

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 1 of 45

- [1- Dog License Ad](#)
- [2- Bowling Scoring](#)
- [2- 54% Violations in GF&P checks](#)
- [3- Suicide Deaths Surprisingly Common in South Dakota](#)
- [5- Weather Pages](#)
- [8- Daily Devotional](#)
- [9- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [10- News from the Associated Press](#)

**No School on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 21 and 22 due to the state volleyball tournament**

**Blood Drive today at the Groton Community Center**



## Top 3 reasons to get your dog licensed!

- 1) It greatly improves your chance of getting your dog back if it goes missing.
- 2) It lets people know that your dog is up-to-date on its rabies vaccine.
- 3) It's the Law!

**2020 DOG LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE NOW!!**

Licenses due by December 31, 2019

Fines start January 2, 2020

Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog; otherwise \$10 per dog

**Proof of rabies shot information is REQUIRED!!**

Email proof to [city.peggy@nvc.net](mailto:city.peggy@nvc.net)

fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

Please contact City Hall at (605) 397-8422 as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that was previously licensed.



**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 2 of 45

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Cheetahs 8, Coyotes 7, Jackelopes 6, Foxes 6, Shih Tzus 5, Chipmunks 4

**Men's High Games:** Roger Spanier 223, Mike Siegler 211, Brad Waage 208

**Women's High Games:** Sue Stanley 177, Dar Larson 168, Karen Spanier 155

**Men's High Series:** Mike Siegler 540, Brad Waage 535, Roger Spanier 534

**Women's High Series:** Sue Stanley 442, Brenda Waage 433, Darci Spanier 431

## Conde National League

**Nov. 11 Team Standings:** Mets 27, Pirates 22 ½, Giants 19, Cubs 19, Braves 17 ½, Tigers 15

**Men's High Games:** Lance Frohling 196, 188, 183; Tim Olson 183; Larry Frohling 177

**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 567, Ryan Bathke 517, Larry Frohling 473

**Women's High Games:** Michelle Johnson 163, Joyce Walter 162, Mary Larson 158

**Women's High Series:** Vickie Kramp 429, Mary Larson 423, Joyce Walter 421

## Groton Coffee Cup League

**Nov. 12 Team Standings:** Biker Chix 29, James Valley 23, Kens 16, Ten Pins 12

**High Games:** Vickie Kramp 170, 168,; Mary Jane Jark 169; Sandi Bistedeau 164

**High Series:** Vickie Kramp 476, Joyce Walter 467, Sam Bahr 459

## 54% Violations in GF&P checks

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officers conducted a game check on US Hwy 12 in Summit this past weekend. Officers braved single digit temperatures with a cold, brisk northwest wind in checking hunters and anglers for compliance. Unfortunately, officers observed a 54% violation rate of all the vehicles inspected. These violations ranged from plumage transportation requirements for pheasants and waterfowl, overbag of fish and pheasants, no licenses, no federal stamps for waterfowl and fraud in obtaining resident licenses. No matter how cold it is, you can help make these officers' days a little warmer by making sure you follow the regulations and be one of the vehicles that smiles and waves as you head on your way with no violations!

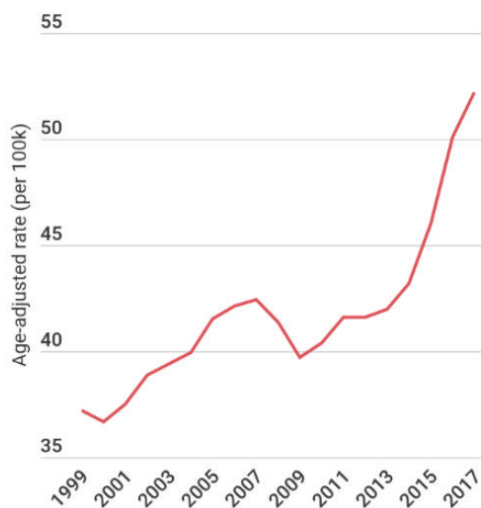
## Suicide Deaths Surprisingly Common in South Dakota

Advances in medicine and technology have led to decades of rising life expectancy in the U.S. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, life expectancy at birth in the U.S. has been declining for the last three years, representing an alarming national trend.

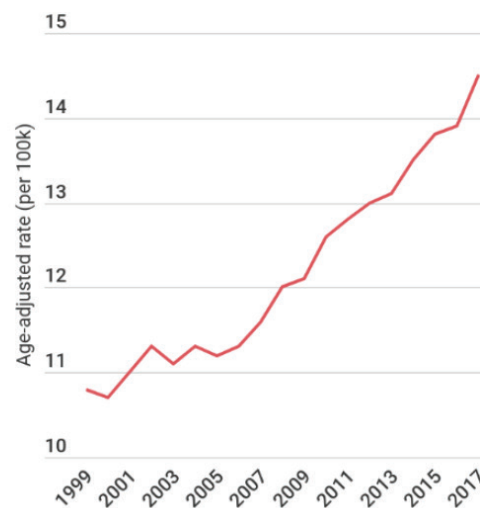
While common physical health conditions like heart disease and cancer still claim the majority of lives in the U.S. each year, unintentional injuries (including accidental deaths from overdoses) and intentional deaths by suicide are largely responsible for rising mortality rates nationwide.

### Sharp increases in unintentional injuries & intentional self-harm (suicides)

Accidents (unintentional injuries)



Intentional self-harm (suicides)



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Underlying Cause of Death 2017

To find out how major causes of death vary around the country, researchers at 360 Quote calculated the most over-indexed cause of death in each state, using the latest data from the CDC. For the top 15 leading causes of death nationally, researchers compared each state's age-adjusted mortality rate to the national mortality rate for that cause. Whichever cause exceeded its respective national mortality rate by the greatest amount, was identified as the most over-indexed cause of death in that state.

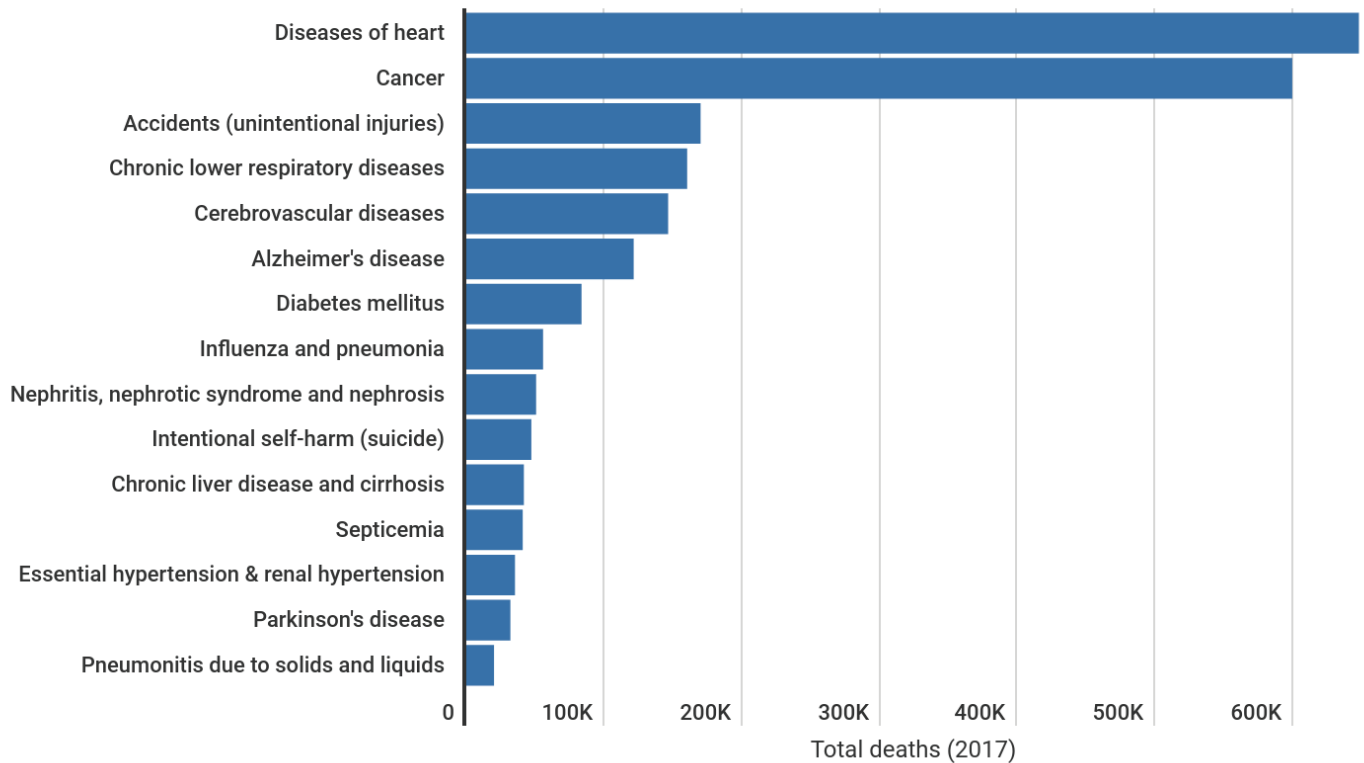
The analysis showed that in South Dakota, death by suicide is the most over-indexed cause of death, when compared to the national average. The age-adjusted mortality rate for suicide in South Dakota of 22.6 deaths per 100k people is 56% higher than the national rate of 14.5 per 100k people. Here is a summary of the data for South Dakota:

Most over-indexed cause of death: Intentional self-harm (suicide)

State age-adjusted death rate for the cause: 22.6 deaths per 100k people (56% above average)

State total number of deaths per year for the cause: 191  
State percentage of total deaths for the cause: 2.39%

## The top 15 leading causes of death in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Underlying Cause of Death 2017



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 5 of 45

Today



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 41 °F

Tonight



Increasing  
Clouds

Low: 23 °F

Friday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 42 °F

Friday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 29 °F

Saturday

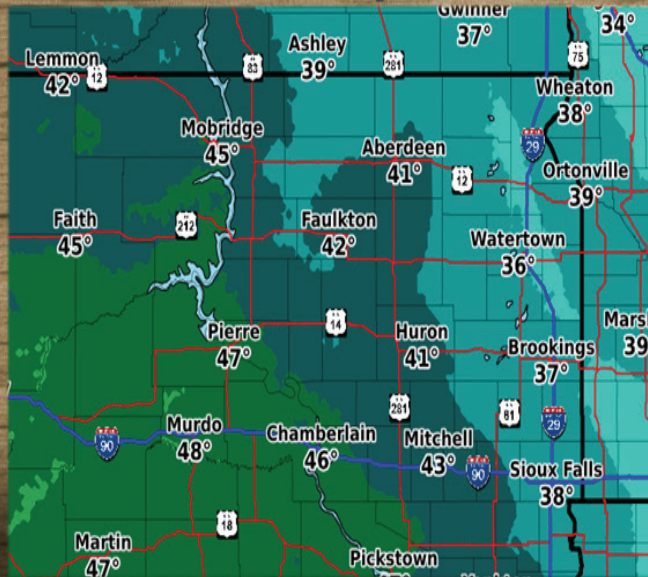


Mostly Cloudy  
then Chance  
Rain

High: 42 °F

## Seasonal Temperatures Return!

Today



Friday

30s / 40s



Mostly cloudy,  
drizzle may  
develop

Saturday

40s



Light rain  
possible

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 11/14/2019 5:27 AM Central



Published on: 11/14/2019 at 12:29AM

A westerly breeze can be expected today as high pressure slides off to the southeast. Despite partly to mostly cloudy skies through the afternoon, temperatures should be able to rise to seasonal values.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 6 of 45

## Today in Weather History

November 14, 1997: A low-pressure system produced snow and blowing snow, creating near whiteout conditions at times. Six inches of snow fell in the Sisseton foothills by Friday evening in Roberts and eastern Marshall Counties. Strong north winds gusting to near 35 mph, combined with the snow, caused visibilities to fall below one-half mile at times over a large portion of northeast South Dakota during the evening of the 13th and through the 14th. Classes were canceled around Summit because of near-whiteout conditions, while classes were delayed for two hours in Britton. Interstate 29 was closed just north of the Grant County line for a time after a semi-trailer rolled. Some snowfall amounts include; 6.5 inches in Summit; 6.2 inches in Waubay; 6.0 inches in Roscoe; and 5.0 inches in Sisseton and Wilmot.

1921: During the afternoon hours, thunderstorms brought severe hail to portions of Alabama. The hailstones ranged from about the size of buckshot to as large as a baseball. The largest stoned weighed as much as a pound.

1969: Apollo 12 was launched into a threatening gray sky with ominous cumulus clouds. Pete Conrad's words 43 seconds after liftoff, electrified everyone in the Control Center: "We had a whole bunch of buses drops out," followed by "Where are we going?" and "I just lost the platform." Lightning had stricken the spacecraft. Warning lights were illuminated, and the spacecraft guidance system lost its attitude reference.

1964 - With the help of a fresh three inch cover of snow, the temperature at Ely, NV, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to establish an all-time record low for the month of November. That record of -15 degrees was later equalled on the 19th of November in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1974 - A storm produced 15 inches of snow at the Buffalo, NY, airport, and 30 inches on the south shore of Lake Erie. (David Ludlum)

1986 - An early season cold wave set more than 200 records from the northwestern U.S. to the east coast over a seven day period. For some places it proved to be the coldest weather of the winter season. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - The first major snowstorm of the season hit the Southern and Central Rockies, producing 12 inches at the Brian Head ski resort in Utah overnight. Strong and gusty winds associated with the storm reached 52 mph at Ruidoso NM. In the eastern U.S., the temperature at Washington D.C. soared to 68 degrees, just three days after being buried under more than a foot of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A massive storm produced snow and gusty winds in the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Show Low AZ, and Donner Summit, located in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, was buried under 23 inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked parts of California, with 3.19 inches reported at Blue Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed east of the Rockies. Temperatures reached 70 degrees as far north as New England, and readings in the 80s were reported across the southeast quarter of the nation. Nineteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. For the second time in the month Dallas/Fort Worth TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees. The high of 91 degrees at Waco TX was their warmest of record for so late in the season. Heavy snow blanketed parts of Wyoming overnight, with a foot of snow reported at Cody, and ten inches at Yellowstone Park. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 7 of 45

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 35 °F at 12:35 PM**

**Low Temp: 17 °F at 10:19 PM**

**Wind: 22 mph at 12:56 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 68° in 2015**

**Record Low: -17° in 2014**

**Average High: 40°F**

**Average Low: 20°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.37**

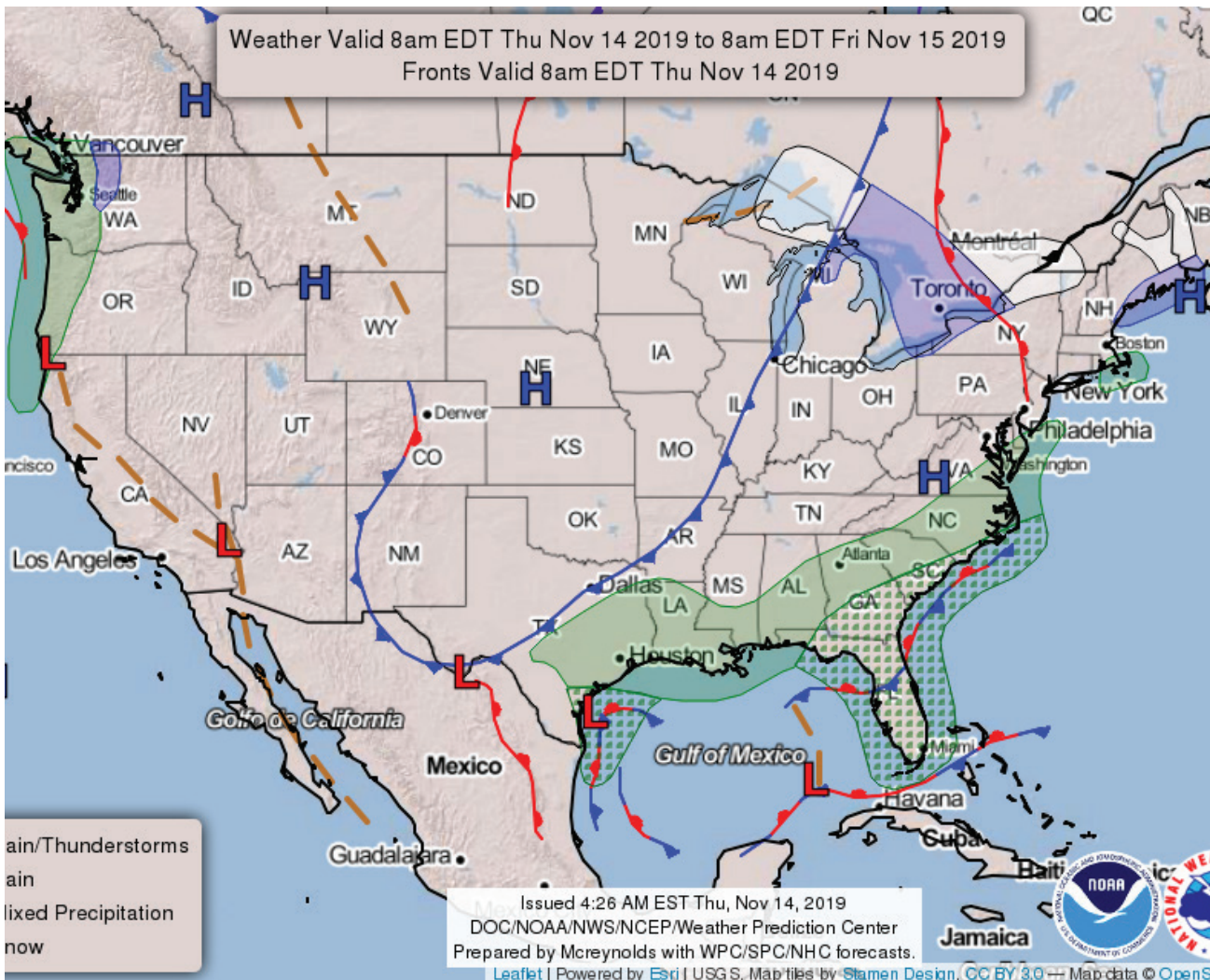
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 20.84**

**Precip Year to Date: 26.57**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:05 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 8 of 45



## KEEP ALERT!

Years ago LSU and Indiana were playing in the NCAA Regional finals. LSU was leading Indiana by eight points going into the last few minutes of the game.

Suddenly, LSU began playing a different type of game. They were trying to use the clock to their advantage. But it did not work out the way they planned. As they took their eyes off of the ball and watched the clock, Indiana stayed focused on the ball – not the clock - and won the game.

In the last hours of the life of Jesus, He asked three of His disciples to “stay awake and watch” as He prayed. But they fell asleep. When He returned and found them sleeping, He did not scold them. Instead, He warned them to “keep alert and pray!”

Temptations come to the Christian, as the disciples of Jesus - when least expected. Jesus wisely warned and advised His disciples to combine praying with alertness or they would not see temptation taking advantage of them. Nothing’s changed.

Prayer: Lord, please help us to be aware and alert to the subtlety of any and every temptation. May we always realize the power of Satan. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Matthew 26:41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 9 of 45

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 10 of 45

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

02-23-26-28-30

(two, twenty-three, twenty-six, twenty-eight, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$285,000

Lotto America

18-23-24-30-49, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 3

(eighteen, twenty-three, twenty-four, thirty, forty-nine; Star Ball: four; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.94 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$178 million

Powerball

23-26-27-28-66, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 2

(twenty-three, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, sixty-six; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

### 'Bits and pieces': Americans view impeachment on their terms

By STEPHEN GROVES and TAMARA LUSH Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Cattle rancher Jeffery Gatzke in South Dakota was listening in as he worked on his tractor in his workshop. The first public hearing on impeaching President Donald Trump is a political show, he thinks, but one he wanted to tune into.

Nadxely Sanchez, 18, watched on her phone, splitting her attention during a psychology lecture at Marquette University in Milwaukee. As a child of immigrants, she says she takes Trump's presidency personally: "Living in the Trump era right now is scary and we're just wondering what's going to happen next."

Randy Johnson, a 63-year-old semi-retired Tennessee man and Trump voter, cast his fishing line into the Gulf of Mexico from a seawall in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was happily missing the opening gavel. "Oh, is that today?" he said.

If Americans have devoured past live hearings in Washington, following each dramatic twist and turn, many seemed only to nibble and graze on Wednesday's proceedings. They scanned headlines on their phones, read social media posts or clicked on snippets of video pushed out online. They planned to catch up with highlights or clips later, from a range of sources, and were content to let it play in the background.

The fractured and filtered way the country consumed the testimony — and all news — may have consequences. Democrats are hoping to use a series of hearings to tell a complex tale of overseas intrigue involving unfamiliar figures and a distant war. There were signs Wednesday that many Americans were falling back on their partisan allegiances, rather than diving into the details.

"I get bits and pieces," said Bee Quarterman, a 64-year-old census worker in Savannah, Georgia. "Just enough to know what's going on."

As she walked into a barber shop for a lunchtime haircut, she glanced up at the hearing on the TV and said Americans should "just go to the ballot box" to settle whether Trump should remain in office.

House Democrats argue Trump abused his power when he solicited a political favor from the president of Ukraine and held up millions in foreign aid. Polls show more Americans support impeachment than oppose, although the partisan divide on the question is striking and consistent in the weeks leading up the hearings.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 11 of 45

In putting two respected and measured U.S. diplomats on live television Wednesday, Democrats were hoping, if not for a national epiphany, then at least a day that would stand out from the partisan acrimony and circus-like atmosphere of Trump-era Washington.

"I don't want to say it will be the tipping point, but I think it will be the beginning of a week or two where it will be very difficult for the president to change the subject," said Adam Cutler, a Denver technology manager and Democrat who arranged to work from home so he could watch the day's events.

Democrats' goal is a shift in public opinion that mirrors 1973, when the nationally televised Watergate hearings helped sink President Richard Nixon's approval ratings before his 1974 resignation from office.

But other recent examples offer Democrats less hope. Special prosecutor Robert Mueller's testimony about his investigation into interference in 2016 election produced little change in Trump's approval. Live hearings on accusation of sexual assault against Judge Brett Kavanaugh did not prevent his ascension to the Supreme Court.

For Gatzke, a 50-year-old farmer and rancher from Hitchcock, South Dakota, the Ukraine affair was just the Washington establishment's latest attempt to thwart an outsider president.

"He is not one of them and they don't like it," he said, just before the hearings began. Gatzke caught as much as he could during his morning chores on the farm, before he had to load up cattle for the processing plant. His wife, Sheila Gatzke, watched, too, and fumed about what she claimed was testimony based on "hearsay," a defense Trump has pushed and his Republican defenders on the committee echoed on Wednesday.

Christian Jacobs, 50, sat in a beach bar in St. Petersburg, wearing a fedora and reluctantly watching the drama on television.

"I did not want this," he said, glancing at the TV with and sipping in a breath from his marijuana vape pen. A Democrat, he had initially balked at impeachment but has come around to it as details trickled out about Trump's behavior with Ukraine.

"I'm so afraid, left to his own devices, what else he may do," Jacobs said of Trump.

Jim Borelli's response to the turmoil and conflict in Washington? Pray.

The 60-year-old attorney in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas, read his Bible at a coffee shop, part of his daily devotional, after listening to part of the hearing Wednesday morning.

One of the daily readings was a verse from the Book of Wisdom which he found "appropriate for today," the Democrat said, noting that it reads in part, "for those in power a rigorous scrutiny impends."

"I pray that our leaders exercise wisdom in the impeachment process," he said.

He watched part of the hearing with his 95-year-old mother but said it's hard to talk about politics with some people in the current environment.

"I think we are in a bad space," he said.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bryant Randall, a freshman at Louisiana State University, didn't like what he saw either. But that's because the registered Republican found the Democrats' case unpersuasive.

"All the witnesses who have come forward so far are saying, 'I interpret this as a quid pro quo,'" Randall said. "I don't care how you interpret it. I care about what the facts are."

While Democrats control the House and likely have the votes to impeach Trump, they would need about 20 Republican senators to vote to convict him of high crimes and misdemeanors before he would be removed from office.

That's tempered some Democrats' hopes of what they can achieve in the impeachment inquiry.

Pilar Esperon waited for a train in Boston's South Station Wednesday, with a nearby television turned to the hearing. Few were watching.

Esperon, who works in real estate in New York City, was scrolling through the news coverage on her phone. She said she already believes Trump committed an impeachable offense.

"So all you'll get is a lot of posturing by a lot of people in front of the camera," the Democrat said. "I don't think anything will really move the needle."

At the University of Cincinnati students took refuge from the cold in the warm library and its Starbucks stand. Math majors Mary Tabor, 20, of Louisville, Kentucky, and Olivia Fenner, 23, of Cincinnati were study-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 12 of 45

ing together and both said they'd catch up on impeachment developments at night with non-traditional news shows.

Tabor said she'll watch Seth Meyers' late-night show on NBC.

Fenner is a fan of YouTube star Philip DeFranco, who talks about pop culture with news.

"It's entertaining," she explained. "But I still get my news; I know what's going on. It's a better outlet for me."

In Portland, Maine, psychiatric nurse Seth Morrill says he and his friends are interested and talking about the impeachment, and he planned to watch clip later. He's become skeptical of how such events are spun by the media.

"I like to watch for myself and digest it for myself rather than have other people give me the information," the Democrat said.

"I know it's important. It's significant for the county. I just feel like maybe I can get the information other ways," he said. "It's not something I felt that I needed to carve out time for."

Signs of Washington fatigue are easy to find.

At the Holmes II barber shop in Savannah, live impeachment broadcast was showing Wednesday on three TVs. Barbers and their customers barely seemed to look up as they talked about NFL football and new phone apps.

Owner Anthony Harris, has cut hair at the shop since it opened in 1994, said he's not surprised people are tuning out impeachment.

"It's kind of monotonous. He's on the news every day, all day, for all kinds of things," said Harris, a 56-year-old independent who leans Democratic. "It's gotten to the point now where people are even tired of listening."

---

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Florida. Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Philip Marcelo in Boston; Ivan Moreno in Milwaukee; Stacey Plaisance in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas; Dan Sewell in Cincinnati; John Raby in Nitro, West Virginia; Heather Hollingsworth in Overland Park, Kansas; Robert F. Bukaty in Portland, Maine; and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

## University apologizes to author after ex-student's criticism

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota university has apologized to a young adult author whose work was criticized by a former student.

Northern State University tweeted an apology to author Sarah Dessen on Tuesday. That was the same day the Aberdeen American News published an article looking at the 10 years of the school's Common Read program, in which every first-year student reads the same book.

The article quoted a 2017 graduate of Northern State who said she joined the program's volunteer committee to make sure a book by Dessen would not be chosen.

The former student said Dessen "was fine for teen girls" but that her work was "definitely not up to the level of Common Read."

Dessen, who is based in North Carolina, tweeted the quote, with the woman's name redacted, and added, "Authors are real people."

The Argus Leader reports other authors including Jodi Picoult and Angie Thomas tweeted support for Dessen.

---

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

## Search for missing woman turns up 'areas of interest'

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a search for the remains of a woman missing for 45 years has turned up "areas of interest."

Police used two dogs Wednesday to search an area along the Big Sioux River for the remains of Ellabeth



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 13 of 45

Lodermeier. Lodermeier was 25 when she disappeared from her Sioux Falls home on March 6, 1974. She has not been seen since and is presumed dead.

The Argus Leader reports the search took place in the area where Lodermeier's purse and pocketbook were found in April 1992, nearly two decades after she went missing.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the search turned up "a couple of areas of interest" that police will investigate. He did not elaborate.

Police say new technology and new leads warranted a fresh search of the area.

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

## **Company: Dakota Access expansion doesn't increase risk**

**By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press**

LINTON, N.D. (AP) — Dakota Access pipeline officials argued Wednesday that the company's proposal to double the line's capacity does not increase the potential of a failure, a claim that has been long dismissed by opponents of the idea.

Texas-based Energy Transfer wants to double the capacity of the pipeline to as much as 1.1 million barrels daily to meet growing demand for oil shipments from North Dakota, and is seeking permission for pump stations to do it.

Supporters and opponents of the proposal packed a small-town auditorium in Linton for a field hearing before state regulators considering the next phase of a project that sparked months of sometimes violent protests during its construction.

Chuck Frey, a vice president of engineering for Energy Transfer, told North Dakota regulators the pipeline's expansion "does not increase the risk" of a spill.

"I assure the commission we plan to cut no corners on this work," Frey said.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other opponents have long argued that a leak in the pipeline would threaten the tribe's Missouri River water supply, and say that increasing pressure magnifies the risk.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Mike Faith said increasing the pipeline's capacity increases the "consequences as well as the likelihood" of an oil spill. Faith told The Associated Press that he doesn't trust the company's promise.

"There are no guarantees for anything," Faith said. "I'm telling everybody to stay strong and let the process handle itself. I feel positive."

Thousands of opponents of the \$3.8 billion pipeline that's been moving oil from the Dakotas through Iowa to Illinois for more two years gathered in southern North Dakota in late 2016 and early 2017. They camped on federal land and often clashed with police, resulting in hundreds of arrests over six months.

The pipeline is routed less than a half mile from the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. Tribal members are asking the Public Service Commission to deny the expansion of the pipeline that moves North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois.

The public hearing in the community of about 1,000 is near where a pump station would be placed to increase the line's capacity.

The tribe provided transportation for dozens of its members to attend the hearing. State troopers and sheriff's deputies stood by as attendees cleared metal detectors and filled the auditorium to its capacity of 400 for the commission meeting.

"I'm here because they want to double the risk of a spill," said Joye Braun, a community organizer with Indigenous Environmental Network and one of the leaders of the Dakota Access pipeline protest that ended two years ago.

Standing Rock attorney Timothy Purdon grilled Energy Partners officials over their plan. He also questioned them about the dozen leaks — totaling about 6,000 gallons (22,711 liters) — along the line that the company has reported since the line went into service.

Todd Stamm, the company's vice president of liquid pipeline operations, said the leaks occurred on facilities

related to the pipeline, but not on the line itself. He said the company plans to use additional emergency response equipment and at least one employee to monitor the North Dakota site.

Steve Cortina of the Laborers' International Union of North America was among the trade workers in attendance, many of whom worked on the original project.

"We supported it then and we want to be here to support the expansion now," he said.

The company wants to start construction on its \$40 million pump station next spring, with construction expected to take as long as 10 months.

Energy Transfer also is proposing additional pumping stations in the Dakotas and Illinois. The company needs permission from North Dakota regulators for the expansion because some of the land needed is outside of the pipeline's path and was not considered in the company's original permit.

Commissioner Julie Fedorchak said the state wants to develop North Dakota's energy resources "in an orderly fashion with minimal impact." She emphasized that doesn't mean "no impact."

"We want to get all the information we can for a very thorough record so we can make the best decision possible," she said.

The panel has not said when it plans on making the decision.

The hearing comes in the wake of a 383,000-gallon (1.4 million-liter) Keystone pipeline oil spill in north-eastern North Dakota. The line, owned by TC Energy, restarted Sunday, nearly two weeks after the spill was reported. The cause of the leak has not been disclosed.

## Gun fired into Rapid City home, tactical officers respond

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Tactical officers responded to a home near downtown Rapid City after someone fired a gun from a car into a first-floor bedroom.

Police say no one was hurt in Tuesday's shooting near Rapid City High School. The Rapid City Journal reports a rifle was found inside a vehicle nearby and there was a bullet hole through one of its windows. Investigators are working to determine who fired the shot.

About a dozen people in the area, many of them teens, were detained by police. One teen was arrested in relation to a stolen vehicle found at the scene while two adults were arrested for unrelated warrants.

Police spokesman Brendyn Medina says the rifle was likely fired by one of the teens.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## Agreement: Sanford must hire outside auditor

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An agreement between Sanford Health and the federal government requires the health care system to hire an outside auditor to monitor its billing.

The agreement with the inspector general for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allows Sanford to continue to participate in Medicare and other federal programs.

It comes as Sanford settles a whistleblower lawsuit in which it agreed to pay more than \$20 million in penalties after it was accused of allowing Dr. Wilson Asfora, a neurosurgeon, to defraud the federal government out of millions of dollars.

The lawsuit by two of Asfora's colleagues alleged that Sanford allowed the neurosurgeon to use his company's medical devices in surgeries.

The Argus Leader says the agreement also requires Sanford to conduct annual training for medical staff about federal laws that prohibit kickbacks.

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

## Meteor that streaked over Missouri weighed about 220 pounds

ST. LOUIS (AP) — NASA says a meteor seen streaking through the sky behind the Gateway Arch in St.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 15 of 45

Louis was a basketball-size hunk of rock that broke off from an asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that experts used hundreds of eyewitness accounts from as far away as South Dakota and Minnesota along with two videos to calculate information about the meteor. They determined that the approximately 220-pound (98-kilogram) rock traveled through the sky Monday night at 33,500 mph (53,910 kph), causing a sonic boom. A NASA weather satellite helped the agency confirm it was brighter than Venus in the sky, making it a fireball. Bill Cooke, of the NASA Meteoroid Environments Office in Huntsville, Alabama, says it broke into pieces 12 miles (19.3 kilometers) above the ground.

Information from: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, <http://www.stltoday.com>

## Battle lines harden as Trump impeachment inquiry goes public

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With historic impeachment hearings underway, Democrats and Republicans are hardening their arguments over the actions of President Donald Trump as they set out to win over a deeply polarized American public.

Democrats say Wednesday's extraordinary public session in the House revealed a striking account of Trump abusing his office by pressing the newly elected president of Ukraine for political investigations of rival Democrats, all while holding up needed military aid. "Bribery," they said, and "extortion."

Republicans counter that the hearing showed none of that. They say the two seasoned diplomats at the witness table had, at best, secondhand accounts of Trump's July 25 call that's central to the impeachment inquiry. There was no pressure on the young Ukraine leader, they argue, and eventually the aid flowed, though only after Congress intervened.

Day One of the rare public hearings in the House — part of only the fourth formal impeachment effort in U.S. history — set the contours for a once-in-a-generation political struggle. Images and audio from the hearing popped up on television, in earbuds and on the partisan silos of social media, providing the first close-up look at the investigation.

"The president sought to advance his political and personal interests at the expense of U.S. national security," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leading the probe.

"Is this now going to be the new normal?" Schiff asked.

Hosting the president of Turkey at the White House, Trump insisted he was too busy to watch the hearings being broadcast live across the country and the world. He denied a fresh detail from one of the witnesses about a phone call in which he was overheard asking about "the investigations."

"First I've heard of it," Trump told reporters during a news conference.

A different conversation sparked the impeachment investigation, Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, heard by several government officials and detailed in a partial transcript released to the public weeks ago. The core moment came when Trump asked the newly elected leader for "a favor."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday that the Democrats' first witness "wasn't on the phone call, never met with the president, never talked to the chief of staff. And he's their star witness?"

Trump wanted Ukraine's government to investigate Democrats' activities in the 2016 election and his potential 2020 rival Joe Biden — all while the administration was withholding military aid for the Eastern European ally as it confronted an aggressive neighbor, Russia.

All day, the two diplomats delivered a dramatic, though complicated, account. They testified about how an ambassador was fired, the new Ukraine government was confused and they discovered an "irregular channel" — a shadow U.S. foreign policy orchestrated by the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, that raised alarms in diplomatic and national security circles.

Trump restated his aggressive defense with rapid-fire tweets, a video from the Rose Garden and a dis-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 16 of 45

missive retort from the Oval Office: "It's a witch hunt. It's a hoax."

Career diplomat William Taylor, the charge d'affaires in Kyiv, offered new testimony that a staff member recently told him of overhearing Trump when they were meeting with another diplomat, U.S. Ambassador Gordon Sondland, at a restaurant the day after Trump's July 25 phone call.

The staff member explained that Sondland had called the president and they could hear Trump on the phone asking about "the investigations," Taylor said. Sondland told the president the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, Taylor testified as he repeated the staff member's account.

In the face of Trump's denial, Schiff expects the person to appear before investigators for a closed-door deposition. He is David Holmes, the political counselor at the embassy in Kyiv, according to an official unauthorized to discuss the matter and granted anonymity.

Across the country, millions of Americans were tuning in — or, in some cases, deliberately tuning out.

Viewers on the right and left thought the day underscored their feelings. Anthony Harris, cutting hair in Savannah, Georgia, had the hearing on in his shop, but he said, "It's gotten to the point now where people are even tired of listening."

The hours of partisan back-and-forth did not appear to leave a singular moment etched in the public consciousness the way the Watergate proceedings or Bill Clinton's impeachment did generations ago.

"No real surprises, no bombshells," said committee member Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah.

Still, the session unspooled at least partly the way Democrats wanted with the somber tones of career foreign service officers telling what they knew. They sounded credible.

The witnesses, the graying Taylor and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent in his bow tie, defied White House instructions not to appear. Both had received subpoenas.

They are among a dozen current and former officials who already testified behind closed doors. Days of public hearings will stretch into next week.

Both Kent and Taylor, who was asked by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to return to Ukraine as Trump was firing Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, defended their ousted colleague. She is set to testify Friday.

A Trump ally on the panel, Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, mockingly called Taylor the Democrats' "star witness" and said he'd "seen church prayer chains that are easier to understand than this."

Taylor, a West Point graduate and an Army infantry officer in Vietnam, responded: "I don't consider myself a star witness for anything."

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, said Trump had a "perfectly good reason" for wanting to investigate the role of Democrats in 2016 election interference, giving airtime to a theory that runs counter to mainstream U.S. intelligence which found that Russia intervened and favored Trump.

Nunes accused the Democratic majority of conducting a "scorched earth" effort to take down the president after the special counsel's Russia investigation into the 2016 election failed to spark impeachment proceedings.

The veteran foreign service officers delivered heartfelt history lessons about Ukraine, a young and hopeful democracy, situated next to Russia but reaching out to the West.

Republicans sought to hear from the anonymous whistleblower whose official complaint alerted officials to the July 25 call by subpoenaing him for a closed session. The panel voted down the request and Schiff repeatedly denied the GOP claim that he knows the person.

"We will do everything necessary to protect the whistleblower's identity," Schiff declared.

The Constitution sets a dramatic but vague bar for impeachment. There's no consensus yet that Trump's actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch a formal impeachment inquiry. But she pressed ahead after the whistleblower's complaint. She said Wednesday it was sad that the country has to undergo the inquiry with Trump but "he will be held accountable."

---

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Mike Balsamo, Eric Tucker, Laurie Kellman, Alan Fram, Zeke J. Miller and Matthew Daly 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. A NEW REVEAL FROM A DIPLOMAT AS IMPEACHMENT GOES PUBLIC

Democrats say the public session in the House revealed a striking account of Donald Trump abusing his office, something Republicans say the hearing showed none of.

### 2. WHAT'S NEXT IN IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

Several more witnesses are expected to say they too worried about Trump's push for Ukraine to investigate Democrats as the U.S. withheld military aid from the country.

### 3. SHAKY CEASE-FIRE INTERRUPTED BY ROCKET SALVO

Gaza militants fire a barrage of rockets into Israel, hours after a cease-fire was declared to end two days of intense fighting between Israel and the Islamic Jihad group.

### 4. CALIFORNIA BLACKOUTS SEEMINGLY HERE TO STAY

Most experts say that even under the best scenarios, the fires and widespread power shutoffs will be here for years to come and Californians will pay higher prices for less reliable energy.

### 5. WHY IRAQI OIL RICHES DON'T TRICKLE DOWN

Analysts and officials say bloated public sector budgets to maintain political patronage networks are to blame for everyday people not seeing the fruits of this wealth.

### 6. WHO HAS BACKING IN BOLIVIA

Jeanine Añez, who has claimed the interim presidency, seems to have the backing of the police, the military and the Roman Catholic Church. But supporters of the ousted Evo Morales are not backing down as clashes continue.

### 7. TRUMP TRYING TO SWAY TIGHT LOUISIANA RACE

Though the president won the deep red state by 20 percentage points, the governor's race has reached its final days ahead of Saturday's election as a tossup.

### 8. HOW TANKERS ARE AVOIDING DETECTION

Experts say some oil tankers are ignoring international rules on reporting their location so they can illicitly transport petroleum for Venezuela in violation of international sanctions.

### 9. GARTH BROOKS SHINES AT CMAS

The "Friends in Low Places" singer wins the top prize over Carrie Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011.

### 10. WHAT THE ASTROS CAN ACCOMPLISH

If Alex Bregman is the AL's Most Valuable Player, Houston will become the first team to have an MVP, Cy Young Award winner and Rookie of the Year in the same season.

## Power struggle in Bolivia: Añez at home vs Morales in exile

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Where does the power line stand in crisis-torn Bolivia?

Jeanine Añez, the Senate leader who has claimed the interim presidency of the Andean country, seems to have the backing of the police, the military and the Roman Catholic Church.

But even in self-exile in Mexico after resigning under pressure from the armed forces, former President Evo Morales says he would be willing to return to Bolivia, and his supporters are making a show of force in the streets while his party controls a majority in both houses of Congress.

Normal life briefly returned Wednesday morning, just hours after Añez assumed power. Morales' foes celebrated by waving national flags before they lifted roadblocks nationwide. Businesses rolled up metal sheets protecting them from looting. Public transportation resumed in La Paz.

Then, violent clashes erupted between Morales loyalists and police in Bolivia's capital and raged well into the night. His supporters also flooded into the streets of La Paz's sister city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 18 of 45

waving the multicolored indigenous flag and chanting, "Now, civil war!"

Rock-throwing demonstrators in downtown La Paz tore off corrugated metal and wooden planks from construction sites to use as weapons, and some set off sticks of dynamite. Police in riot gear responded with volleys of tear gas as fighter jets roared low over the crowd in a show of force.

The unrest is a sign of the challenges facing Añez, who was a second-tier lawmaker before she thrust herself into the presidency, citing the power vacuum created by Morales' departure.

She needs to win recognition, stabilize the nation and organize new elections within 90 days, rebuilding after weeks of violent protests against Morales over his disputed claim to have won the Oct. 20 election amid claims of vote fraud. The upheaval, and an erosion in his support, led Bolivia's first indigenous president to fly to Mexico after nearly 14 years in power.

"If this is seen by the indigenous social movement as an effort by the old elite to restore the old order in Bolivian society, I think that is a recipe for tremendous political conflict," said Kenneth Roberts, professor of government at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Morales upended politics in this nation long ruled by light-skinned descendants of Europeans by reversing deep-rooted inequality. The economy grew strongly thanks to a boom in prices of commodities and he ushered through a new constitution that created a new Congress with seats reserved for Bolivia's smaller indigenous groups while also allowing self-rule for all indigenous communities.

Although some of his supporters had been disenchanted by his insistence on holding on to power, he remains popular, especially among other members of his native Aymara ethnic group. Many of them worry they might lose their gains, and they have been protesting reports that the multicolored Wiphala flag that represents them has been burned by people who sympathize with the opposition.

"More than 13 years of progress under Evo were lost in a minute when he resigned," said Magenta Vilamil, a demonstrator. "They have not only burnt a flag — it's the indigenous peoples."

Añez also faces a challenge to her legitimacy in Congress, where lawmakers loyal to Morales tried to hold new sessions that would undermine her claim to the presidency. The sessions — dismissed as invalid by Añez's faction — added to the political uncertainty.

Morales' backers, who hold a two-thirds majority in Congress, boycotted the session that she called Tuesday night to formalize her claim to the presidency, preventing a quorum.

She claimed power anyway, saying the constitution did not specifically require congressional approval. Bolivia's top constitutional court issued a statement laying out the legal justification for Añez taking the presidency — without mentioning her by name.

But other legal experts questioned the legal technicalities that led to her claim, saying at least some of the steps required Congress to meet.

Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian political scientist at Florida International University, said the constitution clearly states that Añez didn't need a congressional vote to assume the presidency. Even so, the next months "are going to be extraordinarily difficult for President Añez," he said.

She will need to form a new electoral court, find non-partisan staff for the electoral tribunal and get Congress, which is controlled by Morales' Movement for Socialism Party, to vote on a new election.

Bolivia's crisis escalated Sunday, when an Organization of American States audit reported widespread irregularities in the Oct. 20 election and called for a new election.

Morales said he agreed Bolivia should hold a new election, but a few hours later he resigned after Gen. Williams Kaliman, the armed forces commander, urged him to step down "for the good of Bolivia." Kaliman had been a Morales loyalist, but the departed president and his backers have called the general's action a coup d'état.

Añez swore in a new Cabinet on Wednesday, and she named new commanders-in-chief for all branches of the military, including replacing Kaliman. The move was seen as an effort to build an alliance with the military.

She also met with dozens of police officers and assured them they would get the working conditions that they demanded and never got under Morales. Police officers outside Bolivia's presidential palace abandoned

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 19 of 45

their posts and in some cities declared mutinies a day before Morales resigned.

Añez has also received the backing of Morales' main election rival, former President Carlos Mesa, who came in second in the Oct. 20 ballot. But it's uncertain how much support she could count on from other Bolivian power centers.

There has been some international support, too.

Michael G. Kozak of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs welcomed her as "interim constitutional president." Brazil, which is one of Bolivia's top trading partners, congratulated her on her "constitutional" assumption of the presidency.

But in Argentina, where a large Bolivian population lives, lawmakers in both houses of Congress condemned what they called a coup.

And in Mexico, Morales himself looms.

He is promising to remain active in Bolivia's politics and mayors loyal to him in Bolivia's countryside have continued to mobilize large crowds.

At a Wednesday news conference in Mexico, Morales said, "If the people ask me, we are willing to return."

---

Associated Press writers Carlos Valdez in La Paz, Claudia Torrens in New York, Christine Armario in Bogotá, Colombia, and Debora Rey in Buenos Aires, Argentina, contributed to this report.

## Ex-Massachusetts Gov. Patrick announces Dem presidential bid

By **JULIE PACE, BILL BARROW and STEVE PEOPLES** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick announced Thursday he is running for president, making a late entry into the Democratic race less than three months before primary voting begins.

In an announcement video, Patrick highlighted his poverty-stricken childhood on Chicago's South Side, saying he's running for the "people who feel left out and left back."

As the first in his family to go to college and law school, Patrick said, "I've had a chance to live my American Dream." But over the years, the "path to that dream" has closed off for others, he said, as government and economy have been "letting us down."

Patrick made history as the first black governor of Massachusetts and has close ties to former President Barack Obama and his network of political advisers. But he faces significant fundraising and organizational hurdles this late in the race.

His announcement comes as some Democrats worry about the strength of the party's current field of contenders. Another Democrat — former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg — is also weighing a last-minute bid for the party's nomination.

Bloomberg has taken steps toward launching a presidential campaign, filing candidate papers in Alabama and Arkansas. Even 2016 nominee Hillary Clinton this week said in a BBC interview that she is "under enormous pressure from many, many, many people to think about it," adding that she has no such plans but still would "never, never, never say never."

The moves reflect uncertainty about the direction of the Democratic contest with no commanding front-runner. Joe Biden entered the race as the presumptive favorite and maintains significant support from white moderates and black voters, whose backing is critical in a Democratic primary. But he's facing spirited challenges from Patrick's home-state senator, Elizabeth Warren, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, progressives whose calls for fundamental economic change have alarmed moderates and wealthy donors.

Patrick could present himself as a potential bridge across the moderate, liberal and progressive factions — as candidates like Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Kamala Harris and Sen. Cory Booker are trying to do.

But the former governor faces significant hurdles to raise enormous amounts of money quickly and to build an organization in the traditional early voting states that most of his rivals have focused on for the past year. And he'll have to pivot to the expensive and logistically daunting Super Tuesday contests, when voters in more than a dozen states and territories head to the polls. Bloomberg's team has said they will skip the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina to focus on the Super Tuesday

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 20 of 45

roster.

It's also a near certainty that Patrick — and possibly Bloomberg — wouldn't make a Democratic debate stage until January, if at all, because of debate rules set by the party.

Those dynamics left some prominent Democrats questioning Patrick's viability.

"Stop. We have enough candidates," said Kathy Sullivan, a Democratic National Committee member from New Hampshire, which hosts the party's first presidential primary following the Iowa caucuses.

Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa, whose state boasts the second-largest number of Super Tuesday delegates behind California, argued that donors and media are mistaken to think that rank-and-file Democrats see Biden, Warren and others as unable to take down President Donald Trump.

Besides, Hinojosa said, "most of the people you need to build out a campaign have already chosen sides."

A former managing director for Bain Capital, Patrick has close ties to Wall Street donors. As only the nation's second elected black governor since Reconstruction, Patrick also could run as a historic boundary breaker trying to dent Biden's support among African Americans — though Harris and Booker, the only two black Democrats in the Senate, have been unable to do that thus far.

Patrick has remained active in politics since his term as governor ended in 2015. During the 2018 midterm elections, he traveled across the country in support of Democratic candidates, raising his national profile. He also campaigned for Doug Jones during Alabama's contentious 2017 special election for U.S. Senate.

Last year, some of Patrick's supporters and close advisers launched the Reason to Believe political action committee, which held meetups across the country, including in early presidential primary states.

By December, however, Patrick cooled to the idea of a presidential bid.

"After a lot of conversation, reflection and prayer, I've decided that a 2020 campaign for president is not for me," Patrick posted on his Facebook page at the time. Patrick said he and his wife worried that the "cruelty of our elections process would ultimately splash back on people whom Diane and I love, but who hadn't signed up for the journey."

After Trump's election, Patrick's initial criticism of the Republican president was somewhat less pointed than other Democrats offered. "We need our presidents to succeed," he said, while still expressing concern about what he described as Trump's belittling of those with opposing points of view.

Patrick also urged the party at the time to look in the mirror, saying that "the outcome of the 2016 election was less about Donald Trump winning than Democrats and our nominee letting him do so."

Early in his career, Patrick served as assistant attorney general for civil rights in the Clinton administration and later worked as an executive at Texaco and Coca-Cola. Since leaving the governor's office, Patrick has worked as a managing director for Bain Capital — a company co-founded by 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, Patrick's predecessor as governor.

Patrick's Massachusetts record is mixed. His successes include helping oversee the 2006 health care law signed by Romney that would go on to serve as a blueprint for Obama's 2010 health care law.

But Patrick was also forced to publicly apologize for a disastrous effort to transition to the federal health care law during which the state's website performed so poorly it created a backlog of more than 50,000 paper applications.

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Peoples reported from Concord, N.H.

## **New Gaza rockets disrupt Israel, Islamic Jihad cease-fire**

**By FARES AKRAM and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza militants fired a barrage of rockets into Israel on Thursday, hours after a cease-fire was declared to end two days of intense fighting between Israel and the Islamic Jihad group, the heaviest escalation in months that killed at least 34 Palestinians, including three women and eight children, and paralyzed parts of Israel.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the new wave of rockets and it wasn't clear how this would affect the fate of the cease-fire.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 21 of 45

Israel had hailed the Gaza operation as a victory, defending its policy of targeting militants in their homes despite civilian deaths and vowed to continue the tactic. Islamic Jihad said it had succeeded in getting Israel to agree to a cease-fire based on several demands, including a halt to Israeli targeted killings of the group's leaders.

Islamic Jihad spokesman Musab al-Berim said the Egyptian-brokered deal went into effect at 5:30 a.m. An Israeli military spokesman tweeted that the Gaza operation "is over." Some restrictions were lifted on residents of southern Israel and traffic returned to the streets of the Palestinian coastal territory.

But after hours of calm, a barrage of rockets blasted out of the territory, setting off air raid sirens in southern Israel and testing the fragile truce.

The fighting first erupted early on Tuesday after Israel killed a senior commander of the Iranian-backed militant group who was said to be behind a string of rocket attacks and who Israel said was believed to be planning a cross-border infiltration.

The rare targeted killing by Israel sparked the heaviest fighting with Gaza militants since May. Islamic Jihad fired some 450 rockets toward Israel, while Israel responded with scores of airstrikes.

Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group, much larger and more powerful than Islamic Jihad, stayed out of the latest escalation — an indication it would be brief.

Israel typically does not publicly acknowledge deals with militant groups, and on Thursday officials said the only unwritten agreement was that Israel would hold fire so long as Islamic Jihad did. Military spokesmen listed a series of accomplishments after the two-day spasm of violence, including the killing of some 25 militants in targeted strikes.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the policy had "proved itself" and would continue. "Everyone who was a top military official, who was set to carry out and was involved in terror or rocket firing against Israel was eliminated," he told Israeli Army Radio. "And we intend to continue with this."

Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett warned Gaza militants they were not safe anywhere. "A terrorist who tries to harm Israeli citizens will not be able to sleep soundly, not in his home and not in his bed and not in any hiding place," he said.

Critics of Israel's contentious policy say it amounts to extrajudicial killings that endanger civilians.

But Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus defended the attacks on militants' private homes, saying Islamic Jihad commanders used their residences to store weapons, making them legitimate targets.

Palestinian officials say 34 people were killed in the fighting, including at least 18 militants. They say eight children, including a pair of 7-year-olds, and three women were among the dead.

The rocket fire crippled life across southern Israel and on Tuesday, also in the country's heartland in and around Tel Aviv, as nonstop air-raid sirens canceled schools and forced people indoors. At least three people were lightly wounded from shrapnel or shattered glass. Most rockets landed in open areas or were shot down by Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system.

Much of Gaza resembled a ghost-town, with almost no vehicles on the roads except for ambulances evacuating the wounded.

Al-Berim, the Islamic Jihad spokesman, lauded the group's efforts against Israel, saying it "had its word, confronted the aggression," and "defended the Palestinian people."

Shortly after al-Berim's cease-fire announcement, two rockets were fired out of Gaza, setting off sirens in southern Israel. It was not immediately clear whether the launches were intentional or misfires caused by electronic timers. Israel didn't respond.

Islamic Jihad said the fire was likely because word hadn't spread to all members about the halt to violence.

The Israeli military's Home Front command tweeted that it was lifting restrictions in certain areas but leaving them in place in the areas surrounding Gaza.

In Gaza, cars could be heard back on the streets as the territory appeared to be springing back to life. Israeli military drones still buzzed overhead.

U.N. and Islamic Jihad officials were in touch Wednesday with Egyptian mediators, who typically broker agreements to end fighting in Gaza, and

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 22 of 45

Late Wednesday, Islamic Jihad's leader, Ziad al-Nakhalah, announced three conditions for an end to the fighting: an end to targeted killings, a halt in Israeli shootings of protesters at weekly demonstrations along the Israeli border and easing a 12-year-old Israeli blockade that has devastated Gaza's economy.

Israel imposed the blockade after Hamas violently seized control of Gaza in 2007 from the internationally backed Palestinian Authority. Israel considers Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which both seek its destruction, to be terrorist groups.

The killing of Islamic Jihad's Bahaa Abu el-Atta on Tuesday coincided with a strike in the Syrian capital of Damascus that targeted another Islamic Jihad commander. Israel hasn't claimed responsibility for that attack and the commander was not killed, but the strikes stepped up Israel's regional conflict with Iran and its proxies.

Israel often strikes Iranian interests in Syria and the fresh fighting looked to awaken Israel's increasingly open conflict with Iran and its proxies in the region.

Iran supplies Islamic Jihad with training, expertise and money. Although its base is Gaza, Islamic Jihad also has some of its leadership in Beirut and in Damascus, where it maintains close ties with Iranian officials.

As Iran's proxy in Gaza, the group is key to Tehran's strategy of keeping pressure on Israel on all fronts. Iran has forces based in Syria, Israel's northern neighbor, and supports Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. Hamas also receives some support from Iran.

The violence came at a touchy time in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads a caretaker government after two elections ended inconclusively and after he failed twice to form a governing coalition.

His main rival, former army chief Benny Gantz, is now trying to cobble together a government, but his chances appear slim. If he fails by next week, Israel could be on its way to an unprecedented third election in less than a year.

Lawmakers from across the political spectrum typically rally behind the government during a military operation, and Netanyahu has briefed Gantz before and during the violence, setting off speculation the conflagration may succeed to push the men toward an agreement.

The escalation also comes ahead of an expected indictment against Netanyahu for a number of corruption allegations.

During the months of election campaigning, the long-serving Israeli leader has sought to depict himself as the only leader capable of steering Israel through its myriad security challenges, painting Gantz as weak despite his military bona fides.

With the legal woes hovering, the latest round of violence could help to bolster Netanyahu's image.

Goldenberg reported from Jerusalem.

## Walmart hires off-duty officers ahead of El Paso reopening

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Walmart has quietly hired off-duty officers at its stores in El Paso, Texas, where a gunman police say targeted Mexicans opened fire in a store in August and killed 22 people.

Walmart plans Thursday to reopen the store where the attack happened and amid ongoing lawsuits over safety. Walmart didn't have a guard in the store the day of the mass shooting.

The reopening will happen unceremoniously, Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia said, and will follow a brief meeting with employees. She declined comment on security measures.

Police say Patrick Crusius drove more than 10 hours from his grandparents' house where he lived in a Dallas suburb to carry out the attack. Crusius, 21, has pleaded not guilty. More than 3,000 people from largely Latino El Paso and neighboring Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, were at the store when the attack happened.

"There was a time that Walmart hired off-duty officers and for some time prior (to) August 3rd that ceased," said El Paso police spokesman Enrique Carrillo, in an email. He declined to provide more details.

When El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen first revealed the phasing out of officers in a city council meeting, council members discussed possibly mandating that off-duty officers be hired at large stores. The idea

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 23 of 45

hadn't been implemented.

Instead, Walmart quietly started hiring off-duty officers at their stores across the city, from Supercenters to "neighborhood markets," the retail giant's smaller grocery stores.

"We're covering Walmarts, we're also covering Sam's (Club)," said El Paso police union president Ron Martin. "Even the neighborhood Walmarts are being covered. Some of them are being covered by sheriff's deputies, some of them are being covered by our guys. I mean, I have seen some constables working it."

Martin said it's unclear how long Walmart will continue to staff every location.

Pay for the off-duty officers is about \$50 per hour depending on their rank, or about double their hourly wage.

Walmart declined to discuss the hiring of police officers, the costs, or if they are taking similar steps in other cities.

"We typically do not share our security measures publicly because it could make them less effective, but they may include hiring additional security, adding cameras in store and using 'lot cops' in the parking lot," said Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia, referring to security cameras placed in parking lots. "We will continue our long-standing practice of regularly evaluating our staffing, training, procedures, and technology which are designed to provide a safe working and shopping experience."

Garcia said in a statement that shoppers may notice additional security at the Walmart that is reopening "to help facilitate traffic flow and support other store needs."

Some victims of the attack are now suing Walmart over the lack of security, arguing that its method for evaluating security boils down to an inadequate algorithm.

Many in El Paso still feel tense after the shooting.

On a recent Friday morning, brothers Robert and Jaime Serrano ate pizza in the food court of a Sam's Club — Walmart's membership-based store — adjacent to the shooting site.

"It should reopen because you can't let these people win," said Robert Serrano. "We're still here and we're more cautious."

Serrano says shoppers are more sensitive. He said a 16-year-old boy became frightened of him because he was wearing a shirt with an image of a grenade launcher, a weapon he used in his Army days.

"It was like a week after the Walmart shooting and he acted nervous. And he was covering his mom. He was protecting her. And I don't want to put it (the grenade shirt) on anymore because of that."

Construction workers have broken ground on a permanent memorial in the store's parking lot, a "Grand Candela" that will be around 30 feet (9.14 meters) tall and could be finished in as little as three weeks.

The reopening of the El Paso store also comes as Walmart has dipped its toe in the gun debate.

It plans to post signage with its new policy discouraging customers from openly carrying guns. But it's not banning them.

A month after the mass shooting in El Paso, Walmart announced that it planned to phase out sales of certain kinds of ammunition in its stores.

The move will reduce its market share of ammunition from around 20% to less than 10%, according to Walmart. About half of its more than 4,750 U.S. stores sell firearms, but they account for only 2% of guns sold in the U.S. Most are sold through thousands of unaffiliated gun shops or gun shows, not big retail chains.

AP writer Anne D'Innocenzio in New York contributed to this report.

## Iraq's protests raise question: Where does the oil money go?

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Waves of violent protests have engulfed Baghdad and Iraq's southern provinces, with demonstrators chanting for the downfall of a political establishment that they say doesn't prioritize them.

Fueling the unrest is anger over an economy flush with oil money that has failed to bring jobs or improvements to the lives of young people, who are the majority of those taking to the streets. They say

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 24 of 45

they have had enough of blatant government corruption and subpar basic services.

At least 320 people have died, and thousands have been wounded since the unrest began on Oct. 1.

"We are jobless and poor, but every day we see the flares of the oil fields," said Huda, an activist in Basra, the province that accounts for the lion's share of Iraq's crude exports. She spoke on condition she be identified only by her first name for security reasons.

"Where do the millions go?" she asked.

It's a good question. Oil accounts for roughly 85-90% of state revenue. This year's federal budget anticipated \$79 billion in oil money based on projected exports of 3.88 million barrels per day at a price of \$56 a barrel. Iraq's economy improved in 2019 due to an increase in oil production, and GDP growth is expected to grow by 4.6% by the end of the year, according to the World Bank.

The fruits of these riches are rarely seen by the average Iraqi because of financial mismanagement, bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption, experts and officials told The Associated Press. Overall unemployment is around 11% while 22% of the population lives in poverty, according to World Bank estimates. A striking one-third of Iraqi youth are without jobs.

"One of the main problems is that the oil wealth is spent on the public sector, and especially on salaries," said Ali al-Mawlawi, head of research at al-Bayan Center, a Baghdad-based think-tank.

Iraq's brand of sectarian power-sharing — called the "muhasasa" system in Arabic — effectively empowers political elites to govern based on consensus and informal agreements, marginalizing the role of parliament and alienating much of the Iraqi population in the process.

On the ground, this dynamic has played out through a quota system whereby resources are shared among political leaders, with each vying to increase networks of patronage and build support. To do this, leaders have relied on doling out government jobs as a foolproof method to preserve loyalty.

This tactic has bloated the public sector and drained Iraq's oil-financed budget, leaving little for investment in badly needed social and infrastructure projects.

"That has been the approach," said al-Mawlawi, "Patronage is based primarily on the provision of jobs rather than anything else. It's the primary way to distribute resources — through the public sector." In the 2019 budget, public sector compensation accounted for nearly 40% of state spending.

Iraq's public sector grew in parallel with the development of the country's oil industry following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. With major international oil companies flocking to develop the country's oil fields, the number of government employees grew three-fold in the last 16 years, according to al-Mawlawi's research.

Offering jobs is also a recourse used by Iraqi politicians to quell protests in the past. Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi included thousands of hires in a reform package introduced last month. Experts said this approach only perpetuates the problem.

The trend is not unique to Iraq; oil-rich Gulf countries have experienced the same. But the oil sector's inextricable link to Iraq's muhasasa system has created a "Frankenstein version" of a typical phenomenon, said Ahmed Tabaqchali, a senior fellow at the Sulaymaniyah-based Institute of Regional and International Studies and Chief Investment Officer at Asia Frontier Capital Iraq Fund.

Because of muhasasa's multiple, decentralized networks, "instead of one single authoritarian doing the hiring, we have many hiring as if on steroids," Tabaqchali said.

Following the money trail of how ministries spend their budgets is difficult even for well-meaning reformers because there is little transparency and accountability.

The national budget has allocated increasing amounts every year for "goods and services," which can vary from public service projects to mundane expenses like maintaining a ministry building. But many complain little progress can be seen on the ground.

In some cases, the money is simply not spent because of poor planning and management, said al-Mawlawi.

Last year's budget ended with a surplus of around \$21 billion "not because we had too much money, but because we didn't know how to spend it the right way," he said.

Often, money earmarked for service projects by the government or international organizations gets



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 25 of 45

spent by ministry officials for expenditures, said an Iraqi official, who requested anonymity because of regulations. Officials lump all the budgets together for spending and then "they always prioritize petty things and claim the money isn't enough for the project," the official said.

Or the funds are used to pay debts accumulated from previous years, the official said. "So when it's time to sign the contract, they say 'no money' because what they have isn't enough."

"There are thousands of ways bureaucrats can siphon it off," the official added.

Crucial projects, meanwhile, remain incomplete.

School buildings in Basra, the province that accounts for the lion's share of oil exports, are crumbling and overcrowded with multiple-shift programs.

On a recent visit to the Al-Akrameen school in the Abu Khaseeb neighborhood, headmaster Abdulhussain AbdulKhudher said he had asked the Education Directorate for funding to refurbish the school building erected in 1972 but was told there was no money.

"I rely on parents and volunteers to give furniture, keep the place clean for students so they can get an education," he said.

Nearby, another school stood desolate. A young girl walked by and explained that it was empty and the students had been moved to another pre-existing school. "It will collapse any minute," she said.

Iraqi leaders have been unwilling so far to reform the system, which experts said is unsustainable because of limited resources and overreliance on volatile oil markets.

Serious attempts were made following the 2015 financial crisis, when unpopular austerity measures were introduced by former Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi's administration. But when oil prices recovered, political pressure trumped strict spending measures.

Abdul-Mahdi's government saw a 25% increase in spending compared to previous years.

## Despite female push, Garth Brooks bests Underwood at CMAs

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

The Country Music Association Awards almost fully honored and highlighted the women of country music — whose songs have been heavily dismissed on country radio over the years — until two words were uttered when they named its entertainer of the year: Garth Brooks.

Wednesday night's show kicked off with a performance featuring country female acts across generations, included three female hosts and had Maren Morris as its top nominee. But in the final moments, Brooks won the top prize over Carrie Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011.

Brooks did highlight female acts during his acceptance speech at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"If they gave this award for this show tonight, I'd have to give it to Reba McEntire's performance," Brooks said, while also praising Kelsea Ballerini and Luke Combs, who won two honors.

All eyes seemed to be on Underwood, who had a successful year with her album "Cry Pretty" and an all-female tour, for an entertainer of the year win. The last woman to win the prize was Taylor Swift, and Underwood was this year's sole female nominee.

Underwood hosted the show alongside McEntire and Dolly Parton, and though she didn't win any awards, Underwood did win over the audience: She was a vocal beast, hitting all the right notes and more during a smoky performance of "Drinking Alone."

Morris also marked the big night for female country acts by taking home album of the year for "GIRL." The award also went to her producer busbee, who died in September at age 43 from brain cancer.

"I would be really remiss if I didn't mention a huge facet of why this album sounds the way it does, and we miss him so dearly. He texted me the morning that we got the nomination for album of the year this year, and we were so excited, and that's our friend busbee," a teary-eyed Morris said onstage. "His wife Jess is here tonight and she looks so beautiful. Thank you for sharing your husband with us once a month, and my heart just goes out to you and your beautiful daughters. I hope when they listen to this record or

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 26 of 45

any of the songs that he made that made us all better, they know how amazing their father was.”

Kacey Musgraves, who won four Grammys this year, picked up female vocalist of the year and music video of the year for “Rainbow.”

“The female creative spirit, the female energy is really needed right now, it’s really important and I feel like it’s something that Earth needs. So whether it’s me that’s up here or any of the other women in this category, I just think that it’s a beautiful thing and I’m very appreciative,” Musgraves said.

Other women who won Wednesday included Ashley McBryde, who won new artist of the year, and fiddle player Jenee Fleenor, named musician of the year.

Musgraves, joined by Willie Nelson, gave a wonderful performance of “Rainbow Connection” from “The Muppet Movie,” even weaving in some of her own song “Rainbow.” Pink also shined, with Chris Stapleton by her side, as she performed the song “Love Me Anyway.” And Dan + Shay, who won vocal duo of the year, gave a beautiful, heartwarming performance of the hit “Speechless.”

In a white dress and standing on a stage donned with white flowers, Morris — who is pregnant — performed her hit song “GIRL,” touching her belly as she hit a high note at the end of her performance.

“GIRL” was also nominated for single of the year and song of the year, but it lost in both categories (the winners were Blake Shelton’s “God’s Country” and Combs’ “Beautiful Crazy”). Morris also lost musical event of the year to Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus’ ubiquitous No. 1 hit, “Old Town Road.”

Combs, who has dominated the country charts and streaming services with his songs and albums, also won male vocalist of the year, beating out Stapleton, Keith Urban, Thomas Rhett and Dierks Bentley.

“I remember sitting on my parents’ porch as a little kid and watching Vince Gill win this same award,” he said. “Country music means everything to me.”

The three-hour CMA Awards kicked off with a dose of girl-power: Parton, Underwood and McEntire were joined by Tanya Tucker, Terri Clark, Crystal Gayle, Sara Evans, Little Big Town’s Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman, Maren Morris, Brandi Carlile, Gretchen Wilson, Martina McBride and more, singing classic country songs across two stages.

After the performance Parton asked, “What do you call three women hosting the CMAs?”

“Your lucky night,” she screamed.

McEntire added that they joined forces to host the show and perform the opening number to inspire young women watching the awards show from their TV screens.

Kris Kristofferson was also honored with a performance featuring Sheryl Crow, Bentley, John Osborne and Chris Janson. Other performers included Brooks & Dunn, Shelton, Combs, Urban, Rhett, and Lady Antebellum with pop singer Halsey.

## Next up in impeachment hearings: A parade of key witnesses

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several more witnesses scheduled to testify in the House impeachment hearings over the next week are expected to say they too worried about President Donald Trump’s push for Ukraine to investigate Democrats as the U.S. withheld military aid from the country.

What’s ahead on the impeachment schedule:

### MORE WITNESSES

The House intelligence committee, which is conducting the impeachment hearings, has set a packed schedule of open hearings over the next week.

On Friday, lawmakers will hear from former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, who was ousted in May at Trump’s direction. She told lawmakers in a closed-door deposition last month that there was a “concerted campaign” against her as Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pushed for probes of Democrat Joe Biden and other political opponents.

Eight more witnesses will testify next week, some in back-to-back hearings on the same day. Among them will be Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a National Security Council official who said he raised concerns in the White House about Trump’s push for investigations; Gordon Sondland, Trump’s European Union ambas-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 27 of 45

sador, who spoke to the president about the Ukraine policy; and Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser to the White House who told lawmakers about national security adviser John Bolton's concerns about Ukraine.

All witnesses testifying this week and next have already spoken to investigators in closed depositions, some of them for 10 hours or more.

## BACK BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Though those private depositions are largely done, Democrats have scheduled two more for this week — at the same time they are conducting the open hearings.

Democrats have scheduled a closed-door session with David Holmes, the political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, for Friday. An official familiar with the matter said Holmes is the person Taylor referred to in his testimony on Wednesday when he said an aide had overheard a conversation between Sondland and Trump in July about Ukraine conducting investigations.

They have also scheduled a Saturday deposition with Mark Sandy, an official at the Office of Management and Budget. Sandy is one of several OMB officials who have been invited by the committee to appear as lawmakers try to find out more about the military aid that was withheld. So far, none of those officials has shown up for their depositions as Trump has instructed his administration not to cooperate.

While the open hearings are being conducted by the intelligence panel, the closed-door hearings have been held by the intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform committees.

## HEADED TO JUDICIARY

The public hearings are expected to last at least another week. After that, the three committees will submit a report to the Judiciary panel, which will oversee the impeachment process.

Judiciary is expected to hold its own hearings and, eventually, vote on articles of impeachment. Democrats say they are still deciding whether to write them.

Next would come a floor vote, and if articles of impeachment are approved by the House, there would then be a Senate trial.

House Democrats are hoping to finish the process by the end of the year. A Senate trial, if called for, would likely come in 2020.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

## Hong Kong police say protesters out of control, deny curfew

By PATRICK QUINN and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong police warned protesters on Thursday that they were moving "one step closer to terrorism" by sinking the city into chaos, as riot squads skirmished with militant students at major universities.

Police spokesman Tse Chun-chung denied his department had been asked to enforce a possible curfew this weekend. A Chinese state media outlet later removed its tweet saying authorities were considering a weekend curfew that cited unidentified sources.

"We are aware of the relevant report circulating online," Tse said at a daily briefing, referring to the report as "false." He said the authority to order a curfew lies with Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, and "that's why police are not in a position to comment."

"The force is certainly capable and determined to control Hong Kong's social unrest at the moment. We welcome any new measures that can help us to achieve the goal of restoring the public safety and order in Hong Kong," Tse added.

In unusually harsh language, he said students were turning university campuses into "weapons factories" and a "hotbed" of crime.

"Their acts are another step closer to terrorism," Tse said, warning of a major disaster if gasoline bombs stored on campuses were to catch fire.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 28 of 45

He said violence that broke out this week at Chinese University of Hong Kong is spreading to other campuses "like a cancer cell," mentioning specifically Hong Kong University and Baptist University.

"It's time to wake up. No society can tolerate this much senseless violence," he said.

With no end to the protests in sight, the beleaguered police force is appointing a group of prison guards as special constables.

Up to 100 officers from the Correctional Services Department who are already familiar with anti-riot equipment will be given additional training and deployed mainly to guard government premises.

"The ongoing riots over the past few months, with their massive scale, simultaneous occurrence in various districts and grave severity of violence, make it necessary to strengthen the support for the police's front-line officers," a statement from the police spokesman's office said.

Residents endured a fourth day of traffic snarls and mass transit disruptions as protesters closed some main roads and rail networks.

Police said protesters shot several arrows at them near Hong Kong Polytechnic University. No officers were injured, and six arrows were seized at the scene, police said.

Life in this city of 7.5 million has been strained as thousands of commuters have been unable to get to work or endured lengthy commutes.

The government appealed for employers to show flexibility. "For staff who cannot report for duty on time on account of conditions in road traffic or public transport services, employers should give due consideration to the circumstances," a statement said.

A business and high-end retail district in the center of the city was once again taken over by protesters at lunchtime, as it has been every day since Monday. Office workers watched from the sidewalks and overpasses as protesters littered the streets with bricks and other items to block traffic and police.

At one point, a group of police swooped in and kicked the bricks to the curb along one major thoroughfare, but the standoff continued.

The Education Bureau extended the suspension of classes for kindergarten to high school students until Monday. It ordered schools to remain open, though, to handle children whose parents need to send them to school.

Protesters have hurled gasoline bombs and thrown objects off bridges onto roads below during clashes at campuses this week. The Chinese University of Hong Kong suspended classes for the rest of the year, and others asked students to switch to online learning.

Students at Chinese University, site of some of the fiercest clashes where students hurled more than 400 firebombs at police on Tuesday, have barricaded themselves in the suburban campus.

Early Thursday they used chainsaws to drop trees onto streets around the campus and prepared for a possible confrontation with police, who were not intervening.

A major rail line connecting Kowloon to mainland China was closed for a second day and five major underground stations were shut along with seven light rail routes, the Transport Department announced.

"Road-based transport services have been seriously affected this morning due to continued road blockages and damage to road facilities. In view of safety concerns and uncertain road conditions, buses can only provide limited services," the department said.

One of the main cross-harbor tunnels connecting Hong Kong Island to Kowloon and the rest of the city was closed after protesters set some of the toll booths on fire Wednesday night.

Traffic was also disrupted because protesters have destroyed at least 240 traffic lights around the city.

Anti-government protests have riven Hong Kong, and divided its people, for more than five months.

The movement began over a now-withdrawn extradition bill that would have allowed criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Activists saw it as another sign of an erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy and 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.



## Powerful hard-liner: Iran should stop honoring nuclear deal

By **NASSER KARIMI** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A prominent member of Iran's powerful Guardian Council has told The Associated Press that the Islamic Republic should stop honoring all terms of the collapsing 2015 nuclear deal with world powers amid tensions with the United States.

The comments by Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei show an increasing willingness among Iran's hard-liners to use the country's atomic program to pressure Western powers.

Nonproliferation experts are already concerned that steps Tehran has taken over the past months away from the accord narrow the estimated year it would need to build a nuclear bomb, if it chose to pursue one.

Yet Iran still allows United Nations inspectors to monitor its nuclear sites and hasn't pushed its enrichment anywhere near weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Completely abandoning the deal as Kadkhodaei suggests could lead to an immediate confrontation. Israel, which has bombed Iraq and Syria in the past to stop their atomic programs, repeatedly has warned it won't allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon.

"I think those who disrupted the game should be punished since they damaged other parties' interests," Kadkhodaei said in an interview with the AP in Tehran on Saturday.

Kadkhodaei serves on the 12-member Guardian Council, a panel of six clerics appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and six jurists nominated by Iran's hard-line judiciary approved by its parliament. The Guardian Council approves all parliamentary and presidential candidates and must agree to all legislation passed by parliament before it becomes law.

That grants the body, which Kadkhodaei has served on intermittently since 2001, tremendous power in the political life of the Islamic Republic. It has also never allowed a woman to run for president and blocks candidates calling for dramatic changes to the Islamic Republic.

The Guardian Council in 2015 approved the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Iranians celebrated in the streets of Tehran, hopeful the deal between their relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani and then-President Barack Obama meant Iran might normalize relations with the West after decades of enmity.

But President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord in May 2018, saying the deal didn't go far enough to stop Iran's ballistic missile program and what he described as Tehran's malign influence across the wider Mideast.

Kadkhodaei says Iran should no longer honor its commitments in the deal, calling it "very natural, logical and based on the agreement's framework."

That directly contradicts Rouhani's position, who earlier this week declared Iran was "proud" of the deal. He tried to lobby hard-liners to back Iran's staying in the deal by saying that next year, the country would be able to sell and purchase weapons abroad — something the U.S. already fears.

"We have to think and see where the country's interests are," Rouhani said. "Since remaining in the deal benefits us, the Islamic Republic of Iran chose a halfway method to protect the deal while reducing its commitments."

Kadkhodaei, however, said pulling away from the deal would punish the U.S. "because they damaged others and their interests."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown a lot of patience so far and it remained in the framework of its commitments," Kadkhodaei said. "In recent months, it has taken some actions in direction of vindication of its rights."

Those recent actions are what Tehran calls its "four steps" away from the accord.

Iran now enriches uranium up to 4.5%, beyond the 3.67% allowed by the deal. Iranian officials say their stockpile of low-enriched uranium is over 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds), beyond the accord's 300-kilogram (661-pound) limit. It also began using advanced centrifuges prohibited by the agreement and resumed enrichment at its underground Fordo facility.

The decision to restart work at Fordo particularly worries nonproliferation experts.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 30 of 45

Shielded by the mountains, the facility also is ringed by anti-aircraft guns and other fortifications. It's about the size of a football field, large enough to house 3,000 centrifuges, but small and hardened enough to lead U.S. officials to suspect its purpose was rapid uranium enrichment to weapons-grade levels.

Iran insists Fordo was built at such a location to protect it from threatened airstrikes by Israel and the West but that it's intended only to serve Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

"Iran's frustration with the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions in violation of the deal is understandable, but its most recent breach at Fordo is a very serious escalation that increases the risk that the nuclear agreement will collapse," warned Kelsey Davenport, the director for nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association.

However, Davenport said she believed Iran wanted to pressure the West to honor the deal's terms. Iranian officials have been trying to pressure Europe to come up with a way to sell its crude oil abroad, but a promised trade mechanism and a \$15 billion line of credit floated by the French have yet to take hold.

"Iran is not racing to build a bomb but is trying to apply more pressure on the remaining parties to the deal to deliver on economic benefits agreed to in the" deal, she said.

Iran will likely have the 1,050 kilograms (2,315 pounds) of low-enriched uranium necessary to enrich up to weapons-grade levels for a single bomb "in just over four months—or sooner if Iran continues to expand its enrichment capacity," Davenport said.

The U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal sent Iran's economy into freefall. Nationwide economic protests roiled Iran at the end of 2017. Kadhodaei said the Iranian people would likely have those hardships in mind when they vote in parliamentary elections scheduled for February.

"The economic situation is different," he said. "Naturally, sensitivities are higher. ... We should be mindful of all these things. They will eventually lead to a proper participation of people" in the vote.

---

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

## Astros can make history if Bregman wins MVP

By NOAH TRISTER AP Baseball Writer

Alex Bregman will try to give the Houston Astros an unprecedented sweep.

If the All-Star slugger is selected the American League's Most Valuable Player when voting results are announced Thursday, the Astros will become the first team to have an MVP, Cy Young Award winner and Rookie of the Year in the same season. Justin Verlander took Cy Young honors, and Yordan Álvarez was a unanimous pick as the AL's top rookie.

Mike Trout is probably Bregman's top competition, and the National League MVP figures to come down to Cody Bellinger of the Dodgers or Christian Yelich of the Brewers, with Anthony Rendon of the Nationals also a worthy finalist.

Both MVP races were impacted by injuries. Trout was having another spectacular year for the Los Angeles Angels when right foot problems ended his season early. He did not play after Sept. 7 and was limited to 134 games.

Trout still finished with a career-high 45 home runs, along with a .291 batting average, 104 RBIs, 110 runs and a 1.083 OPS. Trout won MVP awards in 2014 and 2016 and has finished in the top two in the voting six of the past seven years.

Bregman, however, has a strong case after his Houston team finished with a major league-best 107 wins. He hit .296 with 41 home runs, 112 RBIs, 122 runs and 119 walks. He also showed versatility by playing third base and shortstop.

Bregman played in 156 games, and that extra availability helped him match Trout in wins above replacement, a stat that always reflects well on the Los Angeles outfielder. Bregman finished at 8.4 WAR and Trout at 8.3, according to Baseball-Reference.com.

In the NL, Bellinger finished at 9.0 WAR and Yelich at 7.1, although the FanGraphs.com version of WAR has those two neck and neck. Again, availability was an issue. Yelich broke his kneecap late in the season

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 31 of 45

and wasn't able to play during the Brewers' run to an NL wild card.

Yelich still might have done enough to win a second straight MVP award. The Milwaukee outfielder hit 44 home runs and won the so-called slash line Triple Crown by leading the NL in batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

Yelich played in only 130 games, though. That's not a deal breaker — Barry Bonds was the NL MVP in 2003 with 130 games played, and just last year, Mookie Betts of Boston won the AL award despite playing in only 136. But it may be hard for Yelich to beat out Bellinger, who led the NL in total bases and hit .305 with 47 homers in 156 games while playing excellent defense.

Bellinger would be the first position player for the Dodgers to win MVP honors since Kirk Gibson in 1988, the year of the team's most recent World Series title.

Rendon is another NL contender. He emerged as the World Series champion Nationals fought their way to the postseason after a poor start. The voting is done before the playoffs, so Rendon's postseason performance won't be a factor, but he'd already done plenty before that.

The 29-year-old third baseman hit .319 this year with 34 homers, and led the NL in doubles and RBIs.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## China tests Mars lander in international cooperation push

By SAMUEL McNEIL Associated Press

HUAILAI, China (AP) — China invited observers to a successful test Thursday of its Mars lander as the country pushes for inclusion in more global space projects.

The demonstration of hovering, obstacle avoidance and deceleration capabilities was conducted at a site outside Beijing simulating conditions on the Red Planet, where the pull of gravity is about one-third that of Earth.

China plans to launch a lander and rover to Mars next year to explore parts of the planet in detail.

China's burgeoning space program achieved a lunar milestone earlier this year by landing a probe on the mysterious far side of the moon.

It has developed rapidly, especially since it conducted its first crewed mission in 2003 and has sought cooperation with space agencies from Europe and elsewhere.

The U.S., however, has banned most space cooperation with China out of national security concerns, keeping China from participating in the International Space Station.

Despite that, China's ambitions continue to grow as it seeks to rival the U.S., Russia and Europe in space and cement its position as a regional and global power. It is gradually constructing its own larger, more permanent space station in which it has invited foreign participation.

The lander on Thursday successfully avoided ground obstacles during a simulated low-gravity descent, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, the Chinese space program's main contractor.

The refrigerator-sized craft was lowered gently on 36 cables through the air for about a minute and used onboard jets spraying rust-colored fumes to alter its downward course.

"After the probe is launched, it will take about seven months to reach Mars, and the final procedure of landing will only last about seven minutes, which is the most difficult and the most risky part of the whole mission," said the Mars mission's chief designer, Zhang Rongqiao, standing before the 140-meter-(460-foot-) tall testing facility.

Recent rover crashes on the moon by Israel and India highlight the difficulties of safe landings from space.

The remote Comprehensive Testing Ground for Landing on Extraterrestrial Bodies run by CASC lies an hour north of the Great Wall from Beijing.

Guests at Thursday's event came from 19 countries and included the ambassadors of Brazil, France and Italy.

"This event is the first public appearance of China's Mars exploration mission, also an important measure

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 32 of 45

for China to pragmatically carry out space international exchanges and cooperation," the China National Space Administration said in a news release.

## California crisis of fires, blackouts decades in the making

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

The utility that serves more than 5 million electrical customers in one of the world's most technologically advanced areas is now faced again and again with a no-win decision: risk starting catastrophic deadly wildfires, or turn off the lights and immiserate millions of paying customers.

Pacific Gas & Electric is in bankruptcy, facing \$30 billion in liabilities, billions more in needed upgrades to its system and an uncertain path to safely providing reliable power to a vast portion of California.

How that came to be is a story not of a single villain but of systemic failure by the utility's management, the regulators who oversee it and the politicians who let it all happen. It's a story of climate change, a housing crisis and an aging power system that, like much of the U.S. infrastructure, has fallen into disrepair.

"There's a ton of blame to go around here," said Christopher Knittel, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

The problem and its potential solutions have jumped to the top of the California political agenda. But most experts agree: Even under the best scenarios, the fires and widespread power shutoffs will be here for years to come. In the meantime, Californians will pay higher prices for less reliable energy.

"It's not just going to be a PG&E cost, isolated from impact on the consumer," said Matthew Cordaro, a longtime utility executive and a trustee for the Long Island Power Authority, which sustained significant damage during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. "The consumer's going to have to pay for it."

The danger from a growing number of people living next to power lines and dry forests as the climate changes wasn't unknown, but it wasn't front of mind before electrical systems started a series of fires that swept through Northern California two years ago, leaving a trail of destruction and killing dozens. What seemed unthinkable was repeated just a year later, when PG&E power lines started the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people.

PG&E operates some 125,000 miles (200,000 kilometers) of power lines, enough to wrap around the equator five times. Much of the system traverses remote forests that are dry from years of drought and dense from a lack of logging or natural fires. California has 138 million dead trees, all of them potential fuel for fire.

Meanwhile, a shortage of housing in cities — and stiff resistance to building more — has pushed new construction into forested areas, where there are few barriers to building.

And the climate is warming. While scientists can't blame climate change alone for any one fire, they say it contributes to drier brush, hotter temperatures and stronger winds, all of which help flames spread farther, faster. Five of the 10 largest fires and seven of the 10 most destructive have happened in the last decade. The deadliest were started by power lines.

More than half of PG&E's 70,000 square miles (181,000 square kilometers) of service territory is designated as high risk for fires, according to the company's wildfire mitigation plan submitted this year to the state's utility regulator, the California Public Utilities Commission.

Operating in that environment poses challenges for any company, but PG&E has an especially checkered past.

The company neglected to maintain its systems so egregiously that it was found criminally liable for a deadly explosion in its natural gas system that killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in San Bruno, California, in 2010. It was fined and placed on probation when a jury found the company cut corners on safety and misled investigators in an attempt to cover it up.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has accused PG&E of prioritizing its shareholders and executives over the maintenance, upgrades and tree trimming that could prevent wildfires and limit the misery from intentional blackouts. The company has reported it still has 2,700 miles of outdated copper wire, which is prone to breakage and arcing, in high-risk fire zones.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 33 of 45

"A lot of money went to dividends that should've gone to your trees. Get square with the people of California, who depend on you to do the job safely," U.S. District Judge William Alsup told a PG&E lawyer during an April probation hearing, KQED News reported.

PG&E has acknowledged shortcomings in its first big power shutoff and agreed to rebate affected customers, but CEO Bill Johnson has repeatedly said the blackouts protect the public. He's said it will take a decade to get PG&E's system to a place where widespread blackouts aren't necessary.

Company officials say they've invested \$27 billion in their power system over the past decade.

For all PG&E's faults, power companies operate in one of the most highly regulated industries in the country, their investments overseen by the CPUC, which failed to foresee the fire risk or adequately force PG&E to prepare for it.

"The PUC is tasked with overseeing PG&E and making sure they're making decisions in the interest of the public good," said Knittel, of MIT.

California regulators and lawmakers squandered an opportunity to impose sweeping changes on a hobbled PG&E nearly 20 years ago when the utility landed in bankruptcy court the first time, after California's energy crisis.

Instead, after three years of wrangling, PG&E worked out a plan, much of it in secret, with a former utility industry executive, Michael Peevey, then-president of the CPUC.

Other regulators and consumer activists tried to block that deal, calling it a travesty. But after a few minor concessions, PG&E emerged from bankruptcy protection in April 2004 with a customer-backed \$7.2 billion bailout that enabled it to charge abnormally high electricity rates for nearly a decade. The surcharges, designed to help PG&E recoup part of the losses that drove it into bankruptcy, cost customers an average of \$1,300 to \$1,700 apiece.

Bailout supporters argued customers would be able to count on safe, reliable power.

But it hasn't turned out that way. Getting to safe, reliable power will still require billions of dollars in system upgrades and extensive tree-trimming to keep branches and trunks from blowing into power lines.

Hardening the grid also involves replacing outdated poles and power lines, and insulating, or in dangerous areas, burying lines, which can easily cost millions of dollars per mile. Weather sensors and cameras help utilities predict and track dangerous weather. Sectionalizing lines, as other California utilities have done, allow more targeted blackouts so millions aren't left in the dark when winds pick up, as they were three times in October.

Grid hardening can help limit the frequency and the breadth of power shutoffs and wildfires, but the danger can't be totally eliminated.

"There's no way to completely protect the electricity grid and control all of its interactions with the environment around it," said Ted Kury, director of energy studies for the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida. "Any place you locate power lines there's going to be a tradeoff."

Shareholders and bondholders are competing to control the company once it emerges from bankruptcy, and there are also proposals to redesign its ownership, have cities take a stake, or more broadly overhaul regulations.

Newsom has said the regulator's problems are in the past after his appointment of a new head of the CPUC. He's been deeply critical of PG&E, saying the utility "as we know it cannot persist and continue." He's pushed the company to work through issues and get out of bankruptcy by next summer, even threatening a takeover.

PG&E's chief executive has resisted the more ambitious restructuring proposals.

"I think the way it is structured now is the best idea for the majority of customers," Johnson told reporters.

Kris Mayes, Arizona's former top utility regulator who now leads the Utility of the Future Center at Arizona State University, said PG&E should be broken into two or three more manageable entities, and California should shift to "performance-based regulation" that rewards utilities for things like safety, reliability, customer service or the amount of renewable energy. Utilities now are awarded a fixed profit on their investments. The need for long-distance transmission lines could be reduced by conserving energy and generating and storing more of it locally, she said.

"The utilities have been rewarded over decades for building big stuff, including these power lines that are now causing fires," Mayes said.

Whatever route PG&E goes, it still faces extensive debt for its existing infrastructure and stiff liabilities from starting the two deadliest and most destructive wildfires on record in United States history. Those costs, and likely the cost for system upgrades, are likely to be passed to its customers.

"This is an unacceptable situation in California, and no utility should ever put its customers in harm's way," Mayes said. "It's just not supposed to happen."

## **AP FACT CHECK: GOP presses empty Ukraine meddling theory**

**By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans pressed the discredited theory that Ukraine meddled in the 2016 U.S. election in defending President Donald Trump in Wednesday's impeachment hearings.

A look at some of the remarks in the House Intelligence Committee proceeding:

**REP. DEVIN NUNES**, top Republican on the panel: "The Democrats cooperated in Ukrainian election meddling. ... Officials showed a surprising lack of interest in the indications of Ukrainian election meddling that deeply concerned the president at whose pleasure they serve."

**THE FACTS:** The theory that Ukrainians interfered in the U.S. election and that Democrats cooperated in that effort is unsubstantiated. If U.S. officials showed a lack of interest in pursuing the matter, it's because they considered it "fiction," as one put it.

Trump himself was told by his officials that the theory was "completely debunked" long before the president pressed Ukraine to investigate it anyway, according to Tom Bossert, Trump's first homeland security adviser. And in testimony at the closed-door hearings that preceded Wednesday's public session, Fiona Hill, former special assistant to Trump on the National Security Council, said it was bogus.

"It is a fiction that the Ukrainian government was launching an effort to upend our election," Hill testified. "I'm extremely concerned that this is a rabbit hole that we're all going to go down in between now and the 2020 election, and it will be to all of our detriment."

Broadly, the theory contends that a hack of the Democratic National Committee in 2016 was a setup designed to cast blame on Russia but actually cooked up by or with the help of Ukrainians. But the evidence points conclusively to Russia, not Ukraine.

Based on a security firm's findings that Russian agents had broken into the Democrats' network and stolen emails, special counsel Robert Mueller indicted 12 members of Russia's military intelligence agency and concluded that their operation sought to help Trump's candidacy, not Hillary Clinton's, as the conspiracy theorists and Trump have it.

**REP. ADAM SCHIFF**, committee chairman, responding to Nunes' claim that the Democrat knows the identity of the whistleblower and his staff has spoken with that official: "That's a false statement. I do not know the identity of the whistleblower."

**THE FACTS:** Nunes is correct about one part of that statement: Schiff's staff has been in touch with the whistleblower.

Schiff may not know the whistleblower's identity himself, but someone on his committee staff very well could.

Schiff wrongly stated in September that his committee had not communicated with the whistleblower before that official's complaint was filed.

In fact, Schiff spokesman Patrick Boland said the whistleblower contacted the committee for guidance, speaking to an aide who counseled the official to contact the inspector general and get his own counsel.

**REP. JIM JORDAN**, Ohio Republican, on why the hold on military aid to Ukraine doesn't amount to a quid pro quo: Ukrainian President Volodymyr "Zelenskiy had to commit to an investigation of the Bidens before

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 35 of 45

the aid got released. And the aid got released, and he didn't commit to an investigation."

THE FACTS: It's true that the aid was released without Trump's demand for a Ukrainian probe of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter being met. But Jordan and other Republicans who made this point ignored a key detail about the failure of the this-for-that deal to be consummated: The administration got caught holding up the aid to Ukraine.

According to the hearing, the aid that Congress had approved months earlier and Trump had frozen was finally freed Sept. 11.

That was days after congressional committees had begun looking into the matter, aware that the assistance had been sidelined and that a whistleblower had a complaint in motion.

The fact that this episode was coming to light also got Zelenskiy off the hook from having to decide between announcing the investigation Trump wanted or defying the U.S. president.

According to testimony to the committee, Zelenskiy was planning to go on CNN to announce the probe — satisfying Trump's wish to have him commit to one publicly — when the disclosure of the pressure campaign by Trump and his underlings relieved him of that need.

NUNES: "The whistleblower was acknowledged to have a bias against President Trump."

THE FACTS: That may or may not be so. Whatever the whistleblower's political beliefs, though, that official's complaint was deemed credible by the inspector general who received it.

Moreover, the July 25 phone conversation described by the whistleblower closely tracked the account later released by the White House.

It was during that call that Trump pressed Zelenskiy to investigate Democrats, along with Biden and his son, as a "favor."

NUNES, on the Trump administration's military aid to Ukraine: "This was a very strong message that Americans are willing to provide more than blankets. This was the Obama administration's approach."

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating.

While the Obama administration refused to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons in 2014 to fight Russian-backed separatists, it offered a range of other military and security aid — not just "blankets."

By March 2015, the Obama administration had provided more than \$120 million in security aid for Ukraine and promised \$75 million worth of equipment, including counter-mortar radars, night vision devices and medical supplies, according to the Defense Department. The U.S. also pledged 230 Humvee vehicles.

The U.S. aid offer came after Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2014 annexed Crimea and provided support for separatists in eastern cities near Russia's border.

Ultimately between 2014 and 2016, the Obama administration committed more than \$600 million in security aid to Ukraine.

In the last year of the Obama administration, the U.S. established the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provided U.S. military equipment and training to help defend Ukraine against Russian aggression. From 2016 to 2019, Congress appropriated \$850 million for this initiative.

The Trump administration in 2017 agreed to provide lethal aid to Ukraine, later committing to sell \$47 million in Javelin anti-tank missiles.

WHITE HOUSE: "Don't rely on second, third, and fourth-hand accounts. Read the transcript for yourself." — tweet Wednesday.

NUNES: "Officials' alarm at the president's actions was typically based on second-hand, third-hand, and even fourth-hand rumors and innuendo."

STEPHANIE GRISHAM, White House press secretary: "Dems star witnesses can't provide any first hand knowledge." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The White House and GOP allies are incorrect in suggesting the impeachment inquiry is based purely on secondhand and thirdhand information.

It is true that William Taylor, the highest-ranking U.S. official in Ukraine who testified Wednesday, was not on the call at the center of the whistleblower complaint and that his account relies in great part on what he learned from other witnesses. Even the most sensational aspect of his testimony — that Trump spoke with Gordon Sondland, U.S. ambassador to the EU, about investigations into Democrat Joe Biden one day after his call with Zelenskiy — was based on what he learned from staff.

But key elements of his account have been subsequently confirmed by Sondland, including in an addendum Sondland filed last week. In addition, text messages of Taylor's discussions with Sondland and Kurt Volker, another envoy, lay out the contours of a quid pro quo.

Both Sondland and Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a top Trump national security adviser who listened in on Trump's call, are scheduled to testify next week.

Meanwhile, the White House has sought to prevent those closer to Trump from appearing before the House committee, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton.

More broadly, the rough transcript of the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukraine's leader does not clear Trump. It is largely in sync with the whistleblower's complaint and the words of a succession of career civil servants and Trump political appointees brought before Congress.

Together they stitched an account that shows Trump pressing for a political favor from a foreign leader and, as key testimony has it, conditioning military aid on getting what he wanted.

---

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

---

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## Clashes rock Bolivia as new interim leader challenged

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **PAOLA FLORES** Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Renewed clashes rocked Bolivia's capital Wednesday as the woman who claimed the presidency, a second-tier lawmaker thrust into the post because of a power vacuum, faced challenges to her leadership from supporters of the ousted Evo Morales.

A day after Jeanine Añez assumed power, violent clashes broke out between rock-throwing Morales' backers and police in riot gear, who fired volleys of tear gas to disperse the large crowd of protesters as fighter jets flew low overhead in a show of force.

Opposition was also building in Congress, where lawmakers loyal to Morales were mounting a challenge to Añez's legitimacy by trying to hold new sessions that would undermine her claim to the presidency. The sessions — dismissed as invalid by Añez's faction — added to the political uncertainty following the resignation of Morales, the nation's first indigenous leader, after nearly 14 years in power.

In the streets, angry demonstrators tore off corrugated sheets of metal and wooden planks from construction sites to use as weapons, and some set off sticks of dynamite. Many along flooded the streets of the capital and its sister city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold, waving the multicolored indigenous flag and chanting, "Now, civil war!"

"We don't want any dictators. This lady has stepped on us — that's why we're so mad," said Paulina Luchampe. "We're going to fight with our brothers and sisters until Evo Morales is back. We ask for his return. He needs to put the house in order."

The 60-year-old Morales, who arrived in Mexico on Tuesday under a grant of asylum, has vowed to remain active in politics and said he would be willing to go back home. "If the people ask me, we are willing to return," he said at news conference Wednesday in Mexico City.

According to the constitution, an interim president has 90 days to organize an election, and the disputed accession of Añez, who until Tuesday was second vice president of the Senate, was an example of the long list of obstacles she faces. Morales' backers, who hold a two-thirds majority in Congress, boycotted



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 37 of 45

the session she called Tuesday night to formalize her claim to the presidency, preventing a quorum.

She claimed power anyway, saying the constitution did not specifically require congressional approval. "My commitment is to return democracy and tranquility to the country," she said. "They can never again steal our vote."

Bolivia's top constitutional court issued a statement late Tuesday laying out the legal justification for Añez taking the presidency — without mentioning her by name.

But other legal experts challenged the legal technicalities that led to her claim, saying at least some of the steps required Congress to meet.

The lingering questions could affect her ability to govern.

Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian political scientist at Florida International University, said the constitution clearly states that Añez didn't need a congressional vote to assume the presidency. Even so, "the next two months are going to be extraordinarily difficult for President Añez," he said.

"It doesn't seem likely" that Morales' party will accept Añez as president, said Jennifer Cyr, an associate professor of political science and Latin American studies at the University of Arizona. "So the question of what happens next remains — still quite unclear and extremely worrying."

She will need to form a new electoral court, find non-partisan staff for the electoral tribunal and get Congress, which is controlled by Morales' Movement for Socialism Party, to vote on a new election.

Morales resigned Sunday following weeks of violent protests fed by allegations of electoral fraud in the Oct. 20 election, which he claimed to have won. An Organization of American States audit reported widespread irregularities in the vote count and called for a new election.

But his resignation came only after Gen. Williams Kaliman, the armed forces commander, urged him to step down "for the good of Bolivia" — a move that Morales and his backers have branded a coup d'état.

Ten people have died since the protests began, Bolivia's prosecutor office said Wednesday.

Añez swore in a new Cabinet as well as new commanders-in-chief for all branches of the military Wednesday, replacing Kaliman, who had been a Morales loyalist, with Gen. Carlos Orellana. The move was seen as an effort to build an alliance with the military, although it was uncertain how much support she could count on from other Bolivian power centers.

Still, she received a boost of international support Wednesday.

Michael G. Kozak of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs welcomed her as "interim constitutional president," saying on Twitter: "We look forward to working with her & Bolivia's other civilian authorities as they arrange free & fair elections as soon as possible, in accordance w/ Bolivia's constitution."

Brazil, which is one of Bolivia's top trading partners, also congratulated her on her "constitutional" assumption of the presidency and her determination to work for peace and hold elections soon. Colombia and Guatemala also recognized her as interim president.

While Argentine President Mauricio Macri had not commented on the issue, Argentine lawmakers in both houses of Congress condemned what they called a coup.

Añez said on Twitter that she has also reached out to Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó and asked him to send an ambassador to La Paz. The current ambassador reports to President Nicolás Maduro, who has rejected her claim to the presidency saying it lacked the necessary quorum.

From the start, Añez has tried to set herself apart from Morales. Wearing the presidential sash of office, she greeted supporters at an old presidential palace Tuesday night instead of the modern 26-story presidential office with a heliport that was built by Morales — a project his foes called one of his excesses.

She also carried a Bible, which had been banned by Morales from the presidential palace after he reformed the constitution and recognized the Andean earth deity Pachamama instead of the Roman Catholic Church.

Morales, a one-time llama shepherd from the Bolivian highlands and former coca growers' union leader, helped lift millions out poverty as president, increasing social rights and presiding over stability and high economic growth in South America's poorest country.

But even many supporters eventually grew weary of his long tenure in power — as well as his insistence

on running for a fourth term despite a public referendum that upheld term limits. Bolivia's high court, which critics contend was stacked in his favor, threw out the limits. Añez said Wednesday she would seek to have the 2016 court ruling overturned to keep Morales from running in the next election.

Associated Press writers Carlos Valdez and Natacha Pisarenko in La Paz, Debora Rey in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## Diplomats accuse Trump as impeachment hits Americans' TVs

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On Day One of extraordinary public impeachment hearings, the top American diplomat in Ukraine revealed new evidence that President Donald Trump was overheard asking about political "investigations" that he later demanded from Ukraine in exchange for military aid.

The revelation came as House Democrats pressed their case for Trump's impeachment before the American people after weeks of closed-door interviews.

Wednesday's account from a pair of career diplomats was a striking though complicated one that Democrats say reveals a president abusing his office, and the power of American foreign policy, for personal political gain.

"The matter is as simple and as terrible as that," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the Intelligence Committee, as he opened the daylong hearing. "Our answer to these questions will affect not only the future of this presidency but the future of the presidency itself."

Career diplomat William Taylor, the charge d'affaires in Kyiv, offered new testimony that Trump was overheard asking on the phone about "the investigations" of Democrats that he wanted Ukraine to pursue that are central to the impeachment inquiry.

Trump said he was too busy to watch Wednesday and denied having the phone call. "First I've heard of it," he said when asked.

All day, the diplomats testified about how an ambassador was fired, the new Ukraine government was confused and they discovered an "irregular channel" — a shadow U.S. foreign policy orchestrated by the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, that raised alarms in diplomatic and national security circles.

The hearing, playing out on live television and in the partisan silos of social media, provided the nation and the world a close-up look at the investigation.

At its core, the inquiry stems from Trump's July 25 phone call when he asked Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, for "a favor."

Trump wanted the Ukraine government to investigate Democrats' activities in the 2016 election and his potential 2020 rival, Joe Biden -- all while the administration was withholding military aid for the Eastern European ally that is confronting an aggressive neighbor, Russia.

Both sides tried to distill it into soundbites.

Democrats said Trump was engaged in "bribery" and "extortion." Republicans said nothing really happened — the military aid was ultimately released after Congress complained.

Trump restated his aggressive defense with rapid-fire tweets, a video from the Rose Garden and a dismissive retort from the Oval Office as he met with another foreign leader.

"It's a witch hunt. It's a hoax," he said as he appeared with visiting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by his side.

Across the country, millions of Americans were tuning in — or, in some cases, deliberately tuning out.

Viewers on the right and left thought the day underscored their feelings. Anthony Harris, cutting hair in Savannah, Georgia, had the hearing on in his shop, but he said, "It's gotten to the point now where people are even tired of listening."

The hours of partisan back-and-forth did not appear to leave a singular moment etched in the public consciousness the way the Watergate proceedings or Bill Clinton's impeachment did generations ago.

"No real surprises, no bombshells," said committee member Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 39 of 45

Still, the session unspooled at least partly the way Democrats wanted with the somber tones of career foreign service officers telling what they knew. They sounded credible.

The witnesses, the graying Taylor and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent in his bow tie, defied White House instructions not to appear. Both received subpoenas.

They are among a dozen current and former officials who already testified behind closed doors. Wednesday was the start of days of public hearings that will stretch into next week.

Taylor, who was asked by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to return to Ukraine as Trump was firing Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, introduced new information Wednesday.

He testified that a staff member recently told him of overhearing Trump when they were meeting with another diplomat, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, at a restaurant the day after Trump's July 25 phone call to the Ukraine president that sparked the impeachment investigation.

The staff member explained that Sondland had called the president and they could hear Trump on the phone asking about "the investigations." The ambassador told the president the Ukrainians were ready to move forward, Taylor testified.

In the face of Trump's denial, Schiff expects the person to appear before investigators for a closed-door deposition. He is David Holmes, the political counselor at the embassy in Kyiv, according to an official unauthorized to discuss the matter and granted anonymity.

Republicans argued that even with the diplomats at the witness table the Democrats have only second- or third-hand knowledge of Trump's alleged transgressions.

A Trump ally on the panel, Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, mockingly called Taylor the Democrats' "star witness" and said he'd "seen church prayer chains that are easier to understand than this."

Taylor, a West Point graduate and former Army infantry officer in Vietnam, responded: "I don't consider myself a star witness for anything."

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, said Trump had a "perfectly good reason" for wanting to investigate the role of Democrats in 2016 election interference, giving airtime to a theory that runs counter to mainstream U.S. intelligence which found that Russia intervened and favored Trump.

Nunes accused the Democratic majority of conducting a "scorched earth" effort to take down the president after the special counsel's Russia investigation into the 2016 election failed to spark impeachment proceedings.

The veteran foreign service officers delivered heartfelt history lessons about Ukraine, a young and hopeful democracy, situated next to Russia but reaching out to the West.

Asked about Trump's withholding military aid from such an ally, Taylor said, "It was illogical. It could not be explained. It was crazy."

Both men defended Yovanovitch, a career officer who Kent has said was subject to Giuliani's "campaign of lies." She is to testify publicly Friday.

Kent, in his opening remarks, directly contradicted a core complaint against Joe Biden being raised by allies of the White House. While he said he himself raised concerns in 2015 about the vice president's son, Hunter Biden, being on the board of Burisma, a Ukraine gas company, he "did not witness any efforts by any U.S. official to shield Burisma from scrutiny."

Republicans sought to hear from the anonymous whistleblower by subpoenaing him for a closed-session. The panel voted down the request and Schiff and repeatedly denied the GOP claim that he knows the person.

"We will do everything necessary to protect the whistleblower's identity," Schiff declared.

The Constitution sets a dramatic but vague bar for impeachment, There's no consensus yet that Trump's actions at the heart of the inquiry meet the threshold of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

The anonymous whistleblower first alerted officials to concerns about the Trump phone call with Zelenskyy. The White House released a rough transcript of the telephone conversation, with portions deleted.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was initially reluctant to launch a formal impeachment inquiry. But she pressed ahead after the whistleblower's complaint. She said Wednesday it was sad that the country has

to undergo the inquiry with Trump, but "he will be held accountable."

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

## As rockets rain down, Israel intensifies its strikes in Gaza

By FARES AKRAM and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli aircraft struck Islamic Jihad targets throughout the Gaza Strip on Wednesday while the militant group rained scores of rockets into Israel for a second straight day as the heaviest round of fighting in months showed no signs of ending. The death toll rose to 32 Palestinians, including a 7-year-old boy and two other minors.

The dead included six Palestinians from a single family who were killed in an Israeli airstrike at their house in Deir al-Balah town, central Gaza Strip, early Thursday, the health ministry said. It was the deadliest incident since the beginning of the current fighting.

The U.N.'s Mideast envoy, Nickolay Mladenov, rushed to Cairo to work with Egyptian mediators on arranging a truce. An Islamic Jihad delegation was also expected in Egypt "very soon," an Egyptian intelligence official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

"I am very concerned about the ongoing and serious escalation between Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Israel," Mladenov said. "The U.N. is working to urgently de-escalate the situation."

Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhalah said in an interview late Wednesday that his group was ready for a cease-fire if Israel accepted "conditions," including a halt to targeted killings of Palestinian militant leaders.

"If we reach an agreement, I can even announce a cease-fire over the phone," he said.

The fighting erupted early Tuesday after Israel killed a senior commander in the Islamic Jihad militant group, along with his wife, as they slept in their Gaza home. Israeli officials say Bahaa Abu el-Atta was responsible for numerous rocket attacks and was plotting a large-scale border infiltration.

Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, responded by launching dozens of rockets toward Israel, some reaching as far as Tel Aviv, prompting Israel to carry out scores of airstrikes.

The rocket fire brought much of Israel to a standstill. Schools closed throughout southern Israel, people stayed home from work and large public gatherings were banned. Air raid sirens wailed during the day and into the evening. By Wednesday night, the army said 360 rockets had been fired at Israel.

In Gaza, schools and public institutions also were closed for a second day and there were few cars on the streets, with people mostly staying indoors. After nightfall, Gaza City resembled a ghost town, with streets empty and the whooshing sounds of outgoing rockets and explosions of Israeli airstrikes heard. Virtually the only vehicles on the roads were wailing ambulances.

In a scene that could fuel more violence, phone video shot by someone living nearby being circulated on social media showed neighbors and emergency workers frantically digging through the debris in search of bodies following the Thursday morning strike. Those killed included children, according to the health ministry in Gaza. Twelve people were also wounded.

Convening Israel's top security officials, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped the fighting would end quickly.

"We are not bent on escalation but we will do whatever is necessary to restore the quiet and security to the residents of Israel, including the residents of the south," he said.

Hamas, the larger and more powerful militant group that controls Gaza, has so far avoided entering the fray — a possible sign the violence could be brief.

Hamas, which has fought three wars with Israel, has a much more lethal arsenal than Islamic Jihad. But as the governing authority in the territory, it also is more pragmatic and appears to have little desire for more fighting at a time when Gaza's economy is in tatters.

That could change if the fighting drags on and the death toll continues to climb. Palestinian health of-



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 41 of 45

ficials reported 26 dead from Israeli airstrikes, including at least 16 militants. Five civilians, including a woman and boys ages 17, 16 and 7, were among the dead. The identities of the others killed were not immediately known.

In the southern town of Khan Younis, the military fired a nonexplosive warning shot at the two-story home of the Zourob family late Tuesday to make them evacuate. Israel says the tactic, known as a "knock on the roof," is meant to minimize casualties before a target is hit.

On Wednesday, Najab Zourob sat on the debris of her former home, next to a bomb crater, as her children tried to salvage belongings. She said she had no idea why their house had been targeted. "We don't have any relations with any factions," she said.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, said the army was limiting its strikes to Islamic Jihad targets and avoiding conflict with Hamas to prevent an escalation.

"However, it's very clear that if there will be Israeli casualties, the situation would change drastically and we would be forced to respond in a different manner," he said.

Israeli tanks, armored vehicles and artillery batteries took up positions along the Gaza border.

No Israeli deaths were reported, in part because of Israel's Iron Dome defense system, which the military said has a 90% success rate when deployed.

A few homes suffered direct hits, though, and there was a near miss on a major highway, where a rocket crashed just after a vehicle passed. In all, three people suffered slight wounds from shrapnel or shattered glass caused by rocket fire, medical officials said.

Israel's strikes against Islamic Jihad marked the latest manifestation of a spreading battle between Israel and Iranian proxies in the region.

Iran has forces based in Syria, Israel's northern neighbor, and supports Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. In Gaza, it supplies Islamic Jihad with cash, weapons and expertise.

Netanyahu also has claimed Iran is using Iraq and far-off Yemen, where Tehran supports Shiite Houthi rebels at war with a Saudi-led coalition backing the government, to plan attacks against Israel. Hamas also receives some support from Iran.

Israel frequently hits Iranian interests in Syria. But on Tuesday, Syrian officials said an Israeli airstrike targeted a senior Islamic Jihad militant in Damascus, a rare assassination attempt of a Palestinian militant in the Syrian capital. Israel did not comment on the airstrike, which missed the militant but killed two of his relatives.

Despite the disruption to daily life, there appeared to be widespread support in Israel for the targeting of Abu el-Atta.

Still, some opposition figures suggested the timing could not be divorced from the political reality in Israel, where Netanyahu leads a caretaker government while his main challenger, former military chief Benny Gantz, is trying to build his own coalition government.

With their parties unable to secure parliamentary majorities following a September election, the two rivals have both come out for a unity government. But each demands to be its leader, leaving political paralysis.

The Gaza fighting could force them into a partnership. Gantz has praised the airstrike, saying he was briefed ahead of time and has continued to receive updates.

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

Israel's attorney general is to decide in the weeks ahead whether to indict Netanyahu, which would increase pressure on him to step down. He has sought to portray himself as being the most capable of steering the country through its many security challenges.

---

Federman reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writer Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed.

**Vote totals set to be double-checked in Kentucky gov's race**

**By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 42 of 45

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Republican Gov. Matt Bevin could face a legacy-defining decision when the vote totals from the Kentucky governor's race are double-checked Thursday — concede to Democrat Andy Beshear or contest last week's election in a historic move that could put the outcome in the hands of state lawmakers.

Bevin faces a growing chorus of Bluegrass State Republicans urging him to accept the results of the recanvass unless he can point to evidence of substantial voter fraud.

Even Bevin acknowledges that the recanvass, which he requested, is highly unlikely to change the outcome. "There might be some adjustment, but it usually may be a number moves up and a number moves down," he told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "But it's not likely to be a material change."

Asked if he'll concede if the vote totals stay about the same, Bevin replied: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

He was feistier during a weekend appearance in California before a group of young conservatives, defending his refusal to concede while repeating his claim that he wants to ensure the integrity of the election.

"I would rather lose a clean election than to win a dirty election, and I'll be darned if I want to lose a dirty election," he said at the Young America's Foundation event. "So to that end, let's just make sure it's legit. And that's what we're in the process of doing. And if it is, then great, pass that baton."

The day after the hard-fought election, Bevin hinted without offering evidence that there had been "irregularities" in the voting. A conservative political activist put out robocalls urging Kentuckians to report suspicious activity or voter fraud.

Bevin told the AP on Wednesday that he knows "for a fact" that ballots were counted illegally, making references to absentee ballots without offering explicit examples of wrongdoing.

The election results showed the governor — an ally of President Donald Trump, who campaigned for Bevin the night before the election — trailing Beshear by more than 5,000 votes out of more than 1.4 million cast. Beshear's lead is less than 0.4 percentage points.

Beshear, the state attorney general and the son of a two-term Kentucky governor, declared victory and turned his attention toward the Dec. 10 inauguration.

Kentucky's secretary of state, Alison Lundergan Grimes, has forwarded all election-related concerns to her Election Integrity Task Force, which includes representation from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and federal prosecutors, her spokeswoman said.

"As the commonwealth heads into tomorrow's recanvass, no member of the task force has raised any possible concern to the secretary," Grimes' spokeswoman, Lillie Ruschell, said in a press release.

The AP has not declared a winner, in keeping with its policy not to call races close enough to go to a recount. Although Kentucky's recount law doesn't apply to a governor's election, the AP is applying that same standard here.

The Kentucky contest was watched closely for early signs of how the impeachment furor in Washington might affect Trump and other Republicans. Bevin railed against the inquiry and illegal immigration, while Beshear kept his focus on state issues such as education, health care and pensions.

Across Kentucky, county boards of election will convene Thursday to check their voting machines and absentee ballots to verify the vote count. This will not be a recount, meaning officials will not check individual ballots.

Bevin would have 30 days to contest the outcome once it is certified by the state Board of Elections, which is scheduled to meet Nov. 21. Contesting an election could put the outcome in the hands of the GOP-led legislature.

The last time Kentucky lawmakers decided a governor's race was the 1899 election, in a dispute marked by the assassination of the Democrat who was declared the winner.

"I fully expect the recanvass will confirm the results," longtime Kentucky political commentator Al Cross said. "And at that point, the governor will have to decide whether he wants to put the legislature through a painful experience and put a cloud over Andy Beshear's inauguration or act with grace and hand over power."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 43 of 45

Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers said last week that if the recanvass doesn't significantly alter the election count, the governor should concede.

The state's most powerful Republican, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said this week that he is "sorry Matt came up short," adding that the recanvass is unlikely to change the results.

## Asian markets mixed after Wall Street high

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed Thursday amid doubts about the status of a U.S.-Chinese trade deal after the U.S. Federal Reserve's chairman said it is likely to leave its benchmark interest rate unchanged.

Investors were wary after The Wall Street Journal reported Chinese negotiators were reluctant to commit to the size of purchases of U.S. farm goods in an interim agreement aimed at ending a tariff war.

President Donald Trump said last month Beijing would buy up to \$50 billion of soybeans and other American farm goods. Chinese officials have never confirmed that.

Investors are cautious "seemingly on the lack of good news on trade talks with China," said Stephen Innes of AxiTrader in a report.

"It's more about China getting locked into a numerical commitment as opposed to balking at the deal," said Innes. "This is something that needs to get ironed out and certainly not a bridge too far."

Meanwhile, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said he expects the U.S. economy to keep growing at a solid pace but faces risks from slower global growth and trade tension.

The Fed cut short-term rates last month for the third time this year, to a range of 1.5% to 1.75%.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 1.0% to 23,089.07 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.9% to 26,326.24. The Shanghai Composite Index edged 0.1% higher to 2,907.23.

Seoul's Kospi edged up 0.2% to 2,126.10 while Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.5% to 6,730.50. Taiwan and Southeast Asian markets declined while New Zealand advanced.

On Wall Street, buying focused on safe-play stocks such as utilities, real estate companies and makers of consumer products that tend to pay higher dividends. Banks, industrial stocks and companies declined.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1% to 3,094.04, a record. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.3% to 27,783.59, also a record. The Nasdaq dropped 0.1% to 8,482.10.

China's government reported Thursday that factory activity and spending weakened more than expected in October.

Growth in industrial production slowed to 4.7% from September's 5.8%.

Retail sales growth weakened to a six-month low of 7.2% over a year earlier from September's 7.8%. Investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets rose 5.2% in the first 10 months of the year, down from 5.4% in the nine months through September.

Japanese data showed economic growth slowed to 0.1% over the previous quarter in the three months ending in September from the previous quarter's 0.4%. Consumption growth weakened to 0.4% from 0.5%.

The slowdown "isn't too worrying as it reduces the likelihood of a slump in output" after a sales tax hike takes effect in October, said Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics in a report.

Also Thursday, Australia's government reported employment fell by a bigger-than-expected margin in October. That prompted expectations the central bank will cut interest rates to prop up economic growth.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 31 cents to \$57.43 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 32 cents on Wednesday to close at \$57.12. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 24 cents to \$62.61 per barrel in London. It gained 29 cents the previous session to \$62.37.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 108.68 yen from Wednesday's 108.84 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1006 from \$1.1007.

**Today in History**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 44 of 45

## By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2019. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1972, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above the 1,000 level for the first time, ending the day at 1,003.16.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln gave the go-ahead for Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's plan to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond; the resulting Battle of Fredericksburg proved a disaster for the Union.

In 1907, two renowned children's authors were born: William Steig (styg) ("Shrek") in New York, Astrid Lindgren ("Pippi Longstocking") near Vimmerby, Sweden.

In 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1943, Leonard Bernstein (BURN'-styn), the 25-year-old assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, made his debut with the orchestra as he filled in for the ailing Bruno Walter during a nationally broadcast concert.

In 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

In 1986, the Securities and Exchange Commission imposed a \$100 million penalty on inside-trader Ivan F. Boesky and barred him from working again in the securities industry.

In 1996, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (BURN'-uh-deen), the senior Roman Catholic prelate in the United States and leader of Chicago's 2.3 million Catholics, died at his home at age 68. Singer Michael Jackson married his plastic surgeon's nurse, Debbie Rowe, in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. (Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.)

In 1997, a jury in Fairfax, Virginia, decided that Pakistani national Aimal Khan Kasi (eye-MAHL' kahn KAH'-see) should get the death penalty for gunning down two CIA employees outside agency headquarters. (Five years later on this date, Aimal Khan Kasi was executed.)

In 2004, Mahmoud Abbas, successor to Yasser Arafat, escaped unharmed when militants firing assault rifles burst into a mourning tent for the deceased Palestinian leader in Gaza, killing two security guards.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, on a mission to repair America's global standing, told Asian countries during a speech in Tokyo that he was determined to engage them as equal partners in the economy, diplomacy and security.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced the Pentagon would spend an additional \$10 billion to correct deep problems of neglect and mismanagement within the nation's nuclear forces. During his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama mounted a warm show of support for Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee), appearing with the democracy activist on the back porch of her lakeside home.

One year ago: Chris Stapleton won four awards, including those for male vocalist, song and single of the year, at the Country Music Association Awards, but Keith Urban took home the top prize, entertainer of the year. Jacob DeGrom of the New York Mets easily won the National League Cy Young Award despite winning just 10 games during the season on a struggling team; the American League award went to Blake Snell of the Tampa Bay Rays, who had pitched fewer innings than any other starting pitcher who had won the award.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 136 ~ 45 of 45**

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Hughes is 91. Former NASA astronaut Fred Haise is 86. Jazz musician Ellis Marsalis is 85. Composer Wendy Carlos is 80. Writer P.J. O'Rourke is 72. Britain's Prince Charles is 71. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 70. Singer Stephen Bishop is 68. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 65. Pianist Yanni is 65. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 65. Former presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 63. Actress Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 58. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 58. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 55. Actor Patrick Warburton is 55. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 55. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 55. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 54. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 53. Rock musician Brian Yale is 51. Rock singer Butch Walker is 50. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 47. Rock musician Travis Barker is 44. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 44. Actor Brian Dietzen is 42. Rapper Shyheim is 42. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 40. Actress Olga Kurylenko is 40. Actress-comedian Vanessa Bayer is 38. Actor Russell Tovey is 38. Actor Cory Michael Smith is 33. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 28. NHL forward Taylor Hall is 28.

Thought for Today: "The world cares very little what you or I know, but it does care a great deal about what you or I do." — Booker T. Washington (1856-1915).

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.