

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 145 ~ 1 of 59

STATE VOLLEYBALL COVERAGE

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“TIME SPENT WITH
FAMILY IS WORTH EVERY
SECOND.”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



The Groton Area student body was decked out in Christmas Elves, Easter Bunnies and Tiger apparel for the volleyball match. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Madison takes down Groton Area in three sets

Groton Area suffered a 3-0 loss to Madison in the consolation round of the State A Volleyball Tournament being played in Rapid City.

"The first set was tied eight times with the last tie at 11. Madison then went on a four point spurt and followed up with three straight points to take a 17-12 lead. The Bulldogs added five straight points to take a 23-15 lead and went on to win, 25-17.

The second set was tied five times in the early part and the Tigers took a 9-6 lead. Madison came back to score six straight points to take a 14-10 lead and then upped it to 18-11 en route to a 25-15 win.

Madison scored the first three points of the third set and three was the closest Groton Area could get to the Bulldogs. Madison had several three-point rallies and went on to win, 25-14.

Madison took control of the terminations with a 37-24 advantage. Madison had 35 assists compared to 18 for Groton Area. The Tigers had one ace serve, that by Todyn Glover, while Madison had two ace serves. The Bulldogs had 10 blocks and had the edge in digs, 80-77.

Eliza Wanner led the kills with eight followed by Nicole Marzahn with seven, Indigo Rogers and Madeline Fliehs each had three, Kaylin Kucker had two and Todyn Glover had one kill. Kucker had 15 assists with Glover, Stella Meier and Rogers each having one. Glover led the digs with 21 followed by Wanner with 15, Kucker had 13, Payton Colestock eight, Marzahn and Rogers each had seven, Fliehs had four and Kenzie McInerney and Grace Wambach each had one.

Abby Brooks led Madison with 12 kills, 16 assists, 10 digs and three blocks.

Groton Area will take on Elk Point-Jefferson at 9 a.m. on Saturday for seventh place.

- Paul Kosel

An Interview with Coach Chelsea Hanson

When you're in the state tournament, it's not really about playing volleyball at the top level. It's about trying to keep your opponents from playing at their top level. It's really more of a game of errors rather than a game of kills. We knew coming in that we would have kills that no body can touch and that they would have kills on us that we couldn't touch.

The McCook Central-Montrose match took a lot out of the girls on Thursday. They were exhausted at the end of the match. It was not our best night offensively, but we were right there defensively. We did a lot of good things.

We were off against Madison, but we still competed. I was really proud of the girls and they're having a lot of fun. Any time we get digs, it's big. We are completely undersized here at the state tournament. We are so small and everyone is just hitting right over us.

The Madison match was uncharacteristic of our team. I told the girls to not revert back to the things that did not make us successful. We've done good things and we belong in the state tournament. We are good and we're playing good teams that are taking us out of our system. Most of the volleyball matches we've played we've been in system 80 percent of the time. Now we're in system 20 percent of the time. It's not that we're playing bad. It's because the competition is good. We don't play high level competition all year. It would be nice to be able to play teams like McCook Central or Madison every night. I would love to see how our team would improve with that level of competition. There's a lot of teams on our schedule that are not as strong as I would like them to be for us to get better. We're scouted well here. We're playing teams that have evaluated our whole season and they've had a week to prepare for us. It's no secrete that we go to Nicole and we go to Eliza and we go to Indigo and that's no secrete on our offense. When you play most teams, you can get away with having three people getting the kills. Here, you can't. You have to be able to have four or five people contributing.

I'm looking forward to the match against Elk Point-Jefferson. Our girls are ready for a top notch match.

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Madeline Flihs
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Grace Wambach
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Eliza Wanner
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



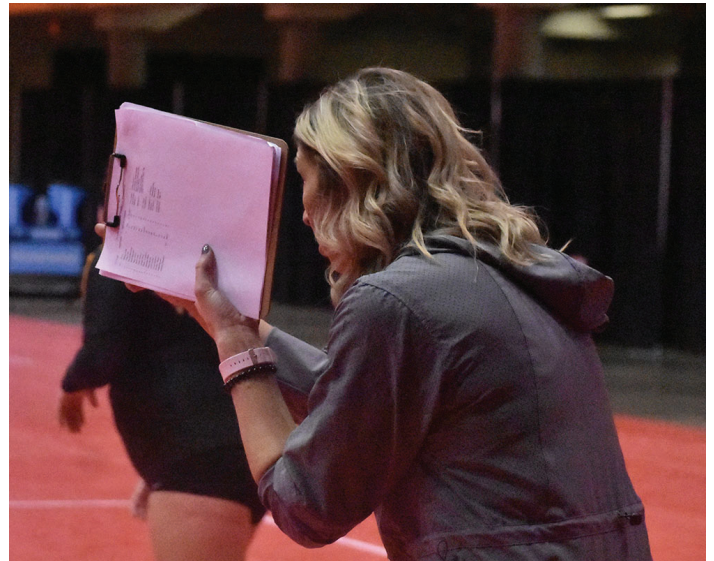
Payton Colestock
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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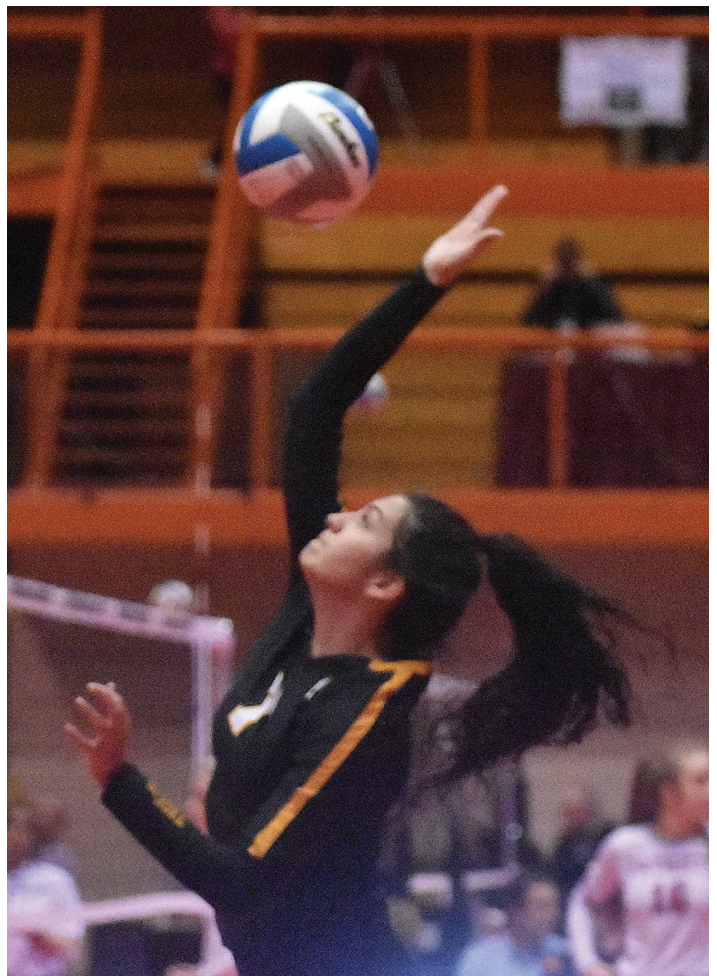
Nicole Marzahn
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Coach Chelsea Hanson
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Tadyn Glover
Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
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Indigo Rogers
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Kenzie McInerney
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Tadyn Glover
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Indigo Rogers

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
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Kenzie McInerney
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kaylin Kucker
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Nicole Marzahn
Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
©2019 SDPB/Craig Wollman



Tadyn Glover
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Kaylin Kucker

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
©2019 SDPB/Craig Wollman



Madeline Flihs

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Eliza Wanner

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
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There are 46 others teams in Class A of South Dakota that wish they could be playing at the State Tournament.

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Madison at Groton

11/22/2019 2:45 PM
 All Times Local
 SDHSAA Volleyball Box Score
 Class A State Championship

Team	1	2	3	4	5	Won
Madison	25	25	25	0	0	3
Groton	17	15	14	0	0	0

Madison			Attack				Set	Serve		Pass	Def	Block			Gen		
No.	Player	GP	K	E	TA	PCT	A	SA	SE	RE	DIG	BS	BA	BE	BHE	PTS	
1	K. Krusemark	3	0	0	0	0.000	17	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.0	
3	K. Leighton	3	9	0	9	1.000	1	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	9.0	
4	A. Barger	3	3	0	3	1.000	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	5.0	
5	S. VandenBosch	3	3	0	3	1.000	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	3.0	
7	A. Brooks	3	12	0	12	1.000	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	13.5	
8	G. Nelson	3	8	0	8	1.000	16	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	9.0	
10	B. Steuerwald	3	0	0	0	0.000	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	1.0	
11	S. Sargent	3	2	0	2	1.000	0	1	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	3.5	
19	M. Anderson	3	0	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	Team	3														0.0	
Team Totals				37	0	37	1.000	35	2	0	0	80	0	10	0	0	44.0
Total Team Blocks: 5.0																	

Groton			Attack				Set	Serve		Pass	Def	Block			Gen		
No.	Player	GP	K	E	TA	PCT	A	SA	SE	RE	DIG	BS	BA	BE	BHE	PTS	
3	K. McInerney	2	0	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	
4	N. Marzahn	3	7	0	7	1.000	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7.0	
5	T. Glover	3	1	0	1	1.000	1	1	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	2.0	
6	S. Meier	3	0	0	0	0.000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
7	I. Rogers	3	3	0	3	1.000	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3.0	
9	P. Colestock	3	0	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0.0	
10	M. Fliehs	3	3	0	3	1.000	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3.0	
11	E. Wanner	3	8	0	8	1.000	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	8.0	
12	K. Kucker	3	2	0	2	1.000	15	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	2.0	
13	G. Wambach	3	0	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	
	Team	3														0.0	
Team Totals				24	0	24	1.000	18	1	0	0	77	0	0	0	0	25.0
Total Team Blocks: 0.0																	

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A bunch of players gathered together as a gentleman played the piano. There was a lot of singing and having a good time at the hotel Friday night. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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Consolation Championship Saturday, November 23rd	Consolation Semifinals Friday, November 22nd	1st Round - Quarterfinals Thursday, November 21st	Championship Semifinals Friday, November 22nd	Championship Round Saturday, November 23rd																										
<p>Records/Seed Point Averages</p> <table style="font-size: small;"> <tr><td>Miller</td><td>32-2</td><td>46.188</td></tr> <tr><td>Dakota Valley</td><td>29-3</td><td>45.067</td></tr> <tr><td>McCook Central/Montrose</td><td>24-3</td><td>44.840</td></tr> <tr><td>Winner</td><td>26-4</td><td>44.464</td></tr> <tr><td>Sioux Falls Christian</td><td>26-9</td><td>43.606</td></tr> <tr><td>Groton Area</td><td>26-7</td><td>43.533</td></tr> <tr><td>Madison</td><td>23-8</td><td>43.107</td></tr> <tr><td>Elk Point-Jefferson</td><td>21-12</td><td>41.533</td></tr> </table>					Miller	32-2	46.188	Dakota Valley	29-3	45.067	McCook Central/Montrose	24-3	44.840	Winner	26-4	44.464	Sioux Falls Christian	26-9	43.606	Groton Area	26-7	43.533	Madison	23-8	43.107	Elk Point-Jefferson	21-12	41.533		
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<p>2019 Class A State Volleyball Tournament Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Rapid City, SD</p>																														
<p>Session 3 10:45 AM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#4 Winner</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>#7 Madison</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>5th/6th Place Match</p>	#4 Winner		#7 Madison		<p>Session 2 1:00 PM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#8 Elk Point-Jefferson</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>#4 Winner</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <p>25-15, 25-23, 25-15</p>	#8 Elk Point-Jefferson	0	#4 Winner	3	<p>Session 1 1:00 PM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#1 Miller</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>#8 Elk Point-Jefferson</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <p>25-20, 25-12, 25-20</p> <p>Session 2 2:45 PM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#4 Winner</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>#5 Sioux Falls Christian</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <p>25-12, 21-25, 25-12, 16-25, 15-10</p>	#1 Miller	3	#8 Elk Point-Jefferson	0	#4 Winner	2	#5 Sioux Falls Christian	3	<p>Session 2 4:30 PM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#1 Miller</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>#5 Sioux Falls Christian</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <p>25-23, 23-25, 25-16, 25-20</p>	#1 Miller	1	#5 Sioux Falls Christian	3	<p>Session 3 6:00 PM MT</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>#5 Sioux Falls Christian</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>#2 Dakota Valley</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Championship Match</p>	#5 Sioux Falls Christian		#2 Dakota Valley			
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#8 Elk Point-Jefferson																														
#6 Groton Area																														
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#1 Miller																														
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Tournament Leaders

2019 Digs					
#	Name	Team	S	No	Avg/S
1	Leighton, Kendra	Madison	6	33	5.5
2	Glover, Tady	Groton	7	37	5.3
3	Wilshire, Taylor	Dakota Valley	8	42	5.3
4	LaCompte, Maggie	Winner	8	40	5.0
5	Anderson, Morgan	Madison	6	29	4.8

2019 Service Aces					
#	Name	Team	S	SA	SA/S
1	Colestock, Payton	Groton	7	6	0.9
2	Beresford, Ally	Dakota Valley	8	5	0.6
3	Steuerwald, Briana	Madison	6	3	0.5
	Hammerbeck, Morgan	Winner	8	4	0.5
5	Pruis, Caitlyn	Sioux Falls Christian	9	4	0.4

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Today



Increasing
Clouds

High: 49 °F

Tonight



Increasing
Clouds

Low: 29 °F

Sunday



Decreasing
Clouds

High: 52 °F

Sunday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 32 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 42 °F

Warm & Dry Weekend Turning Cooler on Monday

Today: Mostly Sunny with Breezy West Winds.
Highs 40-50°F. Warmer West of the Missouri River.

Sunday: Partly Sunny with Breezy West Winds.
Highs in the low 40s in Western Minnesota, to the
Low 60s, in Central South Dakota.

Monday: Partly Sunny and Windy.
Highs 40-45°F.

ISSUED: 5:06 AM - Saturday, November 23, 2019, National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Published on: 11/23/2019 at 12:09AM

Warm and dry conditions will continue through the weekend with highs reaching the 40s and 50s. Central South Dakota could see highs in the low 60s on Sunday. Cooler weather can be expected on Monday with highs in the 40s.

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Today in Weather History

November 23, 1996: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across most of northern South Dakota, adding to already significant snow depth. Roads became snow-packed, which hampered travel, resulting in the postponement of many activities. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Aberdeen, Isabel, Roscoe, and Mellette; 7 inches at Eagle Butte, Timber Lake, Selby, Faulkton, Leola, Frederick, Webster, and Sisseton; and 8 inches at Britton, Ipswich, Eureka, and McLaughlin.

1912: The Rouse Simmons was a three-masted schooner famous for sinking during a violent storm on Lake Michigan on this day. The ship was bound for Chicago with a cargo of Christmas trees when it foundered off the coast of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, killing all on board.

1909 - Rattlesnake Creek was deluged with 7.17 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state of Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - Northern New Hampshire was in the grips of a record snowstorm which left a total of 55 inches at Berlin, and 56 inches at Randolph. The 56 inch total at Randolph established a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. In Maine, Middle Dam received a record 35 inches of snow in 24 hours. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Rain and gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific coast. Quillayute, WA, received 1.57 inches of rain in 24 hours, including nine tenths of an inch in six hours. Heavy snow fell over northern Oregon and the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Temperatures began to moderate in the eastern U.S. following a bitterly cold weekend. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure crossing the Great Basin brought wintry weather to parts of the western U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park, and winds gusted to 70 mph at Casper WY, and reached 95 mph near Reno NV. Up to seven inches of rain was reported in the Grass Valley and Nevada City area of California. Paradise CA was soaked with 5.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure tracking across the Carolinas brought heavy rain to parts of the Southern Atlantic Coast Region for Thanksgiving Day, and blanketed the Middle Atlantic Coast States and southern New England with heavy snow. The storm produced up to nine inches of snow over Long Island NY, and up to 14 inches over Cape Cod MA, at Yarmouth. Totals of 4.7 inches at New York City and 6.0 inches at Newark NJ were records for Thanksgiving Day, the 8.0 inch total at Providence RI was a record for any given day in November, and the 6.5 inch total at Strasburg CT was a record for the month of November as a whole. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - An outbreak of severe thunderstorms produced reports of 54 tornadoes across portions of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. In Texas's Hardin county, one person was killed with three injured when a tornado struck during the afternoon (Associated Press).

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 41 °F at 2:55 PM

Low Temp: 16 °F at 3:58 AM

Wind: 22 mph at 10:06 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 59° in 2017

Record Low: -17° in 1985

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 15°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.57

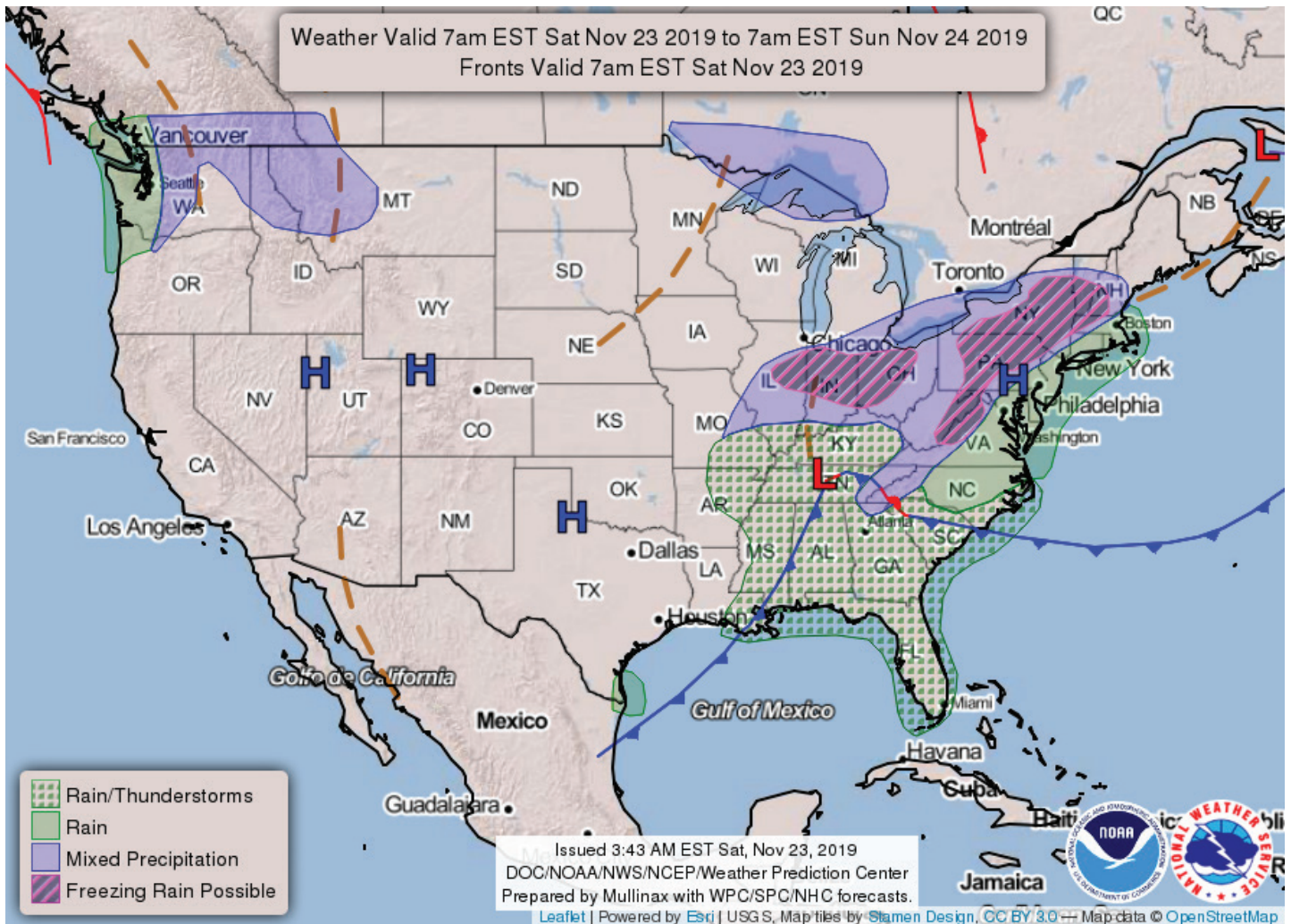
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38

Average Precip to date: 21.04

Precip Year to Date: 26.95

Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:44 a.m.



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SUCCESS AT WHAT PRICE?

A reporter was interviewing a farmer who was known for growing the best corn in his area. He was intrigued by the fact that the farmer was also known for sharing his seed corn freely with his neighbors. He was the opposite of being selfish.

"Why do you share your best seed corn with your neighbors?" asked the reporter.

After a moment's thought, he replied, "The wind picks up the pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination would degrade mine. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors do the same."

Jesus said, "Give and it will be given unto you!" He was teaching us that if we want more, we must give more. That is God's plan and it is His promise. Whatever we share with others, whether it is our time, our talents, or our treasures, will always be returned to us with "interest added." There will be more time in our day, more opportunities to enjoy life, our talents will continue to grow, and our value to the Lord will increase as well.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to give generously to others in the gracious way that You give to us. May we understand that everything belongs to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Class AA

State Semifinal

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Huron, 25-17, 25-13, 25-23

Watertown def. Sioux Falls Washington, 27-25, 25-18, 25-22

Consolation Semifinal

Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-18, 25-23, 25-12

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Harrisburg, 32-30, 25-14, 25-20

Class A

State Semifinal

Dakota Valley def. McCook Central/Montrose, 23-25, 25-18, 18-25, 25-21, 15-11

Sioux Falls Christian def. Miller, 25-23, 23-25, 25-16, 25-20

Consolation Semifinal

Madison def. Groton Area, 25-17, 25-15, 25-14

Winner def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-15, 25-23, 25-15

Class B

State Semifinal

Faulkton def. Burke, 25-23, 25-20, 25-23

Northwestern def. Warner, 26-24, 25-15, 25-15

Consolation Semifinal

Chester def. Ethan, 26-24, 25-22, 21-25, 25-14

Faith def. Bridgewater-Emery, 26-24, 19-25, 25-22, 25-23

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

07-12-17-49-53, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 4

(seven, twelve, seventeen, forty-nine, fifty-three; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$208 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Arkansas stays unbeaten, rolls past South Dakota 77-56

By ERIC W. BOLIN Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas owns the third-ranked defense in Division I and it was on full display Friday against South Dakota in a 77-56 victory.

The undefeated Razorbacks (5-0) entered the game allowing just 45.3 points per game through its first four and opponents were shooting just 32 percent. It took all of about seven minutes for that defense to smother the Coyotes.

A 16-2 run in the middle of the first half gave the Razorbacks a 17-point lead before the third media time-out. Arkansas built its 39-24 halftime advantage by getting buckets from all eight players who saw time.

The most significant contributor was Jimmy Whitt, who tied a career-high with 24 points on 11 of 14

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shooting, mostly from unpopular spots on the floor.

"For all those analytic guys who think the mid-range game has gone out of basketball, welcome to Jimmy Whitt's world," Arkansas coach Eric Musselman said.

Every time South Dakota managed to get within a possession of making it a single-digit deficit, Whitt responded, defensively and offensively.

Arkansas had allowed South Dakota (5-1) to pull within 10 points with 7:45 left, but the Coyotes managed just one more field goal the rest of the way. South Dakota, which led the nation in 3-point shooting, knocking down 51 percent of their tries beyond the arc, managed to go just 3 of 12 from deep Friday.

"Obviously coming into the game, 3-point defense was really going to be the name of the game. I thought our guys stepped up to the challenge of defending the 3-point line," Musselman said.

Arkansas received just 5 points from its leading scorer, Isaiah Joe, who entered averaging 20.5 per game, but Whitt, who also had three steals, started the 15-2 run in those final minutes that sealed the game.

"I think it was one of those games where I had the hot hand," Whitt said. "My teammates, every time down the court, were telling me to shoot it."

South Dakota was led by Tyler Hagadorn's 15 points, 13 of which were scored in the second half.

BIG PICTURE

Arkansas: The Razorbacks continued their perfect start under first-year coach Eric Musselman. Arkansas has started the season 5-0 for the first time since the 2014-15 season. Combined with the impressive defensive statistics, Musselman's team has outplayed its preseason projection to finish 11th in the SEC. The Razorbacks have never finished that low since the league shed its Eastern and Western divisions for a combined conference in 2010-11.

South Dakota: The Coyotes, picked second in the Summit League in the preseason, looked the part of such at times, lingering with Arkansas better than any of the Razorbacks' previous four opponents until urgency in the final eight minutes led to ill-advised shots and a big Arkansas finish.

ODD COUPLE

Arkansas and South Dakota had never met in basketball before Friday. A big reason why the two teams finally did was the connection between Musselman and South Dakota coach Todd Lee. Lee served as an assistant coach to Musselman when the two were together with the Rapid City Thrillers in the CBA in the early 1990s.

A LONG, STRANGE TRIP

Whitt had his best game in an Arkansas uniform, though this season isn't his first, just his first in three years. He played his freshman year for the Razorbacks under then-coach Mike Anderson before transferring to SMU. Whitt returned to Arkansas as a graduate transfer this past offseason.

UP NEXT

The Razorbacks will go to Atlanta on Monday for their first power-conference game of the season. Georgia Tech hosts, the Yellow Jackets having come off a 82-78 loss to rival Georgia earlier this week.

South Dakota next travels to California Baptist on Wednesday for a game against the Western Athletic Conference's Lancers.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 For women's games: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegebasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Tribal leaders embrace South Dakota anti-meth ad campaign

ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. (AP) — Native American tribal leaders in South Dakota are backing an anti-meth ad campaign that has been mocked because of its slogan, "Meth. We're on it."

Gov. Kristi Noem considers methamphetamine abuse an epidemic in the state and has rolled out a nearly \$1.4 million campaign to raise awareness about it.

Although the tagline has been getting ridiculed on social media, state Secretary of Tribal Affairs Dave Flute said he supports it.

"There is a lot to talk about when it comes to how meth is impacting our tribal communities," he said.

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Flute was one of tribal leaders who attended the second State-Tribal Meth Summit on Tuesday, which was aimed at discussing solutions to the meth problem.

"(Meth is) not a part of our culture. Those aren't things that our ancestors did," Flute said at the summit in Mission.

Flute told KELO-TV on Thursday that he's most concerned about children getting involved with the drug. "Kids are being used to traffic these drugs, they're being used to deal these drugs, they're being used as runners, and that's really concerning for everything," he said.

According to the state's Department of Social Services, the number of 12- to 17-year-olds who reported using meth in the last year is double the national average. The state has also seen the number of people seeking treatment for meth addiction double from 2014 to 2018.

During the summit, Rosebud Sioux Tribal president Rodney M. Bordeaux said he met with two people who are in a meth treatment facility.

"I had a great talk with them. I really encouraged them. They came up to me and told me of their issues that they're dealing with meth and how it took over their lives," he said.

"We also want to make sure that we're continuing this battle along with the governor and the State of South Dakota to make an impact against this evil," Bordeaux said. "It's all about saving our people."

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

University of North Dakota names 3 finalists for president

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Three finalists have been named in the search for the next president at the University of North Dakota.

A search committee announced Friday that Andrew Armacost, Laurie Stenberg-Nichols and David Rosowsky are scheduled for final interviews at the state Board of Higher Education meeting in Grand Forks on Dec. 3.

Armacost is a brigadier general and retired dean of faculty at Air Force Academy. Stenberg-Nichols is interim president at Black Hills State in South Dakota and former president at the University of Wyoming. Rosowsky is a professor of civil engineering and former provost at the University of Vermont.

The search committee interviewed six candidates in the past two weeks.

Former president Mark Kennedy resigned earlier this year to take over as president at the University of Colorado.

Pope denounces 'evil' of nukes as he fulfills Japan dream

By NICOLE WINFIELD and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Pope Francis denounced the "evil" of nuclear weapons on Saturday as he began a three-day visit to Japan and fulfilled a dream to be a missionary in a land with a rich but bloody Christian past.

The pope's plane landed in the rain in Tokyo, where he received a small welcome at the airport before heading to the Vatican residence to meet with Japanese bishops. Streets near the residence were lined with smiling well-wishers holding umbrellas and a sign: "Gracias! We love you."

After a packed three days in Thailand, Francis has an even busier schedule in Japan, starting off with flights Sunday to Nagasaki and Hiroshima to appeal for total nuclear disarmament, and a meeting Monday with victims of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Those meetings come before he even meets with Emperor Naruhito and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a sign of his priorities for the trip.

Francis told the bishops upon arrival that he wanted to pay tribute to the victims of the atomic bombings and meet with survivors, "those who still bear the wounds of this tragic episode in human history."

"Evil has no preferences; it does not care about people's background or identity," Francis said. "It simply bursts in with its destructive force."

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Francis has gone further than any other pope by saying that not only the use but the mere possession of nuclear weapons is "to be condemned."

It's a message he's expected to repeat Sunday, and it's one that has been welcomed by Japanese old enough to remember the bombings.

"I hope he will deliver the message of true peace to Japan and to the world," said Ryohei Sakamoto, 71, a Catholic who was waiting for Francis outside the nunciature Saturday afternoon. "And I hope the world will listen to him and his message. That's what I wish he could do on this visit."

Francis told the bishops how as a young Jesuit in Argentina, he had longed to be a missionary in Japan, following in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit who first brought Christianity to the archipelago in 1549.

While health reasons prevented Francis from realizing that dream, he said he nevertheless nurtured a continued affection for Japan and was inspired by the Christians who endured more than two centuries of persecution starting in the 16th century.

"Such self-sacrifice for the sake of keeping the faith alive amid persecution helped the small Christian community to develop, grow strong and bear fruit," Francis told the bishops.

One of the highlights of the trip will be Francis' prayer Sunday at the memorial of the 26 Nagasaki Martyrs, who were crucified in 1597 at the start of the wave of anti-Christian bloodshed by Japanese rulers.

Francis will also greet descendants of the "Hidden Christians," who persevered in their faith for generations despite the threat of death and the absence of priests.

Francis' other key aim in coming to Japan is to tend to today's tiny Catholic flock, which has grown exponentially more diverse in recent years due to an influx of foreign workers. Today, these temporary workers make up more than half of Japan's Catholic population of 440,000, according to the Archdiocese of Tokyo's international center.

Overall, Catholics account for less than 0.5% of Japan's 127 million people, most of them loosely affiliated with Buddhism or Shinto, or both.

Japan had long kept its door closed to immigrants, but the country last year adopted a new policy to open up unskilled jobs to temporary foreign workers, a major revision to the country's policy to deal with its rapidly aging and declining population.

Many of the newcomers hail from the Philippines, Vietnam and Brazil and are Catholic, rejuvenating local churches that now offer Masses in English, Tagalog, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Francis has made welcoming migrants a hallmark of his papacy, and he told his bishops that their ministry to foreign workers was a precious demonstration of their commitment to spreading the faith.

He urged them also to look out for young Japanese, who he said were increasingly prone to "loneliness, despair and isolation."

"The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation and spiritual disorientation," he warned. He urged them to encourage a shift from a "culture of efficiency, performance and success" to one of "generous and selfless love, capable of offering to everyone, and not only to those who have 'made it,' the possibility of a happy and successful life."

Francis himself was offering some joy to the few people invited to welcome him at the Vatican residence Saturday night.

"I am so looking forward to seeing him and I cannot wait!" gushed Michiko Haramoto, a 71-year-old Catholic who traveled from southern Fukuoka, on Kyushu island, to greet the pope. She said she would be on the first flight to Nagasaki on Sunday to attend Francis' Mass.

"I don't know how and whether it's possible. But if I get to talk to him directly at all, it will be so wonderful and I will surely tell him how grateful we all are here upon receiving him," she said.

Associated Press videojournalist Kaori Hitomi contributed to this report.

US judge awards \$180M to Post reporter held by Iran

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S. federal judge has awarded a Washington Post journalist and his family nearly \$180 million in their lawsuit against Iran over his 544 days in captivity and torture while being held on internationally criticized espionage charges.

The order in the case filed by Jason Rezaian comes nearly a week after Iranian officials shut down its internet and launched a security crackdown on protesters angered by government-set gasoline prices sharply rising. As internet access has slowly trickled back on, the U.S. government sanctioned Iran's telecommunications minister in response to the internet shutdown.

U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon in Washington entered the judgment late Friday in Rezaian's case, describing how authorities in Iran denied the journalist sleep, medical care and abused him during his imprisonment.

"Iran seized Jason, threatened to kill Jason, and did so with the goal of compelling the United States to free Iranian prisoners as a condition of Jason's release," Leon said in his ruling.

The judge later added: "Holding a man hostage and torturing him to gain leverage in negotiations with the United States is outrageous, deserving of punishment and surely in need of deterrence."

Iran never responded to the lawsuit despite it being handed over to the government by the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which oversees U.S. interests in the country. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment Saturday.

Rezaian and his lawyers did not respond to a request for comment. Martin Baron, the executive editor of the Post, said in a statement that Rezaian's treatment by Iran was "horrifying."

"We've seen our role as helping the Rezaians through their recovery," Baron said. "Our satisfaction comes from seeing them enjoy their freedom and a peaceful life."

Rezaian's case, which began with his 2014 gunpoint arrest alongside his wife Yeganeh Salehi, showed how the Islamic Republic can grab those with Western ties to use in negotiations. It's a practice recounted by human rights groups, U.N. investigators and the families of those detained.

Despite being an accredited journalist for the Post with permission to live and work in Iran, Rezaian was taken to Tehran's Evin prison and later convicted in a closed trial before a Revolutionary Court on still-unexplained espionage charges.

Iran still focuses on the case even today, as a recent television series sought to glorify the hard-liners behind the arrest.

It remains unclear how and if the money will be paid. It could come from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, which has distributed funds to those held and affected by Iran's 1979 student takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and subsequent hostage crisis. Rezaian named Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, this year designated as a terrorist organization by the Trump administration, as a defendant in the case.

The order comes a week after the Nov. 15 gasoline price hike, which sparked demonstrations that rapidly turned violent, seeing gas stations, banks and stores burned to the ground.

Amnesty International said it believes the unrest and the crackdown killed at least 106 people. Iran disputes that figure without offering its own. A U.N. office earlier said it feared the unrest may have killed "a significant number of people."

On Saturday, the semiofficial Fars news agency reported that Iranian intelligence officials claimed killing a leader of violent protesters in Iran's western Kermanshah province. Iran's top prosecutor, Mohammad Javad Montazeri, meanwhile visited a major prison in Tehran and promised that the fate of some of those arrested amid the protests would be decided soon, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Starting Nov. 16, Iran shut down the internet across the country, limiting communications with the outside world. That made determining the scale and longevity of the protests incredibly difficult.

Since Thursday, that outage began to slightly lift. By Saturday morning, internet connectivity stood below 20% of normal levels, according to the monitoring group NetBlocks.

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The U.S. Treasury on Friday sanctioned Iranian minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi over the internet shutdown.

Jahromi, the first government minister to be born after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, is widely believed to be considering a presidential run in 2021. In sanctioning him, the U.S. Treasury noted he once worked for the country's Intelligence Ministry and "has advanced the Iranian regime's policy of repressive internet censorship."

Jahromi, known for his social media persona, has increasingly criticized President Donald Trump on Twitter, a service long blocked in Iran. Being sanctioned may raise his profile among hard-liners.

He dismissed the sanctions on Twitter as a "Trump's fairytales."

"I'll continue advocating access to Internet & I won't let US to prohibit Iran development," he wrote.

Brazil ex-president, out of jail, vows to make 'lives hell'

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A fired-up former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, freshly out of jail, vowed to fight Brazil's far-right government and the forces he says unjustly incarcerated him, saying he would make "their lives hell."

"They don't know what it is to face a 74-year-old passionate man," da Silva, who governed Brazil from 2003 to 2010, and became one of the world's most popular politicians before being ensnared in corruption scandals, told cheering supporters late Friday.

Da Silva was the unquestioned star of the conference of his Workers' Party, which started Friday in Sao Paulo. Many still think he could be the leftist party's standard-bearer once again in 2022 — when he'll be a 77-year-old cancer survivor who is currently barred from seeking office due to a corruption conviction.

Da Silva left jail earlier this month after 19 months in a cell when the Supreme Court ruled that a person can be imprisoned only after all the appeals have been exhausted.

Brazil's ex-president is still appealing his conviction related to the alleged purchase of a beachfront apartment and remains entangled in other cases. He was also convicted by a lower court judge in a case involving ownership of a farmhouse in Atibaia, outside Sao Paulo. If he loses his appeals in either conviction, he could be locked up again.

Da Silva has denied any wrongdoing and accuses prosecutors and Sergio Moro, then a judge and now justice minister in the government of President Jair Bolsonaro, of manipulating the case against him.

"Today I feel much stronger than the day I surrendered to the federal police," a raucous da Silva said Friday night. "I am more willing to fight for this country than in any other moment. You will see me traveling around this country, not only making their lives hell, but also defending the Brazilian people who don't deserve to experience what they are experiencing."

Most analysts see da Silva as a potential kingmaker and strategist for the party he was instrumental in transforming.

"Don't expect narrow-minded politics to come from his head. Radicalism is not in his spirit," his former chief-of-staff and senator, Jaques Wagner, told The Associated Press. He believes da Silva should open the way for a new generation of politicians from Brazil's Northeast to take center stage in the next presidential election.

But Raul Pont, a member of the Workers' Party and former mayor of Porto Alegre, thinks it is "too soon" to rule da Silva out of the presidential ticket.

"What he will start doing now is organizing a progressive movement, one that goes beyond our party. Then we will see (if he will run), in case he is eligible," he said.

Da Silva is hoping the Supreme Court will deliver a ruling that could cancel the cases against him — and such a ruling would legally open the path to another presidential run.

The former union leader took a party some politicians long regarded as a radical fringe and brought it to power in 2003, winning adulation from millions for presiding over more than a decade of prosperity and reduced poverty with policies that were far more business-friendly than many foes had feared.

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That record was increasingly stained by corruption scandals, and the 80% approval ratings he enjoyed on leaving office in 2010 have slipped to about 40% today — even so better than that of Bolsonaro.

Still, many on the left still see him as the only politician who can today organize the opposition to Brazil's current far-right president, who last year ended the Workers' Party string of victory in four consecutive elections.

Da Silva seems to agree.

"I am the biggest polarizer of this country. What I want is to polarize," he said.

The left came out weakened from the last election, and Bolsonaro, a former army captain who much like U.S. President Donald Trump has broken free from conventional ways of governing, has further destabilized the opposition, some analysts believe.

Others argue the opposition has remained quieter than expected because the Bolsonaro administration is often proving to be its own worst enemy.

The Workers' Party remains the biggest party in the lower house, with 54 seats. But even under da Silva, it required alliances with smaller parties to govern — parties that eventually proved unreliable allies.

Political analyst Fábio Kerche, at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro state, said da Silva has already sent signals he would try to reach beyond the party, to the center and center right, possibly building a broader democratic front against Bolsonaro.

He noted that da Silva has shown the ability to attract a broad range of political allies and voters alike, and said, "Once again, this will be his mission."

On Friday, da Silva indirectly acknowledged this, saying stopping Bolsonaro "is not a task for a single party."

Diane Jeantet reported from Rio de Janeiro

Utah Jazz arena evacuated postgame due to suspicious package

By JOHN COON Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Minutes after an NBA game ended Friday night, the Utah Jazz's home arena was evacuated because of a suspicious package.

Salt Lake City police said the package turned out to be a toolbox, and the Jazz said employees were cleared by authorities to re-enter the building a couple of hours after the evacuation.

Most fans had already exited Vivint Smart Home Arena following Utah's 113-109 victory over the Golden State Warriors when players, coaches and reporters were instructed to leave immediately.

Not long after both coaches finished answering postgame questions from the media, a spokesman for the Jazz told reporters to exit the building due to the suspicious package. Outside, they were directed by security to leave the premises.

Utah players quickly headed for their cars in the parking lot — center Rudy Gobert was still in uniform as he left. Warriors players boarded their team bus.

Salt Lake City police Lt. Carlos Valencia said he received a call about the package from an officer working part-time at the game around 9:30 p.m. Valencia said the suspicious package looked like a shoebox and was discovered under a table behind a restaurant in the northeast corner of the arena.

"With that information, my next step was to call the bomb squad to have them come out, secure, and render the suspicious package safe," he said. "From what I was told by the officers, was that the arena K-9 bomb dogs got a hit on the package. By the time I arrived, they had already secured the area."

Valencia said the sellout crowd was already starting to leave when the evacuation began.

"We wanted to take all precautions necessary because public safety is paramount to us," he said.

In a statement, the Jazz said Salt Lake City police issued an "all-clear" at 11:32 p.m., and employees were permitted to re-enter the building to prepare for Saturday night's Jazz home game.

"Guest safety is the top priority at Vivint Smart Home Arena. At the conclusion of the Utah Jazz-Golden State game, an employee noticed an unattended package on the main concourse. Upon further examina-

tion, it was concluded that we would enact our emergency action plan. Security was promptly alerted and guests were diverted away from the area and cleared from the arena. Salt Lake City Police Department assumed control of the situation, executing its suspicious package protocol," the Jazz said.

"We would like to thank fans for their attention and cooperation, as well as the Salt Lake City Police Department for their responsiveness and partnership."

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and <https://twitter.com/AP-Sports>

Netanyahu's woes mirror those of his ally Trump

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — He was accused of using his high office to advance his personal political interests. He derided the investigation as a "witch hunt" fueled by "fake news" — an "attempted coup." He counted on his right-wing base, his hand-picked attorney general and his media savvy to weather the crisis.

Not U.S. President Donald Trump, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was indicted Thursday on corruption charges.

Netanyahu's indictment on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust marks the culmination of three long-running corruption cases. In the most serious, he is accused of accepting bribes from a telecom magnate by promoting regulations worth hundreds of millions of dollars in exchange for favorable media coverage on a popular news site owned by the company.

The announcement of the charges coincided with the final day of public impeachment hearings by the U.S. House of Representatives, in which officials provided a mountain of evidence to support allegations that Trump used the powers of his office to pressure Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden.

Trump and his supporters have furiously denied any wrongdoing, alleging a deep state conspiracy fanned by a hostile media aimed at reversing the 2016 election.

Netanyahu has adopted similar tactics and even the same language, alleging a conspiracy by police and prosecutors to end the 10-year rule of Israel's longest-serving prime minister. He has held large Trump-like rallies in recent months and has repeatedly taken to the airwaves and social media, banking on his legendary political skills as the walls closed in.

"Police and investigators are not above the law," Netanyahu said in an angry televised statement late Thursday, in which he said the country was witnessing an "attempted coup."

"The time has come to investigate the investigators," he declared, adopting an oft-used Trump line.

On Thursday, Trump called the Democrats leading the impeachment inquiry "human scum" in a tweet, saying it was the "most unfair hearings in American history."

Beyond their shared political style, the two leaders have forged a tight alliance. Trump has sided with Israel on key issues related to the conflict with the Palestinians, and Netanyahu has boasted of his close ties to the American president, saying they have brought about unprecedented gains for Israel.

The strategy of rallying their base while lashing out at institutions that sought to curb their power seemed to be working for both men — as it has for other right-wing populists — until elections saw their fortunes change.

Last year's midterm elections in the United States gave Democrats control of the House and a platform to investigate the administration. It now seems almost certain that Trump will be impeached on a party-line vote, though there is no indication the Republican-led Senate will remove him from office. Sitting U.S. presidents cannot be indicted.

The beginning of the end for Netanyahu may have come in September's elections, when he and his right-wing allies failed to win enough seats to form a majority coalition. Efforts to form a unity government have failed, in part because of Netanyahu's legal woes, and the country now appears to be heading toward an unprecedented third election in less than a year.

"We've seen populist right-wing governments around the world attack the judiciary, attack the media," and some have been successful, Anshel Pfeffer, an Israeli columnist and the author of a biography of

Netanyahu, told The Associated Press.

"But I think that in Israel and in the U.S., we've seen all these pillars of the democratic system fighting back and proving their resilience in the face of this kind of populist leader."

Netanyahu is not legally required to resign but faces heavy pressure to do so, and the indictment could weigh down his Likud party ahead of new elections.

Like Trump, he enjoys near absolute loyalty within his own party, but that too could change. Hours before the indictment was announced, a senior Likud member suggested there should be a party primary ahead of third elections and that he would be a candidate.

No such challenge has materialized in Trump's Republican Party, but it's still a year before the presidential election. As Netanyahu has found in recent weeks, things can change quickly.

"Something was different yesterday," Sima Kadmon, a columnist for the Yediot Ahronot newspaper, wrote about Netanyahu's defiant speech. "It simply didn't work, perhaps because there is nothing alluring about a wounded animal except the smell of its blood."

"The Netanyahu era has never looked closer to its end than in those moments when he was fighting for it to continue," she wrote.

Netanyahu had apparently counted on his hand-picked attorney general to shield him from prosecution.

But despite coming under heavy pressure from Netanyahu supporters, who at times held demonstrations outside his home, Avichai Mandelblit personally announced the indictment on all charges Thursday, saying it was "not a matter of politics."

Despite their setbacks, both Netanyahu and Trump are digging in for a long struggle with their equally determined opponents.

"The indictment in Israel and the expected one in the United States would only contribute to the high level of polarization and mistrust and conflict and confrontation between the two major camps," said Eytan Gilboa, a professor of political science at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

"The results could be similar in the sense of increasing the level of confrontation," he said.

Follow Joseph Krauss on Twitter at www.twitter.com/josephkrauss

FBI lawyer suspected of altering Russia probe document

By ERIC TUCKER and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An FBI lawyer is suspected of altering a document related to surveillance of former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page, a person familiar with the situation said Friday.

President Donald Trump, who has long attacked as a "hoax" and a "witch hunt" the FBI's investigation into ties between Russia and his 2016 presidential campaign, immediately touted news reports about the accusation to allege that the FBI had tried to "overthrow the presidency."

The allegation is part of a Justice Department inspector general review of the FBI's Russia investigation, one of the most politically sensitive probes in the bureau's history. That election interference probe was ultimately taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller and resulted in charges against six Trump associates and more than two dozen Russians accused of interfering in the election. Inspector General Michael Horowitz is expected to release his report on Dec. 9.

Witnesses in the last two weeks have been invited in to see draft sections of that document.

The inspector general report — centered in part on the use of a secret surveillance warrant to monitor the communications of a former Trump adviser — is likely to revive debate about an investigation that has shadowed Trump's presidency since the beginning. It will be released amid a House impeachment inquiry into Trump's efforts to press Ukraine's leader to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden at the same time as military aid was being withheld from the country.

Trump and his supporters are likely to seize on any findings of mistakes or bad judgment in the report to support their claims of a biased investigation. Supporters of the FBI, meanwhile, are likely to hold up

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as vindication any findings that the investigation was done by the book or free of political considerations.

The allegation against the lawyer was first reported by CNN. The Washington Post subsequently reported that the conduct of the FBI employee didn't alter Horowitz's finding that the surveillance application of Page had a proper legal and factual basis, an official told the Post, which said the lawyer was forced out.

"This was spying on my campaign — something that has never been done in the history of our country," Trump told "Fox & Friends" on Friday. "They tried to overthrow the presidency."

A person familiar with the case who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke to AP only on the condition of anonymity confirmed the allegation.

Spokespeople for the FBI and the inspector general declined to comment Friday.

The New York Times and the Post have reported that the investigation is expected to find mistakes by lower-level officials within the FBI but will not accuse senior leaders of being motivated by political bias.

The FBI obtained a secret surveillance warrant in 2016 to monitor the communications of Page, who was never charged in the Russia investigation or accused of wrongdoing. The warrant, which was renewed several times and approved by different judges in 2016 and early 2017, has been one of the most contentious elements of the Russia probe and was the subject of dueling memos last year issued by Democrats and Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee.

Republicans have long attacked the credibility of the warrant application since it cited information derived from a dossier of opposition research compiled by Christopher Steele, a former British spy whose work was financed by Democrats and the Hillary Clinton campaign.

"They got my warrant — a fraudulent warrant, I believe — to spy on myself as a way of getting into the Trump campaign," Page said in an interview with Maria Bartiromo on Fox's "Mornings with Maria." "There has been a continued cover-up to this day. We still don't have the truth, but hopefully, we'll get that soon."

FBI Director Chris Wray has told Congress that he did not consider the FBI surveillance to be "spying" and that he has no evidence the FBI illegally monitored Trump's campaign during the 2016 election. Wray said he would not describe the FBI's surveillance as "spying" if it's following "investigative policies and procedures."

Attorney General William Barr has said he believed "spying" did occur, but he also made clear at a Senate hearing earlier this year that he had no specific evidence that any surveillance was illegal or improper. Barr has appointed U.S. Attorney John Durham to investigate how intelligence was collected, and that probe has since become criminal in nature, a person familiar with the matter has said.

But Trump insists that members of the Obama administration "at the highest levels" were spying on his 2016 campaign. "Personally, I think it goes all the way. ... I think this goes to the highest level," he said in the Fox interview. "I hate to say it. I think it's a disgrace. They thought I was going to win and they said, 'How can we stop him?'"

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Impeachment inquiry crossroads: Keep going or time to vote?

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They've heard enough. With stunning testimony largely complete, the House, the Senate and the president are swiftly moving on to next steps in the historic impeachment inquiry of Donald J. Trump.

"Frankly, I want a trial," Trump declared Friday, and it looks like he's going to get it.

Democratic House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff's staff and others are compiling the panel's findings. By early December, the Judiciary Committee is expected to launch its own high-wire hearings to consider articles of impeachment and a formal recommendation of charges.

A vote by the full House could come by Christmas. A Senate trial would follow in 2020.

Congress' impeachment inquiry, only the fourth in U.S. history, has stitched together what Democrats argue is a relatively simple narrative, of the president leveraging the office for personal political gain,

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despite Republicans' assertions that it's complex, contradictory and unsupported by firsthand testimony. House Democrats may yet call additional witnesses first, notably John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser. But Senate Republicans are already looking ahead to their turn, the January trial that would follow House approval of impeachment charges.

Should they try to dispatch with such a trial in short order, which they may not have the votes to do, despite holding 53 seats in the 100-member Senate. Or should they stretch it out, disrupting the Democrats' presidential primaries under the assumption that it helps more than hurts the GOP and Trump.

At this point it seems very unlikely the 45th president will be removed from office. And he knows it.

"The Republican Party has never been more unified," Trump declared on Friday, calling in to the appropriately named "Fox & Friends" to talk about his achievements for nearly an hour. The Democrats haven't got anything to impeach him on, he claimed, and if the House proceeds their work will come crashing down in the Senate.

He wants that trial, he said.

It all stems from Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's newly elected president. In it, Trump asked Volodymyr Zelenskyy for "a favor," which involved investigating Democrat Joe Biden and a theory — debunked by U.S. intelligence — that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in America's 2016 election. In return, Democrats say, it was made clear to Zelenskyy by others that he would get a coveted Oval Office visit. And at the same time, Trump was holding up \$400 million in military aid the East European ally relies on to counter Russian aggression at its border.

For Democrats, it amounts to nothing short of a quid pro quo "bribery," spelled out in the Constitution as grounds for impeachment. They say they don't need Bolton or anyone else to further a case they contend was well established by the White House's rough transcript of the phone call — the transcript Trump himself implores America to read.

"We Democrats are tired of a president who is willing to put his own personal interests above the Constitution," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a Judiciary Committee member. "I don't think we should be waiting."

Trump insists he did nothing wrong and Friday revived the Ukraine interference idea, which he relies on it to push investigations of Biden's son Hunter, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine. Trump's former security aide Fiona Hill warned Republicans in Thursday's hearing that it's a "false narrative" dangerous for the U.S. and playing into Russia's hands.

Now Trump ally Lindsey Graham, a senator from South Carolina, has asked the State Department for documents on the Bidens and Burisma, the gas company.

The Judiciary Committee chairman and other senators met with White House Counsel Pat Cipollone as Republicans consider Trump's rebuttal to whatever impeachment articles may arrive from the House.

Another GOP Sen. Ted Cruz said if the White House wants to call Hunter Biden as a witness or the anonymous government whistleblower who alerted Congress to concerns about the phone call, "I think they should be allowed to call them," he said on "The Ben Shapiro Show."

Despite Trump's denials, Democrat Schiff says the testimony in the hearings has largely confirmed the accusations against the president.

"What have we learned through these depositions and through the testimony?" Schiff said as he gaveled the final session closed late Thursday. "So much of this is undisputed."

Bolton hasn't been questioned. Other testimony has him fuming at the White House over what he called the "drug deal" Trump's team was "cooking up" over Ukraine.

Bolton said he didn't want to have any part of it and left his post in September, not long after the whistleblower filed the complaint.

A former United Nations ambassador, Bolton declined a request to appear before Schiff's committee, standing by the White House's instructions not to comply with the probe. But he suddenly resurfaced Friday on Twitter.

He said the White House had blocked and "never returned access to my Twitter."

A senior Trump official said the White House did no such thing and wouldn't even have the means to do so.

There's also Rudy Giuliani, the president's lawyer, who witnesses put at the center of it all, fueling the theory of Ukraine's role in election interference and enlisting diplomats like Ambassador Gordon Sondland to push the Ukrainians to announce the investigations.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said this week no decisions have been made on further hearings. "As I said to the president, if you have any information that is exculpatory, please bring it forth, because it seems that the facts are uncontested as to what happened," she said.

In the Senate, much of the next steps will depend on Trump, whose shifting views have forced GOP senators to readjust their own. They left the White House meeting without consensus but plan to meet again, according to a person familiar with the session.

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Iconic singer hopes to close financing gap for African women

BY CARA ANNA Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The insect-eaten money fluttered in pieces to the floor. For global music star Angelique Kidjo, that image of her grandmother having to use a closet as a bank is driving her desire to see African women leap the many obstacles to obtaining credit — and respect.

The Benin-born singer, one of Africa's iconic artists and a collaborator with Philip Glass and others, is the voice of a new project aimed in part at rewriting laws across the continent that prevent millions of women from becoming a more powerful economic force.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kidjo described what she has seen over decades of travel in Africa during which women in vibrant marketplaces wished they had the means to do more.

"Why do banks give more loans to men versus women? That's the question I have," she said. "Millions of women entrepreneurs in Africa, they lack loans versus the men. Once again, we come back to this patriarchy. And we know men pay less back than women."

Every time credit is refused to African women, who invest some 90% of what they earn in educating their children and supporting families and communities as opposed to about 40% for men, it's a disaster, Kidjo said. "We're taking up reducing the poverty rate in Africa to the smallest number ever. That's my passion. That's why I'm here."

She will help the African Development Bank next week launch AFAWA, or Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa. Already the G-7 group of the world's major democracies has committed \$250 million, and the bank is providing \$1 billion for the project that will be deployed across all 54 countries.

The goal is to raise \$5 billion for efforts that include helping to guarantee loans, training women on financial matters and eliminating laws and regulations that make accessing credit more difficult. African women face a \$42 billion financing gap even though one in four starts or manages a business, the highest percentage in the world, the bank says.

In some African countries, women can't open a bank account without their husband or father, or inheritance laws leave them with little or nothing. That means no collateral.

But reforms are catching on. In the World Bank's latest Women, Business and Law report in 2018, 32% of reforms tracked in sub-Saharan African countries addressed equal treatment for women and men in accessing credit and financial services. Angola, Congo and Zambia joined others in prohibiting gender-based credit discrimination, it said.

With the new fund for financing African women "we will be able to go as low as a few hundred dollars' loan ... for people who need it the most," said Vanessa Mounzar, the African Development Bank's Chadian-French director of gender, women and civil society.

She was not ready to announce further pledges but said talks are continuing with potential donor countries, including African ones. With the continent's 1.2 billion population expected to double by 2050, the

pressure for growth is huge.

"Look, women are one of the most powerful forces of nature on this continent," Mounzar said. "If they can be economically empowered, transformation will be fast-tracked like we've never seen."

Launching along with the new financing project is an index to assess how commercial banks are performing. "When they come to us for more (loans) we'll say, 'What have you done for women?'" Mounzar said.

The project is also turning accountability on itself, with Kidjo and other ambassadors meant to speak up if they think the project isn't moving quickly or effectively enough.

True, Kidjo said. "I'm not a very patient person. Those women, they don't have time to waste. Their livelihood is in danger. I'm gonna be very strict."

Women across Africa have told her they don't want charity, the singer said. They know how to make money but aren't given the chance to try.

She recalled women in Ghana who resorted to digging a hole in the ground to stash their earnings because they didn't have bank accounts. And during a visit to Benin last month, one woman told her that to obtain a loan of 5,000 CFA (\$8) she had to show a property deed and hand over 100,000 CFA as collateral.

Such experiences have helped to inspire another new program, the \$100 million U.S.-run Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative fund with projects in 22 countries in Africa and elsewhere. They include Morocco, where women are benefiting from new laws that allow them to own land.

The Africa-focused AFAWA, with vocal backing from French President Emmanuel Macron, will launch this month in Rwanda at the Global Gender Summit, which gathers multilateral development banks from around the world.

When that East African nation changed its laws to give women access to land, their financial inclusion jumped from 36% to 63% in just four years, Mounzar said.

"Can you imagine?" she said. "I want all the women out there to know that's what's really driving us and our hearts. We are working for them and nothing else."

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Trump denigrates US diplomats, pushes conspiracy theories

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offering his own take on five long days of public hearings, President Donald Trump brushed off the impeachment inquiry as "total nonsense" on Friday and bad-mouthed a number of the U.S. diplomats who testified to Congress about his Ukraine pressure campaign.

In one breath, Trump said House Democrats looked like "fools" during the hearings on Capitol Hill. In another, he offered a window into his political strategy ahead of an expected House vote to impeach him. If that happens, the Senate would hold a trial on whether to oust him from office.

"I think we had a tremendous week with the hoax," Trump said at the White House.

At the same time, he talked up debunked conspiracy theories that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election, speaking just one day after a former White House adviser testified that the claim was a "fictional narrative" that played into the hands of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump also repeated claims that Obama administration officials spied on his campaign and underscored the need to keep Republicans unified against impeachment.

"I don't think I've ever seen support in the Republican party like we do right now," he said.

In a 57-minute, animated phone interview on "Fox & Friends," Trump said he did not expect to be impeached. But he added that if the House did vote to impeach him, he would welcome a trial in the Republican-led Senate.

"Frankly, I want a trial," he said.

A trial, he said, would give Republicans a chance to question Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who led the hearings as chairman of the House intelligence committee. Procedures for a Senate trial still are being worked out, but Republicans may well be hesitant to adopt Trump's idea of turning a lawmaker into a witness.

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"I want to see Adam Schiff testify about the whistleblower, who is a fake whistleblower," the president said, adding that he knows the identity of the whistleblower whose formal complaint launched the impeachment inquiry.

Trump's professed confidence came after impeachment witnesses testified under oath that the president withheld aid from Ukraine to press the country to investigate his political rivals. Trump insisted he was trying to root out corruption in the Eastern European nation when he held up nearly \$400 million in military aid to help Ukraine battle Russian aggression.

"I think it's very hard to impeach you when they have absolutely nothing," Trump said.

He denied there was any quid pro quo, extortion or bribery. He also denied holding up a White House meeting or military aid to get Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to launch investigations of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son's dealings in Ukraine.

Uncowed by witnesses who warned against playing into the Russians' hands, Trump repeated a debunked conspiracy theory that Ukrainians might have hacked the Democratic National Committee's network in 2016 and framed Russia for the crime.

"They gave the server to CrowdStrike, which is a company owned by a very wealthy Ukrainian," Trump said. "I still want to see that server. The FBI has never gotten that server."

Trump's claim on Ukraine being behind the 2016 election interference has been discredited by intelligence agencies and his own advisers.

CrowdStrike, an internet security firm based in California, investigated the DNC hack in June 2016 and traced it to two groups of hackers connected to a Russian intelligence service — not Ukraine. The company's co-founder Dmitri Alperovitch is a Russian-born U.S. citizen who immigrated as a child and graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser on the White House National Security Council, admonished Republicans in her testimony on Thursday for pushing unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about Ukrainian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

"This is a fictional narrative that has been perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves," Hill said.

Trump continued to distance himself from other impeachment witnesses, including Gordon Sondland, U.S. ambassador to the European Union.

Sondland said he was working on a deal to arrange a White House visit if Zelenskiy publicly announced investigations into Burisma, a Ukrainian gas company. Democrat Joe Biden's son Hunter was a Burisma board member.

Speaking of Sondland, Trump said, "I hardly know him, OK? I've spoken to him a few times."

The president said Sondland left out of his opening statement his account of a phone conversation in which Trump said: "I want nothing. No quid pro quo. Have Zelenskiy do whatever is right."

Sondland "didn't put that in," Trump said. "That was the end of him. I turned off the television."

He also denigrated the testimony of David Holmes, a counselor at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv. Holmes testified that he overheard a different phone conversation Sondland had with the president. Holmes said he heard the president talking loudly about Zelenskiy, asking, "So, he's gonna do the investigation?" Ambassador Sondland replied that "He's gonna do it."

Trump said he didn't believe Holmes could hear the conversation since it wasn't on a speaker phone. "That was a total phony deal," Trump said.

And Trump continued to disparage former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. Trump recalled her from her post in Kyiv before her tenure was to end. Trump called her an "Obama person" and claimed she didn't want his picture to hang on the wall of the embassy.

Ian Kelly, the former U.S. ambassador to Georgia, tweeted in Yovanovitch's defense, saying: "Our official White House portraits did not arrive at Embassy Tbilisi until March 2018. This was because the WH (White House) was late getting them to all embassies."

Trump said he asked why some administration officials were being so kind to Yovanovitch. He claimed they told him, "Well, sir, she's a woman. We have to be nice."

Analysis: Warren has a plan to win support from black women

By ERRIN HAINES AP National Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Winning black female voters? On Thursday night in Atlanta, Sen. Elizabeth Warren showed she has a plan for that.

The Massachusetts senator has built a top-tier campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination largely by gathering support from progressive whites. But the contours of her new approach — and the preparation that went into it — was apparent well before Warren took the stage at Clark-Atlanta University.

Prominent black women were on hand to vouch for Warren's commitment to their priorities. They included Ayanna Pressley, a Massachusetts congresswoman and rising Democratic star, and Angela Peoples, an organizer who gained fame after she was photographed at the 2017 Women's March holding a sign saying, "Don't Forget: White Women Voted for Trump." Both have endorsed Warren for president.

The 70-year-old white woman also shook up her routine.

Instead of walking onstage to the usual tune from Dolly Parton's "9 to 5," Warren's campaign blared "Respect" by Aretha Franklin, the queen of soul. The senator then delivered a soaring speech that connected parable to policy and, in the process, made one of the strongest appeals to black voters of any Democratic White House hopeful during the 2020 primary.

It was no accident that she delivered her remarks in Atlanta, considered the capital of black America.

Her speech focused on the story of the city's black washerwomen's strike of 1881, when thousands of women — including some less than a generation out of slavery — walked off the job seeking higher wages and more dignity. They were later joined by white washerwomen who saw a shared struggle, and their protest became an example for other African Americans working in domestic and service roles.

That little-known history formed the building blocks for the case Warren is now pitching to Democratic voters — including white Americans wondering how a push to right historic wrongs could threaten their quality of life.

"To this day, racism still whispers the convenient lie to some white people that if your life has problems, you should blame 'them' — people who don't look like you," she warned. "The wealthy and well-connected want us to believe that more for your neighbors will always mean less for you. But the truth is, when we come together, we can all move forward."

The evening's celebratory atmosphere was its own testimony to the rising power and influence of black female voters. It underscored the role that black women are playing in Warren's campaign: in the audience, among her staff, even the female DJ spinning a playlist featuring Beyoncé, Aaliyah, Lauryn Hill.

Warren's remarks were the culmination of months of conversations with black female activists and a testament to her growth as a white progressive woman. In closed-door discussions, Warren listened as those activists laid out their agenda for the next president of the United States: reparations for slavery, environmental and reproductive justice, ending cash bail, addressing systemic and institutional racism.

On Thursday, their priorities became hers.

"America was founded on principles of liberty and built on the backs of enslaved people," Warren declared in a remark hardly imaginable in a pre-Barack Obama presidential cycle. "The federal government helped create the racial divide in this country through decades of active, state-sponsored discrimination, and that means the federal government has an obligation to fix it."

Among the deepest fault lines in Democratic politics exposed since 2016 is the rift between the black women who voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton and the white women who did not, voting either for Donald Trump or staying home. Headed into 2020, many black women wonder whether white women will make a different choice — a dynamic that has, in part, fueled skepticism toward Warren's candidacy.

She positioned herself in Atlanta as an ally not just asking for black votes, but also vowing to govern in part according to their concerns.

This week's debate featured a conversation among candidates about who is best positioned to build a broad coalition and unify the country after the election. Warren presented a new argument: that the key to

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the Democratic nomination and to victory in November is not a unifying candidate but a unified electorate.

The speech came at a crossroads in the 2020 campaign, on the day after yet another debate that left many voters still trying to discern who is best positioned to beat Trump next fall. So far, the distinction has gone to former Vice President Joe Biden, with Democrats — and black voters, in particular — putting their faith in him to avert their worst fears.

Using the examples of fearless black women who fought to perfect American democracy, Warren told the crowd Thursday that fear will not be the way forward in 2020.

“Yes, there’s a lot at stake in this election, and I know people are scared,” she said, her voice reaching a crescendo over the roaring crowd. “But the washerwomen were not afraid. I am not afraid. And you can’t be afraid, either.”

With the most diverse field of candidates ever running in the 2020 Democratic primary, the potential to make history abounds — including for Warren, who could become the country’s first female president. But as voters, especially African Americans, process the campaign, there is more at stake for them than making history.

For black voters, the pragmatic calculation in considering the nominee comes down to two main questions: Do you speak to me? And can you win?

So far, there’s no empirical evidence that Warren has answered those questions for them. But if she does, it could well be because she told the story of a group of bold, black women, to a gymnasium full of black women, on a Thursday night in November.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Errin Haines has covered race and politics for the AP since 2015.

What’s next in impeachment: A busy December, and on to 2020

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two weeks of public hearings, Democrats could soon turn the impeachment process over to the House Judiciary Committee. They’re moving “expeditiously” ahead as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has instructed.

At some point in the coming weeks, the House intelligence panel will submit a report to the Judiciary panel, and then Democrats will consider drafting articles of impeachment on President Donald Trump’s dealings with Ukraine and the administration’s attempts to block the investigation. The articles could cover matters beyond Trump’s efforts to push Ukraine to investigate Democrats, including special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation, but no decisions have been made.

There could be several steps along the way, including a Judiciary committee vote, a House floor vote and, finally, a Senate trial.

What’s next in impeachment:

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WRAPS UP

Democrats on the House intelligence committee believe they have enough evidence to write a report and move forward. But it’s still unclear whether they will hear any last-minute testimony.

Several potentially key witnesses — former National Security Adviser John Bolton, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, among others — have so far declined to provide testimony or documents on Trump’s orders.

Democrats have said they don’t want to get tied up in lengthy court battles to force those witnesses to cooperate with subpoenas. But they could still hear testimony if one of them changed their mind, or if other key witnesses emerged.

“We’ve heard and seen compelling evidence that the president committed serious wrongdoing,” says Texas Rep. Joaquin Castro, a member of the intelligence panel. “There are other witnesses, including some principal witnesses that we would have liked to have heard from, but the evidence has been pretty damning that the president committed an impeachable act.”

Time is running short if the House is to vote on impeachment by Christmas, which Democrats privately

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say is the goal. The intelligence panel is expected to spend the Thanksgiving week writing, and maybe even completing, a report of evidence gathered through more than six weeks of closed-door depositions and public hearings.

Once the report is done, the panel could vote to pass it on to the House Judiciary Committee. That could happen as soon as the first week of December, when lawmakers return from the Thanksgiving break.

JUDICIARY TAKES CHARGE

Pelosi has instructed the intelligence panel, along with other committees that have investigated Trump, to submit evidence to the House Judiciary Committee. That panel is then expected to hold hearings and vote on articles of impeachment — a process that could take up the first two weeks of December.

The articles of impeachment are expected to mostly focus on Ukraine, though discussions continue. Democrats are considering an overall “abuse of power” article against Trump, which could be broken into categories like bribery or extortion. The article would center on the Democrats’ assertion, based on witness testimony, that Trump used his office to pressure Ukraine into politically motivated investigations.

Additional articles of impeachment could include obstruction of Congress and obstruction of justice. The latter could incorporate evidence from Mueller’s report.

HOUSE FLOOR VOTE

The Judiciary panel could take several days to debate the articles and then vote on them — sending impeachment to the House floor, where they could immediately be called up for consideration. Debate on impeachment would be handled similarly to any other bill or resolution.

If articles of impeachment reach the House floor, Democrats will be looking to peel off Republicans to make the vote bipartisan. So far, however, it appears few, if any, Republicans will break ranks. Not a single Republican backed the resolution launching the impeachment hearings.

Once an impeachment vote is done, Democrats would appoint impeachment managers for a Senate trial.

SENATE TRIAL

House Democrats are hoping to be finished with an impeachment vote by Christmas, sending articles to the Republican-controlled Senate for a trial in 2020. Unless political dynamics change, Trump is expected to have the backing of majority Republicans in that chamber to be acquitted.

It’s still unclear how long a trial would last, what it would look like or what witnesses might be called. Top White House officials met Thursday with Republican senators to discuss strategy but made no decisions about the length of a trial other tactics, two people familiar with the session said.

Participants in the meeting expressed more interest in voting as soon as they have the 51 votes needed to acquit Trump than in setting a specific timetable for the proceedings, according to one Senate GOP aide.

That aide and a senior White House official said a trial lasting two weeks was discussed, but not agreed to. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity to describe a private meeting.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Bolton returns to Twitter after claim of White House freeze

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former national security adviser John Bolton said Friday in a series of cryptic tweets that he’s regained control of his personal Twitter account, asserting the White House refused to provide access to it after he resigned in September, a charge President Donald Trump rejected.

Bolton and Trump clashed frequently on foreign policy and the president said the hawkish Bolton did not get along with others in the administration and was out of step with him on policy.

Bolton’s actions and words have been closely followed ever since, particularly concerning the House impeachment inquiry. Bolton has declined to testify unless a federal judge determines he can be compelled

to testify against the White House's wishes. But his attorney said Bolton was aware of "many relevant meetings and conversations" related to the Ukraine pressure campaign.

Bolton issued a series of tweets Friday that began with him saying he was glad to be back on Twitter and to "stay tuned."

A third tweet accused the White House of refusing to return access to the account, asking, "Out of fear of what I may say? To those who speculated I went into hiding, I'm sorry to disappoint!"

Finally, Bolton thanked Twitter for "standing by their community standards" and "rightfully returning control" of his account.

Twitter declined to comment. Trump was asked on Fox News whether the White House froze Bolton's Twitter account.

"Of course not. No, I actually had a good relationship with John," Trump said. "We disagreed on some things and some methods, but I actually had a good relationship. No, I didn't do that."

US officials: Don't eat romaine grown in Salinas, California

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday told people to avoid romaine lettuce grown in Salinas, California, because of another food poisoning outbreak.

The notice comes almost exactly one year after a similar outbreak led to a blanket warning about romaine.

Officials urged Americans not to eat the leafy green if the label doesn't say where it was grown. They also urged supermarkets and restaurants not to serve or sell the lettuce, unless they're sure it was grown elsewhere.

The warning applies to all types of romaine from the Salinas region, include whole heads, hearts and pre-cut salad mixes.

"We're concerned this romaine could be in other products," said Laura Gieraltowski, lead investigator of the outbreak at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Officials said their investigation led to farms in Salinas and that they are looking for the source of E. coli tied to the illnesses. Salinas is a major growing region for romaine from around April to this time of year, when growing shifts south to Yuma, Arizona.

After last year's pre-Thanksgiving outbreak tied to romaine, the produce industry agreed to voluntarily label the lettuce with harvest regions. Health officials said that would make it easier to trace romaine and issue more specific public health warnings when outbreaks happen.

Officials never identified exactly how romaine might have become contaminated in past outbreaks. But another outbreak in spring 2018 that sickened more than 200 people and killed five was traced to tainted irrigation water near a cattle lot. (E. coli is found in the feces of animals such as cows.)

It's not clear exactly why romaine keeps popping up in outbreaks, but food safety experts note the popularity of romaine lettuce and the difficulty of eliminating risk for produce grown in open fields and eaten raw.

Industry groups noted that they tightened safety measures following last year's outbreaks, including expanding buffer zones between growing fields and livestock.

"It's very, very disturbing. Very frustrating all around," said Trevor Suslow of the Produce Marketing Association.

The CDC says 40 people have been reported sick so far in 16 states. The most recent reported illness started on Nov. 10. The agency says it's the same E. coli strain tied to previous outbreaks, including the one from last Thanksgiving.

The CDC's Gieraltowski said that suggests there's a persisting contamination source in the environment.

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Prosecutors: Political donor sought to silence witnesses

By BRIAN MELLEY, JIM MUSTIAN and ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A political fundraiser accused of funneling foreign money into U.S. elections offered six witnesses in his case more than \$6 million to keep quiet, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Prosecutors also revealed new allegations that the donor, Imaad Zuberi, acted as an unregistered agent for the Turkish government and Libyan government officials, among other foreign countries.

The allegations came hours before Zuberi pleaded guilty Friday in Los Angeles to charges of tax evasion, campaign finance violations and failing to register as a foreign agent.

Zuberi has been under scrutiny by federal prosecutors in both California and New York over millions of dollars in political contributions, including big donations to the inaugural committees of both President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump.

So far, he has been charged only in Los Angeles. Zuberi's attorneys had requested a delay of Friday's hearing, saying they had been blindsided by prosecutors in New York saying they intended to charge him with additional crimes.

In a court filing, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles accused Zuberi of stalling. The office told the judge that if Zuberi did not plead guilty as scheduled, his plea agreement would be voided and he would be hit with additional charges, including wire fraud, money laundering and obstruction of justice related to \$50,000 Zuberi is alleged to have paid a witness.

The filing said prosecutors would present evidence at sentencing that Zuberi had obstructed the investigation "by paying, or offering to pay, \$6,150,000 to six witnesses in return for their false testimony or silence."

The papers also said prosecutors would present evidence that Zuberi had acted as an unregistered agent for Sri Lanka and Turkey and Libyan government officials, as well as a Bahraini national, a Ukraine national and Pakistani nationals.

Zuberi's attorney declined to comment on the allegations.

The allegation that Zuberi acted as an unregistered agent for Turkey comes about a month after investigators probing his activities questioned a prolific Democratic Party donor who has ties to the administration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to law enforcement records reviewed by The Associated Press.

The records show that prosecutors and FBI agents quizzed the donor, Murat Guzel, a Turkish-American businessman, about his dealings with Zuberi and several U.S. lawmakers and foreign officials. Guzel was granted immunity to speak with authorities, the records show.

As part of their investigation, authorities also examined a \$50,000 check Zuberi gave to Guzel earlier this year, according to other records reviewed by the AP.

It was not clear from those records or Friday's court filings whether Guzel was among the witnesses Zuberi is accused of trying to pay off.

Guzel declined to comment through his attorney. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan also declined to comment. The Democratic National Committee did not respond to a request for comment.

A self-described "commercial diplomat," Guzel has been an outspoken supporter of Turkey while being active in politics as a member of the Democratic National Committee. He immigrated to the U.S. more than 30 years ago and owns organic fruit companies in Pennsylvania.

Guzel's Facebook account, which featured pictures of him with several prominent Democratic lawmakers at fundraisers and other events, was deleted after he was contacted by The Associated Press.

U.S.-Turkish relations have been strained over Turkey's military incursion into Syria in October to attack the Kurdish forces that fought with the U.S. against the Islamic State.

Turkey has aggressively lobbied in the U.S., particularly in its efforts to have an expatriate Turkish cleric, Fethullah Gulen, extradited from Pennsylvania to face trial in connection with a failed coup. The cleric denies any involvement in the coup.

Guzel has actively advocated for policies backed by Erdogan. Last year he led a news conference outside Congress where he criticized U.S. support for Kurdish fighters. Guzel's emails also appear in a 2016 Wikileaks

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dump of Erdogan son-in-law's emails. In one email, Guzel boasted of getting a former congressman to write an op-ed praising Turkey as a key ally.

Guzel and Zuberi are also connected through federal campaign finance records and social media postings.

A 2015 donation made in Guzel's name to the National Republican Congressional Committee for \$33,400 listed the donor's address as Zuberi's address in Los Angeles.

Zuberi, 49, was a major donor to former President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton but became a generous supporter of President Donald Trump within hours of his 2016 election.

Federal prosecutors in New York scrutinized a \$900,000 donation he made to Trump's inaugural committee and singled him out in a subpoena to the inaugural committee seeking a wide array of records about the \$107 million celebration. The inaugural committee has not been accused of wrongdoing.

In the Los Angeles case, Zuberi was accused of soliciting donations from foreign nationals and companies and then acting as a straw donor to make donations to several U.S. political campaigns. The charges in that case are unrelated to Trump's inauguration.

Suderman reported from Richmond, Virginia. Mustian reported from New York and Los Angeles. Associated Press Writer Suzan Fraser contributed reporting from Ankara, Turkey.

AP Exclusive: Kaillie Humphries now 'safe' with USA Bobsled

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

Kaillie Humphries was on what bobsledders call a track walk a few days ago. The two-time Olympic champion was checking out the ice-covered sliding chute at Mount Van Hoevenberg in Lake Placid, New York, when she unexpectedly crossed paths with some members of Canada's bobsled team.

Brief hellos were exchanged. She kept going on her way. The Canadians went the other direction.

This is Humphries' new reality.

Humphries — one of the best pilots in the history of her sport — has traded her red and white Canadian gear for red, white and blue U.S. apparel. No longer racing for her homeland of Canada, Humphries is now a member of USA Bobsled's national team after a nearly two-year saga in which she said she was verbally and mentally abused by a Canadian coach to the point where she no longer felt safe and the team simply discarded her.

"What I'm learning is that you can love more than one thing," Humphries said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm Canadian. I'm not giving up one for the other. My feelings for Canada don't lessen, but I can love something else just as much. And I've been living in the U.S. for four years. I love an American. I married one. Then different opportunities arose and we find ourselves in situations in life where we have to make decisions and choices.

"I found myself in a situation where I didn't feel safe and I didn't feel comfortable. An opportunity arose in a safe and comfortable environment. Here we are."

And with that, she's sliding for the U.S. now. Humphries will start the year driving the USA-2 sled, as one of three pilots picked for this season's national team. It's expected that she will be a World Cup contender right away, even after missing last season while sitting out while her harassment claim in Canada was investigated.

Her first official competitive run of the season was this week, and she banged the sled into a wall right away. The rust must have come off because her next three runs were just about flawless — pretty much proving she's still elite.

"Kaillie has been a breath of fresh air for this program," U.S. bobsled coach Mike Kohn said. "She's handled all of this very professionally and I don't think any of the drama that people might think is out there is really bothering her. We've created an environment where she's excited to be here."

Her journey has been dramatic and goes back to at least early 2018. That's when Humphries said things between her and Canadian coach Todd Hays — a former U.S. bobsledder and Olympian — were so bad

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that an agreement was struck where Hays was to have no contact with her during that year's Pyeongchang Olympics, where she won a bronze medal. Canadian officials denied Friday that any such deal was in place.

There was also a marriage, to a former U.S. bobsledder, Travis Armbruster. Marrying him, something that had been planned for years, also allowed her the chance to race for the U.S. this season. She will need to obtain U.S. citizenship to go to the Beijing Games — a process already underway.

"I just want the chance to be the best that I can be and let the chips fall where they may," Humphries said.

In the summer after Pyeongchang, at her new home in San Diego about a mile or so from the shore of the Pacific Ocean, Humphries said she often found herself crying for no reason and lacking energy to do anything. Headaches were part of the everyday routine. She asked Canada to help her see specialists. They declined, referring her instead to team doctors. Humphries spent at least \$7,000 seeing doctors of her choosing, getting bloodwork, an MRI, even her eyes checked before eventually learning she was suffering from depression.

"Everything was wrong," Humphries said.

She said she asked Canada for help and that she did not want to be coached by Hays. When it became clear a change would not be made, Humphries decided to sit the season out. Hays denied wrongdoing, and multiple Canadian bobsledders spoke out in support of the coach and the program. Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton, the sport's governing body in that country, said in September that it took Humphries' "allegations extremely seriously" and an investigation "found insufficient evidence of Kaillie's allegations."

"We all feel that it is a safe environment that promotes high performance," Canadian driver Alysia Rissling told reporters in September.

Humphries, the winningest driver in Canada's program, saw it much differently. She said she feared interacting with Hays, and some U.S. bobsledders filed claims suggesting they had similar feelings when he coached the American women's program during the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

So she sat out. She didn't watch most races, though went back to Canada for the world championships as a spectator. Then she tried to think of a solution — and changing national teams suddenly seemed like an option.

"I was always going to come back after last season," Humphries said. "I always wanted to come back. It was just in what capacity, how and what that meant. But at no point was I done. At no point had I ever reached the thought of, 'I want to retire. I need to retire.' I have more left to do."

Humphries has many layers. She's muscular and strong, often putting clips from her weightlifting sessions on Instagram for the world to see. She's covered in tattoos, the result of hundreds and hundreds of hours of work. She considers them art.

She doesn't have a lot of close friends. She tends to keep to herself, especially on race day. Approach her before a race at your own peril.

"Laser focus," Kohn said. "I haven't seen too many like it."

Humphries is 34. The Beijing Games, if she gets there, could be her Olympic finale. She has tons of medals. Olympic gold. World championships. World Cups. A new marriage, a house near the beach, an affinity for sushi that isn't easily satisfied at some of the world's bobsled hotspots. Some in her home country aren't exactly fans of hers anymore. And she's had a rocky road for nearly two years.

It begs the question why she's still sliding.

For that, she has a quick answer.

"I've put myself in situations to be the best," Humphries said. "I go out and seek the best because I want to be the best. I work very hard. This is my life. This is what I love. And I approach it with 100% abandon. It gives back to me and I'm good at it. It's just what I love to do."

Colombia president orders curfew in capital following unrest

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** and **CESÁR GARCÍA** Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian President Iván Duque ordered a curfew in the nation's capital Friday amid continuing unrest following a massive march a day before that brought tens of thousands to the streets in a strong message of rejection against his conservative government.

The president said he was invoking the rarely used measure to contain ongoing clashes between police and demonstrators in the city of 7 million, shortly after officers pushed back thick crowds of protesters banging pots and pans in the storied Plaza Bolívar.

"They kicked us out with tear gas," said Rogelio Martinez, 38, a construction worker. "They didn't want the people to show their discontent."

The curfew comes one day after an estimated 250,000 people took to the streets in one of the nation's biggest marches in recent history. While the protest started out peaceful, it ended with scattered skirmishes between protesters and police. Three people were killed in what authorities described as violent looting incidents overnight.

"One thing is a peaceful expression through protest," Duque said. "Another very different thing is to take advantage of the protest to sow chaos."

The upheaval takes place as Latin America is experiencing a tide of discontent, with large demonstrations in countries including Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador where citizens frustrated with their political leaders are taking to the streets.

The protests defy easy categorization and it remains unclear if Colombia's will persist.

In an attempt to quell the anger, Duque also announced that he will open a "national conversation" throughout the country next week aimed at finding medium and long-term solutions to deeply entrenched issues like inequality and corruption.

"The space for dialogue exists," he said.

Colombia is grappling with long-simmering tensions over issues like corruption and inequality while also struggling to combat ongoing violence between illegal armed groups and to significantly reduce record levels of coca crops.

Duque was elected last year on a platform promising to change key aspects of a landmark 2016 peace accord with leftist rebels that polarized the country and which protesters are demanding he implement more forcefully.

In the first 15 months of his administration, Duque has watched his approval rating plummet to 26 percent and endured a series of embarrassing setbacks.

"Colombia is facing a set of complex problems that are as difficult as any in its recent history," said Cynthia Arson, a Colombia expert and director of the Latin America program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "I think any political leader faced with this array of problems would have a difficult time."

Defense Minister Guillermo Botero resigned in early November following revelations that at least eight minors had been killed in a bombing that targeted a small band of dissidents. Duque himself drew criticism after holding up photos at the U.N. General Assembly that he said were proof that the socialist government in neighboring Venezuela harbors Colombian rebels — only to find out later that at least one of the images was taken in Colombia.

Colombia's economy has been growing at a faster rate this year, but the nation still has one of the highest levels of inequality in South America. Nearly 11% of Colombians are out of work — a figure that jumps to 17.5% for young adults.

Protest organizers had called on Duque Friday to establish a dialogue with indigenous, student and labor leaders to discuss labor and pension reform, among the wide range of other issues that protesters are bringing to the table.

At least one union leader said he welcomed the opening of a national conversation, though there was no immediate response from key organizers.

"We think it's very good," said Jorge Bedoya, president of an agricultural workers union. "Now it depends on those who have been convoked to define a trajectory for the things worrying all Colombians."

According to authorities, 146 people have been detained in during the two days of unrest, at least 151 police and military officers injured, as well as 122 civilians, most of whom suffered minor injuries and tear gas inhalation.

Defense Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo said two individuals were killed in the port city of Buenaventura after police were attacked while responding to looting at a mall. A third died in Candelaria after police said a group looting a supermarket shot at officers.

The names and cause of death of those killed were not released.

Yann Basset, a professor at Bogota's Rosario University, said whether Duque's call for dialogue is a success will depend on whether it leads to genuine citizen participation, instead of becoming a mere complaint box for the frustrated.

"The question is whether these measures come in time to calm the people," he said.

1st in vitro Puerto Rico crested toad gives scientists hope

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A critically endangered Puerto Rican toad was for the first time born via in vitro fertilization as U.S. scientists attempt to save it from extinction, officials announced Friday.

Olaf - named in honor of the frozen semen he came from — is the first of more than 300 Puerto Rican crested toads that hatched after the first attempt failed, Diane Barber, ectotherms curator at the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas, told The Associated Press.

"We don't typically name our toads, but that one deserved special recognition," she said via phone. "We were super, super excited. ... You kind of hold your breath for 30 days to see if they're going to metamorphose."

Barber was part of a team that traveled to the southwest town of Guayanilla last year to collect semen from six male Puerto Rican crested toads that were later released back into the wild. The scientists were careful to select bigger toads that had what are called "nuptial pads" on their thumbs, which indicate sexual maturity and help them grab on to females, she said.

Extracting semen from toads that measure up to 4.5 inches (11 centimeters) long is normally easy: they release it in their urine, and they usually pee whenever they're picked up, Barber said. But for those toads that did not pee, another tactic was used.

"It's kind of weird, but if you hold them in your hand and look at them and bark at them like a dog, they will pee," she said.

The team, which included scientists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources, among others, preserved the semen in liquid nitrogen as they transported it to the Fort Worth Zoo, where a couple of female toads injected with hormones awaited.

Efforts to save the Puerto Rican crested toad date back a couple of decades, but this is the first time in vitro fertilization was used, according to Armando Otero, interim secretary of the island's Department of Natural Resources.

"This is a significant advance for critically endangered species, as it will allow zoos, researchers and other conservationists to expand their genetic population used to increase the general population while keeping toads in their natural and wild habitat," he said in a statement.

To prepare the toads for successful reproduction, scientists expose them to cooler temperatures for about three months and sometimes will even re-create rain, Barber said.

Of the more than 300 toads that were born via in vitro, 100 were sent to other zoos with captive breeding programs and the remaining 200 will be sent to Puerto Rico in December via FedEx to be released into the wild.

The Puerto Rican crested toad was thought extinct until the 1960s and was then rediscovered in the early 1980s. Most of the population lives in the southern half of the U.S. territory, with no northern toads spot-

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ted since 1992. But concerns are growing about their ability to survive climate change. In the southwest coastal town of Guánica, where the population remains most stable, rising sea levels are threatening their habitat, Barber said. The toads live near the beach, and scientists fear that in upcoming years, saltwater will seep into the ponds they use for breeding.

The toad's wild population in Puerto Rico is estimated anywhere from 300 to 3,000, Barber said, adding that they're very cryptic.

While Puerto Rico is known for its coquí frogs and their beautiful calls, Barber said that the crested toads sound "more like a car engine that's trying to start."

"For what they lack in their call, they have these beautiful golden eyes and ducklike beak noses that turn up," she said.

New images of Mister Rogers' 'Neighborhood' on eve of film

By GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

From 1984 through 2000, I had the privilege of spending countless hours documenting a very special neighbor, Fred Rogers of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

A more kind and caring neighbor there never was or will be. Whether working behind the set with his puppets, feeding his fish, pulling on his cardigan or talking to a young AP photographer about his kids between takes, Mister Rogers had a message: We are all special, just the way we are.

During those extended visits on the sets, we had time to talk. He was into cameras and photography. Obviously, he was very comfortable being in front of the camera and I think he was a very visual person. The people who worked with him for years and years were absolutely like a family. When you were in that studio with them, you were witnessing a family. It was a family going about their business and their business was making a television show for kids.

The days I spent photographing in "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" remain some of the greatest days of my 41-year career at the AP.

Decision by WADA group puts Russia's Olympic future in peril

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

The chances of the Russian flag flying at next year's Olympics took a potentially lethal hit Friday when anti-doping regulators recommended the country be declared noncompliant for tampering with data that was supposed to help bring the entire cheating episode to a close.

The World Anti-Doping Agency announced its compliance and review committee delivered the recommendation to the agency's executive committee, which will discuss it on Dec. 9.

If the executive committee agrees to declare Russia's anti-doping agency noncompliant, it will set in motion a process that could end with Russia being booted from the Tokyo Games.

This marks the latest chapter in a scandal that began before the 2014 Sochi Games, when Russian officials designed a scheme to allow their athletes to dope without getting caught by substituting urine samples taken after competition with clean ones stored from earlier.

Under rules written in the aftermath of that scheme, the Russians could appeal any sanction to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The International Olympic Committee would have to abide by the decisions from WADA or the court, though its president, Thomas Bach, said earlier this week he was not in favor of a total ban.

Muddling the case even more are a pair of dueling rulebooks — one currently in effect, the other supposed to go into effect in 2021.

The rules currently in place offer no leeway in the case of a "critical" violation, the likes of which is confronting Russia. They read: "The athletes ... representing that country ... will be excluded from participation in or attendance at the Olympic Games ... for the next edition of that event, or until reinstatement (whichever is longer)."

The rules scheduled to go into effect in 2021, however, say athletes "MAY" be excluded from major

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events "Other than the Olympic Games."

At the last Winter Games, the IOC banned Russia as a country but allowed 168 Russian athletes to compete under the banner "Olympic Athlete from Russia." A similar arrangement could be made for Tokyo.

The news, delivered late Friday, came hours after track's governing body said it was reviewing whether to continue with such an arrangement in that sport after new charges that senior officials in the country's track federation faked medical records.

World Athletics is also considering stripping Russia's membership. President Sebastian Coe said "we need to deal with renegade factions like this."

In the WADA case, the sanction would be directed at Russia's anti-doping agency, which has been revamped in the wake of a scandal that investigators showed was directed by government authorities.

RUSADA's current leader, Yuri Ganus, has been bracing for such a decision and urging his own government to come clean, and help stamp out the embers of a scandal that has gone on for 5 years and now threatens an entirely new generation of athletes.

WADA lifted RUSADA's earlier suspension as part of an agreement that it would receive the data, only to later discover it had been tampered with, and that the tampering did not appear random.

WADA said it had built more than 40 cases based on data that had not been tampered with, and corroborated information brought to the agency via whistleblowers who unearthed the case.

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

Students arrested for separate threats at 2 LA-area schools

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Deputies arrested a 13-year-old boy and seized a semi-automatic rifle after he threatened to shoot other students and staff at a Los Angeles-area middle school, authorities said Friday.

In a separate case, a boy at another school was taken into custody involving a planned shooting.

The arrests came barely a week after deputies were frantically summoned to a high school in Santa Clarita, where a 16-year-old boy killed two fellow students and took his own life.

Since then, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has investigated at least 30 school threats, spokesman Sgt. Bob Boese said.

The incidents that resulted in the arrests were the only ones deemed credible.

At Animo Mae Jemison Charter Middle School in Willowbrook, just south of downtown Los Angeles, multiple students overheard the 13-year-old say Thursday that he would carry out the shooting on campus the following day, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said.

The students alerted teachers and police were notified.

Deputies searched the boy's home and discovered an AR-15-style rifle, 100 rounds of ammunition, a list of names and a drawing of the school, Villanueva said.

The boy was arrested without incident on suspicion of making criminal threats. A 19-year-old male relative also was arrested on suspicion of possessing an unregistered firearm, Boese said. The man, who was not identified, was held on \$35,000 bail, he said.

Investigators were trying to determine who owns the gun that authorities initially called a ghost gun — a weapon without a serial number made from parts from other guns. Villanueva later clarified the weapon has a serial number.

Villanueva praised school officials for quickly notifying authorities about the threat.

"The fact that people stepped forward and said what they had heard led us to prevent a tragedy today," he said.

The other boy was arrested Thursday in Palmdale, north of Los Angeles. Villanueva said the student at Knight High School made threats on social media following a campus fight.

The sheriff said the boy acknowledged posting threats along with pictures of a teen with a gun. No weapon was recovered in the case.

The sheriff's department still hasn't determined a motive for the deadly Nov. 14 shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita.

Villanueva said the semi-automatic pistol used by gunman Nathaniel Berhow was assembled from gun parts and did not have a serial number. Police have not determined where and when Berhow got the gun.

Associated Press reporters Brian Melley and Michael R. Blood in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Attorney general unveils plan on missing Native Americans

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

PABLO, Mont. (AP) — Attorney General William Barr announced a nationwide plan Friday to address the crisis of missing and slain Native American women as concerns mount over the level of violence they face.

Barr announced the plan, known as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative, during a visit with tribal leaders and law enforcement officials on the Flathead Reservation in Montana.

Native American women experience some of the nation's highest rates of murder, sexual violence and domestic abuse. The National Institute of Justice estimates that 1.5 million Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime, including many who are victims of sexual violence. On some reservations, federal studies have shown women are killed at a rate more than 10 times the national average.

The Justice Department's new initiative would invest \$1.5 million to hire specialized coordinators in 11 U.S. attorney's offices across the U.S. with significant Indian Country caseloads. The coordinators would be responsible for developing protocols for a better law enforcement response to missing persons cases.

Montana's coordinator, a former FBI agent, already has started in his position.

Tribal or local law enforcement officials would also be able to call on the FBI for additional help in some missing indigenous persons cases. The FBI could then deploy some of its specialized teams, including investigators who focus on child abduction or evidence collection and special agents who can help do a quick analysis of digital evidence and social media accounts.

The Justice Department also committed to conducting an in-depth analysis of federal databases and its data collection practices to determine if there are ways to improve the gathering of information in missing persons cases.

"This is not a panacea," Barr told tribal council members of the Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes at an event where members presented him with a blue blanket before a traditional musical performance. "This is a step in the right direction, but we have a lot more work to do working together."

Barr said he spoke to President Donald Trump about the initiative, which calls for some of the same things already in legislation pending in Congress. He also spoke to tribal leaders about how a surge in methamphetamine use may be influencing violence in Indian Country.

On the nation's largest Native American reservation, tribal members welcomed the extra resources and commitment to the issue but questioned how far the money will go, given how widespread the problem is.

"This is stuff we've been advocating for, it's just funding a slice of it," said Amber Crotty, a lawmaker on the Navajo Nation.

Crotty pointed out that the hiring of 11 coordinators assigned to federal prosecutor offices nationally as outlined by Barr could have limited value on the Navajo Nation, which is part of three separate U.S. attorney jurisdictions in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

She said tribes are looking to the federal government to fund advocates who can greet families of victims, relay information from law enforcement and provide training. She said tribal communities have resorted to organizing their own search parties and posting fliers in communities and on social media when someone goes missing because they sometimes get little or no response from law enforcement.

The extent of the problem of missing and murdered Native American women is difficult to know because of the dysfunction surrounding the issue.

An Associated Press investigation last year found that nobody knows precisely how many Native American women have gone missing or have been killed nationwide because many cases go unreported, others

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aren't well documented, and no government database specifically tracks them.

A report released last year by the Urban Indian Health Institute said there were 5,712 cases of missing and murdered indigenous girls in 2016, but only 116 of those cases were logged in a Justice Department database.

That study is limited in scope, however.

The report by the Seattle nonprofit reflected data from 71 U.S. cities not on tribal land. Researchers said they expect their figures represent an undercount because some police departments in cities with substantial Native American populations — like Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Billings, Montana — didn't respond to records requests or Native Americans were identified as belonging to another race.

Members of Congress asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office in May to review jurisdictional challenges, existing databases, federal policies, law enforcement staffing and notification systems and make recommendations for improvement. The office said Thursday the work is under way.

Bills in Congress seek to address the crisis, and a half-dozen states have vowed to study the problem.

Meanwhile, activists have held rallies at state capitols, marched in the streets, put up memorials and billboards, bought television advertising and created exhibits with space for prayer offerings to draw attention to missing indigenous women.

The movement has featured women with a red hand print over their mouths, in what activists say is a symbol of the silencing of indigenous women.

Curtison Badonie with the New Mexico-based Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women said the Justice Department's plan is a positive move in seeking justice for indigenous women and girls, and their grieving families and communities.

"Finally, they're moving forward with this and they're taking our existence seriously and are listening and knowing our sisters, our aunties, our grandmas, our nieces are important," Badonie said. "They are sacred, they are human beings. We feel hopeful. We feel seen."

But Badonie said: "We want to see that this continues, that this is not going to be just a one-time thing."

Tribal police and investigators from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs generally serve as law enforcement on reservations, which are sovereign nations. But the FBI investigates certain offenses if either the suspect, victim or both are Native American. If there's ample evidence, the Justice Department prosecutes major felonies such as murder, kidnapping and rape if they happen on tribal lands.

Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona.

Jerry Sandusky resentenced to 30 to 60 years, same as before

By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — A judge dashed the hopes of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky for a shorter prison term Friday, resentencing him to the same 30 to 60 years imposed against him in 2012 for sexually abusing children.

Judge Maureen Skerda gave Sandusky what prosecutors and his own attorney described as effectively a life term during a hearing ordered this year by an appeals court.

Sandusky's 2011 arrest prompted the firing of Hall of Fame head coach Joe Paterno and the university has paid more than \$100 million to people who said they had been abused by Sandusky.

He was convicted of 45 counts of child sexual abuse in 2012.

Sandusky, 75, in a mustard yellow prison jumpsuit, again asserted his innocence Friday and choked up twice during brief remarks in open court before the sentence was handed down.

"I apologize that I'm unable to admit remorse for this because it's something that I didn't do," Sandusky told Skerda.

Sandusky told the judge Friday about a recent phone call with an unnamed woman who formerly worked for The Second Mile, a charity he founded for at-risk youth that he used to find and groom child victims.

Sandusky said the woman ended the phone call by telling him she loves him.

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"No matter what, nobody or nothing will ever be able to take away what's in my heart. And that was just one. There are many, many, many more," he said, people he "had every opportunity to betray and didn't."

He ended with a message to people who support him. About a dozen were in the courtroom, including his wife, Dottie.

"To those supporters out there, I just want to say I love you," he said, sobbing as he sat down.

Prosecutor Jennifer Buck, of the state attorney general's office, described problems Sandusky has had in state prison, including disputes about returning his meal tray, resistance to being moved from his cell and complaints about phone calls.

"It's failure to take responsibility, claiming that he is the victim, which is a theme throughout this case, and that it's his rights that are being violated," Buck told the judge.

Sandusky attorney Al Lindsay noted he had recently received several letters that attested to Sandusky's character and to good deeds he has performed.

Buck argued that jurors believed the eight young men who testified against Sandusky, victims she said were sexually assaulted "by someone that they loved, someone that they trusted, someone that betrayed them."

Attorney General Josh Shapiro said in a written statement that "justice was again achieved for his victims."

A state appeals court this year turned down most of Sandusky's arguments seeking a new trial but said laws mandating sentence minimums in place at the time of his October 2012 sentencing had since changed.

Victims said at trial that Sandusky subjected them to a range of abuse, from grooming to violent attacks. A victim advocate read several letters to the judge Friday from the men who testified at trial or their relatives.

The letters described the effect of their abuse as boys and in the years since, including anxiety, difficulty with family and social relationships and anger about what occurred.

One of them, described as Victim 4 in court records, said he does not forgive Sandusky and spoke of efforts to "attack us as if we had done something wrong."

"We both know exactly what happened," Victim 4 wrote. "You should be ashamed of yourself."

Sandusky's lawyers in October initiated a federal court action seeking a new trial or release from prison.

Boy Scouts mortgage vast New Mexico ranch as collateral

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

The Boy Scouts of America has mortgaged one of the most spectacular properties it owns, the vast Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, to help secure a line of credit as the financially strapped organization faces a growing wave of new sex-abuse lawsuits.

The BSA said Friday that it has no plans to sell the property, and that the land is being used as collateral to help meet financial needs that include rising insurance costs related to sex-abuse litigation.

However, the move dismayed a member of Philmont's oversight committee, who says it violates agreements made when the land was donated in 1938. The BSA disputed his assertion.

Top BSA officials signed the document in March, but members of the Philmont Ranch Committee only recently learned of the development, according to committee member Mark Stinnett.

In a memo sent to his fellow members, Stinnett — a Colorado-based lawyer — decried the financial maneuver and the lack of consultation with the committee.

"I cannot begin to tell you how sorry I am to be the one to break this news to you," Stinnett wrote. "The first point of the Scout Law is 'A Scout is trustworthy.' I am distressed beyond words at learning that our leaders apparently have not been."

"But I am even more distressed to learn that Waite Phillips' magnificent gift has now been put at risk," Stinnett added.

Phillips was a successful oilman who used some of his fortune to develop a huge ranch in northeastern New Mexico. In 1938, and again in 1941, he donated two large tracts of the ranch to the Boy Scouts.

Since the first Boy Scout camp opened there in 1939, more than 1 million Scouts and other adventurers

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have camped and hiked on the property, which now covers more than 140,000 acres (56,650 hectares). One of its many trails leads to the 12,441-foot (3,793-meter) summit of Baldy Mountain.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, the Boy Scouts said programming and operations at Philmont "continue uninterrupted, and we are committed to ensuring that the property will continue to serve and benefit the Scouting community for years to come."

"In the face of rising insurance costs, it was necessary for the BSA to take some actions earlier this year to address our current financial situation," the BSA said. "This included identifying certain properties, including Philmont Scout Ranch, that could be used as collateral in order to keep in place an existing line of credit for insurance."

Disclosure of the mortgage comes at a challenging time for the BSA, which for years has been entangled in costly litigation with plaintiffs who said they were abused by scout leaders in their youth. Hundreds of new lawsuits loom after New York, New Jersey, Arizona and California enacted laws making it easier for victims of long-ago abuse to seek damages.

The BSA, headquartered in Irving, Texas, says it's exploring "all available options" to maintain its programs and has not ruled out the possibility of filing for bankruptcy.

Seeking to ease some of the financial pressure, the BSA announced in October that the annual membership fee for its 2.2 million youth members will rise from \$33 to \$60, while the fee for adult volunteers will rise from \$33 to \$36. The news dismayed numerous local scout leaders, who had already started registering youths for the coming year.

According to Stinnett, the BSA used the ranch as collateral to secure \$446 million of debt with J.P. Morgan Chase.

Stinnett wrote that ranch committee member Julie Puckett — a granddaughter of Waite Phillips — had urged BSA officials in recent weeks to recognize Philmont as a restricted asset based on the understandings of all parties when Phillips donated the land.

"BSA management has instead stated its position that Philmont and its endowment are free and clear of restrictions and are thus theirs to take or encumber as they wish," Stinnett wrote, depicting that stance as a "betrayal" of agreements made with the Phillips family.

The Boy Scouts disputed Stinnett's assertion, saying nothing in the agreements with the Phillips family prevented the ranch from being used as collateral.

Philmont has been one of scouting's most popular destinations for decades. At many times of the year, Philmont can't accommodate all those who want to trek there; it offers an online lottery, held about 18 months in advance, to give everyone an equal shot.

Most activities take place during the summer, but Philmont also has autumn and winter programs. In addition to backpacking treks, it offers horseback riding, burrow packing, gold panning, chuckwagon dinners, rock climbing, mountain biking and sport shooting.

It's also home to the National Scouting Museum.

Last year, a wildfire ripped through the heart of the ranch. Campsites and several miles of trails were wiped out, leaving behind a scar that will take years and millions of dollars to restore.

Syracuse U, shaken by racism, welcomes the holiday break

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Benny Callahan didn't leave her dorm for two straight days this week.

The Syracuse University freshman didn't feel safe, she said, away from home and under siege, it seemed, by day-after-day reports of racism in campus residence and academic halls.

"My parents are freaking out," Callahan, who is black, said as she prepared to head home to Jersey City, New Jersey, for a Thanksgiving break that, for many, couldn't come soon enough.

Campus and city police, along with New York State Police and the FBI, are trying to solve more than a dozen reports of racist graffiti and vandalism targeting black and Jewish people, Asians and Native Americans at the private university in upstate New York since Nov. 7.

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Thursday alone brought news of four more reports: racist graffiti on two floors of the Day Hall dormitory targeting black people. A sticky note in the Flint residence hall degrading Native Americans. Graffiti targeting Asians at Comstock Art facility.

A professor who is Jewish also this week reported receiving an anonymous email containing anti-Semitic language that included a threat to "get in the oven where you belong."

As of Friday, none of the cases had been solved.

An investigation into reports that a white supremacist manifesto copied from the New Zealand mosque shooter was sent to the cellphones of students in Bird Library on Monday night have not turned up any devices that received the document.

But the reports raised fears about a mass shooting and frightened many students off the campus in the following days, several students said.

The university also has suspended the social activities of all fraternities through the end of the semester. One was suspended entirely pending the investigation of a black student's complaint last week that she was called by a racial slur by people identified by the university as fraternity members and their guests.

The national organization of Alpha Chi Rho denied its members were involved.

Taken together, the recent events have shaken a school more accustomed to making headlines for playing good basketball.

"You definitely feel insecure if you are a person of color, or if you are someone who has been attacked by these," said Shiv Das, a graduate student from India as he walked on an increasingly empty campus this week.

The national fury surrounding immigration is unsettling enough for international students, Das said. This feels more personal.

"This is something we are affected by directly. It's happening here, right now," he said, "which is very different than something else that happens on a government level."

And while it's typical for the campus population to thin as a break approaches, Das and others said it's hard to miss that many students left days earlier than usual.

Callahan estimated less than half of the 50 or so students normally in her fashion design class showed up Thursday, unconvinced by increased patrols and assurances.

"You're safe," but you still have people doing these things," she said.

A peaceful student protest, seeded in anger that the university hadn't acted quickly and aggressively enough early on, wound down Thursday with protesters seeking the resignation of Chancellor Kenton Syverud, along with Department of Public Safety Chief Bobby Maldonado and two other officials.

"These individuals have exacerbated a hostile campus environment and have actively allowed hate speech to prevail at this university," protest organizers, who labeled the movement #NotAgainSU, wrote in a statement. Organizers and participants declined to speak with reporters during their final day inside the wellness center where they had camped since Nov. 13.

The hashtag, some students said, referred to videos that emerged last year showing members of a now-expelled fraternity laughing and taking part in skits using racist language against black, Jewish and Hispanic people and simulating the sexual assault of a disabled person.

Others described an underlying current of racism dating back several years.

"I think that Syracuse will get better because of this experience," Syverud told the student newspaper and television station in a brief interview Thursday evening. "I think that it's a place that we have a stake in making better."

Syverud's office has released summaries of meetings with protesters and groups of international and Jewish students in which he has agreed to meet demands that include monitored cameras in university-owned buildings, improved diversity training for students and staff, regular reports of bias-based incidents and the hiring of more counselors.

About 8% of the university's nearly 23,000 students are Hispanic or Latino, 7% are black and 6% are Asian, according to the university website. More than half of students are white.

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"I like to think of the community here as united, and I like to think the racism and discrimination is getting better," said freshman Jade Hoff, of Baldwinsville. "But the feelings I'm getting from everything that's going on is that it's never going to go away."

Leading white Democrats court black votes; some find trouble

By **BILL BARROW, ERRIN HAINES and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Coming out of their debate in a key center of black America, the leading Democratic presidential contenders aimed for the party's crucial black and minority vote, with the scramble putting internal party tensions on display.

From black protesters disrupting Elizabeth Warren to the lone black woman in the race chiding white, upstart Mayor Pete Buttigieg, the dynamics in Atlanta highlighted the push for crucial black and other minority support with less than three months before primary voting begins. They further underscored some candidates' vulnerabilities in trying to assemble the coalition necessary to win the nomination — and defeat President Donald Trump in the general election.

Warren electrified a raucous and racially diverse crowd in the Clark-Atlanta University gymnasium as she tries to expand her support beyond the white liberal base that boosted her in the primary polls this summer. But the Massachusetts senator had to endure protests of a black school-choice group that threatened to overshadow her message aimed squarely at black women — Democrats' most loyal faction.

Buttigieg, the South Bend, Indiana, mayor who leads caucus polls in overwhelmingly white Iowa, spent the day defending remarks relating his experience as a gay man to the systemic racism facing African Americans. Kamala Harris, the California senator and only black woman in the race, blasted his approach as "naive."

Like Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders invoked his biography, as the child of an immigrant family with casualties in the Holocaust, to connect with African Americans' struggle against oppression and white supremacy. Harris, still lagging the front-runners, has not criticized the way Sanders talks about race, but the Vermont senator still must prove he can get more black votes than he did in losing the 2016 nominating fight.

All those contenders are trying to catch Vice President Joe Biden, whose considerable lead among black voters leaves him atop most national polls. Biden spent Thursday meeting with black Southern mayors, led by Atlanta's Keisha Lance Bottoms, one of his top campaign surrogates. But it wasn't all smooth for Biden, as immigration activists interrupted him in South Carolina demanding he pledge to halt deportations on his first day in office. Biden refused.

For those chasing Biden, Warren offered perhaps the strongest display Thursday.

Before an energetic crowd at Clark-Atlanta, the senator called for a "full-blown national conversation about reparations" for slavery, and she praised black women for helping build the country and advancing social and economic justice. She bemoaned structural impediments beyond slavery, naming Jim Crow segregation, modern-day mass incarceration and red-lining practices that make it harder for minorities to get mortgage loans.

"Black history is American history," Warren said. "And American history teaches us that racism has for generations shaped every crucial aspect of our economic and political system."

She offered a litany of policy proposals: new spending at historically black schools, legalizing marijuana, overhauling federal housing policy, student loan debt forgiveness, even repealing the 1994 crime law — which Biden sponsored as a Delaware senator.

"I am not afraid," she said to roars. "And you cannot be afraid, either."

Yet for a time, it looked as if Warren might not be able to deliver the rare formal speech that aides had built up as a seminal moment in her campaign. Moments into her address, dozens of black protesters from a school-choice group interrupted. They stood down only after Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley took the microphone from Warren.

"The senator is here to talk about fighters like you," said Pressley, who is black. In drowning out Warren, she said, the group was keeping the senator from telling the story of black women already marginalized.

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Buttigieg, meanwhile, found no such defender as he enjoys a newfound lead in Iowa, the first-caucus state, but shows negligible black support in more diverse primary states that follow. So, he was left to contend with Harris alone.

Their flap spun off the mayor saying Wednesday during a debate segment on race that he has “felt like a stranger” in his own country because his civil rights as a gay man were left to the whims of politicians.

During a post-debate event, Harris lambasted Buttigieg for comparing the struggles of black and LGBTQ communities. A Democrat who wants a winning coalition, she said, “should not be in the position of saying that one group’s pain is equal to or less than or greater” than another’s.

Buttigieg pushed back, telling reporters, “There’s no equating those two experiences,” and maintaining that he hadn’t done so.

Sanders understands as well as any candidate that Democratic presidential politics demands more than just enthusiastic white support. The Vermont senator battled Hillary Clinton to a surprise draw in Iowa in 2016 and trounced her in New Hampshire, another mostly white Democratic electorate. Yet with overwhelming black support, Clinton then dominated Sanders in South Carolina and across the Deep South, building an early delegate lead she never relinquished.

This time, he’s intent on building black support earlier in the campaign, and on Thursday, he noticeably leaned more on biographical details than he did for much of his 2016 campaign, even as he ticked through his usual list of progressive policy remedies.

Now 78, he told the crowd — gathered around a statue of Morehouse alumnus Martin Luther King Jr. — of his 1960s activism, describing himself and his fellow white students as “not quite so brave” as black citizens in the more dangerous Jim Crow South. But, Sanders said, “I was arrested and went to jail fighting housing segregation in Chicago.”

And he wanted them to know his family history.

“Some of you know, I’m Jewish,” Sanders said. “My father came to this country from Poland. He came fleeing anti-Semitism. A lot of people in my father’s family did not make it out of Poland.

“They were murdered by the father of white supremacy, Adolf Hitler,” Sanders continued. “So, I learned at a very young age what racism and white supremacy and Aryanism and all that crap is about.”

Far from the campaign trail, former President Barack Obama offered advice to Democrats considering those varied approaches. The first black president, speaking at a party fundraiser in California, warned against absolute judgments as candidates navigate a fraught issue.

“There’s a way of talking about race that says ‘we can be better,’ and there’s a way of talking about race that says ‘you are bad’ or that ‘you don’t get it,’” he said, later adding, “When we invite people to their better selves, we tend to bring people in.”

Ronayne reported from Sacramento, Calif. Associated Press writer Brian Slodysko in Los Altos Hills, Calif., and Meg Kinnard in Greenwood, S.C., contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Harris said that a Democrat “should not be in the position of saying that one group’s pain is equal to or less than or greater” than another’s, not that she said a Democrat “should not be ... saying one group’s pain is equal than or greater” than another’s.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, “Ground Game.”

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn’t happen this week

By **BEATRICE DUPUY** and **ARIJETA LAJKA** Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the real facts:

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CLAIM: The Department of Defense canceled Fox News from Armed Forces Radio after attacks against Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman.

THE FACTS: The Pentagon's American Forces Network — which used to be known as the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service — did not remove Fox News from its programming. The claim circulated widely on social media after Vindman, a decorated war veteran and European Affairs expert on the National Security Council, faced criticism for testifying in the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. The claim mushroomed on Facebook at the end of public hearings on Thursday, even as Fox News played on the American Forces Network, which broadcasts to armed forces and their families. The Defense Department confirmed to The Associated Press that the claim was false. "We have not canceled Fox News from American Forces Network programming, either on our radio or TV services," said Navy Capt. Bill Speaks, a Pentagon spokesperson. Vindman's lawyer has called on Fox News to retract a segment where a guest on Laura Ingraham's show suggested that Vindman was a spy. On Tuesday, The White House released a tweet questioning Vindman's credibility.

CLAIM: "Fox News Sunday" host Chris Wallace posted a tweet making a number of derogatory remarks about President Donald Trump, including: "You're a fraud. A charlatan. A thug. A loser."

THE FACTS: Wallace does not have a Twitter account and "Fox News Sunday" did not tweet the post from its account. The post combined what appeared to be two tweets: a Nov. 17 tweet by Trump criticizing Wallace, which was real, and a fabricated tweet that made it appear Wallace responded with criticism of his own. The post emerged after Trump tweeted about Wallace's Sunday interview with Rep. Steve Scalise, a Republican from Louisiana: "@SteveScalise blew the nasty & obnoxious Chris Wallace (will never be his father, Mike!) away on Chris's lowest rated (unless I'm on) morning show. This kind of dumb and unfair interview would never have happened in the @FoxNews past. Great job Steve!" That tweet was then featured in a screenshot with a false tweet made to show Wallace responding, in part, "@realDonaldTrump And you'll never be your father either, (Fred Trump), a self-made Billionaire. You're a fraud. A charlatan. A thug. A loser. A trust fund baby. A punk. A serial adulterer... . My job is to be a journalist, not a flunky and a propaganda arm for your criminal behavior and corruption. If you want propaganda, go watch Hannity, Ingram, Pirro, and Tucker who do nothing but kiss your ass." A Fox News representative told The Associated Press in a phone interview that the tweet was not real and Wallace has not issued an official response to Trump's tweet. It's not the first time Trump has compared the Fox anchor with his father Mike Wallace, a legendary 60 Minutes correspondent. In October, Wallace responded to a similar tweet by the president by saying: "He often likes to say about me, 'You know, I was covered by Mike Wallace, I liked him much more,'" he said. "To which my reaction is always: One of us has a daddy problem, and it's not me."

CLAIM: Photo shows Rep. Elise Stefanik giving the middle finger following testimony by former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch in House Intelligence Committee impeachment hearings.

THE FACTS: The image of the Republican congresswoman from New York was manipulated to make it appear she was making the obscene gesture. The manipulated photo began circulating following the second day of public testimony, which featured Yovanovitch. Stefanik addressed the manipulated photo, tweeting: "The photoshopped picture that the Leftist Twitter mob led by George Conway is circulating is FAKE - I've been so busy exposing Adam Schiff's #regimeofsecrecy that I haven't had time for a manicure in weeks." She then shared a photo of herself at the press conference. The image appears to have been taken from a video that shows the audience in the hearing room applauding Yovanovitch as she leaves the room. Stefanik can be seen approaching the camera, then she turns away, making no gesture with her hands. Some social media users who shared the manipulated photo corrected their posts, noting that the photo was manipulated by a graphic artist. But it continued to be shared this week on social media, including on Facebook, as real. Stefanik is the only Republican woman on the House Intelligence Committee.

CLAIM: Video shows Jess Phillips, a Labour Party candidate in the upcoming U.K. election, saying the

party can't deliver on its manifesto promising change.

THE FACTS: The Conservative Party posted a misleading version of an Oct. 3 interview Phillips did with Good Morning Britain to make it appear she was casting doubt on the manifesto being promoted by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn ahead of the Dec. 12 election. On Nov. 21, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party uploaded a portion of Phillips' interview that aired more than a month earlier. "MUST WATCH: Labour's Jess Phillips undermines Corbyn's manifesto by admitting they can't or won't deliver on their promises. With no clear plan for Brexit, Labour just can't deliver," the party posted on an official Twitter account. In just a few hours, the post amassed over 130,000 views. But the post is misleading, combining two Good Morning Britain segments — the one with Phillips' interview Oct. 3 and another from Nov. 21, the day Labour announced its manifesto. In the Oct. 3 segment, Phillips discussed her new book, "Truth to Power," which examines how to call out bullies. During the interview, she was asked about Brexit and how parties deliver on their promises. "To be perfectly honest, I think there is an argument to be said that you can never ever deliver all those things that you're pretending you can deliver when you go to the electorate," Phillips said in the interview. "In reality things change, globally things change, and situations change, facts change." On Nov. 21, the day Labour's manifesto was introduced, the Conservative Party tweeted a video segment from Phillips' earlier interview containing only the quote about delivering on promises, making it appear she said it on Good Morning Britain that day. The clip circulated by @Conservatives was captioned: "LABOUR: NOT SURE WE CAN DELIVER ON OUR PROMISES." Phillips responded to the post by tweeting, "I understand it's difficult for the Conservatives to understand a politician being honest, but this is so misleading, I was being asked why I'd changed my views on Brexit, weeks ago." In recent weeks, the Conservative Party has received widespread criticism for posting altered clips online and spreading misinformation on their official social media accounts.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

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AP sources: Ex-Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack plans to endorse Biden

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack plans to publicly endorse Joe Biden for president at a rally on Saturday, two people close to Biden's campaign told The Associated Press.

The former two-term governor, who served with Biden in the Obama administration as U.S. secretary of agriculture, and his wife, Christie Vilsack, plan to appear with Biden and his wife, Jill, at a morning rally in Des Moines.

The backing from Vilsack comes as Biden, once the early favorite in the state with the nation's first presidential caucuses, has steadily slipped in Iowa, and he now trails South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren in early polls.

The two people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the plans before the rally. Neither Vilsack nor the Biden campaign replied immediately to requests for comment Friday.

Although Vilsack has consulted many of the candidates running in the Feb. 3 caucuses, his endorsement follows increasingly favorable public comments he's made about Biden, especially about Biden's consistent advantage over Republican President Donald Trump in national head-to-head surveys.

"There's nothing about him that scares people, which is why in these polls against Trump he's doing as well or better than anyone else," Vilsack said in a recent AP interview. "Joe's taken a punch and he's still standing. Maybe a little shaky, but he's still standing."

Vilsack also says Biden's personal losses — his first wife and infant daughter died in a car accident in

1972, and his son Beau died of cancer in 2015 — could resonate with voters if he drew on it more as motivation to lead.

“That is the deepest pain you can suffer,” Vilsack said in the interview. “But the folks that survive it and get on the other side of it, there’s a feeling of compassion. There’s a feeling of connection with suffering.”

Vilsack is the only Democrat to be reelected Iowa governor in more than 50 years.

He was last elected in 2002, briefly sought the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination and served as Obama’s agriculture secretary for all eight years of his administration.

Ex-CIA officer gets 19 years in China spy conspiracy

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT** Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A former CIA case agent was sentenced to 19 years in prison Friday for an espionage conspiracy in which prosecutors say he received more than \$840,000 from China to divulge the names of human sources and his knowledge of spycraft.

The sentence imposed on Jerry Chun Shing Lee, 55, was significantly longer than the 10-years sought by defense attorneys.

Lee pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit espionage, but prosecutors and defense lawyers disagreed about whether there was proof Lee carried out any actual espionage. Lee’s lawyers disputed that their client’s conduct was anywhere near as severe as the government described.

Prosecutors say Chinese intelligence officers gave Lee more than \$840,000 over a three-year period beginning in 2010, and that Lee likely gave them all the information he had from a 13-year career as a CIA case officer. They sought a prison term of more than 20 years.

Defense lawyers say the government never proved that the money came from China or that Lee ever carried out any plans to deliver government secrets.

“What the government is describing is their worst possible nightmare,” said defense lawyer Nina Ginsberg, but she argued that the government could only speculate that its nightmare scenario actually occurred.

Prosecutors acknowledged they had no direct evidence to prove what was transmitted, nor proof that the \$840,000 in cash that Lee deposited into his bank account came from Chinese intelligence.

But prosecutors said Lee was never able to come up with a good explanation for where he got the cash. He ran a tobacco business in Hong Kong, but it was essentially a failure, prosecutors said.

“The only logical conclusion,” said prosecutor Neil Hammerstrom, is that that Chinese intelligence “must have been getting top-drawer, high quality (information) from this defendant.”

Prosecutor Adam Small said the government believes Lee turned over information that was found in a notebook and thumb drive that were found in his possession. That included the names of eight CIA clandestine human sources, Small said, people that Lee himself recruited and handled in his years as a CIA case agent from 1994 to 2007.

Small said the Chinese intelligence officers who met with Lee also gave him more than 20 “taskings” in which they sought details of CIA spycraft, like how they communicate with sources and maintain their cover.

“Everything he knew would have been highly valuable to the PRC,” Small said.

At Friday’s sentencing hearing, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III sided largely with prosecutors. He said he agreed with the conclusion that at least some of the money Lee put into his bank must have come from China, and that he in turn must have divulged at least some classified information.

“I do think something of value changed hands. I just can’t be certain,” Ellis said. At a sentencing hearing, though, Ellis said prosecutors need not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that an act occurred for him to take it into consideration. He can consider it if prosecutors prove it to be more likely true than not.

Ginsberg said there’s no evidence that any of the sources identified in Ginsberg’s notebook were harmed or compromised in any way.

“I dare to say the government would certainly know if their agents had been exposed,” Ginsberg said.

At a press conference after the sentencing, though, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia G. Zachary Terwilliger disputed that assertion. He acknowledged that the U.S. might know if one of its sources

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suffered physical harm, but could have no idea if the Chinese used that information in a more subtle way. "We have very talented adversaries," he said. "It could be used in a multitude of ways."

Terwilliger said Lee joins the "wall of infamous traitors" who have been prosecuted for spying at the Alexandria courthouse, which has jurisdiction over the CIA and large parts of the intelligence community.

In particular, Lee's case drew comparisons to Kevin Mallory, a former CIA officer who was sentenced to 20 years in prison earlier this year for disclosing secrets to China in exchange for \$25,000.

Prosecutors said the money Lee received dwarfed what Mallory got and shows that Lee's activities were even more severe. Defense lawyers responded that nothing disclosed by Lee exceeded the "Secret" classification level, while some of what Mallory disclosed was classified as Top Secret.

Lee, for his part, apologized for his actions.

"I take full responsibility for my conduct," said Lee, a naturalized U.S. citizen who immigrated to Hawaii from Hong Kong with his family when he was 15.

As impeachment swirls, Trump nods toward Pompeo Senate run

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday appeared to open the door for the top U.S. diplomat, Mike Pompeo, to leave his post to run for an open Senate seat in his home state of Kansas. Talk about a Senate run has picked up as Pompeo has come under criticism for not defending U.S. diplomats who have testified in the Trump impeachment inquiry, but it is still unclear whether he will run.

Washington has been awash in speculation about Pompeo's possible departure amid growing strain in his relationship with Trump. The president, in an interview on "Fox & Friends," appeared to give his blessing to a Pompeo candidacy.

"He came to me and said 'Look, I'd rather stay where I am,' but he loves Kansas, he loves the people of Kansas," Trump said. "If he thought there was a chance of losing that seat, I think he would do that, and he would win in a landslide because they love him in Kansas."

Many Republicans see Pompeo as their best hope to keep the Kansas race from becoming competitive. A Democrat hasn't won a Senate seat there since 1932. Talk about a possible Pompeo run has only intensified as the hearings into Trump's engagement with Ukraine have scrutinized the department he heads.

Pompeo has said he'll remain secretary of state as long as Trump will have him. Asked if he will push Pompeo to run, Trump was noncommittal:

"Mike has done an incredible job. ... Mike graduated No. 1 at Harvard Law, No. 1 at West Point. He's an incredible guy, doing a great job in a very complicated world. Doing a great job as secretary of state. Mike would win easily in Kansas. Great state, and it's a Trump state. He'd win easily."

Pompeo has given no signal that he intends to leave his current job anytime soon, and aides say he has diplomatic travel planned through at least the end of January.

Pompeo ignored a reporter's shouted question Friday about a possible Senate run when asked about Trump's comments during a State Department appearance with the visiting foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates. And en route to Brussels on Tuesday, Pompeo suggested to reporters accompanying him that he would be returning to the city several more times as secretary of state.

"He is 100% focused on being President Trump's secretary of state," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said this week.

The interest in Pompeo, which has been encouraged by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is driven by some GOP leaders' fears that Kris Kobach, nationally known for advocating tough immigration policies, will emerge from a crowded primary race in August. Kobach, the former Kansas secretary of state, rouses Democrats and liberal activists while alienating GOP moderates, and he lost the 2018 governor's race to Democrat Laura Kelly.

Kobach still has a following on the right, and the buzz about Pompeo is a sign that he remains a formidable candidate. But Rep. Roger Marshall, of western Kansas, had nearly \$1.9 million in campaign funds at the end of September — twice as much as Kobach and the other major candidates combined.

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Marshall spokesman Eric Pahls said Kobach is "grossly overestimated by the D.C. swamp" and said Marshall continues to stand by the president. Marshall has said previously that he would not run against Pompeo in a primary. As for Kobach, Pahls said, "We have no doubt that Dr. Marshall will clean his clock in the primary."

The other two major GOP candidates are Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle, of Wichita, and David Lindstrom, a Kansas City-area businessman who formerly played for the Kansas City Chiefs. The leading Democrat is state Sen. Barbara Bollier, a retired Kansas City-area physician who made national headlines in December by switching from the Republican Party.

Trump has suspiciously viewed the parade of diplomats and career foreign policy officials who have testified in the impeachment inquiry that he inappropriately held up military aid for Ukraine to pressure its leader to investigate the Bidens. Trump was eager to paint the officials as "Never Trumpers" or part of the so-called "Deep State" conspiracy meant to unravel him, but a number of the officials were appointed by Trump — at Pompeo's direction.

The president has complained about Pompeo delivering "disloyal" officials and has privately vented about the secretary of state's hiring choices, according to three White House officials and Republicans close to the White House, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

And there has been some grumbling among White House aides about Pompeo's long flirtation with running for the Senate, according to the officials. Pompeo's trips back to his home state — four so far this year — have not gone unnoticed, and he has not definitively curtailed talk about a run. That has led some in Trump's circle to wonder whether the secretary of state was plotting an escape strategy.

Yet Pompeo has continued to stay close to Trump. He declined to support State Department employees at a news conference, attacked the impeachment proceedings and refused to publicly break with the president.

Alan Cobb, an active Republican who worked on Trump's 2016 campaign, said he agrees with Trump's assessment of Pompeo as a candidate and says it's "logical" that Pompeo would run to keep the seat in GOP hands.

"The control of the Senate could come down to Kansas," said Cobb, also the CEO of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. "Can't take that chance."

Kobach and his supporters have long pushed back on the notion that the seat is in danger if he is the GOP nominee. Voter turnout is almost certain to be higher in a presidential election year, and they predict a surge of Trump supporters and argue that the issues Kobach emphasizes — fighting illegal immigration, in particular — will play better in a Senate race than a run for governor.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press reporter Matthew Lee contributed from Washington.

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

The cost of coming forward: 1 survivor's life after #MeToo

By Yonat Shimron Religion News Service

GREENSBORO, N.C. (RNS) —Megan Lively glanced down furtively to the copious notes she had jotted in a thick spiral-bound notebook resting in her lap.

She was about to speak to a room full of Southern Baptist pastors about the sexual abuse she experienced, and she was nervous.

Her message to more than 50 male pastors sitting in a conference room during the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina earlier this month was both tremulous and full of conviction: When a woman comes forward alleging abuse, listen to her. Don't try to fix it. Be more like Jesus.

For Lively, speaking publicly about her sexual assault 16 years ago on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is still stressful.

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It's been a year and a half since she revealed she was the woman who was encouraged by Paige Patterson, then president of the seminary, not to report her rape by a fellow student to the police.

That allegation, cited by leaders of a Southern Baptist seminary, helped get Patterson, once a revered figure in the Southern Baptist Convention, fired as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, last year. It also helped move the Southern Baptist Convention toward a reckoning with sex abuse.

Lively, who is now married with two children and runs a social media consulting business for small and midsize churches, does not revel in the spotlight.

In September, she spoke at the Caring Well conference, in which the denomination invited abuse survivors to tell their stories. In the new year, she plans to speak at half a dozen other SBC-affiliated venues.

But public speaking is not a role she relishes. She has just emerged from a harrowing year in which she faced a trauma she had buried deep inside for more than a decade. She'd much rather be known for her social media company Relevant Reach. She also understands there's no turning back.

"I'm willing to share what happened to me if it helps somebody else," Lively said.

The multifaceted sexual abuse scandal within America's largest Protestant denomination has made household names of several Southern Baptist women who have come forward in recent years with stories of clergy misconduct and of church officials failing to respond. Lively, now 40, doesn't want that kind of recognition.

"Contrary to what some may believe, I'm not a fan of the principles of the #MeToo movement," she told pastors assembled at the abuse crisis panel in Greensboro last week. "I wasn't empowered or motivated by the #MeToo movement or by a hashtag. I don't find power in women standing up and saying 'I was sexually assaulted.' I grieve when that happens."

Lively is trying to walk a middle path. She does not want to come off as an angry feminist trying to pull down powerful men. She was raised to respect her elders and look up to authority. She and her husband, Vincent Lively, are faithful churchgoers at Peace Church in her hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. Some of the people she most respects are Southern Baptist men.

But after the dozens of reports of sexual abuse in the church, she also wants to help her denomination do the right thing. In this, she has become a reluctant speaker.

Megan Lively felt a call to Christian ministry when she was 16.

The daughter of a Realtor and a psychologist, Lively grew up in Wilson, an old tobacco town about 40 miles east of Raleigh, the state capital. Her family attended Grace Baptist, and like them, she loved church.

At Campbell University, she majored in religion and joined a group called Monday Night Bible Study started by two Campbell graduates, J.D. Greear and Bruce Ashford. Greear is now president of the SBC. Ashford is now provost and dean of the faculty at Southeastern.

After graduating from college, Lively wanted to continue studying Christianity and in 2002, she enrolled at Southeastern to pursue a Master of Divinity degree in women's studies, a program started by Dorothy Patterson, Paige Patterson's wife.

By then, Paige Patterson had already cemented his role as the architect of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative turn with its embrace of biblical inerrancy, the belief that the Bible is without error. In 1992, Patterson was named president of Southeastern in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

But he wasn't quite done. In 2000, Patterson and his wife led the SBC to revise its doctrinal statement to codify traditional gender roles. The revised statement now includes a sentence declaring that "a wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband," and another that declares the office of pastor is limited to men.

Around that time, Dorothy Patterson started the master's program intended to educate women about their biblical role as wives and mothers.

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Lively, like many in the denomination, admired the Pattersons. As a woman, she knew she couldn't be a pastor but her calling was not to preach from the pulpit anyway.

Once on campus, she found the master's program was not as rigorously academic as she had hoped. And she was also one of only a handful of single women on campus.

Still, she went to classes and studied. The following year she began dating a student.

Lively won't go into details about that fateful evening. It's still too raw. But the man she had been dating for a few weeks sexually assaulted her, she said.

The following morning, she reported a nonconsensual sex act to a campus student office. She was immediately called and questioned by Paige Patterson. She recalls him asking for the precise details and then suggesting she was at fault for inviting a male student to her room. She was asked to forgive her assailant and advised not to report it to the police.

"I remember feeling very ashamed," she said.

Southeastern placed Lively on probation; she can't remember why. It may have been for allowing the male student to her room. The school also took disciplinary action against her alleged attacker.

With that, the matter appeared closed.

And so, it seemed, was her call to ministry.

During the 15 years that followed, Lively told no one what happened.

She withdrew from Southeastern to care for her ailing grandfather and took jobs in banking and marketing. She married Vincent, an insurance agent, and became a mother. The couple became members of Peace Church, a large congregation in Wilson dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Then, in the spring of 2018, while scrolling through her social media feed, Lively began to read about mounting criticisms of Paige Patterson. A recording surfaced of Patterson saying he counseled abused women to remain with their husbands. In a video, he was seen objectifying a teenage girl and criticizing the physical appearance of female seminary students.

The stories sparked flashbacks and mounting feelings of anger. One evening after Lively's son and daughter were asleep, she had an argument with her husband. He asked her what was wrong. She told him about the assault at Southeastern.

"Megan, you were raped," he said.

"No. I wasn't," she blurted out, still struggling with the denial.

"I was still that little girl under the control of the Pattersons," she said later.

But the flashbacks, insomnia and anger she was experiencing were signs that what she had long repressed was coming back into focus.

"In a religious system, survivors often lack the vocabulary to name (sexual abuse) as a crime," said Susan Codone, a professor in the School of Engineering at Mercer University who experienced sexual abuse as a teen. "You don't have the words to say 'This was rape. This was sexual abuse.' Without the words, you tend to put your own words on it: 'It was my fault. It was a sin I committed.'"

After that exchange, the couple decided to meet with their pastor, who urged Megan to get immediate medical help for her insomnia and to see a mental health professional.

She contacted Bruce Ashford, now the Southeastern provost, to tell him what happened to her in 2003. He told her the seminary would support her if she wanted to press charges against her alleged assailant. Lively decided it was too late for that, though she supports other women who do.

Soon after, a Washington Post reporter called and wrote about her experience without identifying her. Hours after the story broke, Southwestern seminary trustees meeting behind closed doors voted to demote Patterson, then days later, to fire him.

With word was getting out about her story, Lively decided she didn't want to remain anonymous anymore.

"I am the woman you read about, #SEBTS 2003, not afraid, ashamed, or fearful," she tweeted on May 28, 2018.

Days later, the wife of Patterson's chief of staff published a blog post contesting Lively's account and

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quoting from a private letter Lively wrote to Patterson after the incident,

Lively had begun her journey, and though she may not have realized it then, her ministry.

Hers, she decided, would be a coaching role. Yes, she would talk about her experience, but mostly she wanted to be a resource behind the scenes. Surely this would be a way to redeem the painful episode and refashion her ministry.

At the annual denominational meeting, for example, a group of women protested outside the Birmingham, Alabama, convention center. Lively counseled the male pastors inside: Don't offer to pray with these women, she told them.

"They were abused in a church setting. That could have happened while a pastor was praying for them or leading them through the Bible." It could re-traumatize them, she suggested.

Lively has resumed her friendship with Daniel Akin, the president of Southeastern whom she first met in church revival as a teen and later during college. The two talk or text every few weeks. When she told him she would like to complete her degree, Akin said the school would assume the cost of tuition.

"That was the least we could do," Akin said. "She was abused and taken advantage of and harmed in all of this."

This past spring — one year to the day after she first contacted the seminary — Lively graduated with a Master of Arts in Christian studies. Akin personally handed her the diploma and gave her a hug.

But the fallout from coming forward as a survivor of sexual assault has been bruising in many ways. Many of her immediate family members don't understand her. One warned her she could be sued. Another wonders why she's not pressing charges.

The work of healing continues. Lively completed a type of therapy called "eye movement desensitization and reprocessing" to help her deal with the trauma. She's now working with a therapist on the hurt she's feeling toward family members who have fallen out.

Every time she gets up to speak she's aware of the distance that has been created between them.

She understands that some people believe women who come forward with allegations of abuse are doing so for fame, or fortune, or to get back at someone. She feels bound to demonstrate that's not why she's doing it.

But many days, she wishes she didn't have to.

"I don't know of any little girl that dreams of growing up to be on this stage, discussing this topic," she said. "But I believe God can use my broken story of redemption."

And, she adds, maybe the church can, too.

Mystery grows over Trump administration hold on Lebanon aid

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is withholding more than \$100 million in U.S. military assistance to Lebanon that has been approved by Congress and is favored by his national security team, an assertion of executive control of foreign aid that is similar to the delay in support for Ukraine at the center of the impeachment inquiry.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday congratulated Lebanon as the country marked its independence day but made no mention of the hold-up in aid that State Department and Pentagon officials have complained about for weeks.

It came up in impeachment testimony by David Hale, the No. 3 official in the State Department, according to the transcript of the closed-door hearing released this week. He described growing consternation among diplomats as the administration would neither release the aid nor provide an explanation for the hold.

"People started asking: What's the problem?" Hale told the impeachment investigators.

The White House and the Office of Management and Budget have declined to comment on the matter.

The \$105 million in Foreign Military Funding for the Lebanese Armed Forces has languished for months, awaiting approval from the Office of Management and Budget despite congressional approval, an early September notification to lawmakers that it would be spent and overwhelming support for it from the

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Pentagon, State Department and National Security Council.

As with the Ukraine assistance, OMB has not explained the reason for the delay. However, unlike Ukraine, there is no suggestion that President Donald Trump is seeking "a favor" from Lebanon to release it, according to five officials familiar with the matter.

The mystery has only added to the consternation of the national security community, which believes the assistance that pays for American-made military equipment for the Lebanese army is essential, particularly as Lebanon reels in financial chaos and mass protests.

The aid is important to counter Iran's influence in Lebanon, which is highlighted by the presence of the Iranian-supported Shiite Hezbollah movement in the government and the group's militias, the officials said.

There is opposition to aid to the Lebanese army from outside the NSC. Pro-Israel hawks in Congress have long sought to de-fund the Lebanese military, arguing that it has been compromised by Hezbollah, which the U.S. designates as a "foreign terrorist organization."

But the Pentagon and State Department reject that view, saying the army is the only independent Lebanese institution capable of resisting Hezbollah.

Outside experts agree.

Although there are some issues, Jeffrey Feltman, a former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, said this week that the assistance should be released.

"The U.S. has some legitimate concerns about the Lebanese Armed Forces' performance, but the FMF should resume quickly and publicly: both because of the program's merit in terms of improving the LAF's counterterrorism performance but also to undermine the Hezbollah-Iranian-Syrian-Russian narrative that the U.S. is unreliable," Feltman he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

Hale told the impeachment inquiry there were parallels between the Lebanon and Ukraine aid in that the White House refused to offer an explanation for the delays.

He said inquiries into the Lebanon assistance since June have been met with silence.

"We just understand there are differences of opinion on this, or there had been," he said. "And the matter now rests with OMB. I don't think that the differences currently exist outside of OMB."

The Lebanon aid was put into Trump's budget last winter and the State Department notified Congress on Sept. 5 that it would be spent even though the OMB had not yet signed off on it.

The State Department has offered only a cryptic response to queries, defending the assistance but also calling for Lebanese authorities to implement economic reforms and rein in corruption.

"As the sole legitimate defense arm of the government of Lebanon, the United States remains committed to strengthening the capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure Lebanon's borders, defend its sovereignty, and preserve its stability," the department said. "The Lebanon FMF has been apportioned by the administration. No Lebanese expenditures or purchases of military materiel with FMF have been delayed."

"Apportionment" is a technical term that refers to federal funds that have been appropriated by Congress and obligated by the administration but have not yet been released.

However, several officials said National Security Council staff had deliberately tried to run an end-around of the Pentagon and State Department by demanding a signed presidential determination to release the aid and then slow-walking delivery of the finding to the Oval Office for Trump's signature. The officials who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It's beyond the pale," said one official. "This is people at the NSC and OMB trying to insert their own personal ideologies into something that most everyone else supports as a national security interest."

S&P 500 snaps 6-week string of gains even as stocks rise

By ALEX VEIGA and STAN CHOE AP Business Writers

U.S. stocks shook off a midday stumble to finish slightly higher Friday, though the modest rebound was not enough to keep the S&P 500 from breaking its longest stretch of weekly gains in two years.

Banks, health care stocks and companies that rely on consumer spending powered much of the rebound, outweighing losses in technology, real estate and other sectors. Oil prices fell.

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Markets around the world churned this week on uncertainty about whether the U.S. and China can soon halt their trade dispute, or at least stop it from escalating. New U.S. tariffs are set to hit Dec. 15 on many Chinese-made items on holiday shopping checklists, such as smartphones and laptops.

Tariffs already put in place have hurt manufacturing around the world, and businesses have held back on spending given all the uncertainty about where the rules of global trade will end up.

President Donald Trump said a deal between the world's largest economies is "potentially very close" after Chinese President Xi Jinping said Beijing is working to "try not to have a trade war," but will nevertheless fight back if necessary.

Even with the run of selling this week, major indexes remained close to the all-time highs they set during steady, six-week upward move. The benchmark S&P 500 ended the week within 0.4% of its record high set on Monday.

"Investors are basically saying the market is overbought and they'll wait to step back in after we see some sort of resetting of prices," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

The S&P 500 rose 6.75 points, or 0.2%, to 3,110.29. It had earlier been up 0.3% and then down 0.1%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 109.33 points, or 0.4%, to 27,875.62. The Nasdaq composite added 13.67 points, or 0.2%, to 8,519.88.

Traders favored smaller company stocks, giving the Russell 2000 index a gain of 4.98 points, or 0.3%, to 1,588.94.

Major stock indexes in Europe also finished broadly higher. Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.77%.

Despite the mostly down week, the major U.S. stock indexes are on track for strong gains this year. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq are up by more than 24%, while the Dow is up nearly 20%.

Hopes that Washington and Beijing can make progress on a trade deal helped spur the market higher since late October, along with surprisingly good corporate earnings, solid economic data and interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

Stocks receded from those highs this week as investors grew more doubtful about the prospects of a trade deal. Doubts have persisted despite some encouraging remarks from the presidents of both nations.

Trump said "we have a very good chance to make a deal" in an interview with Fox News after reports through the week raised the possibility that a "Phase 1" agreement may not be in place until 2020.

In Beijing, Xi earlier told a visiting U.S. business delegation, "We want to work for a Phase 1 agreement on the basis of mutual respect and equality."

Investors have heard such remarks before throughout the long-running trade war, however.

"There have been too many times that the president has tweeted or he has had some of his underlings mention that a trade deal is imminent only to have nothing happen or to have the threat of postponement," Stovall said.

Traders sized up another batch of corporate earnings from retailers Friday.

Nordstrom surged 10.6% after the retailer said it made a bigger profit last quarter than Wall Street expected.

It was a bright spot for the retail sector after a long list of mall-based clothing retailers delivered weak third-quarter earnings reports. Macy's cut its profit and sales forecast for the year as shoppers continue to head online instead of to the store. The department store climbed 5.2% Friday, though it still ended down more than 8% for the week.

Nearly 96% of companies in the S&P 500 have now told investors how much profit they made during the summer, and they're on pace to report a drop of 2.3% from a year earlier. That's not as bad as the 4% drop that analysts were earlier expecting.

Tesla skidded 6.1% after some analysts panned the unveiling of its electric pickup truck. It's aiming at the most profitable part of the North American market, but investors are skeptical about how many traditional pickup drivers the blocky, angular looks of Tesla's "Cybertruck" will draw.

Crude oil fell 81 cents to settle at \$57.77 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, dropped 58 cents to close at \$63.39 a barrel. Wholesale gasoline fell 3 cents to \$1.67 per gallon. Heating oil declined

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1 cent to \$1.93 per gallon. Natural gas rose 10 cents to \$2.67 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold was unchanged at \$1,463.10 per ounce, silver fell 6 cents to \$16.99 per ounce and copper rose 3 cents to \$2.65 per pound.

The dollar fell to 108.65 Japanese yen from 108.66 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.1020 from \$1.1059.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2019. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On November 23rd, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce (puhrs), was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. (The coin-operated device consisted of four listening tubes attached to an Edison phonograph.)

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce (loos), was first published.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1996, a commandeered Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the water off the Comoros Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

In 2000, in a setback for Al Gore, the Florida Supreme Court refused to order Miami-Dade County officials to resume hand-counting its election-day ballots. Meanwhile, Gore's lawyers argued in a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court that the high court should stay out of the Florida election controversy.

In 2001, the U.N. war crimes tribunal said it would try former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (sloh-BOH'-dahn mee-LOH'-shuh-vich) for genocide in Bosnia, linking him for the first time in court to the murders of thousands of non-Serbs and the displacement of a quarter million people. (Milosevic died in March 2006 while his trial was in progress.)

In 2003, Five U.S. soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Eduard Shevardnadze (sheh-vahrd-NAHD'-zeh) resigned as president of Georgia in the face of protests.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEN'-koh) died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In 2012, supporters and opponents of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi clashed in the streets of Cairo and other major cities in the worst violence since Morsi took office nearly five months earlier. Actor Larry Hagman, best known for playing the scheming oil baron J.R. Ewing on TV's "Dallas," died in Dallas at the age of 81.

Ten years ago: One of the worst massacres in Philippine history took place as gunmen targeted an election campaign convoy in southern Maguindanao (mah-GIHN'-dah-NOW') province, killing 58 people. Joe Mauer (MAW'-ur) of the Minnesota Twins became only the second catcher in 33 years to win the American League Most Valuable Player Award, finishing first in a near-unanimous vote.

Five years ago: Israel's Cabinet approved a bill to legally define the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Former Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry died at age 78. Roger Federer defeated Richard Gasquet (ree-SHARD' gas-KAY') 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the first reverse singles match as Switzerland won the Davis Cup final against France by taking an unassailable 3-1 lead. One Direction won three honors at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year; Katy Perry, absent because of her world tour, also won three awards.

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One year ago: Black Friday shoppers were evacuated from a northwestern Indiana Meijer (MY'-ur) store, and a bomb squad was summoned, after a customer mistook a toy grenade for a real one. A massive new federal report, issued quietly on the day after Thanksgiving, warned that extreme weather disasters such as California's wildfires and the year's strong hurricanes were worsening in the United States; the National Climate Assessment frequently contradicted President Donald Trump. The mayor of the Mexican border city of Tijuana declared a humanitarian crisis and said he was asking the United Nations for aid to deal with approximately 5,000 Central American migrants, most of whom were camped out inside a sports complex.

Today's Birthdays: Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 89. Actor Franco Nero is 78. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas (ES'-tur-hahs) is 75. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 72. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 69. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 65. Former Sen. Mary Landrieu (LAN'-droo), D-La., is 64. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 60. Actor John Henton is 59. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 59. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 53. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 53. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 52. Actor Oded Fehr (OH'-dehd fayr) is 49. Rapper-actor Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 47. Actor Page Kennedy is 43. Actress Kelly Brook is 40. Actor Lucas Grabeel (GRAY'-beel) is 35. TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is 32. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 27. Actor Austin Majors is 24. Actress Olivia Keville (TV: "Splitting Up Together") is 17.

Thought for Today: "It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it." — Author unknown.

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