

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Monday, November 25, 2019**

**5:30pm- 6:30pm: Title 1 Open House, Groton Area Elementary School**

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019**

**4:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Aberdeen Roncalli Catholic School**

**7th Grade @ 4 PM 8th Grade # 5 PM Games at Roncalli Elementary**

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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## Huskies win last two sets to sneak past Groton Area

Groton Area's volleyball team took the court in fighting style in the seventh place match at the State A Tournament in Rapid City Saturday morning. The Tigers jumped out to a 2-0 lead and upped it 6-1. Elk Point-Jefferson fought back to within two, 9-7, before the Tigers rattled off four straight points to take a 13-7 lead. The Huskies clawed their way back and tied the first set at 24. Groton Area would score the last two points to win, 26-24. Kaylin Kucker and Payton Colestock each had an ace serve. Indigo Rogers and Nicole Marzahn each had a block. Eliza Wanner had three kills, Rogers had two and Stella Meier and Marzahn each had one kill.

Groton Area jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the second set and held a five-point lead at 13-8. Elk Point-Jefferson came back tied the set at 16. From there, it was back and forth and the game tied eight times including as late as a tie at 24 and the lead changed hands three times before the Huskies scored the last two points to win the game, 26-24. Wanner had seven kills, Madeline Fliehs and Marzahn each had two kills and Kenzie McInerney had one. Marzahn had an ace serve.

Now with the match tied at one, the Tigers came out roaring in the third set, taking a 4-0 lead and ended up with a double digit lead at 18-8 and went on to win, 25-14. Madeline Fliehs had the final three kills of the game to help post the win.

Elk Point-Jefferson started out the fourth set with a 6-0 lead, forcing the Tigers to battle back. Groton Area tied the set at 12 and 13 and took a 16-13 lead. Groton Area upped its lead to four at 18-14, but the Huskies came back to tie the game at 19. Groton Area tied the game at 20 and 21 and took a 22-21 lead. Elk Point-Jefferson tied the game at 22 and scored the next three points to win the game, 25-22.

That set up the fifth set as the Huskies jumped out to a 5-0 lead but the Tigers once again, fighting to come back. Fliehs had a kill to the game at 11, but the Tigers were unable to capture the lead and Elk Point-Jefferson went on to win, 15-13.

Elk Point-Jefferson had the edge in kills, 60-58. The Tigers had the edge in ace serves, 7-6. Blocks took its toll on the Tigers with Elk Point-Jefferson having 10 compared to four for Groton Area. The defense was even on the digs with Groton Area having the edge, 114-112. Eliza Wanner had 20 kills, 15 digs and one assist. Nicole Marzahn had 15 kills, 17 digs, one block and one ace serve. Indigo Rogers had 11 kills, two ace serves and one block. Kaylin Kucker had 46 assists, two ace serves and five kills.. Tadyn Glover had 33 digs and five assists. Kenzie McInerney had two kills, Stella Meier had one kill and one block, Payton Colestock had two ace serves and 13 digs. Madeline Fliehs had four kills, one assist, eight digs and two blocks.

- Paul Kosel



**A welcome home reception was held for the volleyball team Sunday evening.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Coach Chelsea Hanson**

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



**Eliza Wanner**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Tadyn Glover**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Stella Meier**

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.  
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**Eliza Wanner**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Indigo Rogers and Kenize McInerney**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Kaylin Kucker**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Nicole Marzahn**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Tadyn Glover**  
Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.  
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**Madeline Flihs**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Indigo Rogers**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Payton Colestock**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Madeline Flihs**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Nicole Marzahn**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Tadyn Glover**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Kaylin Kucker**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Kenzie McInerney**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Payton Colestock**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Coin Flip**  
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Hitting Percentage

#	Name	Team	S	Kills	Errs	Tot
1	<a href="#">Curry, Kenna</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	29	0	29
	<a href="#">Corder, Carlie</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	40	0	40
	<a href="#">Donnelly, Riley</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	20	0	20
	<a href="#">Fennel, Kyra</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	8	8	0	8
	<a href="#">Ries, Aleah</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	44	0	44
	<a href="#">Pulse, Jacy</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	52	0	52
	<a href="#">Tims, Sydney</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	25	0	25
	<a href="#">Van Egdorn, Katie</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	20	0	20
	<a href="#">Glanzer, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	70	0	70
	<a href="#">Nelson, Grace</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	29	0	29
	<a href="#">Brooks, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	40	0	40
	<a href="#">VandenBosch, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	14	0	14
	<a href="#">Leighton, Kendra</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	30	0	30
	<a href="#">Wanner, Eliza</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	37	0	37
	<a href="#">Rogers, Indigo</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	20	0	20
	<a href="#">Marzahn, Nicole</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	37	0	37
	<a href="#">VanDenHul, Jorja</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	28	0	28
	<a href="#">Schulz, Tori</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	16	0	16
	<a href="#">Rosenquist, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	49	0	49
	<a href="#">Wente, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	22	0	22

### 2019 Hitting Percentage

#	Team	S	Kills	Errs	Tot	Pct
1	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	175	0	175	1.000
	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	107	0	107	1.000
	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	120	0	120	1.000
	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	129	0	129	1.000
	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	173	0	173	1.000



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## Tournament Kills

#	Name	Team	S	K	K/S
1	<a href="#">Fernholz, Kadye</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	67	5.6
2	<a href="#">Glanzer, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	70	5.0
3	<a href="#">Hammerbeck, Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	62	4.8
4	<a href="#">Rosenquist, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	49	3.8
5	<a href="#">Pulse, Jacy</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	52	3.7
6	<a href="#">Brozik, Ellie</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	48	3.7
7	<a href="#">Corder, Carlie</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	40	3.6
	<a href="#">Brooks, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	40	3.6
9	<a href="#">Schlechter, VonnaGail</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	42	3.5
10	<a href="#">Ries, Aleah</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	44	3.1
11	<a href="#">Wanner, Eliza</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	37	3.1
	<a href="#">Marzahn, Nicole</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	37	3.1
13	<a href="#">Atchison, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	37	2.9
14	<a href="#">Leighton, Kendra</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	30	2.7
15	<a href="#">Nelson, Grace</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	29	2.6
	<a href="#">Curry, Kenna</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	29	2.6
	<a href="#">Van Ruler, Abigail</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	37	2.6
18	<a href="#">VanDenHul, Jorja</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	28	2.2
19	<a href="#">Pruis, Caitlyn</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	29	2.1
20	<a href="#">Johnsen, Storm</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	24	2.0

#	Team	S	K	K/S
1	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	175	13.5
2	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	160	13.3
3	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	173	12.4
4	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	129	11.7
5	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	155	11.1
6	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	137	10.5
7	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	120	10.0
8	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	107	9.7

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## Tournament Assists

#	Name	Team	S	No	Avg/S
1	<a href="#">Oligmueller, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	144	12.0
2	<a href="#">Beresford, Ally</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	139	10.7
3	<a href="#">Heard, Kelsi</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	146	10.4
4	<a href="#">Bies, Emily</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	132	9.4
5	<a href="#">Giorgio, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	93	8.5
6	<a href="#">Kucker, Kaylin</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	89	7.4
7	<a href="#">Levi, Mackenzie</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	80	6.2
8	<a href="#">Nelson, Grace</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	58	5.3
9	<a href="#">Krusemark, Kylie</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	51	4.6
10	<a href="#">Root, Addy</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	30	2.3
11	<a href="#">Wilshire, Taylor</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	13	1.0
12	<a href="#">Glover, Todyn</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	9	0.8
13	<a href="#">Calkhoven, Jamaica</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	9	0.6
14	<a href="#">Atchison, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	6	0.5
15	<a href="#">Leighton, Kendra</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	5	0.5
16	<a href="#">Colestock, Payton</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	5	0.4
	<a href="#">Johnsen, Storm</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	5	0.4
18	<a href="#">LaCompte, Maggie</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	5	0.4
	<a href="#">Hammerbeck, Jenna</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	5	0.4
20	<a href="#">Steuerwald, Briana</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	4	0.4

#	Team	S	Asst	Asst/S
1	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	166	12.8
2	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	153	12.8
3	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	162	11.6
4	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	121	11.0
5	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	147	10.5
6	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	124	9.5
7	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	102	9.3
8	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	108	9.0

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## Tournament Service Aces

#	Name	Team	S	SA	SA/S
1	<a href="#">Colestock, Payton</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	8	0.7
2	<a href="#">Hammerbeck, Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	7	0.5
3	<a href="#">Sargent, Skyler</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	5	0.5
4	<a href="#">Knudsen, Cassy</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	6	0.4
5	<a href="#">Beresford, Ally</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	5	0.4
6	<a href="#">Chytka, Katelyn</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	4	0.4
	<a href="#">Ries, Aleah</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	5	0.4
	<a href="#">Glanzer, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	5	0.4
	<a href="#">Anderson, Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	4	0.4
	<a href="#">Chytka, Alyssa</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	4	0.4
11	<a href="#">Kucker, Kaylin</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	4	0.3
12	<a href="#">Bies, Emily</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	4	0.3
	<a href="#">Pruis, Caitlyn</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	4	0.3
14	<a href="#">Steuerwald, Briana</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	3	0.3
15	<a href="#">Joy, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	3	0.3
	<a href="#">Johnsen, Storm</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	3	0.3
	<a href="#">Marzahn, Nicole</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	3	0.3
18	<a href="#">Brozik, Ellie</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	3	0.2
19	<a href="#">Heard, Kelsi</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	3	0.2
	<a href="#">Van Ruler, Abigail</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	3	0.2

#	Team	S	SA	SA/S
1	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	19	1.6
2	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	21	1.5
3	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	18	1.3
4	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	14	1.3
5	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	13	1.2
6	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	14	1.1
7	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	11	0.9
8	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	9	0.8

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## Tournament Digs

#	Name	Team	S	No	Avg/S
1	<a href="#">Glover, Todyn</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	70	5.8
2	<a href="#">Wilshire, Taylor</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	75	5.8
3	<a href="#">Leighton, Kendra</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	60	5.5
4	<a href="#">Anderson, Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	56	5.1
	<a href="#">Chytka, Katelyn</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	56	5.1
6	<a href="#">Donnelly, Riley</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	53	4.8
7	<a href="#">LaCompte, Maggie</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	60	4.6
8	<a href="#">Glanzer, Abby</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	61	4.4
9	<a href="#">Schlechter, VonnaGail</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	50	4.2
10	<a href="#">Fernholz, Kadye</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	49	4.1
11	<a href="#">Calkhoven, Jamaica</a>	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	53	3.8
12	<a href="#">Kucker, Kaylin</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	45	3.8
	<a href="#">Wanner, Eliza</a>	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	45	3.8
14	<a href="#">Steuerwald, Briana</a>	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	40	3.6
15	<a href="#">Atchison, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	46	3.5
16	<a href="#">Rosenquist, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	45	3.5
17	<a href="#">Bies, Emily</a>	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	48	3.4
18	<a href="#">Giorgio, Sophia</a>	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	37	3.4
19	<a href="#">Hammerbeck, Morgan</a>	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	43	3.3
20	<a href="#">Joy, Rachel</a>	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	39	3.3

#	Team	S	DIG	DIG/S
1	<a href="#">Madison</a>	11	255	23.2
2	<a href="#">Groton</a>	12	254	21.2
3	<a href="#">Elk Point-Jefferson</a>	11	223	20.3
4	<a href="#">Miller</a>	12	241	20.1
5	<a href="#">Dakota Valley</a>	13	259	19.9
6	<a href="#">McCook Central/Montrose</a>	14	274	19.6
7	<a href="#">Winner</a>	13	245	18.9
8	<a href="#">Sioux Falls Christian</a>	14	258	18.4

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## 2019 Individual Rankings

Payton Colestock Ranks Number 1 in Class A in Service Aces per Game (0.670)  
Eliza Wanner Ranks Number 1 in Class A in Hitting Percentage (1.000)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 1 in Class A in Hitting Percentage (1.000)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 1 in Class A in Hitting Percentage (1.000)  
Tadyn Glover Ranks Number 1 in Class A in Digs per Game (5.830)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 7 in Class A in Assists per Game (7.420)  
Eliza Wanner Ranks Number 12 in Class A in Kills per Game (3.080)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 12 in Class A in Kills per Game (3.080)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 12 in Class A in Total Assists (89)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 14 in Class A in Digs per Game (3.750)  
Eliza Wanner Ranks Number 14 in Class A in Digs per Game (3.750)  
Tadyn Glover Ranks Number 18 in Class A in Assists per Game (0.750)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 22 in Class A in Service Aces per Game (0.330)  
Payton Colestock Ranks Number 23 in Class A in Assists per Game (0.420)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 31 in Class A in Kills per Game (1.670)  
Payton Colestock Ranks Number 31 in Class A in Total Service Aces (8)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 33 in Class A in Service Aces per Game (0.250)  
Eliza Wanner Ranks Number 36 in Class A in Total Kills (37)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 36 in Class A in Total Kills (37)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 36 in Class A in Digs per Game (2.750)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 37 in Class A in Assists per Game (0.170)  
Tadyn Glover Ranks Number 37 in Class A in Total Digs (70)  
Tadyn Glover Ranks Number 38 in Class A in Total Assists (9)  
Madeline Fliehs Ranks Number 39 in Class A in Blocks per Game (0.170)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 39 in Class A in Blocks per Game (0.170)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 39 in Class A in Blocks per Game (0.170)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 40 in Class A in Total Service Aces (4)  
Madeline Fliehs Ranks Number 45 in Class A in Kills per Game (0.830)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 45 in Class A in Total Service Aces (3)  
Payton Colestock Ranks Number 46 in Class A in Total Assists (5)  
Kaylin Kucker Ranks Number 46 in Class A in Total Digs (45)  
Eliza Wanner Ranks Number 46 in Class A in Total Digs (45)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 46 in Class A in Service Aces per Game (0.170)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 48 in Class A in Total Kills (20)  
Payton Colestock Ranks Number 49 in Class A in Digs per Game (2.080)  
Madeline Fliehs Ranks Number 49 in Class A in Total Blocks (2)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 49 in Class A in Total Blocks (2)  
Nicole Marzahn Ranks Number 49 in Class A in Total Blocks (2)  
Indigo Rogers Ranks Number 50 in Class A in Total Service Aces (2)



## State A Eighth Place

In back, left to right, are Assistant Coach Jenna Strom, Statistician Gracie Traphagen, Jasmine Gengerke, Stella Meier, Maddie Bjerke, Madeline Flihs, Kenzie McInerney, Brooklyn Gilbert, Grace Wambach, Megan Flihs, Statisticians Alyssa Thaler and Riley Liecht, Assistant Coach Sarah Schuster and Head Coach Chelsea Hanson; in the middle row, left to right, are Nicole Marzahn, Eliza Wanner, Tadyn Glover, Kaylin Kucker, Indigo Rogers and Student Manager Chesney Weber; in front, left to right, are Student Manager Tevan hanson, Allyssa Locke, Trista Keith and Student Manager Sydney Locke. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Team	1	2	3	4	5	Won
Groton	26	24	25	22	13	2
Elk Point-Jefferson	24	26	14	25	15	3

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	5	2	0	2	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.0
4	N. Marzahn	5	15	0	15	1.000	0	1	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	16.5
5	T. Glover	5	0	0	0	0.000	5	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0.0
6	S. Meier	5	1	0	1	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1.5
7	I. Rogers	5	11	0	11	1.000	0	2	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	14.0
9	P. Colestock	5	0	0	0	0.000	2	2	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	2.0
10	M. Fliehs	5	4	0	4	1.000	1	0	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	5.0
11	E. Wanner	5	20	0	20	1.000	1	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	21.0
12	K. Kucker	5	5	0	5	1.000	46	2	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	7.0
	Team	5														0.0
<b>Team Totals</b>			58	0	58	1.000	55	7	0	0	114	2	4	0	0	69.0

Total Team Blocks: 4.0

Elk Point-Jefferson			Attack				Set	Serve		Pass	Def	Block			Gen	
No.	Player	GP	K	E	TA	PCT	A	SA	SE	RE	DIG	BS	BA	BE	BHE	PTS
0	K. Chytka	5	0	0	0	0.000	0	2	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	2.0
5	A. Chytka	5	0	0	0	0.000	0	2	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	2.0
6	K. Fennel	5	5	0	5	1.000	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	6.0
7	L. Kempf	5	6	0	6	1.000	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	6.5
8	S. Giorgio	5	0	0	0	0.000	53	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0.0
11	R. Donnelly	5	6	0	6	1.000	0	1	0	0	25	0	2	0	0	8.0
15	G. Holmes	5	0	0	0	0.000	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1.0
16	C. Corder	5	29	0	29	1.000	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	33.0
19	K. Curry	5	14	0	14	1.000	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	18.5
	Team	5														0.0
<b>Team Totals</b>			60	0	60	1.000	56	6	0	0	112	6	10	0	0	77.0

Total Team Blocks: 11.0

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The doors were decorated at the Holiday Inn





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**Tadyn Glover was selected to the All State Tournament Team!**  
No pun intended, but height has been an issue for the Tigers all year. They have had to rely on the athletic abilities to win their matches. Glover is pictured in back - the short one!

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

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The student section (above) and the parent section (below) were ready to cheer on the Lady Tigers Saturday morning. The seventh place match started at 9 a.m. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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## Season Record: 26-10

### Northeast Conference Champions - 10-0

Aug 29	Redfield	Redfield	(25-17) (18-25) (25-21) (25-15)	W	47	16-10
Sep 03	Ipswich	Ipswich	(25-19) (25-23) (25-21)	W	50	18-6
Sep 05	Britton-Hecla	Groton	(25-4) (25-7) (25-11)	W	41	0-21
Sep 10	Webster Area	Webster	(25-12) (25-18) (25-21)	W	47	21-10
Sep 12	Hamlin	Groton	(25-18) (13-25) (25-13) (25-13)	W	47	17-9
Sep 17	Mobridge-Pollock	Groton	(25-12) (25-16) (25-10)	W	47	15-15
Sep 19	Sisseton	Groton	(25-8) (25-15) (25-12)	W	41	6-24
Sep 24	Warner	Warner	(23-25) (26-28) (27-25) (25-22) (7-15)	L	36	24-9
Sep 26	Aberdeen Roncalli	Aberdeen	(20-25) (25-22) (25-16) (27-25)	W	50	24-8
Sep 28	Aberdeen Roncalli	SF Pentagon	(19-25) (22-25)	L	39	24-8
Sep 28	Elkton-Lake Benton	SF Pentagon	(25-13) (25-19)	W	50	24-7
Sep 28	Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	SF Pentagon	(26-24) (20-25) (18-25)	L	36	15-11
Sep 28	Sioux Valley	SF Pentagon	(22-25) (26-24) (25-14)	W	44	13-19
Oct 01	Florence/Henry	Florence	(25-12) (25-9) (25-11)	W	41	6-19
Oct 03	Clark/Willow Lake	Clark	(25-19) (25-20) (25-14)	W	44	12-14
Oct 05	Redfield	Pheasant Classic	(25-16) (25-23)	W	47	16-10
Oct 05	Northwestern	Redfield	(23-25) (17-25)	L	39	35-0
Oct 05	Warner	Redfield	(25-20) (18-25) (25-18)	W	47	24-9
Oct 05	Potter County	Redfield	(22-25) (25-20) (25-18)	W	44	10-15
Oct 05	Belle Fourche	Redfield	(25-15) (25-18)	W	44	9-18
Oct 08	Leola/Frederick Area	Groton	(25-14) (25-11) (25-12)	W	41	6-23
Oct 15	Tiospa Zina	Agency Village	(25-10) (25-13) (25-22)	W	47	13-9
Oct 19	Aberdeen Christian	Milbank	(29-27) (25-11)	W	44	11-12
Oct 19	Clark/Willow Lake	Milbank	(25-17) (25-8)	W	44	12-14
Oct 19	Aberdeen Roncalli	Milbank	(25-16) (19-25) (17-25)	L	39	24-8
Oct 19	Langford Area	Milbank	(23-25) (17-25)	L	36	22-9
Oct 21	Langford Area	Langford	(25-21) (13-25) (25-22) (25-16)	W	47	22-9
Oct 22	Northwestern	Groton	(18-25) (10-25) (13-25)	L	39	35-0
Oct 25	Milbank	Groton	(23-25) (25-17) (25-14) (25-21)	W	44	10-18
Oct 28	Deuel	Groton	(25-20) (25-11) (25-8)	W	44	8-21
Nov 5	Sisseton	Groton	(26-24) (25-21) (25-10)	W	Reg. 1	
Nov 7	Milbank	Groton	(25-10) (25-19) (25-17)	W	Reg. 1	
Nov 12	Pine Ridge	Ft. Pierre	(25-16) (25-22) (25-13)	W	SoDak16	
Nov 21	McCook Central/Montrose at Rapid City		(17-25) (25-19) (16-25) (21-25)	L	State A	
Nov 22	Madison	Rapid City	(17-25) (15-25) (24-25)	L	State A	
Nov 23	Elk Point-Jefferson	Rapid City	(26-24) (24-26) (25-14) (22-25) (13-15)	L	State A	

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The "Senior Six" are Nicole Marzahn, Eliza Wanner, Tadyn Glover, Payton Colestock, Kaylin Kucker and Indigo Rogers. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## 2019 Groton Area Tigers Volleyball Team

No.	Name	Pos.	Grade
1	Allyssa Locke	S	10
2	Trista Keith	DS	10
3	Kenzie McInerney	MH	11
4	Nicole Marzahn	OH	12
5	Tadyn Glover	DS	12
6	Stella Meier	MH	10
7	Indigo Rogers	MH/RH	12
8	Megan Fliehs	MH	10
9	Payton Colestock	DS	12
10	Madeline Fliehs	MH	10
11	Eliza Wanner	OH	12
12	Kaylin Kucker	S	12
13	Grace Wambach	RH	11
14	Brooklyn Gilbert	OH	11
15	Maddie Bjerke	RH	10
17	Jasmine Gengerke	MB/RH	11

**Head Coach:** Chelsea Hanson

**Asst. Coaches:** Jenna Strom, Sarah Schuster

**Managers:** Tevan Hanson, Sydney Locke, Chesney Weber

**Statisticians:** Regan Leicht, Gracie Traphagen, Alyssa Thaler, Riley Leicht

**Superintendent:** Joe Schwan

**Principal:** Kiersten Sombke

**Ath. Director:** Brian Dolan

**School Colors:** Black/Gold

**School Song:** Fight On

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## The Journey Ends

Volleyball team members gather for one more round of pictures at the welcome home.  
(Photos from Angela Glover's Facebook Page)



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## Lazy Farmers 4-H October Meeting

The Lazy Farmer's 4-H club meeting was held Sunday, October 13, 2019 at Northern Electric Company in Bath, South Dakota. The meeting was called to order by Jameson Stange. U.S. flag pledge was led by Alicia Davis, 4-H flag pledge was led by Faith Flihs. Roll call was took by Travis Townsend. 12 members and one guest answered the question " Did you promote 4-H last week? If not, how will you promote 4-H this week?" Travis Townsend read the secretary's report. Alicia Davis read the treasurer report. Elections were held for the 2019-2020 4-H officers. Next years president is Jameson Stange. Vice President is Tessa Erdmann. Secretary is Lane Krueger. Treasurer is Jayla Jones. Reporter is Lexi Osterman. Photographer is Faith Flihs. November meeting will be held November 3, 2019, at 12:30 at the K. O Lee Library . Tessa Erdmann gave a talk on 4-H Ambassador and Jameson Stange gave a talk on Ag Land. The October meeting was adjourned by Jameson Stange.

- Lazy Farmers Club Reporter- Lexi Osterman

**AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION  
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY  
November 26, 2019**

8:45 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. – Public Hearing on Liquor License Transfer – Mansfield Bar & Grill  
8:50 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. – Scott Meints, EM Director – Burn Ban  
8:55 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Edwards Preserve – Fairgrounds Property Contract

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2019
- Claims/Payroll
- HR Report
- Plats
- Set Hearing Date & Authorize Advertising Rezone Ordinance #152 & #153
- Claim Assignments
- Set Hearing Date & Authorize Advertising for Vacation of Plat
- Community Health Contract for 2020
- Renewal of Liquor Licenses

Public comment and any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion



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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

With the Minnesota Vikings on their bye week, now would be the perfect time to take a look around the rest of the NFC North to see where the teams stack up. Skol!

The Green Bay Packers lead the NFC North with a record of 8-3 – the same record as the Vikings but Green Bay owns the tie breaker due to their win over Minnesota earlier in the season. The Packers started the first half of the season with an amazing 7-1 record, but have since lost two of their last three games. Over those three games, Green Bay has 445 total net passing yards combined. On Sunday night, the Packers squared off against the San Francisco 49ers, a game that many felt was between the top two teams in the NFC. The Packers didn't find the scoreboard until the end of the third quarter, and lost the game 37-8. Luckily for them, their remaining schedule is pretty easy – besides a trip to Minnesota in week 16, the Packers' other four remaining opponents have a combined record of 12-31-1.

The Vikings are second in the division with a record of 8-3. Four weeks into the 2019 NFL season, the Minnesota Vikings were at a crossroad. After losing to the Chase Daniel led Bears, the Vikings were 2-2 and frustrations were mounting. Many teams would have imploded at that point, resulting in a lost year and lost jobs throughout both the roster and the front office. Instead, the Vikings used their frustration and turned it into a mission to be better. Since that Bears game, the Vikings have gone 6-1 and Kirk Cousins has proved many doubters wrong. The Vikings' biggest weakness, however, is the defensive backfield. Coming into this week, the Vikings top two defensive linemen were first (Danielle Hunter) and second (Everson Griffen) in the league for getting pressure – yet teams were still exploiting the defense through the air. Xavier Rhodes is the biggest liability and will need to improve his play or ride the bench if the Vikings want to become a feared defense once again.

The Chicago Bears are third in the NFC North. Division winners a year ago, the Bears are currently 5-6 this year and will be hard pressed to make the playoffs. The Bears were 3-1 after defeating the Vikings in week four but have proceeded to lose five of their next seven games. Quarterback Mitchell Trubisky, who is in his third year, is having a rough season. Through eleven games, he is averaging 143 yards per game – even taking out the Vikings game where he was injured, he's only averaging 157 ypg. He has a QB rating of 36.8, which is 29th in the league, and only has three games this year with more touchdowns than interceptions. He likely has the rest of the season to prove what he can do, otherwise the Bears will once again be in the market for a starting QB this offseason.

The Detroit Lions are last in the division. Like the Bears, the Lions started off strong this season, with a tie followed by two wins. The team then derailed and have only won once in their last eight games. Quarterback Matthew Stafford hasn't played since week nine (Nov. 3) because of a back injury, and will likely be shut down for the rest of the season once they are officially knocked out of playoff contention. The Lions haven't won the division since 1993, and there's a chance they could hit the reset button again this offseason. The Lions fired Jim Caldwell two seasons ago, even though he had three winning seasons out of four. Matt Patricia was brought in to replace Caldwell, but is now staring directly at a second consecutive season. Will the Lions commit to a full reset this offseason? Will they be looking to draft their quarterback of the future? There will be plenty of intriguing storyline to follow this offseason for Lions fans.

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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Today



Increasing Clouds and Breezy

High: 41 °F

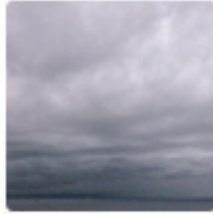
Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

Tuesday



Cloudy

High: 33 °F

Tuesday Night



Chance Snow

Low: 24 °F

Wednesday

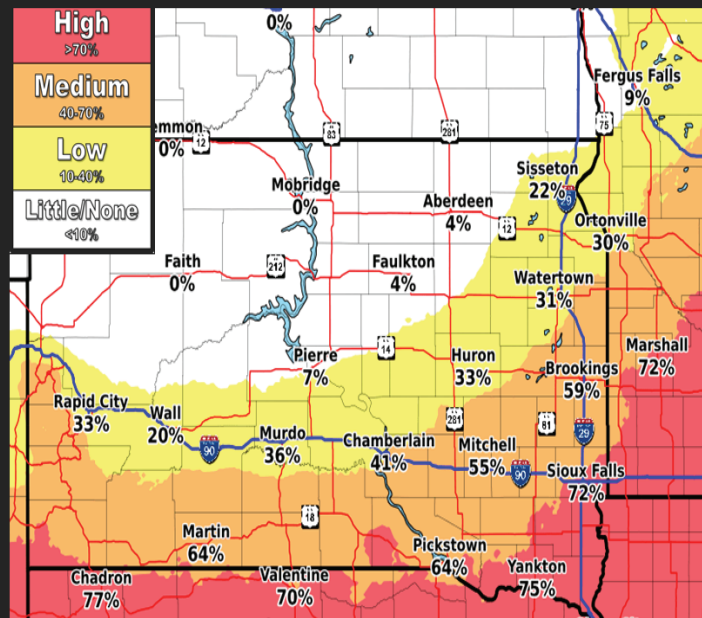


Mostly Sunny

High: 33 °F

## ❄ Accumulating Snow Possible

Probability of 1" or More of Snow Tuesday AM - Wednesday AM



### What

Light to moderate at times snow for portions of central+northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Wind gusts of 15 to 25+ mph possible as well.

### When

Snow works in from southwestern South Dakota Tuesday morning, spreads northeast through the day, and exits the area Wednesday morning.

### Impacts

Travel impacts in the way of slick and/or occasionally snow-covered roads are possible. Check road conditions before traveling.

### Uncertainty

While the worst looks to pass south/east at this time, stay tuned to the forecast!

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

www.weather.gov

Updated: 11/20/2018 3:53 PM

Published on: 11/24/2019 at 10:55AM

While the bulk of the snow will pass to the south and east of the area, accumulating snow is still possible for portions of northeastern and central South Dakota/west central Minnesota Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning. Take note if traveling!

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## Today in Weather History

November 25, 1896: A major blizzard occurred throughout South Dakota, beginning on the 25th and continuing until the 27th. The storm began in most locations as rain and sleet, which turned to snow, accompanied by strong northerly winds. The 26th was the peak of the storm, and the heaviest snow and strongest wind occurred throughout the north, northeast, west and southwest portions of the state. In eastern and southeastern South Dakota, sleet was extraordinarily heavy on the 26th. There were many reports received of large quantities of trees stripped of smaller branches and limbs due to the weight of the sleet. Across the state, telegraph lines were flattened in all directions, and the poles were broken off in many places. Although there was very little loss of livestock in areas with available shelter, there were heavy individual losses on the ranges of South Dakota. Several people also perished on the ranges west of the Missouri River when they became lost in the storm without livestock. Reports of snowfall totals from the storm are very limited but included 17 inches at Aberdeen and 12 inches at Mellette. This blizzard was the most prominent individual feature in a November that was overall frigid, with a state mean temperature of 16.5 degrees, which was 17.2 degrees below normal at the time. The month still stands as the coldest November on record in Aberdeen, with an average temperature nearly 7 degrees Fahrenheit colder than the next coldest November (1985). The lowest reported temperature during the month was -29 F at Webster. Aberdeen recorded a low of -25 F on the 29th with a high temperature of -8 F that same day. The month currently stands as the snowiest November on record and second snowiest overall month on record for Aberdeen, with 32.8 inches, behind 38.5 inches recorded in February 1915.

November 25, 1703: The greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain reaches its peak intensity which it maintains through November 27. Winds gust up to 120 mph, and 9,000 people perish in the mighty gale, most of them sailors of the British fleet. The storm continued through December 2nd. It was reported that 4,000 oaks died in the New Forest and an attempt to count the toll of trees in Kent gave up at 17,000. At sea, the Eddystone Lighthouse was washed away, killing six people. Daniel Defoe wrote a journal called *The Storm* (1704) about this event. The storm has been called the first substantial work of modern journalism.

1950: Called the "storm of the century" this storm impacted the eastern part of the US, killing hundreds and causing millions of dollars in damages. New York City recorded a 94 mph wind gust and Bear Mountain, just north of the city recorded a 140 mph gust. Record low temperatures were reported on the southern end of this storm in Tennessee and North Carolina. This storm was unique as Pittsburgh saw 30 inches of snow, while Buffalo saw 50 degrees with 50 mph wind gusts.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 55 °F at 2:32 PM**

**Low Temp: 29 °F at 2:13 AM**

**Wind: 15 mph at 2:01 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 64° in 1960**

**Record Low: -22° in 1996**

**Average High: 34°F**

**Average Low: 14°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.62**

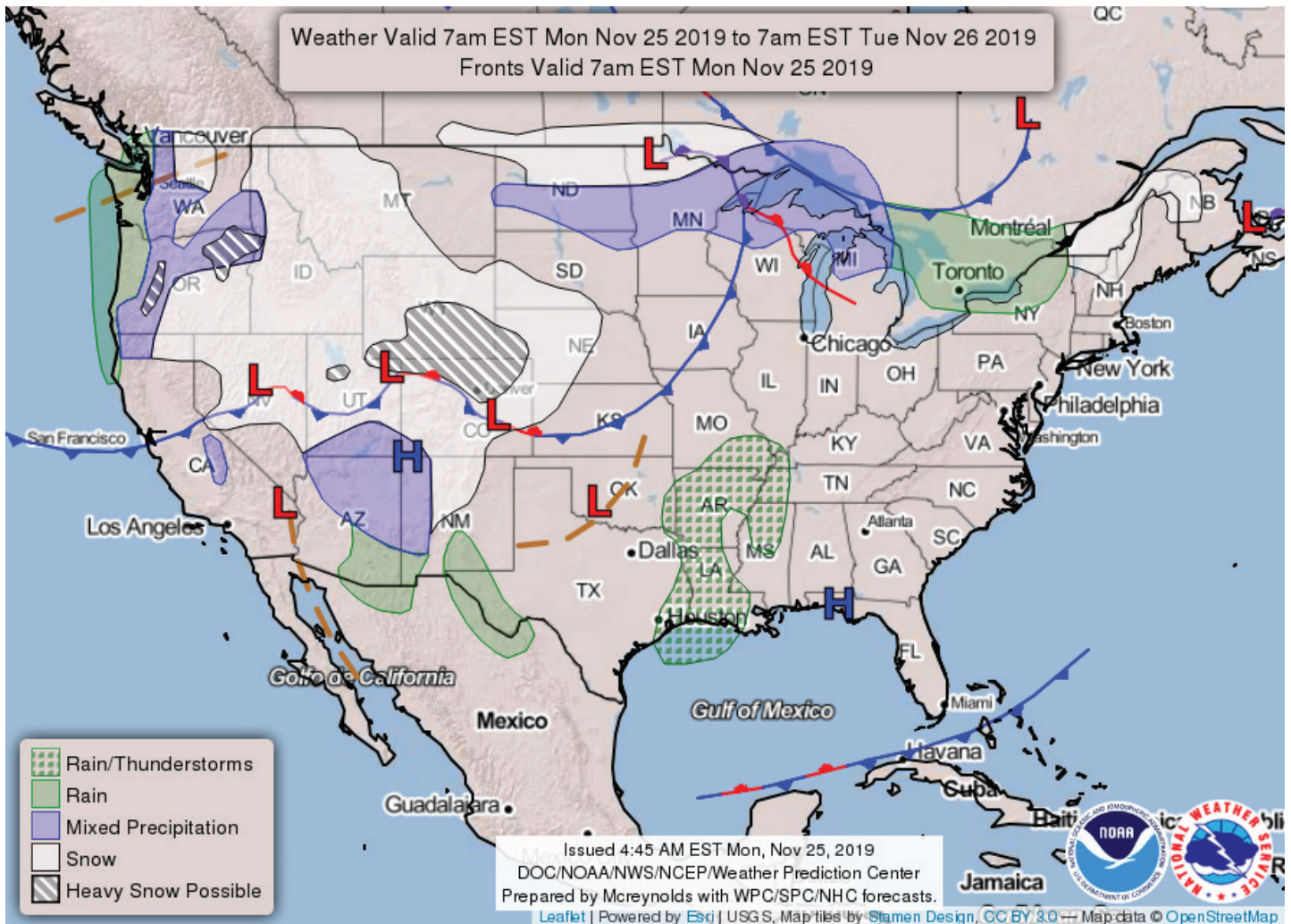
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38**

**Average Precip to date: 21.09**

**Precip Year to Date: 26.95**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.**



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## "IF ONLY" PEOPLE

A psychiatrist was deeply troubled by the sadness of one of his dear friends. Curiously he asked, "What's troubling you?"

After some time he responded, "I've been reviewing the 'If only's' of my life. I've made so many mistakes."

Wanting to help he said, "Let's go to my office. I have some recordings I want you to hear."

Sitting quietly he played a tape containing the stories of three very depressed patients. After a moment he asked, "Did you notice that each one kept repeating, 'if only?'" The "if only's" bring about a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, depression and discouragement. All of us must learn to say, "Next time I'll do things differently. I'll seek God's will and ask for His wisdom and guidance before I make a decision."

James said, "If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do – ask Him and He will gladly tell you!" Wisdom in the Bible means "practical insight or guidance" that will lead the Christian to right living and eliminate the "if only's" of life.

Prayer: Father, may we look to You for guidance before we make decisions or plans or try to solve problems. May we seek Your guidance at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Dentlinger leads S. Dakota St. past Mississippi Valley St.**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Matt Dentlinger made all eight of his shot attempts to score 16 points and South Dakota routed Mississippi Valley State 84-54 on Sunday.

Noah Freidel, Baylor Scheierman and David Wingett each scored 10 for the Jackrabbits (5-3). South Dakota State built a 22-6 lead midway through the first half and never was challenged. The Jackrabbits led 48-17 at halftime and shot 59.4% (19 of 32). The team finished shooting 33 of 58 (56.9%).

Michael Green led Mississippi Valley State (0-6) with 19 points and Caleb Hunter scored 16. The Delta Devils have lost by an average of 43.1 points per game. Their smallest margin of defeat was 91-81 against Western Michigan on Nov. 12.

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

### **Dorgan's new book revisits story of 'Girl in the Photograph'**

By **DAVE KOLPACK** Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Former Democratic Sen. Byron Dorgan was enjoying the success of his fourth book, a critique of big-business greed, when he found the subject of his next book waiting right on his Facebook page.

It was a message in 2016 from Tamara DeMaris, who first caught the North Dakota lawmaker's attention in 1990 after her teary-eyed portrait appeared along with a newspaper story on the abuse of foster home children on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. DeMaris, 5 years old at the time, had been severely beaten when she was 2.

Dorgan, 77, kept the newspaper clipping for decades as inspiration to help Native Americans, but had no idea what happened to DeMaris until she contacted him nearly three decades later, after finding a speech by Dorgan online while researching PTSD. Her story is the focal point of "The Girl in the Photograph: The True Story of a Native American Child, Lost and Found in America."

Set to go on sale Tuesday, the book ties DeMaris' difficult journey to the struggles of Native Americans and offers possible solutions.

"It has been a hard life, but she's found some stability," Dorgan told The Associated Press. He said DeMaris does not want to comment beyond the book, but added she now has "a special friend, a place to live and an opportunity for some health care."

The book follows Dorgan's most successful effort, "Take This Job and Ship It," which made the New York Times bestseller list. After spending much of his 30 years in Congress working on Native American issues, including a stint as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, it's Dorgan's first time writing about his efforts to improve life for native and indigenous people.

"I had worked over many years in Congress to help Indian tribes find the resources to address serious problems, including the issue of safeguarding Indian children who were placed in foster care," Dorgan writes early in the book. "It hadn't been enough. It certainly wasn't enough to offer safety to a 2-year-old child whose serious injuries would plague her for the rest of her life."

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska lawmaker who was the ranking member of the Indian Affairs committee alongside Dorgan, called the Democrat "the most focused" on Native American issues and said he did it out of "passion and care" rather than for political reasons. Dorgan often brought up the girl in the photograph, Murkowski said.

"He used to go to the floor with her picture all the time when he would speak to these issues," Murkowski said. "His voice would be elevated when he would talk not only about her plight, but the plight of so many

native children.”

Dorgan said in an interview he spent “a great many hours” chatting with DeMaris both in person, by phone and through emails. The book describes how DeMaris has dealt with issues such as PTSD, homelessness and three attempted suicides, including as recently as 2015.

“For the longest time I was surprised every day that I wake up,” she said in the book. “I still feel that way and I have a lot of sad thoughts.”

Dorgan told the AP he hopes that people who read the story will understand what it’s like to “navigate through these difficulties.”

And he tries to offer hope. One chapter features six American Indian success stories — Dorgan said some might be more accurately called survival stories. The final vignette features Minnesota Lt. Gov Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe who was elected to that post in 2018.

The last chapter highlights new opportunities, including job prospects in energy and natural resources, information technology and government contracting, which Dorgan said will “require engaged federal and state governments working with Native Americans to make it happen.”

Dorgan said proceeds from the book will be split between DeMaris and the nonprofit Center for Native American Youth, which he founded in 2011.

## Sioux Falls police investigating robbery of business

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police are investigating an armed robbery at a Sioux Falls business.

KELO-TV reports it happened Saturday morning at a business at 41st Street and South Marion Road.

Investigators say a woman armed with a semi-automatic handgun took money from an employee and left. The woman was wearing gray sweat pants, a black jacket and a pink stocking cap.

Officials say no one was hurt.

Police say it’s the second armed robbery in Sioux Falls involving a woman in the past week. But authorities don’t know if the two robberies are connected.

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

## For some rural US TV viewers, local news is anything but

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — When Dianne Johnson channel-surfs for news in her rural western Nebraska home, all she sees are stories about Colorado crime and car crashes from a Denver television station more than 200 miles away.

It’s frustrating for the 61-year-old rancher, who wants to know the latest developments in Nebraska politics and sports. When floods devastated huge swaths of Nebraska this year, Johnson struggled to keep tabs on what was happening.

“If we actually had local news, we would watch it,” she said. “But all we get is Colorado drug busts and stories about who got murdered in Denver. It has nothing to do with us.”

Johnson is among an estimated 870,000 households nationwide that receive at least one distant network affiliate’s feed from their satellite TV service providers because they don’t live close enough to get conventional over-the-air signals. With no local TV news stations and a dwindling number of newspapers, many rural Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to track local elections or government decisions that affect their lives.

“It’s your connection to what’s going on in your community,” said Jim Timm, president and executive director of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association.

Johnson’s plight is part of a congressional dispute pitting local broadcasters against satellite television providers, who are frequently the only option for viewers in America’s most remote corners.

Caught in the middle are the nation’s “neglected markets” — remote areas that can’t get local broadcast signals, forcing viewers to rely on satellite service that shows them news from other states. Two of the



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12 “neglected markets” are in Nebraska, in regions with several of the nation’s least-populated counties. The others are in rural corners of Kentucky, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Maine and Michigan.

For many of those areas, two separate issues are at play.

The first is a federal law that lets satellite providers import distant broadcast signals to those “neglected markets” at a steep discount, even though the local news subscribers see may not be relevant.

In western Nebraska, satellite subscribers might see news from Rapid City, South Dakota, or Denver, which are often geographically closer than Nebraska’s largest cities, Omaha and Lincoln. Others who subscribe to AT&T-owned DirecTV end up watching news, weather and commercials from a Los Angeles network affiliate, even though there are local stations much closer to home, in North Platte and Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

“Instead of a tornado hitting the ground in North Platte, they’re hearing about sunny beaches in L.A.,” said Shannon Booth, a general manager for Gray Television who oversees the company’s stations in Lincoln, Hastings and North Platte.

The law was initially passed in 1988 to help small, fledgling satellite TV providers compete with cable companies that were viewed as monopolies at the time. It’s set to expire at the year’s end, but satellite providers are lobbying Congress to extend it for another five years.

Nebraska broadcasters who want their content beamed to those households say the law is outdated because satellite companies are much larger now and shouldn’t receive what amounts to a federal subsidy.

If the law does expire, satellite providers would no longer be able to send distant, out-of-state programming to rural viewers and would likely have to pay more because they’d be required to negotiate with local broadcast stations. Broadcasters could then expand into areas they don’t currently reach.

Satellite TV providers argue that that law protects consumers by requiring broadcasters to negotiate in good faith over the fees that satellite companies are required to pay them for access to their shows. Even with the law in place, those fees have risen from \$215 million in 2006 to \$11.9 billion this year, according to the American Television Alliance, a satellite and cable TV industry group. The expense is often passed along to subscribers.

In a statement, AT&T said broadcasters “routinely hold consumers hostage” with television blackouts if satellite providers don’t agree to pay the rising fees. A company spokesman pointed to a Federal Communications Commission ruling last month that ordered a group of broadcast stations to go back to the bargaining table with AT&T, concluding that the stations hadn’t negotiated in good faith.

Cable and satellite providers are under financial pressure because customers have been dropping them for cheaper streaming services. Local broadcasters are still generally profitable, but they also face declining viewership and stagnant advertising.

“Nothing prevents local broadcasters from investing in their local communities, extending the reach of their signals and providing these customers free, over-the-air signals,” Rob Thun, an AT&T executive, said in testimony last month to the Senate Commerce Committee.

Booth, though, said doing so would be practically impossible because it would require federal approval, and for nearly a decade, the FCC has prohibited stations from expanding their transmission facilities or constructing new TV translators that would widen their reach.

The second challenge for rural viewers is a federal law that sets the boundaries for the nation’s media markets. In Nebraska, 16 rural counties are in the Denver or Rapid City media markets, based on a map drawn by Nielsen Media Research. Despite being in Nebraska, satellite television subscribers in those markets only get news from Colorado or South Dakota-based stations.

Counties can appeal to the Federal Communications Commission for access to Nebraska-based news, but the process is complicated and time-consuming, said Jordan Dux, director of national affairs for the Nebraska Farm Bureau, which has followed the issue.

Legislation sponsored by Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer and Rep. Adrian Smith would create an exemption that would give their constituents access to news out of Scottsbluff. But the measure’s prospects are unclear.

“There’s a level of frustration out there in areas of Nebraska that don’t have access to these local chan-

nels," Dux said.

Dux said many of his group's members aren't happy that they can't get news coverage of the Nebraska Legislature. Most legislative hearings and debates are live-streamed on the internet, but Dux said some Farm Bureau members don't have access to high-speed connections.

It's a major hassle for Jeff Metz, a fourth-generation farmer and rancher from Angora, Nebraska, whose nearest neighbor is four miles away.

Metz, 53, relies on satellite television coverage but the closest local stations he can get are from Denver, nearly 175 miles away.

Metz said he'd like to follow Nebraska legislative news, weather, and local cattle and commodity markets, but the out-of-state stations don't offer any coverage. His local newspaper has gotten smaller and more expensive, but Metz said he feels fortunate to have anything at all.

"I don't care if it's snowing in Denver," Metz said. "People like to know what's going on locally."

Follow Grant Schulte: <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

## Uber loses license to operate in London over safety issues

LONDON (AP) — London's transit operator says it is not renewing Uber's license to operate in the British capital.

Transport for London cited "several breaches that placed passengers and their safety at risk."

Uber's license expires Monday.

Uber can appeal the decision and continue to operate while it does.

## Pope in Japan meets victims, voices concern over nuke power

By NICOLE WINFIELD and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Pope Francis voiced concern about nuclear power Monday after meeting with victims of Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster, saying the development of future energy sources must take environmental considerations into account.

Francis didn't explicitly urge a ban on nuclear energy during his emotional encounter with victims. But he recalled that Japan's Catholic bishops called for the abolition of nuclear power plants in the aftermath of the "triple disaster," in which three reactors at a nuclear plant in Fukushima melted down after an earthquake triggered a tsunami.

The meltdown coated the area in radioactive fallout and at one point forced the displacement of 160,000 people. Nine years later, more than 40,000 people still can't return home.

After comforting some of the evacuees who gathered in Tokyo, Francis said the Fukushima accident will not be fully resolved until the scientific, medical and societal concerns it raised are addressed.

"In turn, this involves, as my brother bishops in Japan have emphasized, concern about the continuing use of nuclear power; for this reason, they have called for the abolition of nuclear power plants," he said.

Going forward, he said, "important decisions will have to be made about the use of natural resources, and future energy sources in particular."

During his first full day in Japan on Sunday, Francis visited Nagasaki and Hiroshima — where two U.S. atomic bombs were dropped in World War II — and said both the use and possession of nuclear weapons was "immoral."

He has not articulated a formal position on nuclear power, but the Vatican has previously called for the "safe, secure, and peaceful, development and operation of nuclear technologies." Francis, however, has made environmental concerns a pillar of his papacy and has now heard first-hand from Hiroshima and Fukushima survivors of the health and environmental effects of radiation exposure.

Francis spoke after listening to searing testimony from Fukushima victims, including Matsuki Kamoshita, a 17-year-old high school student from Iwaki on the eastern coast of Fukushima.

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Kamoshita wrote to the pope last year begging that he visit Fukushima to see for himself the impact. He was rewarded with a papal audience at the Vatican, and on Monday a chance to address the pope in public to tell his story.

The day after the tsunami, Kamoshita's parents and his younger brother evacuated and eventually ended up in Tokyo to escape the radiation. Instead of sympathy, he said he faced bullying at school, where he was treated as if he were "infectious."

In his speech to the pope Monday, Kamoshita lamented that the government had "given up" on housing evacuees while continuing to pursue nuclear power as a state policy.

"It will take many times longer than my lifetime to restore the contaminated land and forests," he told the pope. "So, for us who live there, adults have a responsibility to explain without concealing anything about radioactive contamination, exposure and possible damage in the future. I don't want them to die before us, having lied or not admitting the truth."

Kamoshita asked for the pope to pray that political leaders find another path.

"And please pray with us that people from all over the world will work to eliminate the threat of radiation exposure from our future," he said.

After he finished, he approached the pope, who took him in his arms for a long embrace.

The pro-nuclear government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has sought to restart as many reactors as possible to keep the nuclear industry and technology alive, especially as it seeks to showcase its recovery ahead of the Tokyo Olympics next year.

Areas that used to be under the no-go zone in Fukushima have opened following decontamination efforts, prompting people to return home and resulting in cuts to government financial support for evacuees.

"Regardless of the position on what to do with nuclear energy, its victims here are suffering under the government policy that has marginalized them," said Kazuko Ito, secretary general of Human Rights Now.

Ito welcomed Francis' visit as a chance to "shed light on the issue and let their voices be heard."

Francis' meeting with the victims kicked off a busy day of activities in Tokyo, including a private audience with Emperor Naruhito, a rally with young people and Mass at the Tokyo Dome.

Present in the crowd of 50,000 for the Mass was Iwao Hakamada, a former professional boxer who has become a leading symbol for the anti-death penalty movement in Japan. Hakamada, 83, converted to Catholicism during his decades on death row for murders he says he did not commit.

Francis has said the death penalty is "inadmissible" in all cases, and one of his main messages while in Japan was to "respect all life." Local organizers confirmed Hakamada was at the Mass, but the Vatican declined to say if the pope met with him as his supporters had hoped.

During his meeting with young people, Francis denounced what he called an "epidemic" of bullying that is afflicting youth in Japan and elsewhere.

"We must all unite against this culture of bullying and learn to say "Enough!" Francis told the students, three of whom recounted the pressures they face in a hyper-competitive society, their feelings of inadequacy and cruelty they sometimes face from their classmates that drives some to suicide.

At the end of the day, the pope delivers his main political speech to Abe and government authorities.

Francis wraps up his weeklong trip to Asia with a speech Tuesday at Sophia University, Japan's main Catholic university founded by his Jesuit order a century ago.

## France's LVMH secures deal to buy Tiffany for \$16.2 billion

By ANGELA CHARLTON and RACHEL LERMAN Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French luxury group LVMH has agreed to buy iconic New York jeweler Tiffany & Co. for \$16.2 billion, adding a famed star to its portfolio that already boasts Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior and Bulgari.

LVMH announced in a statement Monday that it will purchase the 182-year old Tiffany and its 300 boutiques worldwide at \$135 a share. The agreed deal is higher than the \$14.5 billion cash offer LVMH made last month.

Tiffany — known for its delicate jewelry, distinctive blue boxes and an Audrey Hepburn movie — says

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the deal will ensure its long-term sustainability. Tiffany, which is trying to transform its brand to appeal to younger and more digital shoppers, could use a company with deep pockets to help expand its business.

LVMH's share price rose on the announcement, trading Monday up 2 percent at 403.50 euros.

Paris-based LVMH, led by billionaire Bernard Arnault, says the deal will strengthen its position in high-end jewelry and in the U.S. market. The purchase gives the French conglomerate a new star in its already distinctive portfolio — one that will help it compete with Gucci-owner Kering Group and Cartier-owner Richemont SA.

LVMH already owns 75 brands including Christian Dior, Fendi, and Givenchy as well as watchmaker Tag Heuer. Its flagship brand Louis Vuitton recently opened a handbag workshop in Texas, with President Donald Trump in attendance.

LVMH said both companies' boards approved the deal and hope to finalize the takeover in 2020, subject to the approval of regulators and Tiffany shareholders.

The offer comes as luxury goods companies have been wrestling with changing habits of shoppers who are increasingly buying online. They're also purchasing second-hand luxury items from places like The RealReal.com.

In addition, luxury companies are facing fears of an economic slowdown in China, a key area of business, while they're already dealing with a slowdown in international tourism in the U.S.

Under its CEO Alessandro Bogliolo, Tiffany is trying to appeal to younger shoppers with more modern takes on jewelry. Earlier this year, it launched a men's jewelry collection, and it's increasing its marketing to a more diverse customer base like same-sex couples. It's also been renovating its flagship store in Manhattan.

Still, Tiffany's U.S. sales have been stagnating as China's slowing economy has weighed on spending by Chinese tourists, who make up a substantial portion of luxury spending. The strong dollar has also made Tiffany products more expensive for consumers outside the U.S.

Tiffany has been putting plans in place to appeal to a younger group of customers who are more used to shopping online and hunting for fashion deals. Tiffany has notably highlighted ways customers can personalize jewelry and started letting people trace the origin of their diamonds.

Tiffany had sales of \$4.4 billion in 2018, an increase of nearly 7% over 2017. LVMH reported 6.3 billion euros in profits in 2018 on 46.8 billion euros in sales.

Lerman reported from San Francisco.

## Pro-democracy camp wins landslide in Hong Kong vote

By EILEEN NG and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition won a stunning landslide victory in weekend local elections in a clear rebuke to city leader Carrie Lam over her handling of violent protests that have divided the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Wu Chi-wai, leader of the city's biggest pro-democracy party, said Monday that the bloc swept nearly 90% of 452 district council seats, which will help it take unprecedented control of 17 out of 18 district councils. The results were based on official tallies announced by election officials.

The result of Sunday's elections could force the central government in Beijing to rethink how to handle the unrest, which is now in its sixth month. The district councils have little power, but the vote became a referendum on public support for the protests.

"It's nothing short of a revolution. This is a landslide," said Willy Lam, a political expert at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "It's a sound repudiation of the Carrie Lam administration and shows the silent majority are behind the demands of the protesters."

The pro-democracy camp hailed its astounding gains in the normally low-key race as a victory for the people and said Carrie Lam and Beijing must now seriously heed protesters' demands, in particular a call for an independent commission to investigate the events of the past six months.

"We are only vehicles used to reflect the people's concerns," said Wu.

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Beijing, which blames foreign powers for fomenting the unrest in Hong Kong, has showed no signs that it may soften its stance on the former British colony, which was returned to China in 1997.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters during a visit to Tokyo on Monday that any attempts to undermine Hong Kong will be futile.

"No matter what kind of things happen in Hong Kong, Hong Kong is a part of Chinese territory," he said. "Any attempts to destroy Hong Kong or harm Hong Kong's stability and development cannot possibly succeed."

But the election result will add new pressure on Carrie Lam, who pledged to reflect on the people's voice. Some pro-establishment candidates have already pointed fingers at Lam for their loss.

"There are various analyses and interpretations in the community in relation to the results, and quite a few are of the view that the results reflect people's dissatisfaction with the current situation and the deep-seated problems in society," Lam said in a statement.

A record 71% of Hong Kong's 4.1 million registered voters cast ballots in the city's only fully democratic elections, well exceeding the 47% turnout in the same poll four years ago.

The largest pro-establishment political party suffered the biggest setback, with only 21 of its 182 candidates winning. Starry Lee, head of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, said the government must review its response to the crisis and do more to reconcile society.

Many pro-Beijing political heavyweights were trounced, including controversial lawmaker Junius Ho, who is reviled by protesters for supporting a bloody mob attack on demonstrators in July. Ho was stabbed with a knife during campaigning this month.

The winners included many youth activists and a candidate who replaced activist Joshua Wong, the only person barred from running in the election. Pro-democracy rally organizer Jimmy Sham, who was beaten by hammer-wielding assailants last month, also triumphed, as did a pro-democracy lawmaker who had part of his ear bitten off by an assailant.

Celebrations broke out outside polling stations overnight when results were announced. At lunchtime Monday, dozens of supporters gathered in a business district for a victory rally. A woman popped a champagne bottle and poured drinks for everyone.

"This is historic. As our city plummets from being semi-autonomous to semi-authoritarian, we react by showing what's democracy in action," Wong tweeted.

More than 5,000 people have been arrested in the unrest that has contributed to Hong Kong's first recession in a decade.

Supporters from both sides of the divide hope the election will pave a peaceful way out after months of pitched battles between protesters and police, capped by a university siege this month. An estimated 30 protesters, fearing arrests, are still holding out at the campus, which has been ringed by police for days.

"With the mandate from the Hong Kong people, protesters expect concessions from Beijing, but those concessions won't be coming. Confrontations may intensify," warned political analyst Lam.

The victory will see the pro-democracy camp secure 117 seats in the 1,200-member pro-Beijing panel that elects the city's leader. It will bolster their influence, as the bloc usually has over 300 supporters on the panel but still falls short of the majority.

The turmoil started in June over a now-abandoned extradition bill that many viewed as a sign of creeping Chinese control over Hong Kong. Protesters have expanded their demands to include free elections for the city's leader and members of the legislature, as well as an investigation into alleged police brutality.

## Papers reveal brainwashing, not job training, at China camps

By The Associated Press undefined

The watch towers, double-locked doors and video surveillance in the Chinese camps are there "to prevent escapes." Uighurs and other minorities held inside are scored on how well they speak the dominant Mandarin language and follow strict rules on everything down to bathing and using the toilet, scores that determine if they can leave.

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"Manner education" is mandatory, but "vocational skills improvement" is offered only after a year in the camps.

Voluntary job training is the reason the Chinese government has given for detaining more than a million ethnic minorities, most of them Muslims. But a classified blueprint leaked to a consortium of news organizations shows the camps are instead precisely what former detainees have described: Forced ideological and behavioral re-education centers run in secret.

The classified documents lay out the Chinese government's deliberate strategy to lock up ethnic minorities even before they commit a crime, to rewire their thoughts and the language they speak.

The papers also show how Beijing is pioneering a new form of social control using data and artificial intelligence. Drawing on data collected by mass surveillance technology, computers issued the names of tens of thousands of people for interrogation or detention in just one week.

Taken as a whole, the documents give the most significant description yet of high-tech mass detention in the 21st century in the words of the Chinese government itself. Experts say they spell out a vast system that targets, surveils and grades entire ethnicities to forcibly assimilate and subdue them -- especially Uighurs, a predominantly Muslim Turkic minority of more than 10 million people with their own language and culture.

"They confirm that this is a form of cultural genocide," said Adrian Zenz, a leading security expert on the far western region of Xinjiang, the Uighur homeland. "It really shows that from the onset, the Chinese government had a plan."

Zenz said the documents echo the aim of the camps as outlined in a 2017 report from a local branch of the Xinjiang Ministry of Justice: To "wash brains, cleanse hearts, support the right, remove the wrong."

China has struggled for decades to control Xinjiang, where the Uighurs have long resented Beijing's heavy-handed rule. After the 9/11 attacks in the United States, Chinese officials began justifying harsh security measures and religious restrictions as necessary to fend off terrorism, arguing that young Uighurs were susceptible to the influence of Islamic extremism. Hundreds have died since in terror attacks, reprisals and race riots, both Uighurs and Han Chinese.

In 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched what he called a "People's War on Terror" when bombs set off by Uighur militants tore through a train station in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, just hours after he concluded his first state visit there.

"Build steel walls and iron fortresses. Set up nets above and snares below," state media cited Xi as saying. "Cracking down severely on violent terrorist activities must be the focus of our current struggle."

In 2016, the crackdown intensified dramatically after Xi named Chen Quanguo, a hardline official transferred from Tibet, as Xinjiang's new head. Most of the documents were issued in 2017, as Xinjiang's "War on Terror" morphed into an extraordinary mass detention campaign using military-style technology.

The practices largely continue today. The Chinese government says they work.

"Since the measures have been taken, there's no single terrorist incident in the past three years," said a written response from the Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom. "Xinjiang is much safer....The so-called leaked documents are fabrication and fake news."

The statement said that religious freedom and the personal freedom of detainees was "fully respected" in Xinjiang.

The documents were given to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists by an anonymous source. The ICIJ verified them by examining state media reports and public notices from the time, consulting experts, cross-checking signatures and confirming the contents with former camp employees and detainees.

They consist of a notice with guidelines for the camps, four bulletins on how to use technology to target people, and a court case sentencing a Uighur Communist Party member to 10 years in prison for telling colleagues not to say dirty words, watch porn or eat without praying.

The documents were issued to rank-and-file officials by the powerful Xinjiang Communist Party Political and Legal Affairs Commission, the region's top authority overseeing police, courts and state security. They were put out under the head official at the time, Zhu Hailun, who annotated and signed some personally.

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The documents confirm from the government itself what is known about the camps from the testimony of dozens of Uighurs and Kazakhs, satellite imagery and tightly monitored visits by journalists to the region.

Erzhan Qurban, an ethnic Kazakh who moved back to Kazakhstan, was grabbed by police on a trip back to China to see his mother and accused of committing crimes abroad. He protested that he was a simple herder who had done nothing wrong. But for the authorities, his time in Kazakhstan was reason enough for detention.

Qurban told the AP he was locked in a cell with 10 others last year and told not to engage in "religious activities" like praying. They were forced to sit on plastic stools in rigid postures for hours at a time. Talk was forbidden, and two guards kept watch 24 hours a day. Inspectors checked that nails were short and faces trimmed of mustaches and beards, traditionally worn by pious Muslims.

Those who disobeyed were forced to squat or spend 24 hours in solitary confinement in a frigid room. "It wasn't education, it was just punishment," said Qurban, who was held for nine months. "I was treated like an animal."

## WHO GETS ROUNDED UP AND HOW

On February 18, 2017, Zhu, the Han Chinese official who signed the documents, stood in chilly winter weather atop the front steps of the capital's city hall, overlooking thousands of police in black brandishing rifles.

"With the powerful fist of the People's Democratic Dictatorship, all separatist activities and all terrorists shall be smashed to pieces," Zhu announced into a microphone.

With that began a new chapter in the state's crackdown. Police called Uighurs and knocked on their doors at night to take them in for questioning. Others were stopped at borders or arrested at airports.

In the years since, as Uighurs and Kazakhs were sent to the camps in droves, the government built hundreds of schools and orphanages to house and re-educate their children. Many of those who fled into exile don't even know where their children or loved ones are.

The documents make clear that many of those detained have not actually done anything. One document explicitly states that the purpose of the pervasive digital surveillance is "to prevent problems before they happen" -- in other words, to calculate who might rebel and detain them before they have a chance.

This is done through a system called the Integrated Joint Operations Platform or IJOP, designed to screen entire populations. Built by a state-owned military contractor, the IJOP began as an intelligence-sharing tool developed after Chinese military theorists studied the U.S. army's use of information technology in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There's no other place in the world where a computer can send you to an internment camp," said Rian Thum, a Xinjiang expert at the University of Nottingham. "This is absolutely unprecedented."

The IJOP spat out the names of people considered suspicious, such as thousands of "unauthorized" imams not registered with the Chinese government, along with their associates. Suspicious or extremist behavior was so broadly defined that it included going abroad, asking others to pray or using cell phone apps that cannot be monitored by the government.

The IJOP zoomed in on users of "Kuai Ya," a mobile application similar to the iPhone's Airdrop, which had become popular in Xinjiang because it allows people to exchange videos and messages privately. One bulletin showed that officials identified more than 40,000 "Kuai Ya" users for investigation and potential detention; of those, 32 were listed as belonging to "terrorist organizations."

"They're scared people will spread religion through 'Kuai Ya,'" said a man detained after police accused him of using the app. He spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to protect himself and his family. "They can't regulate it....So they want to arrest everyone who's used 'Kuai Ya' before."

The system also targeted people who obtained foreign passports or visas, reflecting the government's fear of Islamic extremist influences from abroad and deep discomfort with any connection between the Uighurs and the outside world. Officials were asked to verify the identities even of people outside the country, showing how China is casting its dragnet for Uighurs far beyond Xinjiang.

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In recent years, Beijing has put pressure on countries to which Uighurs have fled, such as Thailand and Afghanistan, to send them back to China. In other countries, state security has also contacted Uighurs and pushed them to spy on each other. For example, a restaurateur now in Turkey, Qurbanjan Nurmemet, said police contacted him with videos of his son strapped to a chair and asked him for information on other Uighurs in Turkey.

Despite the Chinese government's insistence that the camps are vocational training centers for the poor and uneducated, the documents show that those rounded up included party officials and university students.

After the names were collected, lists of targeted people were passed to prefecture governments, who forwarded them to district heads, then local police stations, neighbor watchmen, and Communist Party cadres living with Uighur families.

Some former detainees recalled being summoned by officers and told their names were listed for detention. From there, people were funneled into different parts of the system, from house arrest to detention centers with three levels of monitoring to, at its most extreme, prison.

Experts say the detentions are a clear violation of China's own laws and constitution. Margaret Lewis, a professor of Chinese law at Seton Hall University, said the Communist Party is circumventing the Chinese legal system in Xinjiang.

"Once you're stamped as an enemy, the gloves go off," she said. "They're not even trying to justify this legally....This is arbitrary."

The detention campaign is sweeping. A bulletin notes that in a single week in June 2017, the IJOP identified 24,612 "suspicious persons" in southern Xinjiang, with 15,683 sent to "education and training," 706 to prison and 2,096 to house arrest. It is unknown how typical this week might be. Local officials claim far less than a million are in "training," but researchers estimate up to 1.8 million have been detained at one point or another.

The bulletins stress that relationships must be scrutinized closely, with those interrogated pushed to report the names of friends and relatives. Mamattursun Omar, a Uighur chef arrested after working in Egypt, was interrogated in four detention facilities over nine months in 2017. Omar told the AP that police asked him to verify the identities of other Uighurs in Egypt.

Eventually, Omar says, they began torturing him to make him confess that Uighur students had gone to Egypt to take part in jihad. They strapped him to a contraption called a "tiger chair," shocked him with electric batons, beat him with pipes and whipped him with computer cords.

"I couldn't take it anymore," Omar said. "I just told them what they wanted me to say."

Omar gave the names of six others who worked at a restaurant with him in Egypt. All were sent to prison.

## WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE CAMPS

The documents also detail what happens after someone is sent to an "education and training center."

Publicly, in a recent white paper, China's State Council said "the personal freedom of trainees at the education and training centers is protected in accordance with the law." But internally, the documents describe facilities with police stations at the front gates, high guard towers, one-button alarms and video surveillance with no blind spots.

Detainees are only allowed to leave if absolutely necessary, for example because of illness, and even so must have somebody "specially accompany, monitor and control" them. Bath time and toilet breaks are strictly managed and controlled "to prevent escapes." And cell phones are strictly forbidden to stop "collusion between inside and outside."

"Escape was impossible," said Kazakh kindergarten administrator Sayragul Sauytbay, a Communist Party member who was abducted by police in November 2017 and forced to become a Mandarin camp instructor. "In every corner in every place there were armed police."

Sauytbay called the detention center a "concentration camp ... much more horrifying than prison," with rape, brainwashing and torture in a "black room" where people screamed. She and another former prisoner, Zumrat Dawut, also told the ICIJ detainees were given medication that made them listless and obedient, and every move was surveilled.



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AP journalists who visited Xinjiang in December 2018 saw patrol towers and high walls lined with green barbed wire fencing around camps. One camp in Artux, just north of Kashgar, sat in the middle of a vast, empty, rocky field, and appeared to include a police station at the entrance, workshops, a hospital and dormitories, one with a sign reading "House of Workers" in Chinese.

Recent satellite imagery shows that guard towers and fencing have been removed from some facilities, suggesting the region may have been softening restrictions in response to global criticism. Shohrat Zakir, the governor of Xinjiang, said in March that those detained can now request time and go home on weekends, a claim the AP could not independently verify.

The first item listed as part of the curriculum is ideological education, a bold attempt to change how detainees think and act. It is partly rooted in the ancient Chinese belief in transformation through education -- taken before to terrifying extremes during the mass thought reform campaigns of Mao Zedong.

"It's the dark days of the Cultural Revolution, except now it's powered by high-tech," said Zenz, the researcher.

By showing students the error of their former ways, the centers are supposed to promote "repentance and confession," the directive said. For example, Qurban, the Kazakh herder, was handcuffed, brought to an interview with a Han Chinese leader and forced to acknowledge that he regretted visiting abroad.

The indoctrination goes along with what is called "manner education," where behavior is dictated down to ensuring "timely haircuts and shaves," "regular change of clothes" and "bathing once or twice a week." The tone, experts say, echoes a general perception by the Han Chinese government that Uighurs are prone to violence and need to be civilized -- in much the same way white colonialists treated indigenous people in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

"It's a similar kind of savior mentality -- that these poor Uighurs didn't understand that they were being led astray by extremists," said Darren Byler, a scholar of Uighur culture at the University of Washington. "The way they think about Uighurs in general is that they are backward, that they're not educated....these people are unhygienic and need to be taught how to clean themselves."

Students are to be allowed a phone conversation with relatives at least once a week, and can meet them via video at least once a month, the documents say. Trainers are told to pay attention to "the ideological problems and emotional changes that arise after family communications."

Mandarin is mandated. Beijing has said "the customs of all ethnic groups and the right to use their spoken and written languages are fully protected at the centers." But the documents show that in practice, lessons are taught in Mandarin, and it is the language to be used in daily communication.

A former staffer at Xinjiang TV now in Europe was also selected to become a Mandarin teacher during his month-long detention in 2017. Twice a day, detainees were lined up and inspected by police, and a few were questioned in Mandarin at random, he told the AP. Those who couldn't respond in Mandarin were beaten or deprived of food for days. Otherwise, speaking was forbidden.

One day, the former teacher recalled, an officer asked an old farmer in Mandarin whether he liked the detention center. The man apologized in broken Mandarin and Uighur, saying it was hard for him to understand because of his age. The officer strode over and struck the old man's head with a baton. He crumpled to the ground, bleeding.

"They didn't see us as humans," said the former teacher, who declined to provide his name out of fear of retribution against his family. "They treated us like animals -- like pigs, cows, sheep."

Detainees are tested on Mandarin, ideology and discipline, with "one small test per week, one medium test per month, and one big test per season," the documents state. These test scores feed into an elaborate point system.

Detainees who do well are to be rewarded with perks like family visits, and may be allowed to "graduate" and leave. Detainees who do poorly are to be sent to a stricter "management area" with longer detention times. Former detainees told the AP that punishments included food deprivation, handcuffing, solitary confinement, beatings and torture.

Detainees' scores are entered in the IJOP. Students are sent to separate facilities for "intensive skills

training" only after at least one year of learning ideology, law and Mandarin.

After they leave, the documents stipulate, every effort should be made to get them jobs. Some detainees describe being forced to sign job contracts, working long hours for low pay and barred from leaving factory grounds during weekdays.

Qurban, the Kazakh herder, said after nine months in the camp, a supervisor came to tell him he was "forgiven" but must never tell what he had seen. After he returned to his village, officials told him he had to work in a factory.

"If you don't go, we'll send you back to the center," an official said.

Qurban went to a garment factory, which he wasn't allowed to leave. After 53 days stitching clothes, he was released. After another month under house arrest, he finally was allowed to return to Kazakhstan and see his children. He received his salary in cash: 300 Chinese yuan, or just under \$42.

Long an ordinary herder who thought little of politics, Qurban used to count many Han Chinese among his friends. Now, he said, he's begun to hate them.

"I've never committed a crime, I've never done anything wrong," he said. "It was beyond comprehension why they put me there."

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This story has been corrected to show that Sayragul Sauytbay was abducted in November 2017, not October 2017.

## A second chance on Chicago's South Side

By MARTHA IRVINE AP National Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — With the echo of African drums, Fairfield Avenue comes alive.

Men, women and children, drawn to their front porches by the pulsing beat, witness an impromptu parade led by 60-year-old Hasan Smith. A long line of well-wishers follows him to the home that he helped rebuild — the first home he has ever owned.

"Hello, neighbors!" his wife, Mary, shouts.

They all wave, and celebrate another chapter in the rebirth of a neighborhood.

Today, the area known as Chicago Lawn is a place where kids ride bikes, where revelers gather for block parties and street dances, where shoppers frequent a farmers' market and a resale shop in a once-vacant storefront and where neighborhood teens find work at a screen-printing business.

Though still a work in progress, this is not the South Side of Chicago of violent repute — shootings, gangs, forgotten main streets and residential blocks plagued with boarded-up houses and apartment buildings.

Chicago Lawn was once all that; its streets were littered with abandoned homes, especially after the 2008 mortgage crisis took hold. "In some blocks, it looked like a war zone," said the Rev. Anthony Pizzo, then a priest at St. Rita of Cascia Catholic church, a rare neighborhood mainstay.

But then, a feisty core of residents, the Smiths included, banded together to save this place.

They are doing so with an unexpected mix of people in an often-segregated city, with neighbors who don't always speak the same language, practice the same religion or trust one another. They are African Americans, Hispanic immigrants, Muslims, Catholics, Jews — and "returning citizens," men fresh from prison, like Hasan Smith, a former gang member who served nearly three decades for shooting and killing a man in a drug-related crime. He was just 19 at the time.

"I told myself when I get there, I'm going to be running, moving forward," said Smith, who came to Chicago Lawn in 2006 in search of a second chance. Many others are doing the same, moving into rehabbed bungalows and apartments.

And sparking nothing short of a Chicago Lawn renaissance.

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The comeback is a particularly stunning feat when you consider the neighborhood's history.

Decades earlier, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. marched into what was then an ethnic-white neighborhood, lined with quaint Chicago-style brick bungalows and small apartment buildings. Many who lived in

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the neighborhood worked at the National Biscuit Co. bakery, now Nabisco. King arrived with his own small but determined coalition. They came to demand fair access to housing for African Americans who'd been limited to slums by redlining. Met by angry white protesters, King was struck with a rock and temporarily deterred.

"I have never seen — even in Mississippi and Alabama — mobs as hostile and as hate-filled as I've seen here in Chicago," he would say.

The racial makeup of the neighborhood began to shift as many whites left the South Side. By the 1990s, Chicago Lawn was tipping to majority African American with a Hispanic contingent that also steadily grew. Many who came here were first-time homebuyers.

Jose and Maria Mena bought a three-unit brick apartment building in 1990 to share with their extended family, including Mena's mom and a disabled sister. Jose, now 60, came from Mexico as a teen to pick strawberries in California, then made his way to Chicago to work in a factory that produced ice cube trays and other plastic goods. He met wife Maria there. Both learned English, earned their GEDs and became citizens after being granted amnesty by the Reagan administration.

The neighborhood was rough back then, known for its drug houses and Friday night gang fights on a local school lot. But that also made it affordable. As the housing market boomed in the early to mid-2000s, it seemed like anyone could buy a home, Mena said.

But because of language barriers or confusion over loan terms, such as adjustable rates, many were perched precariously on the edge of the housing bubble when it burst in 2008. Some with lower credit scores also had received subprime loans with high interest rates. Before the collapse, block after block of storefronts were filled with mortgage lenders and real estate offices that mostly disappeared after.

"They trick the people. They just told what's convenient for them," said Jose, who had neighbors and extended family members who were losing their homes. He and Maria went through their own tough financial times, though never faced foreclosure.

They'd also never been very politically active. But when Pizzo and organizers from a neighborhood organization known as the Southwest Organizing Project, or SWOP, called for bank protests in 2009, the Menas were among those who stepped forward. Because they were citizens, they felt a duty to represent those who were not.

A few weeks later, the group scheduled a meeting with Bank of America officials at St. Rita's — some inside, asking the bank to work with those in danger of foreclosure, while others prayed outside on the church steps.

"It was the first time people came out with no shame to share testimonies," said Imelda Salazar, a Guatemalan immigrant who became a neighborhood organizer with SWOP.

Ultimately, they worked with the banks through repayment, credit counseling and refinancing to save more than 500 individuals and families from foreclosure.

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When Hasan Smith first arrived in Chicago Lawn, he moved into a halfway house apartment above the neighborhood business district, 63rd Street. Until the hot water was fixed, his first few showers were ice cold. He watched his first roommate, another young man fresh from prison, come and go. "He didn't last one day."

Still, after spending "27 years, three months and six days" locked away, it was a strange and wonderful feeling to walk into this three-bedroom apartment that belonged to the Inner-City Muslim Action Network, or IMAN.

Smith had become Muslim in prison. He was drawn to the teachings of the Quran and the routine and still finds peace in daily prayers. The man known as Nathaniel to his family and "Slick" on the streets of Chicago — "I did what I had to do and I got out the way" — took on the name Hasan, meaning handsome and good.

Growing up in the Stateway Gardens projects, he had chosen gang life because he felt he had few options. He became, by his own regretful admission, a tyrant. But at home, he was still the baby-faced boy

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who dutifully did his chores and homework, even as a teen. His parents were strict but powerless against the outside forces. "All this stuff you're doing in the streets, you can't bring it in here," he remembers them saying. "If you get money, we don't want it."

Rafi Peterson could relate. Now a well-known figure in Chicago Lawn who works both with SWOP and IMAN, he was what he called a "criminal's criminal" as a young man, stealing from drug dealers and pimps. He too grew up in the projects and converted to Islam in prison. The two men, who would become lifelong friends, met when a physician Smith was working for introduced them.

"Come on. Bring your stuff," Peterson told Smith, who went on to become the first graduate of IMAN's reentry program, which teaches former prisoners work and life skills.

Smith got a job at a printing company and worked with Peterson as a violence interrupter, using their knowledge as former gang members to diffuse conflict.

It wasn't easy. As more homes vacated, crime in Chicago Lawn grew rampant. At one point, IMAN went to court to go after gang members who were squatting in an abandoned apartment building, Peterson said. A young woman who'd been raped was found next to the building.

One year before the housing crash, Peterson purchased his own brick bungalow a couple blocks away. He resisted painting over gang graffiti inside a bedroom closet. More than a decade later, the initials were still there — S.D. for Satan Disciples, one of a few gangs that had splintered and persisted, even when their leaders were taken down.

"I wanted to remember what we came from," he explained.

As they took a stand, neighbors started coming to Peterson, Smith and the growing cadre of "brothers" when there was trouble — often before they called police. They knew they could count on them.

By 2012, there were at least 665 abandoned homes and apartment buildings in Chicago Lawn, counted by staff and volunteers at SWOP. The boarded-up homes were most obvious. Others were given away by their stuffed mailboxes, overgrown lawns and no signs of life for days on end, except perhaps the odd feral cat and other critters that squeezed in through broken windows.

Neighbors and SWOP came together to form a plan. They also called upon outside supporters such as United Power, a large coalition of Chicago neighborhood organizations and churches, and recruited volunteer attorneys, a property developer and one large early funder, the MacArthur Foundation, also based in the city.

They would, they decided, raise funds and buy up corner properties to spark redevelopment. They would, as they put it, "reclaim" the neighborhood.

They knew this was not the South Side story people expected, and that only fueled their fire.

They started with a rally, passing the hat as attendees threw in \$5, \$10, maybe \$20. MacArthur pledged \$500,000.

Eventually, Lisa Madigan, then Illinois attorney general, agreed to tour the neighborhood. She added \$3 million from funds that Illinois, other states and the federal government received from five of the nation's largest banks — Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Ally Bank and Bank of America — accused of fraudulent foreclosure-processing tactics in Chicago and elsewhere.

At another rally, Pizzo — the priest, known for his ability to stir a crowd and the silver crew cut that often leads people to mistake him for a cop — asked then Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn for \$5 million. When Quinn politely said he'd consider it, Pizzo's peers sent him back up to press the governor for a firm commitment.

Pizzo's throat tightened. "You know, I'm used to preaching, right?" he said. "I can ask for things, but it was never something like this before."

The coalition walked away that night with Quinn's promise for \$4 million and tax credits, giving the neighborhood collective enough to leverage what they had for grants and low-interest loans.

They began with a 20-block area in Chicago Lawn, among the hardest hit with 93 vacant buildings. The first project — a 13-unit brick apartment building — was finished in 2016.

Jamillah Rashad, now 36, and her two children were among the first to move into one of the apartments in a neighborhood from which her brother had been chased when he was in high school because he "didn't

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belong." Now for the first time in her adult life, she was putting up artwork on her walls.

"I never sat still enough to feel like I existed in a place long enough," said Rashad, who works in early childhood education. This felt like home.

By last year, all but eight of the original 93 properties in that first target area had been rehabbed — some by SWOP, some by IMAN and others by private developers.

Fundraising to tackle the remainder of the neighborhood had already begun. And this time, Rafi Peterson was the first to drop \$20 into the bucket.

Hasan Smith met his wife Mary at a grocery store five years ago. Drawn to her talkative, upbeat nature, Smith told his friend, "That's gonna be my girl." Unlike him, she was a Christian, but their values aligned. He brought her to the neighborhood and asked her to keep an open mind.

"You can be a visitor and not see everything," Mary said recently. "So I had to see for myself."

She noticed the security guards posted along 63rd Street storefronts. She occasionally heard gunfire in the distance. But she saw the potential — in this place and in him.

So after they married, they moved into an apartment in Chicago Lawn in early 2016 and eventually spotted a vacant home down the street that they both liked. Smith had earned his general contractor's license, and last winter, he and a new cohort of young recruits began the work of gutting and rebuilding it.

One of them was Edward "Tron" Borden Jr. "In my world, Hasan is somebody," the 30-year-old young man, still with gang ties, said one day after helping attach drywall to a ceiling and noticing Smith's fading gang tattoos.

Summer temperatures brought a flurry of other activity to the neighborhood, hands digging into dirt to plant flowers or sweep streets at a neighborhood cleanup, the frequent sound of hammers tapping and saws buzzing — and still at night, some gunfire. But there has been some good news on that front: police data shows that violent and property crimes in Chicago Lawn have dropped about 45% since 2008, when the mortgage crisis began.

Of the original 665 vacant homes and apartment buildings, well over 300 are now filled, with more to come.

That success prompted Illinois lawmakers this summer to approve an additional \$12 million for more rehabs — and another \$3 million to bring this model to North Lawndale, a West Side neighborhood racked with violence and poverty.

Nick Brunick, an attorney and leader with United Power, is among those who've spent countless hours lobbying for funding. A resident of suburban Oak Park, 12 miles yet worlds away from Chicago Lawn in many ways, he also has helped bring white supporters to the neighborhood to join the cause — some who grew up there.

The newly elected mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, has taken notice. The next major goal, Brunick said, is to rebuild "1,000 homes on the South Side and 1,000 homes on the West Side." He said an affiliate organization in New York City has similar aspirations, also "driven by local families and institutions." As he sees it, their successful formula could help struggling neighborhoods across the country.

As Lightfoot prepared to meet this fall with a gathering of hundreds of families and neighborhood leaders pushing this movement, Hasan and Mary Smith marched down their street with the drummers, family and friends.

Hasan, a man of few words, insisted that his wife speak first as they stood in front of their new home. She thanked their friends and read a Bible verse.

That inspired Hasan, who told the group that his work was a "chance to give back to the community that I once destroyed."

Days later, he was singing with a band assembled in their back yard as the sun set. A grandson played nearby.

"It's been a long time coming," he crooned. "But I know a change gonna come, yes it will."

This was just as he'd pictured it.

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## Grocery-carrying robots are coming. Do we need them?

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The first cargo-carrying robot marketed directly to consumers is on sale this holiday season. But how many people are ready to ditch their second car to buy a two-wheeled rover that can follow them around like a dog?

Corporate giants like Amazon, FedEx and Ford have already been experimenting with sending delivery robots to doorsteps. Now Piaggio, the Italian company that makes the Vespa scooter, is offering a stylish alternative to those blandly utilitarian machines — albeit one that weighs 50 pounds (23 kilograms) and costs \$3,250.

It's named the Gita (JEE'-tah) after the Italian word for a short, pleasurable excursion — the kind you might take to pick up some lacinato kale and gourmet cheese at the farmers market. Its creators have such trips in mind for the "hands-free carrier" that can hold produce and other objects as it follows its owner down a sidewalk.

"We're trying to get you out into the world and connected to that neighborhood you decided to move to because it was so walkable," said Greg Lynn, CEO of Piaggio's tech-focused subsidiary, Piaggio Fast Forward.

Tech industry analysts are already declaring the Gita as doomed to fail unless it finds a more practical application, such as lugging tools around warehouses, hospitals or factory floors.

"That's a lot of money for what is in effect just a cargo-carrying robot that's going to carry your groceries," said Forrester technology analyst J.P. Gownder.

On a recent November morning, Lynn was hunched over in a Boston waterfront park, pushing a button that triggered a Gita to "see" him with its cameras and sensors. Then came a musical whirring sound as the device — a squarish, bright red bucket with two oversized wheels — rose up and signaled it was ready for a neighborhood stroll.

A young boy in a stroller pointed excitedly. Another pedestrian asked to try it, and playfully shouted "ah!" as it swerved around, keeping in pursuit as she switched directions.

The Gita doesn't require a phone or intrusive people-tracking technology such as facial recognition or GPS. "It basically just locks onto you and tracks you," said Piaggio Fast Forward's other co-founder, Jeffrey Schnapp.

Other startups like Starship Technologies have a more conventional business plan for their own delivery robots. The company charges a delivery fee starting at \$1.99 if you order its rovers to bring you a Starbucks coffee or a lunch from Panda Express.

So far, the best habitat to find Starship's six-wheelers are relatively confined spaces such as college campuses; the University of Houston and the University of Wisconsin-Madison rolled them out this fall. The robots, which look like oversized ice chests on wheels, can carry up to 20 pounds (9 kilograms).

"I love them. I think they're so cute!" University of Houston freshman Sadie Garcia said as one of the machines rolled up with a bagel sandwich she'd ordered. She said she was so cold she didn't want to leave her dorm.

Starship co-founder Ahti Heinla said his San Francisco startup once looked at selling the machines directly to consumers, but dropped the idea after realizing it would have to price them at more than \$3,000.

Amazon is experimenting with a similar-looking machine that delivers retail goods in a handful of U.S. neighborhoods. FedEx is testing its own delivery rover in partnership with Pizza Hut, Walmart, Target and Walgreens. Ford has showed off a gangly two-legged robot to carry items to homes. So far, none are as far along as Starship, which has hundreds of its machines already in service.

While Forrester's Gownder isn't impressed with the Gita, he's bullish about delivery robots of the Starship variety because their autonomy will help save labor costs. Gownder said it's more of a question of

whether ground-based rovers or aerial delivery drones will prove more successful.

The wheeled cargo robots that have already made it out into the wild have significant limitations.

Starship's machines still require plenty of manual supervision to load them with food orders. They rely on remote pilots to troubleshoot navigation problems. Customers also have to check a phone app to tell the vehicle where to go and to unlock the bin once it arrives.

The Gita, meanwhile, might still be impractical for many people. It favors paved environments that are dense enough to have stores in walking distance, but not so dense that the machines get lost in the crowd.

And anyone who is simply looking to pull home groceries without heavy lifting can find durable wagons online for less than \$100.

Associated Press video journalists John L. Mone in Houston and Rodrique Ngowi in Cambridge, Massachusetts, contributed to this report.

## **Pentagon chief fires Navy secretary over SEAL controversy**

**By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Sunday fired the Navy's top official, ending a stunning clash between President Donald Trump and top military leadership over the fate of a SEAL accused of war crimes in Iraq.

Esper said he had lost confidence in Navy Secretary Richard Spencer and alleged that Spencer proposed a deal with the White House behind his back to resolve the SEAL's case. Trump has championed the matter of Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, who was acquitted of murder in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive but convicted of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017.

Spencer's firing was a dramatic turn in the fast-changing and politically charged controversy. It exposed fissures in Trump's relationship with the highest ranks of the U.S. military and raised questions about the appropriate role of a commander in chief in matters of military justice.

Gallagher was demoted from chief petty officer to a 1st class petty officer after his conviction by a military jury. Trump, however, restored Gallagher's rank this month.

The situation escalated again in recent days.

On Wednesday, the Navy had notified Gallagher that he would face a Navy SEAL review board to determine if he should be allowed to remain in the elite force. While Trump then tweeted that he would not allow the Navy to remove Gallagher from the SEALs by taking away his Trident Pin, which designates a SEAL member, the White House told the Navy it could proceed as planned, according to a Navy officer who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

That initially appeared to defuse the situation. The Navy SEAL review board was due to hear Gallagher's case on Dec. 2.

Spencer, speaking Saturday at an international security forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, said that he did not consider a tweet by Trump a formal order to stop the Navy review board.

"I need a formal order to act," Spencer said. He said of Trump's tweets, "I don't interpret them as a formal order."

But on Sunday, Esper said he had learned that Spencer had "privately" proposed to the White House that Gallagher be allowed to retire in his current rank and without losing his status as a SEAL. Esper said Spencer had not told him of the proposal to the White House, causing him to lose "trust and confidence."

A spokesperson for Spencer, Navy Cmdr. Sarah Higgins, said Spencer had no immediate comment. The White House did not provide details of Spencer's alleged private proposal regarding Gallagher.

In yet another twist, Esper also directed on Sunday that Gallagher be allowed to retire at the end of this month, and that the Navy review board that was scheduled to hear his case starting Dec. 2 be cancelled. At Esper's direction, Gallagher will be allowed to retire as a SEAL at his current rank.

That effectively gives Trump the outcome he sought.

In a letter to Trump acknowledging "my termination," Spencer said he had concluded that he and the

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president appear no longer to share the same understanding of "the key principle of good order and discipline."

"I cannot in good conscience obey an order that I believe violates the sacred oath I took in the presence of my family, my flag and my faith to support and defend the Constitution of the United States," he wrote. He did not cite a specific order.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said Esper's position had been that the Navy's disciplinary process should be allowed to "play itself out objectively and deliberately."

"However, at this point, given the events of the last few days," Esper decided that Gallagher should be allowed to retain his SEAL status, Hoffman said. He said Esper had concluded that Gallagher could not, under the circumstances, receive a fair shake from the Navy.

In the written statement, Esper said of Spencer: "I am deeply troubled by this conduct shown by a senior DOD official. Unfortunately, as a result I have determined that Secretary Spencer no longer has my confidence to continue in his position. I wish Richard well."

Gallagher, speaking Sunday on "Fox & Friends," alleged the Navy was acting in retaliation.

"They could have taken my Trident at any time they wanted," he said. "Now they're trying to take it after the president restored my rank."

Those who have their Trident pins removed will no longer be SEALs but could remain in the Navy. The Navy has revoked 154 Trident pins since 2011.

Spencer, 65, had served as Navy secretary since August 2017. He was a Wall Street investment banker and is a veteran of the Marine Corps. He and Esper were Pentagon peers during the period that Esper served as Army secretary, prior to being sworn in as defense secretary last July.

In a series of tweets Sunday evening, Trump said he had been unhappy with the Navy's handling of the Gallagher case. "Likewise, large cost overruns from past administration's contracting procedures were not addressed to my satisfaction," Trump added without specifics.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., issued a statement saying Spencer "did the right thing" and "should be proud of standing up to President Trump when he was wrong, something too many in this Administration and the Republican Party are scared to do. Good order, discipline, and morale among the Armed Services must transcend politics, and Secretary Spencer's commitment to these principles with not be forgotten."

Sen. Jim Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who chairs the Armed Services Committee, said Trump and Esper "deserve to have a leadership team who has their trust and confidence." He also acknowledged that he and Spencer had disagreed at times over the management of specific Navy programs.

Trump said he was nominating Kenneth Braithwaite, a retired Navy rear admiral and the current U.S. ambassador to Norway, to succeed Spencer. In a tweet, Trump called Braithwaite "a man of great achievement and success."

## Above-ground power lines grow in risk as climate changes

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trees toppling onto above-ground power lines spark wildfires, more than 1,000 of them in the last decade in California alone. The wires snap in blizzards and hurricanes, causing dayslong outages. Everywhere, power poles topple in all kinds of disasters, blocking escape routes.

Around the U.S., dealing with the vulnerability of overhead power lines — one of many problems that experts say will only get worse as the climate deteriorates — by burying them or strengthening them is spotty and disorganized on a national level, and painfully slow, at best.

Utilities say there's no one best way to safeguard the millions of miles of U.S. power lines and that doing so would cost many billions of dollars — \$3 million for a single mile of power lines by some estimates. Critics counter by pointing to the at least equally great economic costs of outages and utility-sparked wildfires. Estimated property losses for a single such wildfire, a California blaze that killed 85 last year, reached \$16.5 billion.



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Overall, electrical outages caused by bad weather cost the U.S. economy up to \$33 billion in an average year — and more, in an especially bad weather year, the Energy Department estimated in 2013. The researchers estimated there were 679 widespread outages from harsh weather between 2003 and 2012.

After electrical wires sparked many of California's major wildfires in 2017 and 2018, and threatened more this autumn, many there turned their fear and anger on PG&E, the state's largest investor-owned utility.

Vicki McCaslin, a 60-year-old repeat evacuee in the San Francisco Bay area, described spotting a PG&E worker in her neighborhood during a lull in last month's wind and fires.

McCaslin burst into tears as she begged the utility worker to cut off power to her area before the winds and wildfires resumed, she recounted. "It scares me to death to think of those kinds of winds with our power on."

Nationally, experts say, problems with 19th century-style set-ups of wires dangling from wooden poles will only grow as climate change increases the severity and frequency of hurricanes, wildfires, big snowstorms and other disasters like tornados.

It's a problem nationwide, not just in California. In coastal states such as Florida, hurricanes topple poles and knock out power for days. And in heartland states like Minnesota, it's wintry ice storms and high winds that bring the electrical wires crashing down.

Crucially, though, it's not a nationally regulated problem. That means that across the country, involvement and funding from the federal government on burying and otherwise strengthening community electrical grids have been scattered and small-scale.

That's because it's state and local officials, not federal ones, who hold most of the direct regulatory authority over local electrical infrastructure and local utility rates, said Ted Kury, director of energy studies for the University of Florida's Public Utility Research Center.

Federal regulators' role is largely limited to overseeing high-voltage transmission lines that cross state borders.

Nationally, a 2012 study estimated one-fourth of new power lines are buried.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard-mitigation program has handed out \$176 million for 156 projects to bury power lines, in 16 states and four U.S. territories, FEMA says. Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation this year to encourage moving power lines underground, has been one of the top recipients, along with Minnesota.

But the FEMA hazard-mitigation grants for the work so far break down to a little more than \$1 million per project. In California, where PG&E oversees 100,000 miles of overhead electrical lines, that average size of grant doesn't cover the price tag PG&E puts on burying a single mile of line.

That mostly leaves households with the bill for doing any burying of power lines, mostly through increased electrical rates.

In practice, that means more affluent communities with the means to pay higher rates are sometimes the ones getting their lines buried, in decisions driven as much by looks as by safety and convenience.

In Palm Beach, Florida, a resort community of first, second and third homes, property owners paid attention when a utility began to erect unlovely concrete power poles as part of an effort to harden the state's electrical grid against hurricanes.

Instead of accepting the concrete poles, Palm Beach's residents narrowly voted in 2017 to pay for a \$90 million bond issue, paid for by property owners, to bury the overhead lines.

"There's big benefits," said Steven Stern, manager of Palm Beach's undergrounding utilities program, who noted hurricanes sometimes knocked out power for days. And "the look is fantastic."

In some places, burying the electrical lines is all but physically impossible, utilities and others argue.

In parts of California's Sierra Nevada and other ranges, for instance, that would entail excavating into granite.

In Florida, Mike Hyland, senior vice president of the American Public Power Association for community-owned utilities, has seen utilities try and fail to bury cable in the unstable sand.

Utility companies argue that in some parts of the country, burying power lines would make problems

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worse, especially as storms and sea rise worsen with climate change. Hyland points to Superstorm Sandy in 2012, when a nearly 14-foot tidal surge flooded underground electrical networks even as the storm toppled above-ground lines, depriving more than 8 million people of power.

For electric utilities looking at how to harden their networks against the varied climate change potpourri of sea rise, heavy rains, wind, drought and wildfires, "it's all these scenarios coming at you," Hyland said. "Plus at the end of the day you've got a squirrel jumping on your lines."

In California, state leaders and ordinary people increasingly accuse PG&E of negligence for not moving faster to safeguard power lines serving more than 5 million homes and businesses.

California's worst wildfire seasons on record, in terms of property damage and deaths, were in 2017 and 2018. State fire investigators found sparks from PG&E electrical equipment responsible for many of the fires. That includes the state's deadliest fire ever, a wildfire — started by PG&E power lines — that killed 85 people and all but wiped out the northern California town of Paradise.

State investigations in recent years concluded the utility put a priority on financial performance, including diverting millions of dollars intended for safety upgrades to shareholders and to bonuses for company executives.

The state is requiring PG&E to make \$5 billion in safety improvements, said Ann Patterson, one of the members of a team appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to safeguard residents from the electrical network. Burying power lines is "one tool in the toolbox" to that end, Patterson said.

PG&E spokeswoman Jennifer Robison says the utility has spent \$15 billion on its electrical network over the last five years and will have buried or otherwise hardened 150 miles of power lines in 2019 by the end of the year.

PG&E proposes to cover, strengthen or bury 7,100 miles of overhead lines in the next decade, Robison said.

That's less than one-10th of the utility's existing overhead lines, however.

In the meantime, PG&E this year stepped up a controversial program of intentional cut-offs during times of high winds. Two months of widespread, repeat outages — one of which affected 2.5 million people — plunged countless into darkness and ignited criticism from lawmakers.

Gecker contributed from California.

## Alaska Native ice cellars failing amid environmental changes

By RACHEL D'ORO Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — For generations, people in Alaska's far-north whaling villages have relied on hand-built ice cellars dug deep into the permafrost to age their subsistence food to perfection and keep it cold throughout the year.

Scores of the naturally refrigerated food caches lie beneath these largely Inupiat communities, where many rely on hunting and fishing to feed their families. They range from small arctic root cellars to spacious, wood-lined chambers, some topped with sheds.

Now, a growing number of these underground cellars are being rendered unreliable as global warming and other modern factors force changes to an ancient way of life. Some villages are working to adapt as more cellars — some stocked with tons of whale, walrus and other meats — turn up with pooling water and mold.

"I'm worried," said Gordon Brower, a whaling captain who lives in Utqiagvik, the nation's northernmost community, which logged its warmest May through September on record this year.

His family has two ice cellars: One is more than 100 years old and used to store at least 2 tons (1.8 metric tons) of frozen bowhead whale meat set aside for community feasts; the other was built in 1955, and is used as the family's private subsistence-food cache.

Brower recently asked his son to retrieve some whale meat from one of the cellars, and discovered

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liquids had pooled in both.

"He came back and said, 'Dad, there's a pool of blood and water at the bottom,'" recalled Brower, the North Slope Borough's planning and development director. He pulled the community meat outside and has kept it under a tarp because the weather is cold enough now to keep it from spoiling.

"It seems like slight temporary variations in the permafrost — that active layer — is affecting the temperature of our cellar," Brower said.

Residents and researchers say the problem has been building for decades as a warming climate touches multiple facets of life in the far north — thawing permafrost, disruptions in hunting patterns and shorter periods of coastal ice that historically protected coastal communities from powerful storms. Other factors include development and soil conditions.

The changes have increased vulnerability to foodborne illnesses and raised concerns about food security, according to studies by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The group and state health officials say they have so far not heard of anyone getting sick.

There were once at least 50 ice cellars in Point Hope, an Inupiat whaling village built on a triangular spit surrounded by a large inlet and the Chukchi and Arctic oceans. Now, fewer than 20 remain, according to village services supervisor Russell Lane, a whaling captain who has lived his 52 years in the community of 750. The problems with cellars have become more pronounced in the past two decades, he said.

To compensate, Point Hope whaling captains have use of three walk-in freezers that were donated for use by the whaling community. But the much colder freezers do not impart the taste of aged whale meat so favored throughout the region. Lane himself initially stores meat in the traditional ice cellar his wife's family owns, frequently checking it until it reaches the right maturity before he transfers it to a freezer.

"It's definitely a challenge at this time to be able to feed our people that acquired taste," Lane said.

Despite the unprecedented rate of climate change today, however, ice cellars failed in the past, including one account of a cellar developing mold in the early 1900s, according to a study published in 2017 that looked at traditional cellars in Utqiagvik, formerly named Barrow, following reports of flooded and collapsed cellars. The study, funded by the National Science Foundation and George Washington University, found ice cellars don't meet federally recommended temperature standards, but allow the culturally preferred aging to occur.

The study was inconclusive about the cause of ice cellar failures, citing an absence of extensive scientific analysis. Researchers mapped 71 ice cellar locations around town and monitored five functioning cellars from 2005 to 2015, finding little thermal change over that relatively short timeframe. One of those cellars has since failed, however, and another is starting to collapse, according to one of the study's authors, George Washington University research scientist Kelsey Nyland.

The study concluded that while a changing climate has great potential to affect ice cellars, there are other factors, including soil conditions and urban development. For example, some Utqiagvik residents might inadvertently warm the soil beneath their cellars by putting sheds on top of the entrances to keep them free of snow, Nyland said.

"Climate change, air temperatures, all these physical changes are affecting them," she said. "But also, a lot of it has to do with development and modern life in an arctic setting."

To adapt to the new environment, the village of Kaktovik, on the Beaufort Sea coast, took ambitious steps after it lost all but one family's cellar to flooding.

In 2013, the village launched a project to build a community ice cellar incorporating traditional designs with contemporary technology used in Alaska's North Slope oil fields — thermosyphons, off-grid tubelike refrigeration devices that cool the ground by transferring heat outside.

The hand-excavated cellar was ready for use in 2017, but it has yet to be filled. Whaling captains want to expand it first, according to whaling captain George Kaleak Sr., who represents Kaktovik on the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.

Temperature sensors inside the cellar show it's working as intended, Kaleak said. He expects the expansion to begin as early as next spring.

In the meantime, subsistence foods are stored in three 40-foot (12-meter) village freezer vans. But that

equipment is no substitute for imparting that aged taste so prized in the region, Kaleak noted. He hopes the new cellar mimics that process.

"There's nothing that tastes better than ice cellar food," he said.

Follow Rachel D'Oro at <https://twitter.com/rdoro>

## What's next in impeachment: Judiciary Committee up next?

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.

Democratic House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday he won't foreclose the possibility of his committee undertaking more depositions and hearings in the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. Schiff said on CNN's "State of the Union" that his committee continues to conduct investigative work, but he won't let the Trump administration stall the inquiry.

Schiff's staff and others are compiling the panel's findings to submit to the House Judiciary Committee, which is expected to open its own hearings to consider articles of impeachment and a formal recommendation of charges. He said his committee may need to file addendums to its report so that the Judiciary Committee can move ahead.

"The investigation isn't going to end," Schiff said.

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 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.

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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 or 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.

## Swift moonwalks past Michael Jackson’s record at AMA Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Taylor Swift has moonwalked past Michael Jackson’s record at the 2019 American Music Awards, taking home six honors including artist of the year and artist of the decade.

The pop star, who walked into Sunday night’s show with 23 AMAs, surpassed the King of Pop’s 24 wins at the fan-voted show. She rambled onstage as she won the final award of the night — artist of the year — and repeatedly thanked her fans for always showing up — during both the good and bad times.

“This year has been a lot of good, a lot of really complicated, so behalf of my family and me, thank you so much for being there and caring,” said Swift, who now has 29 AMAs.

It was a family affair at the AMAs: Swift’s father and teary-eyed mom sang along as the singer performed a medley of her hit songs — a performance Swift said in a Nov. 15 social media post was put in jeopardy by Scott Borchetta and Scooter Braun, the owners of her master recordings.

She didn’t mention the men during her acceptance speeches at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, but this did thank her new label for allowing her to freely express herself as an artist.

“This album really felt like a new beginning, and I also really love my record label, Universal and Republic. Monte Lipman, Lucian Grainge, thank you for being so generous to me and allowing me to make

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whatever music I want to make," Swift said after winning favorite pop/rock album for "Lover," her first album not released on Borchetta's Big Machine Label Group. "As a songwriter it's so thrilling to me that I get to keep doing that."

Swift's other wins include favorite female pop/rock artist, favorite adult contemporary artist and favorite music video for "You Need to Calm Down."

Other big winners at the AMAs included Khalid and BTS — neither act attended the show but won three prizes.

Billie Eilish picked up two awards — new artist of the year and favorite alternative artist. She also took the stage — surrounded by fire — to perform her song, "All the Good Girls Go to Hell."

Lizzo, who was nominated for three honors but walked away empty handed, screamed at the top of her lungs while performing the ballad "Jerome," one of several songs from her album that earned her a leading eight Grammy nominations.

Christina Aguilera was a vocal powerhouse when she took the stage alongside A Great Big World and rock icon Ozzy Osbourne — who has been recovering from a bad fall that took place earlier this year — was a highlight as he performed with Post Malone and Travis Scott.

Shania Twain closed the night with a memorable performance. Other nostalgic performances included Toni Braxton and Green Day.

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello heated up the stage as they stood close together while singing "Senorita," staring in each other's eyes as they sang from one microphone at times. They even rubbed noses at the end.

The pair won collaboration of the year for their No. 1 hit song. Other winners included Dan + Shay, Halsey and Lil Nas X. Top nominee Post Malone took home favorite rap/hip-hop album for "Hollywood's Bleeding" and Carrie Underwood was appropriately teary-eyed as she won favorite country album for "Cry Pretty."

"It's been a wonderful year," Underwood said.

Selena Gomez kicked off the AMAs as Swift and Halsey got out of their seats to cheer their pal on. R&B singer Ciara hosted the show, which aired live on ABC.

## AP Top 25: No. 2 Ohio State gains on LSU; Oregon drops to 14

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

No. 2 Ohio State gained some ground on No. 1 LSU in The Associated Press college football poll and Oregon dropped out of the top 10 after being upset by Arizona State.

The Tigers remained No. 1 for the fifth straight week in the AP Top 25 presented by Regions Bank, receiving 50 first-place votes. The Buckeyes got nine first-place votes, up from five last week. No. 3 Clemson received three first-place votes. No. 4 Georgia and No. 5 Alabama also held their spots.

Ohio State is coming off a 28-17 victory over Penn State that dropped the Nittany Lions three spots to No. 12.

Oregon dropped eight spots to No. 14 after losing 31-28 at Arizona State. That allowed Utah to move up a spot to No. 6 and Oklahoma to No. 7. Florida, Minnesota and Michigan round out the top 10.

### POLL POINTS

Alabama has now been ranked for 209 consecutive weeks, starting with the 2008 preseason poll, tying Florida (Sept. 9, 1990-Oct. 5, 2002) for the third-longest streak in poll history. Nebraska has the longest streak at 348 weeks (21 years, Oct. 12, 1981-Sept. 22, 2002) and Florida State is second with 211 weeks (12 years, Sept. 24, 1989-Nov. 11, 2001).

The Tide should tie Bobby Bowden's Seminoles this season and surpass them in next year's preseason poll. There are typically 16 polls in a season, counting preseason and final. At that rate, Alabama would pass the record Nebraska set under coach Tom Osborne in Week 5 of the 2029 season.

FYI, Nick Saban would be about a month shy of his 78th birthday.

IN

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— No. 24 Navy jumped into the rankings, knocking out American Athletic Conference rival SMU.  
— No. 25 Southern California finished its regular season by beating rival UCLA and jumping back into the rankings. The Trojans have had two previous one-week stays in the poll this season.

## OUT

— Texas A&M fell out after a brief return to the AP Top 25. The Aggies lost for the fourth time, this time to Georgia. All of A&M's losses have come against teams ranked in the current top 16. It gets no easier for the Aggies next week. They will face No. 1 LSU and become the first team in the history of the AP poll, which dates to 1936, to face a No. 1 three times in one season. Playing the No. 1 team twice in one season has happened 30 times previously, and that's including seven teams that played one of those games in the postseason.

Texas A&M lost to No. 1 Clemson 24-10 in September and to No. 1 Alabama 47-28 in October.

## CONFERENCE CALL

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 19).

SEC — 5 (Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 16).

American — 3 (Nos. 17, 18, 24).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 7, 11, 21).

Pac 12 — 3 (Nos. 6, 14, 25).

ACC — 2 (Nos. 3, 23).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 20).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 22).

Independent — 1 (No. 15).

## RANKED vs. RANKED

No. 2 Ohio State at No. 10 Michigan. Is THIS the year Jim Harbaugh finally breaks through against the Buckeyes?

No. 5 Alabama at No. 16 Auburn. All eyes on Alabama backup quarterback Mac Jones in the Iron Bowl.

No. 7 Oklahoma at No. 21 Oklahoma State. Bedlam is for bragging rights and the Sooners' playoff hopes.

No. 13 Wisconsin at No. 9 Minnesota. The winner goes to the Big Ten championship game as West Division champion.

No. 18 Cincinnati at No. 17 Memphis. The Tigers need a victory to clinch the AAC West — and a rematch at home with the Bearcats the next week.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <http://www.westwoodonepodcasts.com/pods/ap-top-25-college-football-podcast/>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/APTop25CollegeFootballPoll> and <https://apnews.com/CollegeFootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Condolences pour in after shooting death of Alabama sheriff

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Law enforcement agencies in Alabama and beyond posted messages of condolences on social media Sunday in the aftermath of the fatal weekend shooting of a sheriff in the state.

Few details were immediately available about the circumstances surrounding Saturday evening's shooting and the capture of an 18-year-old suspect hours later.

Gov. Kay Ivey tweeted that Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams had been "tragically killed" in the line of duty and that she offered her prayers and sympathy to his family and the county sheriff's department. Williams is the fifth Alabama law enforcement officer to die from gunfire in the line of duty, and the sixth overall, in 2019, according to a statement from state Attorney General Steve Marshall.

The suspect in custody was identified as 18-year-old William Chase Johnson. Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham initially told news outlets that Williams was shot at a gas station.

It was unclear what, if any, role race played in the shooting. The sheriff was African American.

Meanwhile Sunday, amid messages of condolence from law enforcement agencies, members of the

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public responded with prayers and well wishes for the sheriff's family.

The state had issued an emergency alert late Saturday saying it was seeking an 18-year-old white man last seen around the time of the evening shooting at a QV gas station in the Lowndes County seat of Hayneville, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of the capital city of Montgomery.

Sgt. Steve Jarrett, the commander of state troopers' Montgomery post, later confirmed to reporters that the shooting took place at the QV station, and that Johnson was the only suspect at the time. An emailed message announcing the alert said the man they were seeking was considered a "serious risk" and possibly was traveling on foot.

Jarrett confirmed to news outlets that Johnson subsequently approached the shooting scene just after midnight and that he had a handgun with him. The state law enforcement agency canceled the emergency alert early Sunday, saying Johnson was taken into custody.

"Details as to how he fled the scene and then reappeared at the scene, all that's going to be investigated," Jarrett said, according to WSFA-TV.

The tall sheriff was known as "Big John." Gov. Ivey paid tribute to him online, writing that in the sheriff's years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps and "his many years working in law enforcement, he dedicated his life to keeping other people safe."

Williams was first elected sheriff in 2010, running as a Democrat. He was a Lowndes County native who had begun volunteering as a reserve deputy in 1978. He also worked for Hayneville police before joining the sheriff's department full-time in 1987 and being appointed chief deputy in 1990.

"Sheriff Williams always wanted to make a difference in his community and felt there was no better way to help his community than to protect and serve them in law enforcement," the biography read.

Lowndes County is predominantly black. It had a population of around 11,000 in the 2010 census. In 2007, more than 60 people gathered at the county courthouse to protest then-Gov. Bob Riley's appointment of a white law enforcement officer to replace the county's deceased sheriff. At the time, the county commission president said all five commissioners and other elected officials had recommended Williams for the position.

During his decades with the sheriff's office, Williams notably in 2000 was the arresting officer of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, a 1960s black militant who was known as H. Rap Brown before converting to Islam. Al-Amin was wanted and later convicted in the fatal 2000 shooting of a Fulton County sheriff's deputy in Atlanta.

## 'My neighbors are gone': Flood buyouts upend Missouri town

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

MOSBY, Mo. (AP) — Tammy Kilgore raised the giant claw of a John Deere excavator high in the air, then slammed it down on the roof the house where she had spent nearly her entire adult life.

The shingles crunched, but not much else. So she did it again, and again — each time taking a bigger bite with the mouth-like claw, until the roof above her bedroom caved. Lumber and siding fell to the ground.

"Oh, my goodness!" she exclaimed.

The machine's operator had given Kilgore the chance to start demolishing her own home. It's one of dozens of flood-prone houses being torn down in this small riverside town northeast of Kansas City under a federally funded buyout program intended to reduce the risks and costs from future flooding.

The city of Mosby estimates it's faced 40 floods of varying severity over the past two decades, and Kilgore has lost count of the number of times her home got wet.

"Every time it would come up, it would probably ruin our floors," she recalled. "We just got tired of it."

When the voluntary buyouts are complete, nearly half of Mosby will be gone, leaving a patchwork of holdout homes and bare lots.

Similar buyout programs have played out in numerous communities ravaged by floods and hurricanes. Over the past three decades, federal and local governments have spent more than \$5 billion to buy tens of thousands of vulnerable properties across the U.S., according to an Associated Press analysis.



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While buyouts can be emotionally fraught for communities, they can lessen future flood-related costs by demolishing homes that could otherwise keep receiving federal disaster aid or taxpayer-subsidized flood insurance.

This year's devastating flooding in the Midwest, which caused billions of dollars of damage in more than a dozen states, is likely to lead to more home buyouts.

In Iowa, for example, a dozen cities and counties have inquired about the potential of buying out as many as 660 properties. In the future, more buyouts could be necessary nationwide as climate change leads to rising seas and more frequent and intense rainstorms.

For those facing buyouts, the process can be both a blessing and curse. It can provide a fresh start for flood-weary residents who choose to leave but also sever a sense of community for those left behind.

And the process can be stressful: Kilgore, 56, suffered a heart attack in September after a long day of packing. But she was back in town on a cool November morning to watch her old house come down.

As Kilgore climbed into the excavator, longtime neighbor Betty Cazzell watched somberly from across the chain-link fence where the two would often chat. Cazzell, 86, opted against applying for a buyout. She didn't want the hassle of leaving a town where she spent all but 10 years of her life.

"I've seen some changes, but they've been kind of gradual," Cazzell said sadly. "This is kind of like a bomb exploding or something — it's just all at once, and my neighbors are gone."

When the demolitions are done, the houses on either side of Cazzell's will be gone.

Her granddaughter a few doors down is staying, but her son and daughter-in-law are leaving. Their white wooden house is marked with a bright orange "D2" — code for "Demolition Phase Two," the same thing that was painted on Kilgore's home.

The 2010 census counted 190 people in Mosby. But that seems generous these days.

Mosby began as a railroad town in 1887 nestled along the Fishing River, a tributary of the Missouri River. It grew as coal mining took hold in the first half of the next century. At one point, it had a school, bank and grocery store, but all have since closed.

The old school — with a dozen-plus basketball trophies still on display — is now City Hall.

The remaining businesses — an asphalt plant, quarry, lumber center, trucking company and gas station — are all on the edge of town along a highway.

Financial strains led Mosby to disband its police department in 2015. That same year, the town was flooded three times in less than six weeks. Town officials decided in 2016 to apply to the state for a nearly \$3 million buyout funded largely through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

About 50 homeowners said they were interested. It took until this summer before they received buyout offers, and about two-thirds have taken the deal.

But for some, such as 83-year-old Elmer Sullivan, the offer just wasn't enough to afford a house somewhere else.

Sullivan was offered \$20,000 for the modest home that he said he bought for \$17,000 three decades ago. Since then, he put on a new roof and siding and spent \$4,000 rebuilding a garage.

"This is ridiculous. This offer here ain't no good," Sullivan said, holding the buyout documents. "My wife, she passed away seven years ago. She helped me buy the house, and if I would have sold the house, I'd feel like I let her down."

Milton and Sally Denney took the buyout for her mother's old house, which had sat vacant since her death several years ago. But Milton said they turned down a \$65,000 offer for their own home because it was "nowhere near enough money."

The Denneys built their house in 1978 with more foresight than most. Its floor is about 4 feet above-ground — just high enough to stay dry during the floods that have repeatedly encircled the house.

For 65-year-old Sally Denney, who's spent her whole life in Mosby, the buyouts have stirred a sense of disbelief, anger, frustration and fear that her beloved town could eventually be gone.

"I don't know that it's really all sunk in yet," she said. But "it's gonna hit, and it's gonna be very sad."

Mosby's revenue is likely to shrink as properties once on the tax rolls become empty plots owned by the

city, Mayor Harlin Clements said. The terms of the buyouts prohibit future development.

Though buyouts are disruptive, the U.S. saves \$7 in avoided costs for every \$1 spent through the federally funded grants to acquire or demolish flood-prone buildings, according to a study for the National Institute of Building Sciences.

"I can tell you — mitigation works, it's very successful. It saves the pain and anguish of people that get flooded," former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt said during a recent session hosted by The Pew Charitable Trusts on ways to reduce local flood risks.

Like most who take buyouts, the former residents of Mosby are now scattered. Some have moved to Excelsior Springs, a city of more than 11,000 immediately east. Others have gone west, toward the Kansas City suburbs. Still others moved into a rural area a few miles north.

When Tammy and James Kilgore moved out, they took some pine boards from their porch, a mailbox, a flagpole and plants from their yard. Scavengers quickly swooped in to swipe their furnace, air conditioner and dishwasher. Someone even ripped out the kitchen sink and all the pipes running to it.

By the time Tammy Kilgore climbed into the excavator to help tear down her old house, the ransacked interior looked nothing like the home she had left.

After taking a few swings with the machine, she passed the controls to a professional. The house was reduced to a pile of rubble in barely 10 minutes.

"Well, I can say this, there's a lot of love in them walls," Kilgore said, adding, "I'm not sad at all."

The Kilgores put their \$45,000 buyout toward a brick house in Excelsior Springs — a home on a hill.

"It's the best decision we ever made," she said.

Follow David A. Lieb at <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

## Michael Bloomberg launches Democratic presidential bid

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the world's richest men, has formally launched a Democratic bid for president.

Ending weeks of speculation, the 77-year-old former Republican announced his candidacy Sunday in a written statement posted on a campaign website describing himself as uniquely positioned to defeat President Donald Trump. He will quickly follow with a massive advertising campaign blanketing airways in key primary states across the U.S.

"I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg wrote.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," he continued. "He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage."

Bloomberg's entrance comes just 10 weeks before primary voting begins, an unorthodox move that reflects anxiety within the Democratic Party about the strength of its current candidates.

As a centrist with deep ties to Wall Street, Bloomberg is expected to struggle among the party's energized progressive base. He became a Democrat only last year. Yet his tremendous resources and moderate profile could be appealing in a primary contest that has become, above all, a quest to find the person best-positioned to deny Trump a second term next November.

Forbes ranked Bloomberg as the 11th-richest person in the world last year with a net worth of roughly \$50 billion. Trump, by contrast, was ranked 259th with a net worth of just over \$3 billion. His businesses — among them are financial data services and news services in various formats — employ more than 19,000 people in 69 countries. They are also certain to raise ethical questions about how his news-oriented businesses will cover the campaign and financial conflicts of interest for a possible presidency.

Already, Bloomberg has vowed to spend at least \$150 million of his fortune on various pieces of a 2020 campaign, including more than \$100 million for internet ads attacking Trump, between \$15 million and \$20 million on a voter registration drive largely targeting minority voters, and more than \$30 million on

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an initial round of television ads.

He did not say how much he would be willing to spend overall on his presidential ambitions, but senior adviser Howard Wolfson did: "Whatever it takes to defeat Donald Trump."

Wolfson also said that Bloomberg would not accept a single political donation for his campaign or take a salary should he become president.

Even before the announcement was final, Democratic rivals like Bernie Sanders pounced on Bloomberg's plans to rely on his personal fortune.

"We do not believe that billionaires have the right to buy elections," Sanders said as he campaigned in New Hampshire on Sunday. He continued: "That is why multibillionaires like Mr. Bloomberg are not going to get very far in this election."

Elizabeth Warren, another leading progressive candidate, also slammed Bloomberg on Saturday for trying to buy the presidency.

"I understand that rich people are going to have more shoes than the rest of us, they're going to have more cars than the rest of us, they're going to have more houses," she said after a campaign stop in Manchester, New Hampshire. "But they don't get a bigger share of democracy, especially in a Democratic primary. We need to be doing the face-to-face work that lifts every voice."

Bloomberg does not speak in his announcement video, which casts him as a successful businessman who came from humble roots and ultimately "put his money where his heart is" to effect change on the top policy issues of the day — gun violence, climate change, immigration and equality, among them.

Bloomberg has devoted tens of millions of dollars to pursue his policy priorities in recent years, producing measurable progress in cities and states across America. He has helped shutter 282 coal plants in the United States and organized a coalition of American cities on track to cut 75 million metric tons of carbon emissions by 2025.

But he is far from a left-wing ideologue.

Bloomberg has declined to embrace Medicare for All as a health care prescription or the "Green New Deal" to combat climate change, favoring a more pragmatic approach.

Still, he has endeared himself to many of the nation's mayors, having made huge investments to help train local officials and encouraging them to take action on climate, guns and immigration in particular.

Ahead of Bloomberg's presidential announcement, the mayors of Columbia, South Carolina, and Louisville, Kentucky, endorsed him. Despite that show of support from at least one prominent black leader, Bloomberg may have trouble building a multi-racial coalition early on given his turbulent record on race relations in New York.

He angered many minority voters during his 12 years in the New York City mayor's office for embracing and defending the controversial "stop-and-frisk" police strategy, despite its disproportionate impact on people of color. Facing an African-American congregation this month in Brooklyn, Bloomberg apologized and acknowledged it often led to the detention of blacks and Latinos.

The apology was received skeptically by many prominent activists who noted that it was made as he was taking steps to enter the race.

The campaign will be headquartered in Manhattan and managed by longtime adviser Kevin Sheekey. Wolfson will also play a senior role.

Bloomberg's team did not establish a super PAC before launching the campaign, preferring to run the primary campaign and a simultaneous set of general election-focused moves like the anti-Trump internet ads and voter registration drive out of the same office.

The path ahead may be decidedly uphill and unfamiliar.

Bloomberg plans to bypass the first four states on the primary calendar — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — and focus instead on the crush of states that vote on Super Tuesday and beyond. It's a strategy that acknowledges the limitations of entering the race at this late stage and the opportunities afforded by his vast personal wealth.

His team has noted that several candidates have devoted much of the year to building support on the

ground in the earliest states, and Bloomberg needs to be realistic about where he can make up ground. Nearly a quarter of primary delegates are up for grabs in the March 3 Super Tuesday contests, which have gotten far less attention so far.

Bloomberg has openly considered a presidential bid before, but as an independent. He declined to enter the 2016 contest only after deciding there was no path to victory without the backing of a major political party.

He explored a run earlier this year, too, but decided there was no path with establishment-favorite Joe Biden in the race. Biden's perceived weakness, along with the rise of progressive firebrand Warren, convinced him to reconsider.

"We believe that voters are increasingly concerned that the field is not well positioned to defeat Donald Trump," Wolfson said of Bloomberg's decision to change his mind.

Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway actually praised Bloomberg's tenure as mayor when asked about his announcement Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." But she said his entrance into the 2020 race "means the Democratic field is underwhelming."

Should Bloomberg ultimately become the nominee to take on Trump, she said, "We're ready."

Conway cast doubt on whether he'd be welcomed by Democratic voters.

Initially registered as a Democrat, Bloomberg, a Massachusetts native, filed paperwork to change his voter registration to Republican in 2000 before his first run for New York City mayor, according to a spokesman. In June 2007, he unenrolled from the GOP, having no formal party affiliation until he registered again as a Democrat this October.

While some will question his newfound commitment to Democrats, he vowed allegiance to the party in an Associated Press interview earlier in the year, saying, "I will be a Democrat for the rest of my life."

Associated Press writer Hunter Woodall in Manchester, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

## The man behind China's detention of 1 million Muslims

By The Associated Press undefined

After bloody race riots rocked China's far west a decade ago, the ruling Communist Party turned to a rare figure in their ranks to restore order: a Han Chinese official fluent in Uighur, the language of the local Turkic Muslim minority.

Now, newly revealed, confidential documents show that the official, Zhu Hailun, played a key role in planning and executing a campaign that has swept up a million or more Uighurs into detention camps.

Published in 2017, the documents were signed by Zhu, as then-head of the powerful Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party in the Xinjiang region. A Uighur linguist recognized Zhu's signature scrawled atop some of the documents from his time working as a translator in Kashgar, when Zhu was the city's top official.

"When I saw them, I knew they were important," said the linguist, Abduweli Ayup, who now lives in exile. "He's a guy who wants to control power in his hands. Everything."

Zhu, 61, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Long before the crackdown and despite his intimate familiarity with local culture, Zhu was more hated than loved among the Uighurs he ruled.

He was born in 1958 in rural Jiangsu on China's coast. In his teens, during China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution, Zhu was sent to Kargilik county, deep in the Uighur heartland in Xinjiang. He never left.

Zhu joined the Party in 1980 and moved up Xinjiang's bureaucracy, helming hotspot cities. By the 90s, he was so fluent in Uighur that he corrected his own translators during meetings.

"If you didn't see him, you'd never imagine he's Han Chinese. When he spoke Uighur, he really spoke just like a Uighur, since he grew up with them," said a Uighur businessman living in exile in Turkey, who declined to be named out of fear of retribution.

The businessman first heard of Zhu from a Uighur friend who dealt with the official while doing busi-

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ness. His friend was impressed, describing Zhu as “very capable” — a Han Chinese bureaucrat the Uighurs could work with. But after years of observing Zhu oversee crackdowns and arrests, the businessman soon came to a different conclusion.

“He’s a crafty fox. The really cunning sort, the kind that plays with your brain,” he said. “He was a key character for the Communist Party’s policies to control Southern Xinjiang.”

Ayup, the linguist, met Zhu in 1998, when he came to inspect his township. He was notorious for ordering 3 a.m. raids of Uighur homes, and farmers would sing a popular folk song called ‘Zhu Hailun is coming’ to poke fun at his hard and unyielding nature.

“He gave orders like farmers were soldiers. All of us were his soldiers,” Ayup said. “Han Chinese controlled our homeland. We knew we needed to stay in our place.”

Months after a July 5, 2009 riot left hundreds dead in the region’s capital of Urumqi, Zhu was tapped to replace the city’s chief. Beijing almost always flew in officials from other provinces for the job, in part as training for higher posts. But central officials on a fact-finding mission in Urumqi concluded that Zhu, seen as tougher than his predecessor, needed to take charge.

“They were super unhappy,” said a Uighur former cadre who declined to be named out of fear of retribution. “It had never happened before, but because locals said he was outstanding at maintaining stability, he was snatched up and installed as Urumqi Party Secretary.”

Upon appointment, Zhu spent three days holed up in the city’s police command, vowing to tighten the government’s grip. Police swept through Uighur neighborhoods, brandishing rifles and rounding up hundreds for trial. Tens of thousands of surveillance cameras were installed.

But instead of healing ethnic divisions, the crackdown hardened them. Matters came to a head in April 2014, when Chinese President Xi Jinping came to Xinjiang on a state visit. Just hours after his departure, bombs tore through an Urumqi train station, killing three and injuring 79.

Xi vowed to clamp down even harder.

In 2016, Beijing appointed a new leader for Xinjiang — Chen Quanguo. Chen, whose first name means “whole country”, had built a reputation as a hard-hitting official who pioneered digital surveillance tactics in Tibet.

Zhu was his right-hand man. Appointed head of the region’s security and legal apparatus, Zhu laid the groundwork for an all-seeing state surveillance system that could automatically identify targets for arrest. He crisscrossed the region to inspect internment centers, police stations, checkpoints and other components of an emerging surveillance and detention apparatus.

After Chen’s arrival, Uighurs began disappearing by the thousands. The leaked documents show that Zhu directed mass arrests, signing off on notices ordering police to use digital surveillance to investigate people for having visited foreign countries, using certain mobile applications, or being related to “suspicious persons”. State television shows that Zhu continued on his relentless tour of Xinjiang’s camps, checkpoints, and police stations, personally guiding the mass detention campaign.

Zhu stepped down last year after turning 60, in line with traditional practice for Communist Party cadres of Zhu’s rank. Chen remains in his post.

“Chen Quanguo came in the name of the Party,” said the Uighur businessman. “Zhu knows how to implement, who to capture, what to do.”

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See more on the China Cables here: <https://apnews.com/4ab0b341a4ec4e648423f2ec47ea5c47>

## NFL and Kaepernick still at odds on failed workout

By **ROB MAADDI** AP Pro Football Writer

A week after Colin Kaepernick’s NFL workout fell apart, disagreements and distrust about it remain on issues such as its timing, who was invited and who could film the quarterback.

In conversations with The Associated Press, representatives from both sides blamed each other for what went wrong on Nov. 16. Kaepernick’s side said the NFL orchestrated a workout as a public relations

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stunt destined to fail, while the league said it gave him a real chance to show off his skills — and he didn't show up.

A total of 25 teams were supposed to attend the league's workout run by two former head coaches at the Atlanta Falcons' practice facility. Instead, Kaepernick ditched that workout and ended up throwing passes in front of representatives from eight NFL teams at his own event at a site 60 miles away.

Kaepernick, who led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl seven years ago, hasn't played since 2016 when he sparked a wave of protests and divisive debate by kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial injustice. The league in February settled a collusion grievance filed by Kaepernick and Eric Reid.

The AP reviewed both waivers from the event and talked to a person who was involved in the negotiations from Kaepernick's side and two NFL officials with knowledge of the process, all speaking on condition of anonymity because the discussions between the two sides were private.

A look at the issues raised by both sides regarding the botched workout:

## DEADLINE TO ACCEPT

Kaepernick's camp said the NFL gave him only two hours to accept an invitation four days ahead of the workout. His side questioned the timing, purpose and motivation behind a take-it-or-leave-it offer presented in Week 11. They believe the NFL cared more about creating the impression it wanted to give Kaepernick a chance for a new job than actually giving him a legitimate opportunity.

The NFL said it was Commissioner Roger Goodell's idea to give Kaepernick a platform for an unprecedented workout. The league, which hasn't arranged tryouts for other free agents, said Goodell felt it was right to give the exiled QB the chance to showcase his skills. Teams were expressing interest in knowing whether Kaepernick was serious about playing. Kaepernick posted on social media that he was working out five days a week and ready to play again. Goodell spoke to other league officials and people outside the organization and decided an open tryout would give teams an opportunity to see for themselves. Jay-Z, who is in a partnership with the NFL, was involved in the conversations. Goodell also spoke to Dr. Harry Edwards, a civil rights activist.

## SATURDAY INSTEAD OF TUESDAY

Kaepernick's side requested to move the workout to a Tuesday when most teams bring free agents in for tryouts. It was concerned that team "decision-makers" wouldn't be present on a weekend.

The NFL said coaches wouldn't travel on a Tuesday or any other day during game week to see a free agent. It also said general managers rely on their scouts to evaluate free agents. The league says it didn't want to push the date back because it "did not want a circus." The league pointed out that free agents are usually given a call one day before a workout, "don't bring in their own receivers, dictate the order of the workout, bring in their own media crew or have media onsite."

## CLOSED TO MEDIA

Kaepernick's side wanted to open the workout to the media to ensure transparency.

The NFL said it made clear from the start the workout would be closed to media. The league wasn't comfortable opening Atlanta's practice facility to media and says it wanted to give Kaepernick "the best platform from which to perform," and having camera crews present wouldn't help him concentrate on the workout. It said the issue of media presence didn't come up until the day of the scheduled workout.

## ATTENDEES

Kaepernick's camp said the NFL agreed to provide a list of team representatives who committed to coming. The league later shifted and did not share that list.

The league said it never made that promise because it didn't want individual team personnel to face media questions leading up to the workout.

## UNCERTAIN DETAILS

Kaepernick's team said he didn't know which receivers he'd be throwing to and what routes they would run, so he brought in his own guys. He also wasn't immediately informed that former Browns coach Hue Jackson would run the workout along with former Dolphins coach Joe Philbin.

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The NFL said it understood those concerns and addressed them to Kaepernick's satisfaction. It said it even complied with Kaepernick's request on the morning of the workout to change the order of events and begin with a throwing session instead of Jackson's original plan to start with the interview portion.

## NIKE'S ROLE

The NFL said it agreed to Nike's request to shoot an ad featuring Kaepernick and mentioning all the teams present at the workout. The league said the ad was supposed to be a social post featuring handwritten notes by a young Kaepernick that said he wanted to be a football player when he grew up.

A spokesman for Nike said the company did not have a film crew at the workout and declined further comment.

## THE FILM CREW

Kaepernick's side wanted to bring their own film crew because they didn't trust that the NFL would provide accurate video and were concerned the league would edit it to make him look bad.

The NFL said it invited Kaepernick's representatives to sit in with the Falcons' video director at the facility to ensure the crew was capturing all the footage. The league said it planned to send the raw video to all 32 teams.

## THE WAIVERS

Kaepernick's representatives said the NFL "demanded" as a precondition for the workout that he sign an "unusual liability waiver" that addressed employment-related issues. They countered with a waiver from physical injury that the league rejected.

The NFL said it sent Kaepernick a standard liability waiver based on the one used by National Invitational Camp at all NFL Combines and by teams when trying out free agents. Kaepernick signed a waiver with similar language before attending the combine in 2011.

The NFL said it became concerned when Kaepernick's side wanted to know who would own commercial rights to the video, adding that such an issue is not part of a typical workout.

Kaepernick's side says it was concerned that not only did the NFL document seek to waive employment rights, but it contained a clause that would give the NFL and its teams commercial rights to the workout footage that could be used for what it called "phony" public service announcements and other "NFL marketing gimmicks." The waiver provided by Kaepernick's camp did not grant the commercial rights to anyone.

The NFL disputes the interpretation of the clause, saying it was intended to enable the video to be sent to the clubs for evaluation with no marketing or commercial use. The league says it provided the waiver on Wednesday, didn't hear back on it until Friday night, and didn't receive a revised waiver until 12:03 p.m. on the day of the workout.

## FINAL WORDS

Kaepernick's side believes the NFL was using the workout as a PR stunt and wanted to avoid the NFL using the footage "for its marketing and propaganda since the NFL waiver included a clause granting it these rights."

The NFL said it accommodated all of Kaepernick's football requests, but nonfootball issues derailed it. The league said it would have invited the NFL Network to broadcast the workout if it wanted publicity.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Will Netanyahu's party stick with him? Senior leaders quiet

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looked to project business as usual Sunday as he returned to work following his indictment on corruption charges, but a wall of silence from his usually loyal Cabinet ministers could mean tough times ahead for the embattled Israeli leader.

Netanyahu is determined to fight the charges from the prime minister's office in what promises to be a lengthy court battle. But long before the proceedings begin, it could be his own Likud party that decides his political future as the country appears to be heading toward new elections.

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A show of support from his Cabinet would give Netanyahu a boost as he tries to rally the party and public behind him. Netanyahu's efforts so far, however, appear to be falling short.

One top Likud official, Gideon Saar, has already announced his intention to challenge Netanyahu in party primaries.

"There isn't a single person who thinks that after a third or fourth or fifth or sixth election, Netanyahu will succeed in forming a government," Saar told Channel 12 TV on Saturday. "There is only one way that we can save the country, get it out of this crisis and maintain the rule of Likud, if today we go to a snap primary election."

The open call is a risky maneuver in a party that fiercely values loyalty and has had only four leaders in its 70-plus-year history.

Netanyahu's lackeys immediately attacked Saar, with the party saying he has "shown zero loyalty and maximum subversiveness."

But perhaps influenced by polls showing a majority of Israelis thinking Netanyahu should step down, the party's most senior ministers pointedly remained mum. Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, among others, are all straddling the sidelines as Netanyahu clings to power.

With just 18 days to go to either form a new government or trigger new elections, pressure will surely be mounting on these and other officials to show their hand.

"Gideon Saar yesterday salvaged the dignity of a party that was once great, stormy, free and democratic," wrote Maariv columnist Ben Caspit. "Nearly all of the top Likud officials agree with Saar. They agree, but tremble in fear. They're heroes behind closed doors."

Netanyahu made no mention of his indictment during Sunday's Cabinet meeting, talking about Iran, threats from Gaza and domestic affairs.

Later on Sunday, he traveled to Israel's northern frontier to tour the Golan Heights with military officials. Netanyahu issued fresh warnings to archenemy Iran against entrenchment in neighboring Syria.

"We will also act to thwart Iran's attempts to turn Iraq and Yemen into bases for launching rockets and missiles against the state of Israel," Netanyahu said.

The attorney general's decision to indict Netanyahu on fraud, breach of trust and bribery charges Thursday shook up Israel's political system, which is in paralysis after inconclusive elections in April and September. It is the first time a sitting prime minister has been charged with a crime.

With neither Netanyahu nor his main rival, former military chief Benny Gantz, able to secure a parliamentary majority, the country seems to be barreling toward its third election in under 12 months.

Most observers believe a unity government between their parties, which together control a majority of seats in parliament, is the best way out of the crisis. But the main obstacle to that has been Netanyahu himself. Gantz and his partners have ruled out a power-sharing rotation with an indicted prime minister and urged Likud to choose a different leader.

Unlike mayors or regular ministers, the prime minister is not explicitly required by Israeli law to resign if indicted and Netanyahu is steadfastly vowing to remain in office.

So the only practical way to unseat him would be if he were ousted from within, a scenario that until recently was unthinkable.

Netanyahu, the longest serving leader in Israeli history, is desperate to remain in office as he faces indictment since it affords him a preferable legal defense. He's angrily lashed out at police and prosecutors, accusing them of staging "an attempted coup," and bemoaning a crooked system that he says is out to get him.

As the party's most popular politician, Netanyahu has enjoyed the unquestioning backing of both Likud's top officials and its rank-and-file members. But if he becomes an electoral liability that loyalty could begin to fray.

A poll commissioned by Channel 13 News after the attorney general's decision showed that 56% of the public thinks Netanyahu should resign and only 35% said they think he can keep serving. The poll, which surveyed 750 people and had a margin of error of 4 percentage points, also showed Gantz's Blue and



White party extending its lead over Likud.

The parties don't appear to have significant ideological gaps and a leader other than Netanyahu would seemingly have a relatively easy time establishing a power-sharing agreement.

Netanyahu's supporters accuse his opponents of trying to topple their leader through undemocratic means.

"Netanyahu is now fighting for his life and personal liberty but, no less so, is voicing the cry on behalf of many members of his camp," wrote Matti Tuchfeld, in the pro-Netanyahu Israel Hayom daily. "The smugness of the journalists in the television studios ... about to celebrate Netanyahu's downfall by means other than the ballot boxes drive Likud supporters out of their minds."

Follow Heller at [www.twitter.com/aronhellerap](http://www.twitter.com/aronhellerap)

## 26 killed as small plane crashes into homes in Congo

By SAMMY MUPFUNI Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — A small plane crashed into homes shortly after takeoff Sunday in Congo's eastern city of Goma, killing 26 people, including the aircraft's passengers and crew, as well as residents on the ground, the government of the central African nation said.

The 19-seat Dornier 228-200, owned by private carrier Busy Bee, was headed to Beni, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) north of Goma, when it crashed in the Mapendo district near the airport in the North Kivu province, according to the government.

Black smoke rose from the plane wreckage and destroyed homes as dozens of men tried to help with rescue efforts. The smoke cleared as the men carried bodies on stretchers and hundreds gathered at the site.

Although the National Border Health Program initially said there were two survivors from the plane, including a crew member, the provisional death toll was later put at 26 — 17 passengers, two crew members and seven residents of the homes, the Ministry of Transportation said after collecting information from other government departments.

Placide Kambale, a local pilot, said he rushed to the scene to help out and saw that the plane was on fire.

"I called other young people from the neighborhood. They helped me to try to remove those who still moved," he said. "We have managed to recover two that was quickly sent to the hospital" before the fire spread.

The U.N. mission in Congo said it sent an Emergency Crash and Rescue team with two fire engines to support Congolese authorities.

The government extended its condolences to the families of those killed.

Plane crashes are frequent in the central African nation of Congo because of poor maintenance and lax air safety standards. None of Congo's commercial carriers, including Busy Bee, are allowed to fly into European Union airspace because of safety concerns.

Associated Press reporter Justin Kabumba contributed.

## UK's Boris Johnson has one thing on his mind: Brexit now

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The formal launch of the Conservative Party's election pledges Sunday centered around the key plank of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's campaign: making Brexit happen.

Speaking to a friendly crowd, Johnson trashed his opponents — most notably the Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, his prime rival — and claimed that his Conservatives are the sole party in next month's election that will actually get Brexit done.

A platform launch is often used to introduce a number of new promises and programs, but Johnson chose instead to hone his message, reiterating his party's Brexit stance.

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"Unlike any other party standing in this election, we are going to get Brexit done," he told supporters while waving his party's printed platform.

Johnson said the rival parties — the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and others — would only bring more delay and eventually betray the will of voters as expressed in the 2016 vote in favoring of leaving the European Union.

Johnson spent more time ridiculing opposition Corbyn than offering details about the plans laid out in the party platform, poking fun repeatedly at Corbyn's plan to remain neutral if a second referendum is held next year, as Labour wants.

"Let's go carbon-neutral by 2050 and Corbyn-neutral by Christmas," he said to appreciative chuckles from the crowd.

Johnson promised to bring his Brexit deal back to Parliament before Christmas, with passage likely assured if the Conservatives win a majority in the Dec. 12 vote. He said that would enable his government to get Britain out of the EU by the Jan. 31 deadline while other parties would slow the process down for months or stop it altogether.

Johnson is trying to keep the focus on Brexit policy, while Corbyn's Labour hopes people will look at a broader range of issues, including funding of the National Health Service and restoration of cuts in public services.

In his response, Corbyn said Johnson can't be trusted.

"After a decade of the Conservatives cutting our NHS, police and schools, all Boris Johnson is offering is more of the same: more cuts, more failure, and years more of Brexit uncertainty," Corbyn said, adding that only Labour can deliver "real change."

Labour has outlined ambitious and costly new proposals while the Conservative platform, only about half as long as Labour's, takes a more limited view of what's needed. Johnson repeated several times that making Brexit happen would "unleash" Britain's potential.

The Conservatives, leading in most opinion polls and mindful of a series of problems that followed the party's platform launch in 2017, took a cautious approach Sunday, declining to outline a rash of new programs that might spawn controversy.

The manifesto does call for increased spending to recruit 20,000 more police and 50,000 nurses, and also a 2 billion pound (\$2.57 billion) nationwide pothole repairing effort. It also makes crowd-pleasing gestures like eliminating car parking charges at hospitals for staff working night shifts, disabled people, those with terminal illnesses and their families.

The prime minister for the most part stayed on familiar ground, blaming the outgoing Parliament for the failure to make Brexit happen by the last deadline at the end of October.

The 2016 referendum, which saw 52% of British voters choose to break with Europe after decades of integration, was followed by difficult negotiations with the EU that eventually led to a divorce deal — but one that was rejected in Parliament and then renegotiated by Johnson.

The prime minister says that will change if his party wins a majority, because each Conservative candidate has agreed to back the deal.

His repeated promise to "get Brexit done" will be much more difficult if he doesn't win an outright majority as other parties plan to slow Brexit down — or halt it completely.

Johnson revealed the party's campaign plans at an event in the West Midlands, where the Conservatives hope to make inroads with traditional Labour Party voters unhappy with the opposition party's Brexit stance.

Johnson called the election more than two years early in a bid for a parliamentary majority that would back his Brexit plan before the Jan. 31 deadline.

All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs.

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## Supreme Court says Ginsburg released from hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court says Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has been released from a Baltimore hospital where she had been treated for a possible infection.

The 86-year-old Ginsburg has returned to her home in Washington, D.C., and is “doing well,” court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said Sunday.

Ginsburg spent two nights at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She was taken there Friday after experiencing chills and fever.

The court says she received intravenous antibiotics and fluids and that her symptoms abated.

Ginsburg has had four occurrences of cancer, including two in the past year. She had lung cancer surgery in December and received radiation treatment for a tumor on her pancreas in August.

She had a rare absence from a public session of the court in mid-November because of what the court said was a stomach bug. She was back on the bench the next time the justices met.

Her latest hospital stay began Friday, after the justices met in private to discuss pending cases.

She was initially evaluated at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington before being transferred to Johns Hopkins for further evaluation and treatment of any possible infection.

Ginsburg has been on the court since 1993, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Only Justice Clarence Thomas has served longer among the current members of the court.

## As internet restored, online Iran protest videos show chaos

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Machine gun fire answers rock-throwing protesters. Motorcycle-riding Revolutionary Guard volunteers chase after demonstrators. Plainclothes security forces grab, beat and drag a man off the street to an uncertain fate.

As Iran restores the internet after a weeklong government-imposed shutdown, new videos purport to show the demonstrations over gasoline prices rising and the security-force crackdown that followed.

The videos offer only fragments of encounters, but to some extent they fill in the larger void left by Iran’s state-controlled television and radio channels. On their airwaves, hard-line officials allege that foreign conspiracies and exile groups instigated the unrest. In print, newspapers offered only PR for the government or had merely stenographic reporting at best, the moderate daily Hamshahri said in an analysis Sunday.

They don’t acknowledge that the gasoline price hike Nov. 15, supported by its civilian government, came as Iran’s 80 million people already have seen their savings dwindle and jobs scarce under crushing U.S. sanctions. President Donald Trump imposed them in the aftermath of unilaterally withdrawing America from Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers.

Authorities also have yet to give any overall figures for how many people were injured, arrested or killed during the several days of protests that swept across some 100 cities and towns.

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.”

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. Some recycled days-old videos and photographs as new, making it even more difficult.

Since Saturday, internet connectivity spiked in the country, allowing people to access foreign websites for the first time. On Sunday, connectivity stood nearly at 100% for landline services, while mobile phone internet service remained scarce, the advocacy group NetBlocks said.

The restoration brought messaging apps back to life for Iranians cut off from loved ones abroad. It also meant that videos again began being shared widely.

Recently released videos span the country. One video from Shiraz, some 680 kilometers (420 miles) south of Tehran, purports to show a crowd of over 100 people scatter as gunfire erupts from a police station in the city. One man bends down to pick up debris as a person off-camera describes demonstrators throwing

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stones. Another gunshot rings out, followed by a burst of machine gun fire.

In Kerman, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) southeast of Tehran, the sound of breaking glass echoes over a street where debris burns in the center of a street. Motorcycle-riding members of the Basij, the all-volunteer force of Iran's paramilitary Guard, then chase the protesters away.

Another video in Kermanshah, some 420 kilometers (260 miles) southwest of Tehran, purports shows the dangers that lurked on the streets of Iran in recent days. Plainclothes security forces, some wielding nightsticks, drag one man off by the hair of his head. The detained man falls at one point.

"Look, (the agents) wear styles like the youth," one man off-camera says, swearing at them.

On Sunday, it remained unclear if and how widespread any remaining demonstrations were. The acting commander of the Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Ali Fadavi, repeated the allegation that America was behind the protests, without offering any evidence to support his claim.

"Why did (the Americans) get angry after we cut off the internet? Because the internet is the channel through which Americans wanted to perform their evil and vicious acts," Fadavi said. "We will deal with this, Islamic Republic supporters, and our proud men and women will sign up to make a domestic system similar to the internet with operating systems that (the Americans) can't (control) even if they want."

That likely refers to what has been known as the "halal net," Iran's own locally controlled version of the internet aimed at restricting what the public can see. The system known as the National Information Network has some 500 government-approved national websites that stream content far faster than those based abroad, which are intentionally slowed, activists say. Iranian officials say it allows the Islamic Republic to be independent if the world cuts it off instead.

But while Fadavi earlier said the protests were put down in 48 hours, he also acknowledged the scope of the unrest by comparing it to Operation Karbala-4, one of the worst military disasters suffered by Iran during its bloody 1980s war with Iraq.

That scope could be seen in one video. In the capital, Tehran, footage earlier aired by the BBC's Persian service shot from a car purports to show a tableau of violence on Sattarkhan Street, as anti-riot police officers clashed with protesters.

In the video, a woman's scream rises over the shouts of the crowd as plainclothes security forces wearing white surgical masks accost one man, who puts his hands up to his face and hunches over to shield his body. Men walk backward to watch the chaos amid police with batons and riot shields, then run.

A woman in a green headscarf argues with one anti-riot police officer in front of a car.

"What do you say?" the police officer asks.

"He kicked my car," she responds.

"Move," the police officer orders. "Whom do you want to blame in this situation?"

Someone chases a man in front of a bank as people curse. The car makes a right-hand turn onto another street. A police officer off-camera shouts: "Come here!"

"Go, go, go!" a woman in the car cries out.

The car speeds away, passing burning debris. The clip ends. It lasts only 35 seconds.

## Paging Dr. Robot: Artificial intelligence moves into care

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

The next time you get sick, your care may involve a form of the technology people use to navigate road trips or pick the right vacuum cleaner online.

Artificial intelligence is spreading into health care, often as software or a computer program capable of learning from large amounts of data and making predictions to guide care or help patients.

It already detects an eye disease tied to diabetes and does other behind-the-scenes work like helping doctors interpret MRI scans and other imaging tests for some forms of cancer.

Now, parts of the health system are starting to use it directly with patients. During some clinic and telemedicine appointments, AI-powered software asks patients initial questions about their symptoms that physicians or nurses normally pose.

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And an AI program featuring a talking image of the Greek philosopher Aristotle is starting to help University of Southern California students cope with stress.

Researchers say this push into medicine is at an early stage, but they expect the technology to grow by helping people stay healthy, assisting doctors with tasks and doing more behind-the-scenes work. They also think patients will get used to AI in their care just like they've gotten accustomed to using the technology when they travel or shop.

But they say there are limits. Even the most advanced software has yet to master important parts of care like a doctor's ability to feel compassion or use common sense.

"Our mission isn't to replace human beings where only human beings can do the job," said University of Southern California research professor Albert Rizzo.

Rizzo and his team have been working on a program that uses AI and a virtual reality character named "Ellie" that was originally designed to determine whether veterans returning from a deployment might need therapy.

Ellie appears on computer monitors and leads a person through initial questions. Ellie makes eye contact, nods and uses hand gestures like a human therapist. It even pauses if the person gives a short answer, to push them to say more.

"After the first or second question, you kind of forget that it's a robot," said Cheyenne Quilter, a West Point cadet helping to test the program.

Ellie does not diagnose or treat. Instead, human therapists used recordings of its sessions to help determine what the patient might need.

"This is not AI trying to be your therapist," said another researcher, Gale Lucas. "This is AI trying to predict who is most likely to be suffering."

The team that developed Ellie also has put together a newer AI-based program to help students manage stress and stay healthy.

Ask Ari is making its debut at USC this semester to give students easy access to advice on dealing with loneliness, getting better sleep or handling other complications that crop up in college life.

Ari does not replace a therapist, but its designers say it will connect students through their phones or laptops to reliable help whenever they need it.

USC senior Jason Lewis didn't think the program would have much for him when he helped test it because he wasn't seeking counseling. But he found that Ari covered many topics he could relate to, including information on how social media affects people.

"Everybody thinks they are alone in their thoughts and problems," he said. "Ari definitely counters that isolation."

Aside from addressing mental health needs, artificial intelligence also is at work in more common forms of medicine.

The tech company AdviNOW Medical and 98point6, which provides treatment through secure text messaging, both use artificial intelligence to question patients at the beginning of an appointment.

AdviNOW CEO James Bates said their AI program decides what questions to ask and what information it needs. It passes that information and a suggested diagnosis to a physician who then treats the patient remotely through telemedicine.

The company currently uses the technology in a handful of Safeway and Albertsons grocery store clinics in Arizona and Idaho. But it expects to expand to about 1,000 clinics by the end of next year.

Eventually, the company wants to have AI diagnose and treat some minor illnesses, Bates said.

Researchers say much of AI's potential for medicine lies in what it can do behind the scenes by examining large amounts of data or images to spot problems or predict how a disease will develop, sometimes quicker than a doctor.

Future uses might include programs like one that hospitals currently use to tell doctors which patients are more likely to get sepsis, said Darren Dworkin, chief information officer at California's Cedars-Sinai medical center. Those warnings can help doctors prevent the deadly illness or treat it quickly.

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"It's basically that little tap on the shoulder that we all want to get of, 'Hey, perhaps you should look over here,'" Dworkin said.

Dr. Eric Topol predicts in his book "Deep Medicine" that artificial intelligence will change medicine, in part by freeing doctors to spend more time with patients. But he also notes that the technology will not take over care.

Even the most advanced program cannot replicate empathy, Topol said. Patients stick to their treatment and prescriptions more and do better if they know their doctor is pulling for them.

Artificial intelligence also can't process everything a doctor considers when deciding on treatment, noted Harvard Medical School's Dr. Isaac Kohane. That might include a patient's tolerance for pain or the desire to live a few more months to attend a child's wedding or graduation.

"Good doctors are the ones who understand us and our goals as human beings," he said.

Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy

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## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2019. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 25, 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1914, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, California.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, was commissioned.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1980, Sugar Ray Leonard regained the World Boxing Council welterweight championship when Roberto Duran abruptly quit in the eighth round at the Louisiana Superdome.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America's first combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

In 2008, former NFL quarterback Michael Vick pleaded guilty to a Virginia dogfighting charge, receiving a three-year suspended sentence.

In 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

Ten years ago: Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

Five years ago: Attorneys for Michael Brown's family vowed to push for federal charges against the

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Ferguson, Missouri, police officer who killed the unarmed 18-year-old, a day after a grand jury declined to indict Darren Wilson. (The Justice Department later declined to prosecute Wilson.) President Barack Obama sharply rebuked protesters for racially charged violence in Ferguson, saying there was no excuse for burning buildings, torching cars and destroying other property.

One year ago: U.S. border agents fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting near the border with Mexico after some of them tried to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries; U.S. authorities temporarily shut down the border crossing from Tijuana, Mexico, where thousands were waiting to apply for asylum. The nation's deadliest wildfire in a century was declared fully contained after burning for more than two weeks; it had killed 85 people and destroyed thousands of homes in and around the Northern California town of Paradise.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Murray Schisgal is 93. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 86. Actor Christopher Riordan is 82. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 79. Singer Bob Lind is 77. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 75. Actor John Larroquette is 72. Actor Tracey Walter is 72. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 72. Author Charlaine Harris is 68. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 68. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 64. Singer Amy Grant is 59. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 56. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 55. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 55. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 54. Actor Steve Harris is 54. Actor Billy Burke is 53. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 53. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 53. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 51. Actress Jill Hennessy is 50. Actress Christina Applegate is 48. Actor Eddie Steeples is 46. Actress Kristian Nairn is 44. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 43. Actress Jill Flint is 42. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 40. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 40. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 39. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 38. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 38. Actress Katie Cassidy is 33. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 28.

Thought for Today: "There's no one so intolerable or less tolerated in society than someone who's intolerant." — Giacomo Leopardi, Italian author and poet (1798-1837).

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