated rub you have," says Jonathan Jarvis, a former director at the U.S. National Park Service and now a professor of the University of California, Berkeley, who has toured the Qinghai pilot park, called Sanjiangyuan.

China has previously undertaken vast resettlement programs to clear land for large infrastructure projects, such as Three Gorges Dam and the South-to-North Water Transfer Project. These resettlements left

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many farmers in new homes without suitable agricultural fields or access to other livelihoods.

But in developing the national parks, the government is giving conservation-related jobs to at least a swath of people living in Sanjiangyuan to stay and work on their land. The "One Family, One Ranger" program hires one person per family for 1800 yuan a month (\$255) to perform such tasks as collecting trash and monitoring for poaching or illegal grazing activity.

It's difficult to interview residents in China's ethnic borderlands like Qinghai, due to restrictions on journalists that make it hard to travel widely or freely in those areas. Regions with large ethnic and religious minorities, including all Tibetan areas, are subject to heightened political and religious controls.

But a few people living in Angsai, a Tibetan village located within the new Qinghai park, were willing to speak, although it's not possible to determine if their experiences are typical.

A-Ta is a Tibetan herder whose income largely comes from raising yaks and collecting caterpillar fungus, a folk medicine taken as a purported aphrodisiac or for respiratory problems. He also leads a team of trash collectors, traveling as much as 34 kilometers (21 miles) a day to comb the hillsides for plastic bottles and other waste as part of the "One Family, One Ranger" program.

"I am living in this land, my living is relying on this land," he says, as his sister heats a kettle in their modest home. A poster showing the faces of China's past leaders and current Communist Party general secretary, Xi Jinping, hangs on the wall.

A-Ta says he is grateful for work that allows his family to stay on their land, even as people in other parts of Qinghai have had to leave. His own son is employed leading a relocation program for "a huge population of nomads" in Dzarto, a county in southern Qinghai.

"I love this land very much," he says. "I always motivate and encourage people to protect the environment and contribute to the conservation work."

Kunchok Jangtse is a Tibetan herder who also earns money cleaning up rubbish through the "One Family, One Ranger" program.

He has an additional volunteer position through the Chinese nonprofit Shanshui — the name means "mountain, water" — installing and maintaining motion-activated camera traps, which help scientists monitor endangered species in Qinghai.

As he affixes a camera trap to a thin tree trunk, he explains, "The reason why it has to be installed in this location is because this is the main migration route of the majority of wild animals."

Such camera traps have captured rare footage of snow leopards and Chinese mountain cats, including mothers and their cubs playing near a temporary den.

Kunchok Jangtse says the work of protecting the environment, including reporting illegal poaching activity, is important.

"Our religion is connected with wild animals, because wild animals have a consciousness and can feel love and compassion — therefore, we protect wild-animals," he says.

From his main work raising livestock and collecting caterpillar fungus, Kunchok Jangtse says he can make about 20,000 yuan (\$2,830) a year. He is grateful for the additional income from the ranger program, but mainly hopes his other livelihood won't be impeded — and that he won't eventually be forced to leave.

"I'm not a highly educated person, and I am very concerned it may bring many difficulties in my life if I would switch my job and move to another place," he says.

The question of local people's culture and livelihoods is one of the top concerns that former U.S. National Park Service director Jarvis says China has to wrestle with, along with establishing laws and funding.

"They need a legal framework that defines what a park is," Jarvis says. "And they need sustainable funding."

The creation of protected areas is not a new idea in China. In fact, roughly 15% of the country's land already is assigned to a bewildering patchwork of local and regional parks. But many existing reserves are simply parks on paper, run by various agencies without enforceable guidelines.

In contrast, the national parks system is being designed from the ground-up to incorporate global best practices and new science.

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In his office in Beijing, Ouyang Zhiyun, deputy director at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, pores over hundreds of carefully shaded maps of mainland China that denote priority areas for protecting threatened and endangered species, as well as "eco-system services," like safeguarding water supplies and limiting soil erosion.

The question isn't just how much total land you're protecting, but which lands you're protecting, he notes. Recently, Ouyang was the lead scientist for China's sweeping "national ecosystems assessment," which used 20,000 satellite images and 100,000 field surveys to examine how China's land changed between 2000 and 2010, with some of the findings published in the journal *Science* in 2016. One resulting statistic: China's urban area increased 28% during that period.

Now Ouyang is drawing upon that work, combined with surveys of more than 1,500 species of endangered and threatened plants and animals, to map priority areas for conservation and advise park planners. He is focusing on habitats of endangered species that live only in China.

"If we lose it here, it's gone," he says.

The first parks to be formally incorporated into China's national park system will showcase the country's vast and varied landscapes and ecosystems — from the granite and sandstone cliffs of Wuyishan in eastern China to the lush forests of southwestern Sichuan province, home to giant pandas, to the boreal forests of northeastern China, where endangered Siberian tigers roam.

When it comes to ecology, few countries have more to lose, or to save, than China.

"A huge country like China literally determines the fate of species," says Duke University's Pimm.

Larson reported from Xining and Beijing. Wang reported from Xining and Angsai. AP video producer Olivia Zhang contributed to this story.

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Stocks mixed as uncertainty reigns in US-China trade talks

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Tuesday as investors awaited cues on trade talks between China and the U.S.

The next hints on progress in the negotiations between Beijing and Washington could come later in the day, when Trump is scheduled to give a speech on trade and economic policy at the Economic Club of New York.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.1% to 23,362.24, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.1% to 26,947.66. South Korea's Kospi edged 0.2% higher to 2,127.35.

The Shanghai Composite index dropped 0.4% to 2,897.23 while Australia's S&P ASX/200 shed 0.5% to 6,740.60. Shares rose in Taiwan, Bangkok and Singapore but fell in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

"With so much riding in Asia on an interim trade deal to get the region's biggest customer, China, importing again; it is unsurprising that the region appears to be sitting on its hands today," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a commentary.

But he noted that continued political chaos in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng fell 2.6% on Monday, is also weighing on sentiment.

Protesters disrupted the morning commute on Tuesday after an especially violent day in the Chinese city that has been wracked by anti-government protests for more than five months.

On Monday, a police officer drew his gun during a struggle with protesters, shooting one in the abdomen. In another neighborhood, a person was set on fire after an apparent argument. The Hong Kong hospital authority said both were in critical condition. Video of another incident showed a policeman on a motorcycle riding through a group of protesters in an apparent attempt to disperse them.

In comments suggesting harsher legal and police measures may be planned, Hong Kong's leader Carrie

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Lam pledged to "spare no effort" to halt the protests.

On the Chinese mainland, an industry group reported late Monday that China's auto sales fell 5.8% from a year earlier in October as demand for electric cars plunged, an industry group reported Monday, extending a painful squeeze in the global industry's biggest market.

The Chinese auto market is on track to contract for second year, dragged down by weak demand in the face of cooling economic growth and a tariff war with Washington.

Data on bank lending also disappointed, with new lending in October logging the lowest level since December 2017, at 661.3 billion yuan (\$94.4 billion).

Overnight, U.S. stocks mostly fell after President Donald Trump said over the weekend that reports about U.S. willingness to lift tariffs were "incorrect," only two days after a Chinese official said both sides agreed to rollbacks if talks progress.

Stocks dropped as soon as trading began Monday, and the S&P 500 lost as much as 0.6% from its record level, though indexes pared their losses as the day progressed.

The S&P 500 lost 0.2% to 3,087.01 and the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.1%, to 8,464.28.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was an outlier and eked out another record, rising less than 0.1% to 27,691.49.

A major factor in the advance was Boeing, whose shares soared 4.5% after the aircraft maker said it hopes to resume deliveries of its 737 Max jet next month.

Bond markets were closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Low interest rates have helped drive the stock market's recent rally. On Wednesday, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell is due to give testimony to Congress about the economy. Most investors expect the Fed to keep interest rates on hold for now after cutting them three times since the summer.

Later this week, the Labor Department will also give updates on inflation at both the consumer and wholesale levels. On Friday, economists expect a government report to show that retail sales returned to growth in October. That would suggest robust consumer spending is helping to compensate for weaker manufacturing due to the trade war.

Earnings season is close to complete, and nearly 90% of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported their profits for the July-through-September quarter, according to FactSet. Results have been weak due in part to the slowing global economy, with earnings per share down 2.4% from a year earlier, not as bad as analysts had forecast.

Benchmark crude oil fell 6 cents to \$56.80 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 38 cents to settle at \$56.86 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, lost 2 cents to \$62.16. It fell 33 cents to \$62.18 a barrel in London.

The dollar rose to 109.13 Japanese yen from 109.06 yen on Monday. The euro was unchanged at \$1.1034.

AP Business Writers Stan Choe and Damian J. Troise contributed.

Morales says he's headed for Mexico as clashes rock Bolivia

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and CARLOS VALDEZ Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Former Bolivian President Evo Morales said Monday he was headed for Mexico after being granted asylum there, as his supporters and foes clashed on the streets of the capital following his resignation and a tearful opposition leader laid out a possible path toward new elections.

Morales stepped down Sunday following weeks of massive protests over a disputed presidential election, but the resignations of every constitutionally designated successor left unclear who will take his place and how.

Angry supporters of the socialist leader set barricades ablaze to block some roads leading to the country's main airport, while his foes blocked most of the streets leading to the capital's main square in front of Congress and the presidential palace. Police urged residents of La Paz to stay in their homes and said they were joining with the army to avoid an escalation of the violence.

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Morales tweeted that he was leaving Monday evening, and Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard confirmed in a tweet that Morales was on a plane sent by Mexico City.

"I am leaving for Mexico, grateful for the openness of these brothers who offered us asylum to protect our life," Morales tweeted. "It hurts me to leave the country, for political reasons, but I will always be concerned. I will return soon, with more strength and energy."

Amid the power vacuum, opposition politician and Senate second vice president Jeanine Añez said in an emotional address that she would take temporary control of the Senate, though it was unclear if she would be able to get approval from Congress, which is controlled by Morales supporters.

"Please excuse me if my voice breaks," Añez said between tears after arriving in Congress under heavy guard.

"It's so hard to see Bolivians clashing, no matter which side they're on. They are being mistreated, and I'm asking you to cease the violence," said Añez, who would be next in line for the nation's presidency given the leadership void.

She also said she would convene a legislative session on Tuesday to consider accepting the formal resignation of Morales, and that new presidential elections could soon follow. It was unclear, however, if lawmakers could meet that soon because of the continuing insecurity in the capital.

As tensions grew, local media reported that Morales supporters were marching down from the nearby city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold, to try to break the street blockades thrown up by his opponents and reach the main square of La Paz. Worried about a possible escalation in the violence, the armed forces agreed to work alongside police.

The joint operation would "avoid bloodshed and mourning of the Bolivian family," the head of Bolivia's armed forces, Gen. Williams Kaliman, said in a televised address. He also called on Bolivians to help restore peace.

Police Chief Yuri Calderon said the joint mission would begin Monday and would "end when the peace is recovered."

TV showed images of Humvees and other military vehicles patrolling the streets of El Alto. In Santa Cruz, a bastion of the opposition, people welcomed the military jeeps by clapping and cheering them on.

But in downtown La Paz, anti-Morales demonstrators bracing for clashes set tires and other barricades ablaze as people went onto their rooftops to yell, "Evo murderer!" Rock-throwing demonstrators also clashed in Cochabamba and other cities.

Earlier, Morales had lashed out at his political opponents, calling his removal a return to the bleak era of coups d'état overseen by Latin American militaries that long dominated the region. "(Opponents) lie and try to blame us for the chaos and violence that they provoked," Morales tweeted Monday.

His nearly 14-year presidency abruptly ended Sunday, hours after he had accepted calls for a new election by an Organization of American States team that found a "heap of observed irregularities" in the Oct. 20 election whose official result showed Morales getting just enough votes to avoid a runoff against a united opposition.

Morales stepped aside only after the military chief, Gen. Williams Kaliman, called on him to quit to allow the restoration of peace and stability. His vice president also resigned as did the Senate president, who was next in line. The only other official listed by the constitution as a successor, the head of the lower house, had resigned earlier.

Bolivian opposition leader Carlos Mesa said Morales was brought down by a popular uprising, not the military, countering Morales' claim he was the victim of a coup. The military made a decision not to deploy in the streets because "they didn't want to take lives," said Mesa who finished second in the contested October vote.

There were no immediate signs that the military itself was maneuvering for power, although analysts warned the power vacuum opened up space for the military to potentially step in.

"I think we have to keep a close eye on what the military does," said Jennifer Cyr, associate professor of political science and Latin American studies at the University of Arizona. "Are they overstepping their role?"

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Michael Shifter, head of the Washington-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue, warned that, "Bolivia is bitterly polarized and needs new leadership that is able to bring the country together."

"The temptation for any vengeance against Morales supporters needs to be resisted. That would be a recipe for continued conflict and chaos that could well put at risk some of the country's undeniable socio-economic gains over the past decade."

The first member of Bolivia's indigenous population to become president, Morales brought unusual stability and economic progress, helping to cut poverty and inequality in the impoverished nation. He remains deeply popular among many Bolivians, and his backers have clashed with opposition demonstrators in the disturbances that followed the October vote.

The leadership crisis escalated in the hours leading up to Morales' resignation. Two government ministers in charge of mines and hydrocarbons, the Chamber of Deputies president and three other pro-government legislators announced their resignations. Some said opposition supporters had threatened their families.

In addition, the head of Bolivia's Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Maria Eugenia Choque, stepped down after the release of the OAS findings. The attorney general's office said it would investigate the tribunal's judges for possible fraud, and police later said Choque had been detained, along with 37 other officials on suspicion of electoral crimes.

Morales was elected in 2006 and went on to preside over a commodities-fed economic boom in South America's poorest country. The combative former leader of a coca growers union paved roads, sent Bolivia's first satellite into space and curbed inflation.

But even many backers eventually grew wary of his reluctance to leave power.

He ran for a fourth term after refusing to abide by the results of a referendum that upheld term limits for the president — restrictions thrown out by a top court critics claimed was stacked in his favor.

After the Oct. 20 vote, Morales declared himself the outright winner even before official results indicated he obtained just enough support to avoid a runoff with opposition leader Mesa, a former president. A 24-hour lapse in releasing results also fueled suspicions of vote-rigging.

Associated Press writer Paola Flores in La Paz and Franklin Briceno in Lima, Peru, contributed to this report.

Hockey commentator Don Cherry fired for rant over immigrants

By **ROB GILLIES** Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Don Cherry, Canada's most polarizing, flamboyant and opinionated hockey commentator, was fired Monday for calling immigrants "you people" in a television rant in which he said new immigrants are not honoring the country's fallen soldiers.

Rogers Sportsnet President Bart Yabsley announced the decision following discussions with the 85-year-old broadcaster.

"It has been decided it is the right time for him to immediately step down," Yabsley said in a statement. "During the broadcast, he made divisive remarks that do not represent our values or what we stand for."

Cherry derided immigrants by saying Saturday night, "You people ... you love our way of life, you love our milk and honey, at least you can pay a couple bucks for a poppy or something like that. These guys paid for your way of life that you enjoy in Canada, these guys paid the biggest price."

The tradition of wearing poppies in Canada honors the country's war dead on Remembrance Day, which was observed Monday.

Cherry has provided commentary following the first intermission of "Hockey Night in Canada" for more than three decades.

He said late Monday he would not be apologizing.

"I know what I said and I meant it. Still do. Everybody in Canada should wear a poppy to honor our fallen soldiers," Cherry told The Canadian Press.

Cherry denies he was singling out visible minorities.

"I did not say minorities, I did not say immigrants. If you watch 'Coach's Corner,' I did not say that. I

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said 'everybody.' And I said 'you people,'" Cherry said.

"Irish, Scotch, anybody that's newcomers to Canada, and they should wear a poppy to honor our dead from the past, whether they're Scotch or Irish or English, or where they come from."

Cherry added he could have stayed on "if I had turned into a tame robot who nobody would recognize."

"I can't do that after 38 years," he said

Known for his outlandish suits, Cherry often mangled the names of foreign-born players over the years and occasionally weighed in with thoughts on politics. He has been a part of the Hockey Night broadcast since 1980.

"Don is synonymous with hockey and has played an integral role in growing the game," Yabsley said. "We would like to thank Don for his contributions to hockey and sports broadcasting in Canada."

The National Hockey League said in a statement that Cherry's remarks were "offensive and contrary to the values we believe in."

Ron MacLean, the longtime co-host of "Coach's Corner," apologized Sunday evening.

"Don Cherry made remarks that were hurtful, discriminatory, where flat-out wrong," MacLean said. "I owe you an apology too. That's the big thing I want to emphasize. I sat there, I did not catch it., I did not respond."

MacLean didn't object to Cherry's remarks Saturday and gave Cherry a thumbs-up during the broadcast.

In his remarks, Cherry complained that in downtown Toronto "nobody wears a poppy" and in small cities they do.

The Canadian Broadcasting Standards Council said it was so overloaded with complaints about the segment that it exceeded the organization's technical processing capacity.

Budweiser, the sponsor of Cherry's "Coach's Corner," put out a statement condemning Cherry's comments.

"The comments made Saturday on Coach's Corner were clearly inappropriate and divisive, and in no way reflect Budweiser's views," says Todd Allen, vice president of marketing for Labatt Breweries of Canada, which has Budweiser as one of its brands. "As a sponsor of the broadcast, we immediately expressed our concerns and respect the decision which was made by Sportsnet today."

Before beginning his life in front of the camera in 1980, Cherry was a rugged defenseman and career minor leaguer. He played all of one game in the NHL — a playoff game with the Boston Bruins, with whom he won coach of the year honors in 1976.

In 1989, when asked about then-Winnipeg Jets assistant coach Alpo Suhonen, Cherry said his name sounded like "dog food."

Cherry was voted the seventh-greatest Canadian on The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television project, The Greatest Canadian, in 2004. He finished ahead of Wayne Gretzky and Canada's first prime minister Sir John A. MacDonald.

That same year, Cherry was publicly reprimanded by the CBC and subjected to a seven-second tape delay when he said only "Europeans and French guys" wore visors.

In 2013 Cherry said he was against women reporters being allowed in NHL dressing rooms. Last year he asked his co-host McLean if he and his "left-wing pinko friends" could explain their concerns over rising global temperatures while Toronto was experiencing a cold snap.

Cherry's remarks on Saturday prompted Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, who is Sikh, and Toronto Mayor John Tory to say Cherry's remarks were wrong. Tory said Cherry was "way off base to question the devotion of newer Canadians." Bonnie Crombie, the mayor of Mississauga, the Toronto suburb where Cherry lives, called Cherry's remarks despicable.

The Royal Canadian Legion, which raises money through the sale of poppies, said Cherry's "personal opinion was hurtful, divisive and in no way condoned by the Legion. We do remain appreciative of his passionate support for Veterans."

"We know many new Canadians understand and welcome the tradition of the red poppy and will continue to educate all citizens about the significance of this powerful symbol," the statement said.

___ More AP NHL: <http://apnews.com/NHL> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Mulvaney to file his own impeachment lawsuit, lawyers say

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney plans to file his own lawsuit over testimony in the House impeachment inquiry, withdrawing his bid to join a separate case filed last month by a former Trump adviser, his attorneys said Monday.

The plans were revealed in a court filing in which Mulvaney abandoned his earlier request to become part of a suit by Charles Kupperman, President Donald Trump's former deputy national security adviser.

Lawyers for Mulvaney had asked Friday evening to join that lawsuit, saying his case presented similar legal issues to that of Kupperman. But they switched course following a conference call Monday afternoon in which a federal judge said he was not inclined to grant the request. The lawyers said they instead plan to file their own lawsuit, seeking the court's guidance on whether Mulvaney must follow a subpoena from Congress directing him to testify or an order from the White House that he not appear.

Mulvaney faced opposition from lawyers for both Kupperman and House lawmakers in his bid to join the lawsuit, underscoring the lack of a unified approach from Trump administration officials in responding to the impeachment inquiry, which enters a critical public this week with public hearings. Several officials have already testified behind closed doors in defiance of White House orders, while others have skipped their scheduled appearances.

At issue Monday was whether Mulvaney could join Kupperman's lawsuit, which asks a court to decide on compliance with congressional subpoenas and to resolve conflicting directives from the White House and Congress. Like Kupperman, Mulvaney has defied a subpoena from impeachment investigators. His lawyers argued on the conference call that there was "an incredible amount of overlap" in the two cases since both men have been close advisers to the president and in regular contact with him.

"Your Honor, we're talking about the same impeachment inquiry, the same type of subpoena, in connection with the same kind of work at the White House, as close personal advisers of the President," said Christopher Muha, a lawyer for Mulvaney.

The Associated Press obtained a transcript of the call.

Kupperman's subpoena has since been withdrawn and the impeachment inquiry seems to be moving on without his testimony. On Monday's call, U.S. District Judge Richard Leon asked Muha what would happen to his case if he determined that Kupperman's lawsuit was moot now that the subpoena has been withdrawn. Muha said, "Our suit would continue, we believe, because we would have a live subpoena."

Cooper also represents former national security adviser John Bolton, who did not appear for a scheduled interview last week and who has not been subpoenaed by the House. Cooper has previously said that Bolton would not testify without a subpoena. Any House-issued subpoena would put him in the exact same situation as Kupperman.

In a court filing Monday and again on the call, Cooper cited what he said were key distinctions between Mulvaney and Kupperman's situations, including that Mulvaney has already spoken publicly about issues central to the impeachment inquiry. On October 18, Mulvaney acknowledged during a White House briefing that Trump's decision to hold up military aid to Ukraine was linked to his demand that Kyiv conduct politically charged investigations that the president sought. Those comments create a "serious question" as to whether Mulvaney waived the immunity protection by speaking publicly.

"Plaintiff, in contrast, has never publicly disclosed information relating to any of his official duties, including the matters under investigation by the House," Cooper wrote of Kupperman.

House Democrats separately opposed Mulvaney's effort to join the suit. They said Kupperman's case is moot since the subpoena directing him to appear has been withdrawn.

At the end of the call, Leon said he was not inclined to rule in Mulvaney's favor but also noted that he could file his own suit. Mulvaney's lawyers indicated soon after that they would do exactly that.

Mets' Alonso, Astros' Álvarez named Rookies of the Year

By JAKE SEINER AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Young sluggers known for their prodigious power, Pete Alonso and Yordan Álvarez knocked the Rookie of the Year voting out of the park.

In a rarity for the major league home run leader, Alonso didn't land the biggest blow.

Alonso, a star first baseman with the New York Mets, got 29 of 30 first-place votes for NL Rookie of the Year. Braves right-hander Mike Soroka got the other first-place vote and finished second in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America revealed Monday night.

"To just win the award, doesn't matter if it's unanimous or not," Alonso said. "It's still such a blessing."

Álvarez, a hulking designated hitter from the Houston Astros, earned all 30 first-place votes to become the 24th unanimous selection since the award was introduced in 1949.

"I was really not expecting it," Álvarez said through a translator.

The 24-year-old Alonso led the majors with 53 homers, one better than Yankees slugger Aaron Judge's rookie record from 2017. "Polar Bear" Pete became the face of baseball in Flushing, beloved for his power, personality and philanthropy. He's the sixth Met to win the award and first since teammate Jacob deGrom in 2014.

Padres shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. was third in NL balloting. The only voter to place Soroka ahead of Alonso was Andrew Baggarly of The Athletic. Alonso was the only NL player named on every ballot.

Álvarez, a 22-year-old from Cuba, played 87 games after debuting in June, fewest by any position player to win AL Rookie of the Year. He hit 27 homers, batted .313, drove in 78 and had a 1.067 OPS for the pennant-winning Astros. He struggled at times in the postseason, but that was after voting had concluded.

"My whole family was telling me I would be the winner of the award," Álvarez said. "And once I was selected as the winner, I was very excited."

He's the third Houston player to win, following teammate Carlos Correa in 2015 and Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell in 1991.

Álvarez easily beat out the other AL finalists, with Orioles left-hander John Means second and Rays infielder Brandon Lowe third.

The Mets agitated their fans by stashing Alonso at Triple-A through the end of the 2018 season, citing his inadequate defense at first base. He went to spring training this year battling with buddy Dominic Smith for the starting job, and Alonso wasn't even certain to crack the opening-day roster until being declared New York's primary first baseman a day before the regular season.

Alonso said he was challenged by first-year general manager Brodie Van Wagenen to "show up in shape and earn your spot."

"I felt like I answered the bell," Alonso said.

The former Florida Gator became an instant star in the Mets' blue and orange. Wielding his hefty 34-inch, 32-ounce birch bat, Alonso hit .292 with nine homers, 26 RBIs and a 1.024 OPS over March and April, claiming the first of three NL Rookie of the Month honors. He put on a power-packed show while winning the All-Star Home Run Derby, and then cemented his fan-favorite status by donating \$100,000 of his \$1 million derby prize to charities supporting injured soldiers and 9/11 workers.

"Pete kept the same attitude that he came in spring training with through the entire season," Van Wagenen said. "He was a good teammate. He was a true professional. And obviously, he was a lightning in a bottle for all Mets fans."

Alonso wore a hat reading "100%" on the broadcast while being named the NL winner, but his vote total didn't match. The upbeat slugger was all smiles as usual — just like when teammates ripped off his jersey following a game-ending walk in September.

"I'm not taking my shirt off for this one," Alonso joked.

With a left-handed swing reminiscent of long-legged Hall of Famer Willie McCovey — another unanimous Rookie of the Year pick — Álvarez immediately entrenched himself in the middle of Houston's batting order. He hit seven homers in his first 12 games, and his OPS ranked fifth in the majors after he debuted June 9.

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Álvarez's OPS was the highest ever by a rookie, surpassing Shoeless Joe Jackson's 1.058 mark in 1911. "It's a dream for every player to get to the major leagues," Alvarez said. "I was basically living my dream." McCovey appeared in 52 games while winning the NL award in 1959, the only total lower than Álvarez. Álvarez is the fourth Cuban-born Rookie of the Year, joining José Canseco (1986), José Fernández (2013) and Jose Abreu (2014).

He is the second consecutive DH to win the AL prize, following two-way Angels star Shohei Ohtani. Álvarez said he is preparing to be an outfielder in 2020 by working in Florida on his agility and speed.

ON DECK

Managers of the Year will be announced Tuesday. The AL ballot figures to be tight between the Twins' Rocco Baldelli, Yankees' Aaron Boone and Rays' Kevin Cash. Baldelli led the Twins to 101 victories, a 23-win improvement from 2018; Boone guided the Yankees through an unprecedented onslaught of injuries to an AL East title; and Cash pushed payroll-strapped Tampa Bay into the postseason.

The NL finalists are the Brewers' Craig Counsell, Cardinals' Mike Shildt and Braves' Brian Snitker. Nationals manager Dave Martinez didn't crack the top three despite steadying the World Series champs after a 19-31 start.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this report.

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What's coming in impeachment: The inquiry goes public

WASHINGTON (AP) — For only the fourth time in U.S. history, the House of Representatives has started a presidential impeachment inquiry. House committees are trying to determine whether President Donald Trump violated his oath of office by asking Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden's family and the 2016 U.S. presidential election all while the White House was withholding military aid to the East European ally that borders Russia.

A quick forecast of what's coming this week:

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, HEARINGS

Americans will have their first public view of the impeachment inquiry, as the proceedings emerge from the secure closed-door facility in the Capitol basement to live hearings.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., will gavel in the sessions Wednesday and Friday.

What's unclear, though, is what people will see in two days of hearings. Will the proceedings serve as a clarifying moment for the country, when a common narrative emerges over the president's actions and whether or not they are, in fact, impeachable? Or in this era of peak partisanship, will the days devolve into a reality-TV episode showcasing the divide?

Unlike Watergate in the 1970s or even Bill Clinton's impeachment in the 1990s, Americans consume their news at different times and in different ways, making it hard to know if this week will produce a where-were-you-when moment.

SPOTLIGHT ON WITNESSES

Bill Taylor . George Kent . Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch.

Once little-known State Department officials are about to become household names as they testify publicly in the impeachment inquiry.

Taylor, a Vietnam War veteran who has spent 50 years in public service, will set the tone as the first witness. All three have testified in the closed setting, defying the White House's instructions not to comply. But they are providing a remarkably consistent account of the Trump administration's actions.

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Republicans want to hear from others, including Biden's son Hunter, as well as the anonymous government whistleblower who sparked the impeachment inquiry, but Democrats who have majority control are not likely to agree to those requests.

PERSUADING VOTERS

Republicans have struggled to articulate a unified defense of Trump. Democrats have had difficulty synthesizing their arguments into a simple narrative for the public.

Both will be sharpening efforts to persuade American voters.

Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" what the public will hear is "immensely patriotic, beautiful articulated — articulate people telling the story of a president who — let's forget quid pro quo; quid pro quo is one of these things to muddy the works — who extorted a vulnerable country by holding up military aid."

But Republicans have focused their attacks with a resolution criticizing the House process. Some in the party want to reveal the name of the government whistleblower.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures," "I consider any impeachment in the House that doesn't allow us to know who the whistleblower is to be invalid, because without the whistleblower complaint, we wouldn't be talking about any of this."

Graham added that there's a "need for Hunter Biden to be called to adequately defend the president. And if you don't do those two things, it's a complete joke."

Joe Biden scoffed at the idea that his son should testify, saying Monday: "There is zero rationale for that to happen. This is all a diversion."

WHAT WILL TRUMP DO?

For those watching television Wednesday afternoon, the president is offering some counterprogramming to the impeachment inquiry's public hearing: a joint news conference with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, amid strains in relations between the two nations.

On impeachment, the president tried to give his allies on Capitol Hill some talking points Sunday, tweeting out his advice for how they should defend him — namely by insisting, as he did, that his call with the Ukrainian president was "PERFECT."

"Read the Transcript!" Trump intoned on Twitter. "There was NOTHING said that was in any way wrong. Republicans, don't be led into the fools trap of saying it was not perfect, but is not impeachable. No, it is much stronger than that. NOTHING WAS DONE WRONG!"

The White House released a rough transcript of his July call and Trump also says he will release, probably on Tuesday, an account of an April phone call he had with Ukraine's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, soon after Zelenskiy won election.

Testimony in the closed proceedings shows that the April congratulatory call did not raise concerns, but the tone shifted on the July call that caused alarms among U.S. officials.

MORE TRANSCRIPTS, MORE HEARINGS COMING

House investigators have been steadily releasing transcripts from hundreds of pages of testimony they received behind closed doors.

More transcripts are expected. Nearly a dozen people have testified in the inquiry and investigators are building the public record of their findings. But this week's hearings will probably not be the last.

House investigators may still call others to testify, most likely Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, an Army officer assigned to the National Security Council, and Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser on Russia. Both testified behind closed doors of their concerns about the Trump administration's effort to push Ukraine to investigate Democrats.

Eventually the Intelligence Committee will send a report of its findings to the Judiciary Committee, which would decide whether to pursue articles of impeachment against the president. A House vote on impeach-

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ment could come by Christmas.

WORTH READING

The House committees probing Trump's Ukraine dealings are releasing transcripts of the depositions:

Taylor transcript: <http://apne.ws/vtAi9aX>

Kent transcript: <http://apne.ws/gX69QfC>

Yovanovitch transcript: <http://apne.ws/mBvxghb>

Vindman transcript: <http://apne.ws/hOMTyHP>

Hill transcript: <http://apne.ws/ShWUXZO>

Gordon Sondland, U.S. ambassador to the European Union: <http://apne.ws/8NmIA02>

Kurt Volker, former U.S. envoy to Ukraine: <http://apne.ws/rTdEmG4>

Michael McKinley, former adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: <http://apne.ws/PrBMFaM>

This story has been corrected to show Graham spoke on "Sunday Morning Futures," not "Fox News Sunday."

Winter already? Snow, deep freeze from Rockies to East Coast

CHICAGO (AP) — An arctic air mass that brought snow and ice to an area stretching from the Rocky Mountains to northern New England on Monday was poised to give way to record-breaking cold temperatures.

In mid-Michigan, three people were killed in a two-vehicle crash that the Eaton County sheriff's department attributed to heavy snowfall. And in Kansas, the highway patrol reported that a truck lost control on an icy highway and slammed head-on into another truck, killing an 8-year-old girl in the other vehicle.

In Chicago, where as much as 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow fell, an Envoy Air flight from Greensboro, North Carolina, slid off an icy runway at O'Hare International Airport as it tried to land at about 7:45 a.m. None of the 38 passengers and three crew members were injured, according to the city's aviation department.

Snowfall totals could reach up to a foot or more in some areas of Indiana, Michigan and Vermont, according to the National Weather Service. Other places in the path of the air mass saw ice and rain. Denver saw just a few inches of snow but suffered numerous accidents on icy roadways because the snow fell during the morning commute.

About 1,220 flights were canceled at Chicago's airports and officials in the area opened warming centers. In Michigan, some schools closed early, as did dozens of schools in the St. Louis area.

The snow and ice was just the first punch from a weather system that pushed frigid air from Siberia across an area stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the East Coast. Temperatures below freezing were forecast as far south as Texas' Gulf Coast.

"This is an air mass that's more typical for the middle of January than mid-November," said National Weather Service meteorologist Kevin Birk. "It is pretty much about the coldest we can be this time of year (and) it could break records all over the region."

Winter doesn't officially start until December 22 this year.

According to Birk, the lows on Tuesday could drop into the single digits or low teens in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, with highs climbing no further than the low 20s. The forecast high of 21 degrees (-6 Celsius) for Chicago would be a full seven degrees lower than the previous record set for Nov. 12.

In some areas, temperatures plunged quickly. Temperatures in Denver climbed past 70 degrees (21 Celsius) over the weekend only to fall to 14 degrees (-10 Celsius) early Monday.

One area where the low temperatures was particularly concerning was in central Wyoming, where officials were searching for a 16-year-old autistic boy who went missing wearing only his pajamas on Sunday, prompting a search that included certified human trackers, helicopters, dogs, and planes.

The National Weather Service said areas west of the Rocky Mountains would be spared the arctic air, with above average temperatures expected in some of those places.

Democrats, GOP to vie for impeachment narrative -- on TV

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Impeachable or not?

Both Democrats and Republicans see the televised impeachment hearings starting this week as their first and best opportunity to shape public opinion about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

Democrats believe the testimony will paint a vivid picture of presidential misconduct. Republicans say it will demonstrate just how lacking the evidence is for impeachment.

The stakes are high, and historic. Trump faces the prospect of being just the third American president impeached by the House of Representatives, a dubious distinction for a commander in chief facing reelection. Yet Democrats are privately uncertain about how the public will view the proceedings, particularly if Trump is impeached along party lines.

In the hearings beginning Wednesday, Democrats plan a narrow focus and a narrative retelling of Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate Democrats as his administration withheld military aid to an Eastern European ally on Russia's border.

All three witnesses this week — top Ukraine diplomat William Taylor, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch — expressed concerns about Trump's efforts in closed-door depositions last month.

This time they'll be on live TV — and newscasts for days afterward — for all Americans to see and hear.

The Democrats see all three as highly credible, detail oriented and well positioned to tell that story to the American people.

"This is a very simple, straightforward act," said California Rep. Jackie Speier, a member of the House intelligence committee, which is conducting the hearings. "The president broke the law. He went on a telephone call with the president of Ukraine and said I have a favor, though, and then proceeded to ask for an investigation of his rival."

Democrats say their best evidence isn't even from the witnesses themselves, but from the rough transcript of that July call between Trump himself and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Trump asked for the "favor" of the investigations as Zelenskyy mentioned the military aid.

The witnesses have added detail on the circumstances of the call and have told investigators of concerns swirling in different corners of the administration as Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pushed for the probes into Democratic rival Joe Biden and his family and into a possible Ukraine role in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Taylor and Kent will testify on Wednesday, Yovanovitch on Friday. Yovanovitch plays a central role in the inquiry, as her ouster at Trump and Giuliani's direction in May raised questions throughout the U.S. diplomatic community. Taylor was brought in to replace her and navigated Trump's demands throughout the summer as the president brought his requests directly to Zelenskyy.

Kent is a senior State Department official overseeing Ukraine who told investigators that he understood, as other witnesses did, the military aid to be in exchange for the investigations — the quid pro quo that is at the heart of the Democratic probe.

Trump — who will surely be watching at the White House — has strongly denied any quid pro quo, and has bashed the diplomats by saying that none of them had firsthand knowledge of his thinking.

"It seems that nobody has any firsthand knowledge," the president said last week.

Republican questioning of the witnesses at the hearings is expected to turn on that point.

None of the witnesses has testified to relevant conversations that they had with Trump himself, and several of the accounts involve conversations they heard about from other people. While closed-door testimony from multiple witnesses has largely reinforced the same story, Republicans say that the Democrats don't have enough direct evidence.

GOP lawmakers are also expected to defend the president's words on the July call, which Trump has repeatedly called "perfect." They argue that those words don't explicitly show a quid pro quo.

The GOP grilling is expected to veer into other arguments as well. A proposed witness list from House

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Republicans includes some figures from former special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation — a possible attempt by California Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the intelligence panel, to turn the narrative to GOP concerns that officials at the Department of Justice were biased against Trump.

To make their best case, Republicans have moved one of Trump's top defenders, Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, onto the intelligence panel temporarily. And one of Jordan's top aides on the Oversight panel, Steve Castor, is expected to question the witnesses at the top of the hearing alongside a top Democratic aide to the intelligence panel, former federal prosecutor Daniel Goldman.

While Trump teased on Saturday that he might release the transcript of an earlier call with the Ukrainian president on Tuesday, White House officials are not confirming that. Such a release could be an attempt to dampen the effects of the open hearings Wednesday, though the congressional inquiry has moved beyond just Trump's call with Zelenskyy.

As Republicans in Congress make their points through questioning at the Capitol, the White House will face its first major communication test since the hiring of former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and former Treasury spokesman Tony Seyegh to work on what the West Wing calls "proactive impeachment messaging."

A White House official said Bondi and Seyegh have not started yet and may not be in place before the Wednesday hearings, owing to paperwork associated with entering White House employment.

Since the onset of the impeachment probe, Trump has largely limited his efforts to objecting to the process surrounding the investigation and attacking the career public servants involved as "Never Trumpers." But he has been under pressure from Republican allies to engage on the substance of the allegations against him — claims that will only grow more vivid once the public testimony begins.

White House officials are coordinating with the Republican National Committee and congressional Republicans on rapid response, aiming to shine a spotlight on moments they believe are exculpatory for the president or damaging to his opposition.

The RNC also will be coordinating surrogate bookings and local TV hits, with an emphasis on putting pressure on vulnerable House Democrats. Eric Trump will hold a conference call Thursday with local reporters across the country, with an emphasis on keeping pressure on those Trump-district Democrats.

But Trump's strategy has put Republicans who feel uncomfortable with his behavior in a difficult position, too. Some of those lawmakers have tried a different strategy.

"I believe it was inappropriate. I do not believe it was impeachable," said Texas Rep. Mac Thornberry, the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, of Trump's call for the Ukraine investigations of Democrats.

But Thornberry soon saw the limits of that approach — at least in the president's eyes.

"The call to the Ukrainian President was PERFECT," Trump tweeted shortly after Thornberry's television appearance. "Read the Transcript! There was NOTHING said that was in any way wrong. Republicans, don't be led into the fools trap of saying it was not perfect, but is not impeachable. No, it is much stronger than that. NOTHING WAS DONE WRONG!"

Speier and Thornberry both spoke on ABC's "This Week."

AP Writer Zeke Miller contributed.

China's Alibaba, JD report booming Singles Day sales

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese e-commerce giants Alibaba and JD.com reported nearly \$70 billion in sales Monday on Singles Day, an annual marketing event that is the world's busiest online shopping day.

The day was a temporary relief to retailers that face fading demand as Chinese consumers tighten their belts, anxious over slowing economic growth and the tariff war with Washington.

University students created Singles Day in the 1990s as an alternative to Valentine's Day for people

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without romantic partners. Alibaba adopted it as a marketing tool a decade ago.

Rivals including JD.com, China's biggest online direct retailer, and electronics seller Suning joined in. The tactic has caught on in other Asian countries, too.

The creators picked Nov. 11 because the date is written with four singles - "11 11."

On Monday, retailers offered discounts on goods from smartphones to craft beer to health care packages. "Yesterday night, I was browsing past 11 p.m. Many of my friends around me were staying up till 2 a.m. to buy stuff," said Zhu Yirun, a graduate student in Beijing.

Alibaba said sales by merchants on its platforms totaled 268.4 billion yuan (\$38.3 billion) for the 24 hours ending at midnight Monday after passing its 2018 total before 6 p.m. JD.com said its sales were 204.4 billion yuan (\$29.1 billion).

Alibaba kicked off the event Sunday night with a concert by Taylor Swift at a Shanghai stadium.

E-commerce grew rapidly in China due to a lack of traditional retailing networks and government efforts to promote internet use. The country has the biggest online population with more than 800 million web users.

Alibaba, JD.com, Baidu and other internet giants have expanded into consumer finance, entertainment and offline retailing.

Monday was Alibaba's first Singles Day since its founder, Jack Ma, stepped down as chairman in September. He stayed on as a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors.

E-commerce has created some of China's biggest fortunes.

Ma, 55, is China's richest entrepreneur with a net worth of \$39 billion, according to the Hurun Report, which tracks the country's wealthy.

Colin Huang of Pinduoduo was No. 7 on Hurun's list at \$19 billion. Zhang Jindong of Suning was No. 15 at \$14 billion and Richard Liu of JD.com was No. 28 at \$11 billion.

Last year, Alibaba reported Singles Day sales of 213.5 billion yuan (\$30.8 billion), or more than 13 times its daily average of about 16 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion).

Suning said sales of smartphones and other electronics passed 1 billion yuan (\$160 million) in the first minute after midnight. The company said later sales were up 86% over 2018's Singles Day but gave no total.

Dangdang, an online book retailer, said it sold 6.8 million copies in the first hour.

Chinese online spending is growing faster than total retail sales but also is weakening as economic growth decelerates. Growth declined to a multi-decade low of 6% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in September.

Online sales of goods rose 16.8% over a year earlier in the first nine months of 2019 to 5.8 trillion yuan (\$825 billion), according to official data. That was more than double the 8.2% growth rate for total consumer spending but down from an average of about 30% in recent years.

E-commerce made up 19.5% of Chinese consumer spending, compared with about 11% of spending for American consumers.

Yang Wei, a migrant worker in Beijing, planned to skip the online rush.

"I feel like the difference (in price) is not that big, and since everyone's buying all at once, the logistics and delivery are slower," said Yang. "I think that it's actually better for me to buy when not everyone's buying."

Burger King brings a plant-based Whopper to Europe

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Burger King is introducing a plant-based burger in Europe. But it's not the Impossible Whopper that's been a hit with U.S. customers.

Instead, a Dutch company called The Vegetarian Butcher will supply the new soy-based Rebel Whopper. It will go on sale Tuesday at 2,400 restaurants across Europe.

Impossible Foods' burger hasn't been approved for sale in the European Union because it contains ge-

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netically modified ingredients. The EU requires testing on such products before they are sold.

A spokesman for the Dutch government confirmed that Impossible submitted an application last month and is awaiting a ruling from the European Food Safety Authority.

The Vegetarian Butcher was founded in 2007. Unlike Impossible, which only makes burger meat, The Vegetarian Butcher makes plant-based chicken, hot dogs, sausages and even tuna, and sells its products in 17 European countries. Consumer goods company Unilever acquired The Vegetarian Butcher at the end of 2018.

The Impossible Whopper — made by California-based Impossible Foods — attracted many new U.S. customers to Burger King when it debuted this spring. Miami-based Restaurant Brands International — which owns Burger King — said the chain's U.S. sales rose 6% in the third quarter, compared to growth of 1% the prior year.

The Impossible Whopper was such a success that Burger King is now testing other versions — including a kid's Impossible Cheeseburger — at 180 U.S. restaurants.

Impossible gets heme — the protein that gives its burger meat-like flavor and texture — from soy leghemoglobin, which is found in the roots of soy plants. To make heme in high volume, Impossible inserts DNA from soy into yeast and ferments it.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration doesn't approve foods before they go on the market and relies on companies to ensure their safety. But the FDA does require approval of additives such as artificial colors. Since soy leghemoglobin also gives Impossible burgers their color, the agency required Impossible to get approval before selling uncooked burgers in grocery stores. The FDA approved Impossible's petition in July.

Impossible Foods wouldn't say when it expects to sell the Impossible burger in Europe. Impossible burgers have been sold in restaurants in the U.S., Hong Kong and Singapore for years.

Burger King said it partners with different suppliers globally for many of its products, not just plant-based burgers.

"Given the positive reactions to the product in the U.S.A. and raising demand in Europe, Burger King wanted to bring this category to Europe as soon as possible," the company said in a statement.

Sales of plant-based meat substitutes have grown an average of 22% annually in Eastern Europe over the last five years, and 13% annually in Western Europe, according to Euromonitor International. That's even faster than the 12% annual growth in the U.S.

Group says misinformation on the rise on Facebook

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a story Nov. 6 about misinformation on Facebook, The Associated Press reported erroneously that a false story about Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar had an estimated 770,000 views. It had an estimated 77,000 views.

A corrected version of the story is below:

Group says misinformation on the rise on Facebook

An advocacy group tracking misinformation says it has found an increase in fake political news shared on Facebook ahead of the 2020 presidential elections

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An advocacy group tracking misinformation says it has found an increase in fake political news shared on Facebook ahead of the 2020 presidential elections.

The group, Avaaz, said Wednesday that misinformation is still being spread on Facebook despite measures the company has put in place since the 2016 elections.

The researchers tracked the 100 most widely shared false news stories between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31 this year. The stories they tracked had all been fact-checked and debunked by Facebook's third-party fact-checking partners, which include The Associated Press.

The group found that, collectively, the fake stories were posted more than 2.3 million times and had an estimated 158.9 million views, along with 8.9 million likes, comments and shares. The false stories targeted both political parties, though Avaaz says the majority were against Democrats and liberals. Most of the false news sources were individual users' or non-official political pages.

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Avaaz, a left-leaning online advocacy group, said stories it found spreading even after they were debunked. That included one falsely claiming that President Donald Trump's grandfather was a pimp and a tax evader and that his father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. That story had an estimated 29 million views. Another story falsely claiming that Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar attended an al-Qaeda training camp had an estimated 77,000 views.

In response to the report, Facebook said it has taken steps to reduce the amount of false news items posted and shared on its service, including more prominent warning labels on the content.

"Multiple independent studies have found that we've cut the amount of fake news on Facebook by more than half since the 2016 election," the company said.

Avaaz said in the report that the findings are the "tip of the iceberg of disinformation" ahead of the 2020 elections.

How major US stock indexes fared Monday The Associated Press undefined

U.S. stocks mostly sank on Monday as uncertainty continues to hang over U.S.-China trade talks, or at least over investors' perception of them. President Donald Trump said over the weekend that reports about U.S. willingness to lift tariffs were "incorrect," only two days after a Chinese official said both sides agreed to rollbacks if talks progress. The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up to another record, largely due to a big gain by Boeing.

On Monday:

The S&P 500 index fell 6.07 points, or 0.2%, at 3,087.01.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged up 10.25 points, or less than 0.1%, to 27,691.49.

The Nasdaq slipped 11.04 points, or 0.1%, to 8,464.28.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies lost 4.09, or 0.3%, to 1,594.77.

For the year:

The S&P 500 is up 580.16 points, or 23.1%.

The Dow is up 4,364.03 points, or 18.7%.

The Nasdaq is up 1,829.00 points, or 27.6%.

The Russell 2000 is up 246.21 points, or 18.3%.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2019. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

On this date:

In 1815, pioneering American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, New York.

In 1920, baseball got its first "czar" as Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected commissioner of the American and National Leagues.

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., giving the green light to traffic.

In 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

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In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial (MAW'-ree-al), the winner of a runoff.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov (ahn-DROH'-pawf) was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1990, Japanese Emperor Akihito (ah-kee-hee-toh) formally assumed the Chrysanthemum Throne. Actress Eve Arden died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 82.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin (il-YOO'-shin)-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 1998, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley filed a \$433 million-dollar lawsuit against the firearms industry, declaring that it had created a public nuisance by flooding the streets with weapons deliberately marketed to criminals. (A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2000; an appeals court ruled in 2002 that the city of Chicago could proceed; but the Illinois Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit in 2004.)

Ten years ago: Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan (nih-DAHL' mah-LEEK' hah-SAHN') was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting rampage. (Hasan was later convicted and sentenced to death.) James R. Lilley, a longtime CIA operative and later the U.S. ambassador to China, died in Washington, D.C., at age 81.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) announced a ground-breaking agreement between their countries to curb carbon emissions blamed for climate change. Landing with a bounce after traveling 4 billion miles, a European Space Agency probe, Philae (FY'-lee), made history by successfully reaching the icy, dusty surface of a speeding comet. Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw was a unanimous choice for his third NL Cy Young Award, and Cleveland's Corey Kluber (KLOO'-bur) edged Seattle's Felix Hernandez to win the AL honor for the first time. At 17, Lydia Ko became the youngest player to win the LPGA Tour's rookie of the year award.

One year ago: Democrat Kyrsten Sinema (SIN'-uh-muh) emerged as the winner of Arizona's open U.S. Senate seat, beating Republican Rep. Martha McSally after a slow vote count that dragged on for nearly a week. Palestinian militants bombarded Israel with dozens of rockets and mortar shells while Israeli warplanes struck targets throughout the Gaza Strip in what appeared to be the most intense exchange of fire since a 2014 war. Stan Lee, the Marvel Comics writer and publisher who revolutionized the comic book and developed superhero characters that made billions for Hollywood, died at the age of 95.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Brian Hyland is 76. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 76. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 75. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 75. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 74. Rock musician Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 72. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 70. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 69. Actress Megan Mullally is 61. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 60. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH') is 58. Actor Sam Lloyd is 56. Rock musician David Ellefson is 55. Retired MLB All-Star Sammy Sosa is 51. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 49. Actress Rebecca Wisocky is 48. Actress Radha Mitchell is 46. Actress Lourdes Benedicto is 45. Actress Tamala Jones is 45. Actress Angela Watson is 45. Singer Tevin Campbell is 43. Actress Ashley Williams is 41. Actress Cote de Pablo is 40. Actor Ryan Gosling is 39. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 39. Actress Anne Hathaway is 37. Pop singer Omarion is 35. NBA All-Star Russell Westbrook is 31. Folk-rock musician Griffin Goldsmith (Dawes) is 29. Actress Macey Cruthird is 27.

Thought for Today: "I would have girls regard themselves not as adjectives but as nouns." — Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

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