

Groton Daily Independent

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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

"YOU TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO TREAT YOU BY WHAT YOU ALLOW, WHAT YOU STOP, AND WHAT YOU REINFORCE."

-TONY GASKINS



Chicken Soup
for the Soul



90th Birthday

Ilse Cameron will celebrate her 90th birthday on December 5, 2019.

Greetings may be sent to 1324 12th Avenue SE, Apt #3 Aberdeen, SD 57401

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

The Wanner Family Number - #11



Andrew



Erin



Audrey



Eliza

The number 11 has been in the Wanner family since 2003 when Andrew was a freshman at Groton High School. According to his dad, Shaun, Andrew was a big 49er fan and he wanted #8 as that was Steve Young's number. "I told him we didn't have a number 8 and he couldn't use number 12 because that was my number in school!" So Andrew picked number 11. And from there, all four children have had number 11 in football, basketball and volleyball. "We have a lot of 11 shirts around here," Shaun said. "Even their practice jerseys were number 11."

Andrew even wore number 11 when he was the quarterback at Northern State University. Andrew graduated from GHS in 2006, Erin graduated in 2011, Audrey graduated in 2017 and Eliza will graduate in 2020. They are the children of Shaun and Lynn Wanner, Groton.

- Paul Kosel

How the Open Meetings Violations came about

Dear Editor:

The recent arrest of a Walworth County, SD official for violation of the Open Meetings Law prompted me to research how criminal penalties became attached to Open Meetings violations. The results were startling.

When the Open Meetings Law (SDCL 1-25) was enacted in 1965, no penalties were specified, so violations were presumed to be misdemeanors under former Compiled Law 13.0607, which was re-numbered SDCL 22-6-2 during the 1965-67 Code reorganization. That law made violations misdemeanors where no other penalty was prescribed.

In 1990 the Judiciary Committee introduced House Bill #1030 on behalf of the SD Code Commission, for "An Act to correct minor errors and internal inconsistencies in the South Dakota Codified Laws". The authority of the Code Commission and its Code Counsel to do a technical corrections bill (often called a "clean-up bill") comes from SDCL 2-16-10.1(3) and SDCL 2-9-11 respectively. They are charged with keeping the Code clean by correcting technical errors and omissions such as references to repealed statutes. They are not authorized to make substantive changes to the law. However, the Legislature can amend their "clean-up" bill with any substantive changes the Legislature deems necessary.

The June 22, 1989 Code Commission minutes reflect that the Commission directed the then-Code Counsel to draft a "clean-up" bill for introduction in the 1990 Session. The Commission discussed several changes that were requested, but did not include those changes because they believed they were more substantive than technical. No discussion of the criminal penalties added to the Open Meetings Law appears in those minutes, and no discussion of the technical corrections bill itself appears in minutes of subsequent meetings that year, according to the current Code Counsel, Wenzel Cummings.

House Bill 1030 as it was introduced contained criminal penalties for Open Meetings violations, indicating that they were put there by the Code Commission and Counsel, not by Legislative amendment. No records of debates over legislation are kept in South Dakota, so it is impossible to say how, or even whether, the Legislature considered the issue of criminal penalties for Open Meetings violations.

In 1992, the Legislature exempted Title 1, containing the Open Meetings Law, from SDCL 22-6-2(2), which then provided that if no penalty is imposed by statute for an act, the act is a Class 2 Misdemeanor. This exemption seems to indicate the Legislature's desire to remove criminal penalties from Open Meetings violations. However, since criminal penalties were already added to the Code, albeit in a questionable manner, they remain in effect even though Title 1 is now exempt from 22-6-2(2).

That's how criminal penalties became attached to Open Meetings violations in South Dakota. They were added as a "correction of a minor error or internal inconsistency in the Code".

Betty Breck
Groton

Be Safe With Fires This Thanksgiving

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota's Fire Marshal reminds people to enjoy all the great food this Thanksgiving holiday, but also to be mindful that fires occur more often this time of year.

Nationwide, Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires. Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says that makes home fire safety even more important.

"Many people love to cook for this holiday and that means more activity and more people in the kitchen," he says. "It is easy to forget fire safety and on this day, especially, you need to pay attention."

Cooking safety tips listed by Merriman include:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop and keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey as well, and check on it often.
- If you must step away from your cooking, set a kitchen timer so you don't get distracted by guests.
- Keep children at least three feet away from the stove, oven, hot food and liquids. Steam or splash from vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep items that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, and towels, away from the cooking area.
- Make sure the floor is clear of tripping hazards such as children, toys, bags, or pets that could cause you to fall.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.

Along with kitchens, Merriman says there can be fire dangers stemming in other places of the home such as candles, fireplaces, furnaces and other heating sources.

"Whether it is a holiday or not, make sure you have working smoke alarms on each level of the home," Merriman says. "With a greater potential of home fires during the holidays, you need to use all possible safety measures available. We want this day to be remembered for a celebration, not a tragedy."

The South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Thanksgiving Holiday Week Gas Prices Poised to be Similar to or Cheaper Than Last Year for Majority of Travelers

November 25, 2019 - For the 49 million Americans hitting the road for the Thanksgiving holiday, they will find gas prices mostly similar, if not cheaper, than last year's holiday. Today's national average is \$2.59. That is just a few cents over the 2018 holiday weekend average of \$2.57.

"During Thanksgiving week last year we saw the national gas price average decrease a nickel between Monday and Thursday, that could be the case again this year," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "AAA recommends holiday road-trippers use the AAA app to find current gas prices along their route."

South Dakota Gas Prices

Today \$2.51

Yesterday \$2.52

Last week \$2.51

Last month \$2.53

Last year \$2.56

Today, 61% of all gas stations in the country are selling regular unleaded for \$2.50 or less. On the week, gas prices are flat.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Louisiana (\$2.21), Mississippi (\$2.22), Texas (\$2.25), Missouri (\$2.25), Alabama (\$2.27), Oklahoma (\$2.28), South Carolina (\$2.28), Arkansas (\$2.29), Tennessee (\$2.30) and Virginia (\$2.31).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly changes are: Ohio (-12 cents), California (-9 cents), Michigan (+8 cents), Oregon (-5 cents), Alaska (-5 cents), Nevada (-5 cents), Washington (-4 cents), Pennsylvania (+4 cents), Utah (+4 cents) and Missouri (-3 cents).

Central States and Great Lakes Region

Gas prices are more expensive compared to this time last year for 9 of the 13 Great Lakes and Central states, with these four state averages a dime or more higher: Illinois (+16 cents), Ohio (+16 cents), Indiana (+15 cents) and Michigan (+11 cents). Four other states have more expensive prices, but not in the double-digits: Kentucky (+8 cents), Iowa (+7 cents), Missouri (+7 cents), Nebraska (+6 cents) and Kansas (+4 cents).

On the week the majority of states saw a decrease or no change in gas prices. This was due to gasoline stocks holding steady at 46.4 million bbl and a one percent increase in regional refinery utilization. However, two states did see prices increase on the week: Michigan (+9 cents) and Wisconsin (+2 cents). If refinery rates increase to help build stocks, most motorists in the region could expect gas prices to be cheaper through year-end.

Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased by 81 cents to settle at \$57.77. However, crude prices increased slightly in recent reports (about a nickel) due to reports that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its partners are likely to extend their current production reduction agreement through the middle of 2020 at OPEC's meeting in Vienna on December 5 - 6.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 60 million members nationwide and more than 104,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, non-profit corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit www.AAA.com.

Major Post-Thanksgiving System

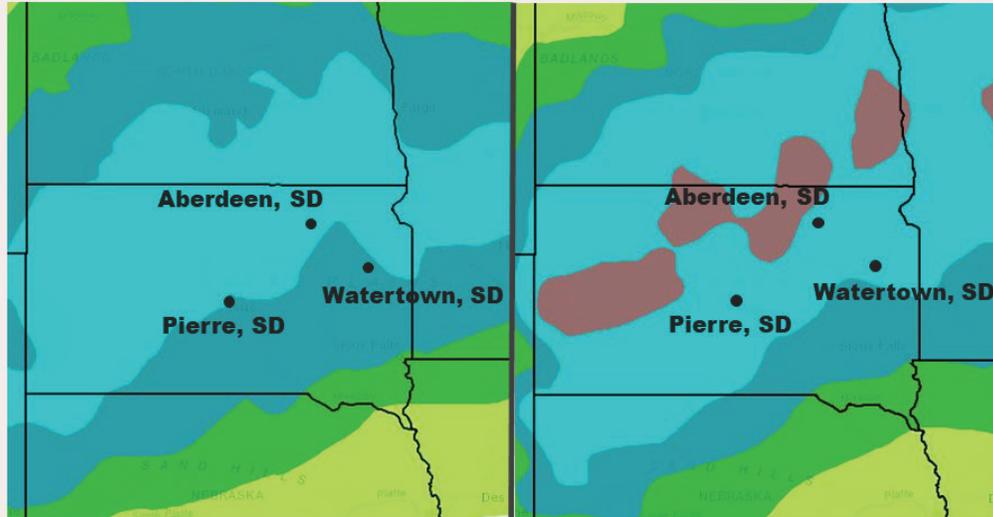
Updated: 11/25/2019 3:50 PM Central



Potential for Moderate to Heavy Snowfall

Lowest Highest

7am Friday – 7am Saturday 7am Saturday – 7am Sunday



What We Know

Confidence is increasing for significant impacts late in the week, including a wintry mix of precipitation and moderate to heavy plowable snow. Adverse travel conditions likely.

What We Don't Know

Exact timing, location and amounts of precipitation/ snow. We're still 4-6 days out, so changes to the forecast should be expected. **Stay tuned!**

What You Can Do

Consider alternate travel plans, and have a winter survival kit prepared.

* Note: Mixed precipitation and strong gusty winds are probable with this system too

Published on: 11/25/2019 at 10:52AM

There is a potential for significant travel impacts with a winter storm across portions of the Northern Plains Friday into Sunday. Moderate to heavy snow will be possible. Strong winds Saturday into Sunday morning could result in blowing snow and drifting snow with low visibilities. While it's too early to pin point any specifics on timing and amounts... consider alternate travel plans if this forecast of moderate to heavy snow continues. Stay tuned to the latest forecast from your favorite trusted source.

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Today



Cloudy

High: 34 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
Snow then
Cloudy

Low: 26 °F

Wednesday



Decreasing
Clouds

High: 32 °F

Wednesday
Night



Increasing
Clouds

Low: 17 °F

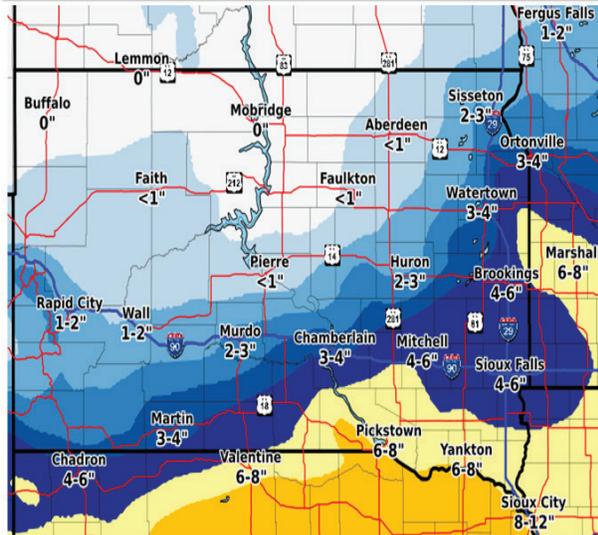
Thanksgiving
Day



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Snow

High: 30 °F

TUESDAY-EARLY WEDNESDAY STORM ACCUMULATION



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

updated 11/25/2019 2:17 PM



Breezy Conditions (Blowing and Drifting Snow) Tuesday Night may also Impact Travel
see previous graphic with regards to timing the Onset of Precipitation

Don't Forget: 2nd Storm to Greatly Impact Travel Friday-Weekend

Published on: 11/25/2019 at 9:23AM

Snow will be moving into southern South Dakota and Minnesota Tuesday and continue into Tuesday night, with the highest accumulations to our south. Expect winds to increase Tuesday night, with blowing and drifting snow potentially impacting travel.

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Today in Weather History

November 26, 1989: Snow began falling in western South Dakota during the early evening of the 26th and swept across the state and into west central Minnesota that night and through much of the 27th. Almost two feet of snow fell in parts of the Black Hills, while one to two inches fell in the southeast part of South Dakota. Icy roads caused by rain that preceded the snow in central and eastern parts of the state combined with strong northerly winds on the 27th to make for dangerous traveling conditions. Numerous accidents were reported, and many cars went into ditches. Some of the heavier snow amount in central, north central, and northeast South Dakota were reported at Leola with 6 inches; Mellette and Onida with 5 inches; and Eureka, Faulkton, and Aberdeen with 4 inches.

November 26, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 12 inches, along with strong north winds of 20 to 40 mph, caused near-blizzard conditions and challenging travel conditions across most of central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Snowfall amounts were 6 to 12 inches in South Dakota and 10 to 14 inches in west central Minnesota. Most schools were closed or started late on both the 26th and 27th and some businesses were also closed. Many flights were also delayed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Fort Thompson and Webster; 7 inches at Eureka, Onida, Doland, and Watertown; 8 inches at Highmore, Miller, Onaka, Castlewood, and Selby; 9 inches at Sisseton and Peever; 10 inches at Ortonville, Faulkton, Blunt, Murdo, Kennebec, and Stephan; 11 inches at Victor and Gettysburg; 12 inches at Milbank, White Rock, and Clear Lake; 13 inches at Wheaton; and 14 inches at Browns Valley.

November 26, 2007: Lightning and heavy rain delay the start of the Monday Night Football game at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field between the Miami Dolphins and the Pittsburgh Steelers by 25 minutes. The muddy field conditions contribute to one of the lowest scoring NFL games won by the Steelers, 3-0. The teams combined 375 yards, and the winning field goal occurred with 17 seconds left in the game.

1888 - A late season hurricane brushed the East Coast with heavy rain and gale force winds. The hurricane passed inside Nantucket and over Cape Cod, then crossed Nova Scotia. (David Ludlum)

1896 - Snow and high winds hit the Northern Plains and the Upper Mississippi Valley, with a Thanksgiving Day blizzard across North Dakota. The storm was followed by a severe cold wave in the Upper Midwest. The temperature at Pokegama Dam MI plunged to 45 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A Thanksgiving Day storm in the northeastern U.S. produced heavy snow in northern New England and upstate New York. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to twenty inches at Flagstaff Lake. Totals in New Hampshire ranged up to 18 inches at Errol. Gales lashed the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. A second storm, over the Southern and Central Rockies, produced nine inches of snow at Kanosh UT, and 13 inches at Divide CO, with five inches reported at Denver CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast States during the late morning and afternoon hours. Five tornadoes were reported in Mississippi, with the tornadoes causing a million dollars damage at Ruleville, and in Warren County. In Utah, the town of Alta was blanketed with 15 inches of snow overnight, and during the day was buried under another 16.5 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A massive storm over the western U.S. produced heavy snow in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The storm produced more than two feet of snow in the higher elevations of northern and central Utah, bringing more than sixty inches of snow to the Alta Ski Resort in the Wasatch Mountains. Winds in Utah gusted to 60 mph at Bullfrog. The storm brought much needed snow to the ski resorts of Colorado, with 19 inches reported at Beaver Creek. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

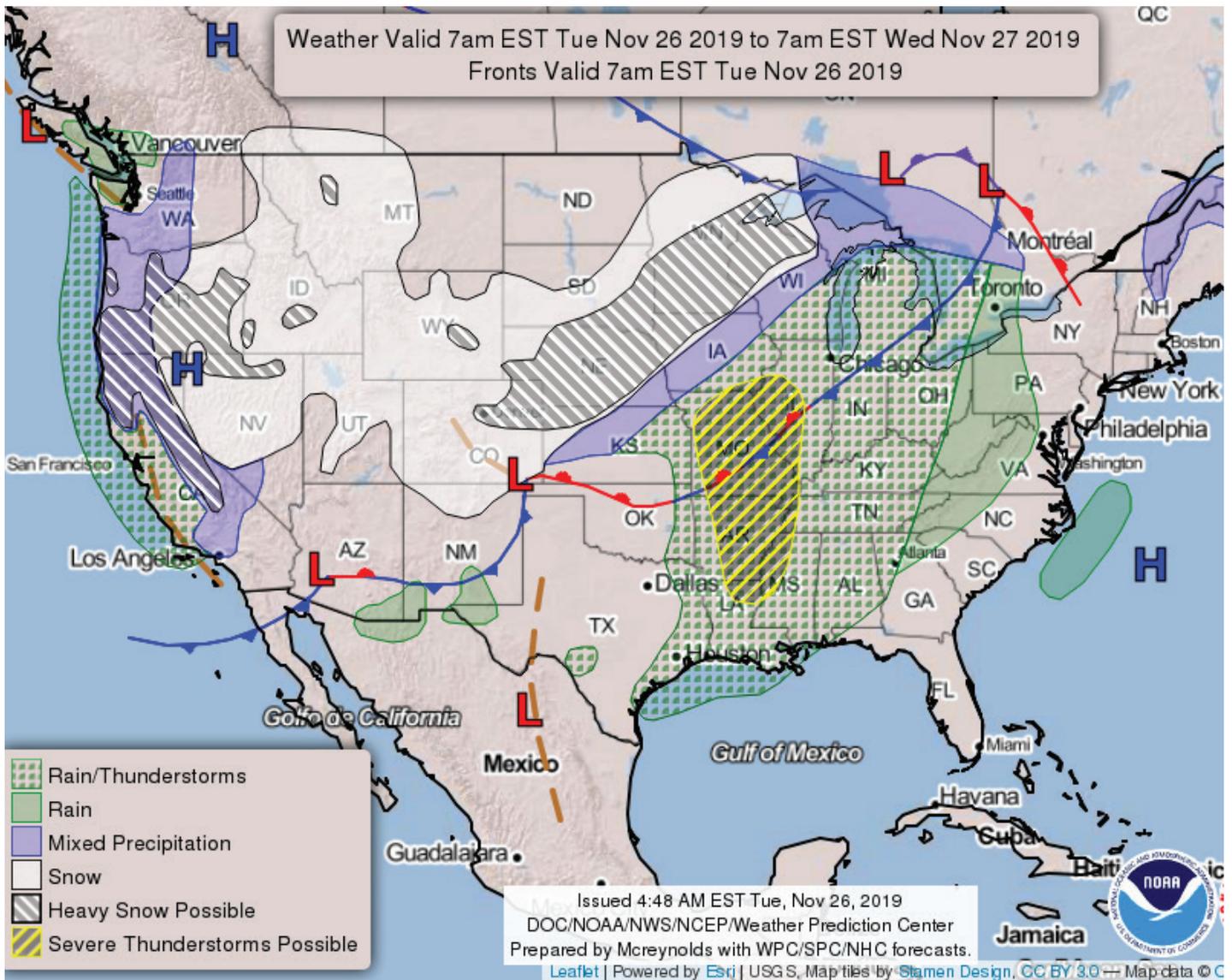
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 44 °F at 12:11 AM
Low Temp: 31 °F at 10:24 PM
Wind: 35 mph at 12:34 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 63° in 1914
Record Low: -24° in 1996
Average High: 33°F
Average Low: 14°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.64
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38
Average Precip to date: 21.11
Precip Year to Date: 26.95
Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.



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THE POTENTIAL OF PRAISE

He had a burning desire to be a writer even though everything seemed to be against him. As a young man in London, he was only able to attend school for four years. His father was jailed for bad debts, and he had no one to help him.

Finally, he got a job pasting labels on bottles. The owner of the business was kind enough to allow him to sleep in the warehouse where he worked. Every spare moment he had was invested in writing stories. For several years every editor rejected every story he ever wrote. But he refused to give up. He kept writing and submitting his stories.

Finally, one day, one editor wrote him and said that one of his stories had been accepted for publication. He went on in his letter and complimented him for his work. A word of praise and the publication of one story were all that he needed. He continued to write and, after many years, perfected his passion. Today, libraries and book stores around the world contain many books written by Charles Dickens.

A word of encouragement goes a long way. And a word of encouragement is all that most of us need to "keep on keeping on." Be an "encourager" to someone today!

Prayer: Lord, keep our eyes open and our minds alert to find and help any in need of encouragement. Help us to be an "encourager" that changes lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Hebrews 10:24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

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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

Prosecutors want prison for South Dakota man linked to agent

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal prosecutors are seeking prison time for a longtime conservative operative who was linked to a Russian agent.

Paul Erickson is scheduled to appear before a federal judge Tuesday to plead guilty to wire fraud and money laundering. The charges are for fraudulent investment schemes he operated for many years, not his relationship with the agent.

Erickson also faces fines up to \$750,000, plus possible restitution to those he defrauded — though it's not clear if his victims will ever see any money.

Erickson has struggled to make court-mandated payments in the past. In 2016, he failed to make a \$20,000 payment that was part of a lawsuit settlement brought by an investor in a wheelchair scheme. His first lawyer in that litigation quit after Erickson's checks bounced. His second lawyer also withdrew, citing "a communication breakdown."

The alleged crimes are unrelated to the charges against Maria Butina, who was deported in October after admitting she sought to infiltrate conservative U.S. political groups and promote Russia's agenda. Erickson and Butina had a romantic relationship.

The money laundering charge centers on a \$100,000 loan that Erickson received to develop land in North Dakota. Prosecutors said he transferred \$1,000 of that money to a person listed as "M.B." in court documents.

Prosecutors said Erickson concocted multiple investment schemes from 1996 to August 2018, including recruiting investors for a string of elder care homes; developing a wheelchair that allowed a person to use the bathroom from the chair; and home-building in North Dakota's booming oil fields. He operated his schemes from Sioux Falls.

When federal prosecutors charged Erickson with 11 counts of wire fraud and money laundering in February, he initially pleaded not guilty. Erickson has agreed to change his plea to guilty on two of the charges.

One of the investors drawn into Erickson's real estate scheme was David Gillian, the husband of former State Department official Andrea Thompson. Before leaving the State Department in September, Thompson oversaw arms control negotiations with Russia. Gillian sent Erickson \$100,000 to invest in developing homes in North Dakota in 2017. He is currently suing Erickson over the payment.

Erickson's lawyer, Clint Sargent, declined to comment ahead of the change-of-plea hearing. Last week, Sargent noted that the deal would "resolve all charges" against Erickson over many years "and this ordeal for Mr. Erickson will come to an end."

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Aberdeen American News, Nov. 23

Last words of those executed should not be public

Charles Russell Rhines was executed Nov. 4 in Sioux Falls for the 1992 murder of Donnivan Schaeffer.

The 63-year-old was the 20th person executed by the state of South Dakota, and the fifth since 2007. Jack McCall was the first person on record to be executed in Dakota Territory on March 1, 1877, for the murder of Wild Bill Hickok.

Whether you find justice in or disagree with capital punishment, one thing needs to change: executions should not include last statements made in public.

Those being executed should say their final words in private to friends and/or family, clergy or to invited guests who want to listen.

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This could be done in the days or hours leading up to the execution. Let the person who is being executed eat what they want and say what they want before the execution.

Those being executed can't take weapons to their execution, so why allow a public statement? Words certainly can be used as weapons in an attempt to inflict harm.

Before he was executed, Rhines was asked if he had anything to say. He spoke specifically to the parents of his victim Donnivan Schaeffer, Ed and Peggy.

"Yes, I do," Rhines said, according to media witnesses. "Ed and Peggy Schaeffer, I forgive you for your anger and hatred toward me. I pray to God that he forgives you for your anger and hatred toward me. Thanks to my team. I love you all, goodbye. Let's go. That's all I have to say. Goodbye."

We can't know what Rhines intended or what was in his heart as he spoke those words. Each of you can decide for yourselves.

Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo said he has stood next to Donnivan's family for 26 years as the case proceeded.

"All that time, they have borne this tragedy and this loss with a grace that is simply inspiring," Vargo said.

Peggy Schaeffer said she let go of her anger a long time ago.

"Anger and hate couldn't have got us anywhere," she said. "I gave it up to God. It takes a load off ... if I would start hating, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be who I am."

Rhines ended up on death row after the events at a doughnut shop in Rapid City on March 8, 1992. It was a shop where both Rhines and Donnivan Schaeffer had worked.

A few weeks after getting fired from the doughnut shop, Rhines burglarized the business. Schaeffer was delivering supplies to the shop when he walked in on Rhines, who then stabbed the 22-year-old to death.

Rhines was sentenced to death in 1993.

In the past, inmates about to be executed have attempted to use humor. Whatever their intentions, we don't believe the families of victims need to hear what an inmate has to say.

If a condemned person wants to say something to the families of their victim or victims, and those families want to hear it, let it be done in private.

Outside the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls Nov. 4, both protesters and supporters of the death penalty gathered.

Whatever side you are on, we hope that you would agree that public statements from the condemned at such events are unnecessary.

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Nov. 22

South Dakota's anti-meth campaign is embarrassing. So are our drug laws.

South Dakota is not only losing the war on drugs, it's setting a standard for ineptitude.

After years of being held up as an example of flawed enforcement policy and overzealous sentencing of non-violent narcotics offenders, we've entered a fresh wave of national scrutiny, this time in the form of laughter.

Gov. Kristi Noem's anti-meth advertising campaign – featuring the tagline "Meth. We're On It." – managed to draw enough mockery to make South Dakota a trending topic on Twitter, with national media and neighboring states seizing on a hackneyed attempt at double meaning to do the unthinkable: make a joke out of crippling drug addiction.

Enough about the punchlines, though. Let's talk about missed opportunities. And wasted resources.

This was the rollout of a \$1.4 million ad campaign contracted by the state's Department of Social Services to a Minneapolis marketing firm, which will use various forms of media to "educate every person across the state of South Dakota" on meth addiction, resources available and strategies to engage communities in recovery.

For that amount of money and the importance of the subject matter, there should be scrutiny upon those who signed off on the premise. Someone listened to a boardroom pitch that most Americans found harebrained and decided to invest state funds to embrace the "I'm On Meth" mantra.

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Since Noem is the boss, she has some explaining to do.

We all understand the advertising axiom of “just get them talking about you,” which the governor tried to use as cover for the blunder. That approach makes perfect sense for commercial branding, but this was not about selling breakfast cereal.

This is about raising awareness and fostering grassroots education about a highly addictive drug that accounted for more than 3,600 statewide arrests in 2018 and has reached crisis mode on Native American reservations. The trend is seeping into our schools, with South Dakota reporting a 150 percent higher rate of young meth users than the rest of the country.

There is a difference between “getting people’s attention” for a two-day news cycle and those same people being suitably inspired to take meaningful steps to understand and address the issue.

Research into the “Just Say No” PSAs and other anti-drug campaigns in the 1980s and 90s show little positive effect on their core audience — namely young people who have not yet become habitual users. Though they drew attention with images such as an egg in a frying pan and the message, “This is your brain on drugs,” the movement missed the mark.

“Despite billions of dollars spent,” former presidential drug policy adviser Keith Humphreys told NPR in 2017, “the general conclusion is that these ads either had no effect or in some cases maybe even a perverse effect.”

Perhaps the money could be better spent on a wide network of support systems to help parents and educators understand warning signs and behavioral triggers before things start to spiral. Hardcore drug use is often a symptom of emotional vulnerabilities and social circumstances that trained counselors can not only spot but also work with others to counteract.

If South Dakota’s ad campaign is merely a way to draw people to a website to find such resources, it could have been done with a much smaller price tag and considerably less embarrassment.

It’s also a mixed message for a state that ranks first nationally in per capita narcotics arrests, the byproduct of a system in which stiff drug laws swell jails and prisons with low-level offenders. South Dakota is the only state that treats ingestion of a controlled substance as a felony rather than a misdemeanor, which helps fuel the incarceration rate rather than focusing on addiction counseling and continuing treatment.

A legislative committee that studied the issue over the summer recommended more funding for probation, parole and treatment services, but no change to South Dakota’s ingestion law.

So a state facing an epidemic of meth and opioid abuse, coupled with laws that lock up common users and encourage recidivism, has decided that minor tweaks to the status quo and a too-clever ad campaign is the way to find daylight amid the darkness.

Do we need to keep hammering this issue until leadership emerges and common sense prevails?

We’re on it.

Madison Daily Leader, Nov. 20

Charter school idea requires goal-setting

The South Dakota Education Equity Coalition has presented an idea to the State-Tribal Relations Committee, calling for legislation allowing Native Americans to create charter schools based in a Native American language.

Sarah Pierce, one of the coalition’s leaders, said that the schools would be a space where students can be “unapologetically Indian.” “They don’t have to check their indigenouness at the door,” Pierce said. “We don’t want our culture, spirituality, our language to be viewed as an elective.”

It’s an interesting proposal that requires a lot more thought by a lot more people. In general, we think innovation in education has merit, and we certainly believe that all schools shouldn’t be run by a “one size fits all” model.

For those who will make a decision about this legislation, this requires an agreement as to what the goal of this particular K-12 school is, and what the best outcome will be for students. What will high school graduates be prepared for in the next stages of their lives?

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Understanding of culture, history and immersion in the Oceti Sakowin language can be good, but it may not prepare a student well for future employment. The curriculum still must teach students fundamentals in other fields, like math, science, technology and English, as well as nonacademic skills like teamwork, persistence, communication and achievement of goals.

Charter schools have the capacity to teach all these, just like public and private schools. The success of any school requires input and support from many people, including parents, teachers, community members and education experts.

It's fair to say that many tribal schools aren't working at this time. According to the 2018-19 school report cards, Native American students are faring less well on test scores in several areas, including language arts and science. Graduation rates in tribal schools are about 66 percent compared to 95 percent in nontribal schools in South Dakota.

Pierce, the former director of Indian education in the Rapid City schools, believes the new charter school can improve success rates. "Our design will hopefully have a great balance that won't lack in rigor or culture," Pierce said.

We're eager to see all stakeholders — legislators, state education officials, tribal officials, parents and others — study this idea. We'd love to see newfound success for Native American students. That needs to be the goal of any modified system.

Snowstorm could make Upper Midwest holiday travel a mess

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Forecasters say a snowstorm could make Thanksgiving travel a mess in southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin and other parts of the Upper Midwest.

At least 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow is expected to begin falling Tuesday afternoon south of Interstate 94, followed by strong winds on Wednesday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Brent Hewett says Wednesday morning "is not looking great for travel." Minneapolis-St. Paul could see its biggest November snowfall since 2010.

Hewett says northwestern Wisconsin could be hit by 8-12 inches (20-30 centimeters) or more of snow. He says travel in northwestern Wisconsin "is going to be chaotic."

Meteorologists say another winter storm could develop after Thanksgiving into the weekend. But they say it's too soon to tell whether that system will bring rain, snow or a mix.

Last living Mount Rushmore construction worker dies at 98

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The last living worker who helped construct Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota's Black Hills has died.

Donald "Nick" Clifford of Keystone, South Dakota, was 98. His wife, Carolyn Clifford, says he died Saturday at a hospice in Rapid City.

At 17, Nick Clifford was the youngest worker hired to work at Mount Rushmore. He operated a winch that carried workers up and down the mountain where the faces of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln were carved, and he drilled holes for dynamite.

Mount Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln, decided in 1938 to field a baseball team and hired Clifford, who already was a veteran pitcher and right fielder, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Clifford worked on Mount Rushmore from 1938-40, earning 55 cents an hour. Between 1927 and 1941, nearly 400 men and a few women worked on the memorial, which is now visited by nearly 3 million people annually.

In 2004, Clifford and his wife wrote his story in a book, "Mount Rushmore Q&A". He would sign copies at the memorial's gift shop.

"I feel like Mount Rushmore was the greatest thing with which I was ever involved," Clifford said in a 2016 interview. "It tells a story that will never go away — the story of how America was made and the men who helped make it what it is today."

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

2 teens killed, three others injured in South Dakota crash

TULARE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating a crash that killed two teenagers and seriously injured three other people.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan says the crash happened Sunday night near Tulare. He says details of the crash will be released later Monday.

A Facebook post by the Ipswich Public Schools says classes were delayed until mid-morning so students could take time to grieve the loss of "two beautiful young people taken far too soon."

Clergy and counselors were made available to students. Ipswich is about 73 miles (117 kilometers) north of Tulare.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to Address Farmer2Farmer Conference

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov 25, 2019--

Farmers Business NetworkSM (FBN), the independent farmer-to-farmer network, today announced that Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, will address the company's fifth annual Farmer2Farmer Conference, at 8:30 AM on December 12, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Farmer2Farmer V Conference is designed to arm growers with the tools, information and inputs they need to profit amid whipsaw trade conditions, shifting global consumer appetites and unpredictable weather.

Some 4,000 leading farmers - representing every major commodity crop in North America - will gather in Omaha, alongside technologists, policy makers, investors and business leaders from around the world to discuss the agricultural economy in the 2020's and the future of family farms.

Secretary Perdue will be on hand to speak with farmers, hear about innovation happening in agriculture, and discuss issues regarding the rural economy.

Media may register by contacting media@farmersbusinessnetwork.com

About Farmers Business Network, Inc.

Farmers Business Network, Inc. is an independent farmer-to-farmer network, built by and for over 9,200 farmers, representing Farmers First SM. FBN members receive input price and performance transparency and comprehensive farm benchmarking and analytics based on over 220 million acre-events of real-world precision agronomic data. The FBN Direct e-commerce platform provides national, transparent pricing on ag chemicals, fertilizers, seeds, and technology helping farmers reduce operating costs. FBN Crop Marketing provides farms premium contracts, production contracts, risk management, and price intelligence.

The FBN network has grown to cover more than 34 million acres of member farms in the U.S. and Canada. Blending the best of Midwestern agricultural roots and Silicon Valley technology, the company has offices in San Carlos, Calif., and a National Operations Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., Canadian Headquarters in High River, Alberta, and employees spanning 44 states and 6 Canadian provinces.

To learn more, visit: www.fbn.com.

The sprout logo, "FBN", "Farmers Business Network", and "Farmers First" are registered trademarks or service marks of Farmers Business Network, Inc.

Mother accused of trying to kill self, baby gets probation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of trying to kill her baby and herself has been sentenced to three years of probation in Minnehaha County.

Thirty-five-year-old Julia Alzoubaidi was also ordered to continue with her mental health treatment. Witnesses testified Friday about the improvements she has made regarding her mental health since she drove her car off Interstate 229 near the Big Sioux River in October 2018 in an attempt to kill herself and her 6-month-old son. She was found face down in the water and her son was found near the river bank.

Alzoubaidi, a psychologist, thought she was saving her child from a lifetime of suffering from attachment disorder.

The Argus Leader reports Alzoubaidi pleaded guilty in September to one count of abuse or cruelty to a minor. The plea deal dismissed an attempted murder charge.

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

Ex-White House lawyer McGahn ordered to comply with subpoena

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has ordered former White House counsel Donald McGahn to appear before Congress in a setback to President Donald Trump's effort to keep his top aides from testifying.

The outcome could lead to renewed efforts by House Democrats to compel testimony from other high-ranking officials, including former national security adviser John Bolton.

Not even the Republican president's closest aides who receive subpoenas from Congress can "ignore or defy congressional compulsory process, by order of the President or otherwise," Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote on Monday in ruling on a lawsuit filed by the House Judiciary Committee.

"Stated simply, the primary takeaway from the past 250 years of recorded American history is that Presidents are not kings," Jackson wrote. "This means they do not have subjects, bound by loyalty or blood, whose destiny they are entitled to control."

McGahn was a star witness in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and Democrats wanted to question McGahn about possible obstruction of justice by Trump. That was months before the House started an impeachment inquiry into Trump's effort to get Ukraine to announce an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden.

The administration said it will appeal Jackson's ruling.

"This decision contradicts longstanding legal precedent established by Administrations of both political parties," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said. "We will appeal and are confident that the important constitutional principle advanced by the Administration will be vindicated."

The Justice Department will seek to put the ruling on hold in the meantime, department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said.

William Burck, an attorney for McGahn, said the former White House counsel will comply with the subpoena, absent a court-imposed stay.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary Committee chairman, said he hoped McGahn would "promptly appear before the committee."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi released a statement calling Jackson's decision "yet another resounding ruling that the Administration's claim of 'absolute immunity' from Congress's subpoenas has no basis in the law or our democracy, and must immediately cease."

The White House has argued that McGahn and other witnesses have "absolute immunity" from testifying.

But such immunity "simply does not exist," Jackson wrote in a 118-page ruling. "That is to say, however busy or essential a presidential aide might be, and whatever their proximity to sensitive domestic and national-security projects, the President does not have the power to excuse him or her" from complying with a valid congressional subpoena, Jackson wrote. She is an appointee of President Barack Obama.

Whether McGahn has to provide all the information Congress seeks, though, is another matter, the judge wrote. The president may be able to assert "executive privilege" on some sensitive issues, she wrote.

McGahn was a vital witness for Mueller, whose April report detailed the president's outrage over the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and Trump's efforts to curtail it.

In interviews with Mueller's team, McGahn described being called at home by the president on the night of June 17, 2017, and being directed to call the Justice Department and say Mueller had conflicts of interest and should be removed. McGahn declined the command, deciding he would resign rather than carry it out, the report said.

Once that episode became public in the news media, the report said, the president demanded that

McGahn dispute the news stories and asked him why he had told Mueller about it and why he had taken notes of their conversations. McGahn refused to back down.

It's unclear if McGahn's testimony would include any new revelations beyond what Mueller has already released. Mueller concluded that he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice but also that there was insufficient evidence to prove a criminal conspiracy between Trump's campaign and Russia.

House Democrats leading the impeachment inquiry have yet to try to force Bolton to testify, and a subpoena for Bolton's former deputy, Charles Kupperman, to appear was withdrawn. Democrats have said they don't want to get bogged down in court fights over testimony.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

13 French soldiers killed in helicopter collision in Mali

By BABA AHMED and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Two helicopters collided in midair and killed 13 French soldiers fighting Islamic extremists in Mali, France said Tuesday, in its biggest loss since its mission in West Africa's Sahel region began in 2013.

The deaths draw new attention to a worrying front in the global fight against extremism. Attackers linked to the Islamic State or al-Qaida this month alone have killed scores of local troops in the region and ambushed a convoy carrying employees of a Canadian mining company, leaving at least 37 dead.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed "deep sadness" after the Monday evening crash. "These 13 heroes had only one goal: protecting us," he tweeted.

The French military said both helicopters were flying very low when they collided and crashed in Mali's Liptako region while supporting French commandos on the ground pursuing a group of extremists. No one on board survived. French defense minister Florence Parly said an investigation has been opened.

France's operation in West and Central Africa is its largest overseas military mission and involves 4,500 personnel. France intervened in 2013 after extremists seized control of major towns in northern Mali and implemented a harsh version of Islamic law. They were forced back into the desert, where they have regrouped and moved south into more populated areas.

Since 2013, at least 44 French soldiers have died in the mission that has created little public debate in France.

A new surge in extremist attacks in Mali has killed well over 100 local troops in the past two months, with IS often claiming responsibility. The extremists loot military posts and profit from mining operations while finding refuge in forested border areas. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled their homes.

Before his death this year, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi congratulated "brothers" in Mali and neighboring Burkina Faso for pledging allegiance.

Public outrage in Mali also has been directed in recent weeks against France, the country's former colonizer, over the failure to stop the violence that also has led to deadly clashes between wary communities amid suspicions of supporting the extremists.

Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on Tuesday sent his "deepest condolences" to France. "The loss is heavy but the people of the Sahel share your mourning," he said in a statement.

Mali's Liptako region near the border with Niger and its Gourma region near the Burkina Faso border have become strategic crossings for extremist groups as they are largely unguarded, the International Institute for Strategic Studies wrote last month.

France's operation became involved in the Liptako area in 2017 and this year it built a new base in Gossi in the Gourma region, IISS said.

"Despite increased French presence in this zone, military gains remain limited. Both sides barely ever engage in direct confrontation. Militants use guerrilla tactics, rely heavily on improvised explosive devices and hide within the civilian population before and after launching attacks," it added.

France's Barkhane military operation is one of multiple efforts against the growing extremist threat in

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the Sahel including a five-nation regional counterterrorism force that struggles to secure international funding despite French backing and a peacekeeping mission in Mali that is one of the deadliest in U.N. history.

The United States and others have blocked efforts to set up sustained U.N. funding for the 5,000-strong regional G5 Sahel force.

Corbet reported from Paris. Associated Press writer Cara Anna in Johannesburg contributed.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. MCGAHN MUST COMPLY WITH HOUSE SUBPOENA

A federal judge rejects the Trump administration's argument that the former White House counsel and other presidential aides have "absolute immunity" from testifying to Congress.

2. TRUMP'S ACTIONS RAISE CONCERN ABOUT ROLE IN MILITARY JUSTICE

Defense Secretary Mark Esper declares that the president ordered him to stop a disciplinary review of Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, accused of battlefield misconduct.

3. STRONG EARTHQUAKE RATTLES ALBANIA

Rescue crews search for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings after the 6.4 magnitude temblor killed at least 14 people and injured more than 600.

4. 'WE'RE NOT PROTECTING THESE AREAS JUST FOR OURSELVES'

Scientists say protecting broad swaths of the ocean like Gray's Reef off Georgia's coast might not be enough to preserve marine ecosystems in the era of climate change and warming waters.

5. SEARCHERS FIND ONLY 1 PERSON ON BESIEGED HONG KONG CAMPUS

A young woman was found in weak condition at Polytechnic University, and faculty teams believe all other anti-government protesters have left the grounds after a weeklong police siege.

6. WHAT UN SAYS ABOUT CLIMATE GOALS

Countries have procrastinated for too long and need to begin making steep cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions immediately, or risk missing agreed targets for limiting global warming.

7. WINTRY WEATHER THREATENS TO SNARL US HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Up to a foot of snow could fall in parts of Colorado and Wyoming, prompting airlines to issue travel alerts and forecasters to issue blizzard and wintry weather warnings from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes.

8. UN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

The global agency is targeting the often-unpunished crime of rape that afflicts women and girls in every country and has been used as a weapon in conflicts from Bosnia and Rwanda to Syria and Myanmar.

9. 'HE PICKED THE WRONG HOUSE TO BREAK INTO'

An intruder didn't count on an 82-year-old woman living alone being an award-winning bodybuilder with nerves of steel.

10. 'I CAN SEE WHY THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT HIM BEING MVP'

Lamar Jackson throws five touchdown passes and the Baltimore Ravens rout the Los Angeles Rams 45-6 for their seventh consecutive victory.

Hong Kong campus siege ending with one protester found

By EILEEN NG and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A weeklong police siege of a university in Hong Kong may be winding down, closing one of the more violent chapters in the city's long-running anti-government protests.

A search of the Hong Kong Polytechnic campus Tuesday found just one woman, in weak condition, and a senior university official said it's unlikely anyone else remains.

A few people might still be hiding in the warren of buildings on the urban campus, trying to avoid arrest. The search apparently didn't find a man who told reporters before dawn that he is happy living at the

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university and "everyone can stop worrying about us."

Police have cordoned off the area to try to prevent anyone from escaping.

Polytechnic University Vice President Alexander Wai, who led a search of the campus by seven teams, said he couldn't rule out that some people remained, but "the possibility is not very high."

Attention in Hong Kong has shifted to city leader Carrie Lam's response to a major loss in local elections Sunday. The results were seen as a public rebuke of her tough line on the protests.

Lam, after issuing only a written statement Monday, offered no concessions to anti-government protesters, saying only that she would accelerate dialogue and identify ways to address societal grievances.

She said the central government in Beijing did not blame her for the election setback, and that while it may have reflected unhappiness with the government's handling of the unrest, it also showed that many people want an end to the violence.

"Let me just stress that after these five-six months, Hong Kong people have realized very clearly that Hong Kong could no longer tolerate this chaotic situation," Lam told reporters after a weekly meeting with advisers. "Please help us to maintain the relative calm and peace that we have seen in the last week or so and provide a good basis for Hong Kong to move forward."

Her refusal to compromise could spark more unrest at a time when the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has plunged into its first recession in a decade.

The streets around Polytechnic were the scenes of fierce clashes with police 10 days ago. Protesters used the campus as a base and shut down access to a major roadway under Hong Kong's harbor, setting the toll booths on fire.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel will reopen Wednesday morning, earlier than expected, a senior city official announced.

The seven search teams went through most of the buildings on the Polytechnic campus, finding one woman who appeared physically weak, a university statement said.

Wai, the vice president, said she is over 18 and not a student of the university. A Red Cross first aid team gave her medical care, and counselors were trying to coax her to surrender.

Holdouts at the university had been trying to avoid arrest.

The search teams found gasoline bombs and other dangerous items, the Polytechnic statement said. The library was flooded, and the fuel tanks of cars had been forced open.

The university plans to resume the search in the morning, possibly with more people.

The pro-democracy bloc won control of 17 out of 18 district councils in Sunday's election, which was seen as a barometer of public support for more than five months of pro-democracy protests.

Lam said that when she withdrew an extradition bill in September that had sparked the protests, she also gave a detailed response to the protesters' other demands, including free elections for the city's leader and legislature and a probe into accusations of police brutality.

The government hopes to take advantage of the current lull in violence to accelerate public dialogue and set up an independent review committee to find solutions to deep-seated societal issues, she said.

"The next step to go forward is really, as you have put it, to engage the people. And we have started public dialogue with the community," Lam said. "But unfortunately, with the unstable environment and a chaotic situation, I could not do more on that sort of engagement. I hope that the environment will allow me to do it now."

Some pro-establishment figures have pointed fingers at Lam for their loss, while the pro-democracy camp has asked her to step down.

Protesters saw the extradition bill as an erosion of their rights promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. The demonstrations have since expanded into a protest over what they see as Beijing's growing interference in the city.

Some analysts said China's ruling Communist Party isn't likely to soften its stand on Hong Kong. Chinese media have muted reports on the poll outcome, focusing instead on how pro-Beijing candidates were harassed and the need to restore law and order.

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Beijing is treading cautiously partly to avoid jeopardizing trade talks with the United States. It also faces pressure from planned U.S. legislation that could derail Hong Kong's special trade status and sanction Hong Kong and China officials found to violate human rights.

China's foreign ministry on Monday summoned U.S. Ambassador Terry Branstad for a second time to demand Washington block the bipartisan legislation on Hong Kong. Vice Minister Zheng Zeguang warned that the U.S. would "bear all the consequences that arise" if the bill is signed by President Donald Trump.

Trump has not committed to signing it and has 10 days from the time of its passage last week to veto it. If he does not do so, it automatically becomes law. Congress could also override a veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both houses.

Derek Mitchell, a former U.S. ambassador to Myanmar who heads the Washington-based National Democratic Institute, denied accusations that it had funded or supported the Hong Kong protesters. China has accused foreign forces and money of being a "black hand" behind the protests.

Mitchell, speaking in Hong Kong, said citizens had spoken "loudly and clearly" in the local election and that the government must respond to prevent the protests from sliding into an abyss.

"The ball is in the court of the government here and authorities in Beijing," he said.

In a boost to the city, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba made a strong debut on the Hong Kong stock exchange on Tuesday, rising 6.6%. Alibaba's share sale of at least \$11.3 billion in its secondary listing is the world's biggest this year.

Associated Press video journalist Joael Calupitan contributed to this report.

Albania earthquake kills 14; rescuers hunt for survivors

By LLAZAR SEMINI and VISAR KRYEZIU Associated Press

THUMANE, Albania (AP) — Rescue crews used excavators to search for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings Tuesday after a powerful pre-dawn earthquake in Albania killed at least 14 people and injured more than 600.

The 6.4 magnitude quake was felt across the southern Balkans and was followed by multiple aftershocks. In nearby Bosnia, another temblor with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck southeast of the capital and rattled Sarajevo. There were no immediate reports of casualties and only minor damage in that earthquake.

The quake in Albania collapsed at least three apartment buildings while people slept, and rescue crews were working to free people believed trapped. There was no indication as to how many people might still be buried in the rubble.

"It is a dramatic moment where we should preserve calm, stay alongside each other to cope with this shock," Prime Minister Edi Rama said.

The Health Ministry reported about 600 people had been injured, with some in serious condition.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.4 quake, which struck just before 4 a.m. local time, had an epicenter 30 kilometers (19 miles) northwest of the capital, Tirana, at a depth of 20 kilometers (12 miles). Scores of aftershocks included three with preliminary magnitudes of between 5.1 and 5.4.

The Defense Ministry said seven bodies were pulled from rubble in the coastal city of Durres, 33 kilometers (20 miles) west of the capital Tirana and five people were found dead in a collapsed apartment building in the northern town of Thumane. One person died after jumping from his home to escape in Kurbin, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the capital, while another person was killed on a road that collapsed in the northern town of Lezha.

Local television stations showed footage of a young boy being pulled from a collapsed building in Durres after an excavator moved a broken slab of concrete and local men pulled mangled reinforcement bars out of the way. Hours later, live TV footage showed people cheering when a child was found alive in a collapsed building in Durres where a body had been found earlier.

"We are expecting multiple aftershocks following the main earthquake. That will pose a danger to human life. People in the affected areas should be aware of this danger," said Akis Tselentis, director of the

Geodynamic Institute of Greece, speaking in Athens.

The quake was felt along the Albanian coast as well as neighboring Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece, and parts of southern Serbia.

Authorities reported scores of aftershocks — as strong as magnitude 5.5 — and called on people in the most affected areas to stay out of their homes and avoid driving in the affected areas to allow emergency vehicles free access. Many reported seeing cracks in their apartment walls.

All government agencies were on alert and “intensively working to save lives at the fatal spots in Durres and Thumane,” Rama said. About 400 soldiers were setting up tents in Durres and in Fushe Kruje near Thumane in the north to house survivors left homeless by the quake.

Rama said neighboring countries, the European Union and the United States had offered help. By late morning, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Turkey, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia were sending rescue crews to Albania.

Greece was sending about 40 rescuers, with one 26-member search and rescue team with two sniffer dogs and specialized equipment flying from Athens to Tirana on board a military aircraft, while the second team was heading to the quake zone by road from northern Greece. Italy was sending specialized urban search and rescue teams from three Italian regions while Serbia, Romania, Turkey and Montenegro were also sending search-and-rescue teams.

At least three apartment buildings and the power distribution station were damaged in Thumane.

An earthquake in September in roughly the same area damaged hundreds of homes.

Llazar Semini reported from Tirana. Elena Becatoros and Derek Gatopoulos in Athens, Greece, contributed to this report.

Follow Llazar Semini at <https://twitter.com/lsemini>

House committee’s report on impeachment could land next week

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The witnesses have spoken, the politics are largely settled. Now impeachment investigators will make the case for public opinion.

On Monday, hundreds of pages from Democratic Chairman Adam Schiff’s intelligence committee were being compiled into an exhaustive report that will begin to outline whether President Donald Trump engaged in “treason, bribery or high crimes and misdemeanors” by withholding \$400 million in aid as he pushed Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden. The report may come as soon as next week.

There are rising political stakes for all sides. Americans remain deeply split over the impeachment question, despite hours of sometimes riveting testimony, and the country’s polarization now seems to foreshadow an outcome: Democrats are poised to vote to impeach the president while Republicans stand firmly with him.

Sending the case on to the Judiciary Committee, which is ready to start its own round of hearings in December, provides another chance to sway public opinion before a House vote expected by Christmas and a Senate trial in 2020.

“The evidence of wrongdoing and misconduct by the President that we have gathered to date is clear and hardly in dispute,” Schiff told colleagues in a letter Monday. “What is left to us now is to decide whether this behavior is compatible with the office of the Presidency, and whether the Constitutional process of impeachment is warranted.”

Republicans are not necessarily disputing the evidence but insist the president did nothing wrong. While Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani pursued the political investigations with Ukraine in what witnesses described as an irregular foreign policy channel, Republicans argue it’s not clear the president directly intervened to withhold the money to Ukraine. Besides, they say, the military aid for the Eastern European ally countering Russian aggression was eventually released.

Trump gave Giuliani a vote of confidence Monday.

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"Rudy is the best mayor in the history of New York. In my opinion, the strongest mayor, the best mayor," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

However, in a setback for the administration, a federal judge late Monday ordered former White House counsel Donald McGahn to appear before Congress. The president has tried to keep top aides from testifying, which Democrats say amounts to obstruction of Congress and potential grounds for impeachment. The administration will appeal the ruling.

Some Republicans, led by Sen. Lindsey Graham, prefer to keep digging into unfounded claims that Ukraine was involved in 2016 election interference, a theory that contradicts the findings of U.S. intelligence. They also see reason to scrutinize the work of Biden's son, Hunter Biden, for a gas company in Ukraine.

"The whole Ukraine issue, particularly the way the House of Representatives is doing it, is a joke," Graham tweeted Monday. "We're less than a year away from the 2020 election. If you don't like Trump — vote against him."

When Congress resumes next week, Schiff is expected to send the report, compiled from 17 closed-door depositions and five public sessions, to the House Judiciary Committee, where Chairman Jerrold Nadler will soon begin hearings that are expected to result in articles of impeachment against Trump.

Rather than gather additional testimony, Nadler's panel is likely to drill down into the questions surrounding impeachment and whether Trump's actions toward Ukraine meet the bar.

For many Democrats, Trump already proved the case when he released a rough transcript of a July call in which he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a "favor" — the investigations of Biden and the Democrats.

"The unusual fact about this inquiry is that the most explosive evidence is the first evidence we got: It was the President's transcript," said Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt. "All the other evidence is confirming it and showing how elaborate and sustained the effort was to put the squeeze on Ukraine to get the Biden investigations."

Republicans are just as insistent the end result will not remove Trump from office.

"The only prediction I can make is that I can't imagine a scenario under which 67 members of the Senate would remove the president from office in the middle of a presidential election," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said during an event Monday in Kentucky.

Even as investigators race to compile the report, Democrats aren't ruling out more testimony.

The Intelligence Committee still could hear from John Bolton, the president's former national security adviser, who left the White House after saying he didn't want to be involved in whatever "drug deal" Giuliani was cooking up, according to testimony from a top aide, Fiona Hill.

Schiff said Sunday he's also in discussions with counsel for Lev Parnas, the Giuliani associate who was arrested with business partner Igor Fruman on campaign finance charges.

Bolton has so far declined an invitation to testify. The panel has issued a subpoena to Parnas for documents about the matter.

"We are open to the possibility that further evidence will come to light," Schiff said. If other witnesses agree to testify, he said, "We are prepared to hear from them."

One witness Schiff does not expect to hear from is the still anonymous government whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's phone call with Ukraine sparked the impeachment probe.

Schiff said over the weekend that the panel initially wanted to hear from the person, but Trump's attacks have put the person's life in danger. The committee is now trying to protect the whistleblower from retaliation.

Associated Press writers Mark Sherman and Jonathan Lemire in Washington and Bruce Schreiner in Manchester, Ky., contributed to this report.

Wintry weather threatens to snarl US holiday travel

By **DAVID KOENIG and THOMAS PEIPERT** Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A strong storm expected to drop up to a foot of snow in parts of Colorado and Wyoming on Tuesday prompted airlines to issue travel alerts and the National Weather Service to issue blizzard and wintry weather warnings from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes.

About a quarter of Denver International Airport's 1,500 flights on Tuesday were canceled, and airport officials said more cancellations are likely.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty with this storm," airport spokeswoman Emily Williams said Monday afternoon.

The storm was expected to move into the Plains later Tuesday, bringing high wind and more snow to Minnesota, Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

It could bring another round of snow to the Upper Midwest from Thursday through Saturday, and a chance of snow this weekend in interior New England, said Alex Lamers, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"That could be a coast-to-coast storm," he said.

It also could mean disappointment for fans of the larger-than-life balloons flown at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. Organizers were preparing for the possibility that they'll have to ground the iconic balloon characters, given 40-50 mph (64-81 kph) gusts in the forecast. Rules put in place after several people were injured by a balloon years ago require lower altitudes or full removal if sustained winds exceed 23 mph (37 kph) and gusts exceed 34 mph (54 kph). The decision will be made on parade day.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area could see its biggest November snowfall in nearly a decade, and travel is northwestern Wisconsin "is going to be chaotic," said National Weather Service meteorologist Brent Hewett.

The Minneapolis airport could be hit, but Chicago, with its two big airports, should only see rain from the storm, weather service officials said.

The second storm, brewing in the Pacific, was expected to hit the West Coast on Tuesday afternoon or evening, bringing snow to the mountains and wind and rain along the coasts of California and Oregon.

Dangerous winds from the gathering storm on Monday flipped a tractor-trailer, downed power lines and temporarily closed a stretch of U.S. Highway 6 south of Yosemite National Park near Bishop, California.

This month, AAA predicted that the number of travelers over a five-day stretch starting Wednesday will be the second-highest, behind only 2005, despite rising costs for a road trip.

At the start of the week, a gallon of regular cost \$2.59, up 3 cents from a year ago, and rental cars averaged around \$75 a day — their highest Thanksgiving price since AAA started keeping track in 1999. Hotel rooms are a mixed bag, with prices falling from last year at highly rated hotels but rising slightly at midrange ones.

People might feel they can afford a trip because of low unemployment, rising household net worth, and the stock market's continuing strength.

For those who are flying, the airlines expect traffic to be up about 4% from this time last year. Airlines added about 850 flights and 108,000 seats per day on average to handle the increase over last year's crowds, according to the trade group Airlines for America.

Airline travel before Thanksgiving tends to be spread out over several days, but most people want to go home on the Sunday or Monday after the holiday.

American Airlines plans to operate 7,046 flights Sunday, just one less than on Aug. 8, its heaviest schedule this year. In all, 22 of American's 23 busiest days occurred during the summer vacation season, with this Sunday being the only exception.

"Everybody talks about Thanksgiving being a busy travel time, but summer is Thanksgiving week for the entire summer," said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for the airline.

Koenig reported from Dallas. Associated Press writer Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis and Scott Sonner in

Reno, Nevada, contributed to this report.

UN: 'Quick wins' needed to keep climate goals within reach

By JAMEY KEATEN and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Countries have procrastinated for too long and need to begin making steep cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions immediately, or risk missing agreed targets for limiting global warming, top United Nations officials said Tuesday.

The appeal by Inger Andersen, who heads the U.N. Environment Program, and others came days before governments gather in Madrid for an annual climate change meeting.

"We need quick wins to reduce emissions as much as possible in 2020," Andersen said, as her agency published its annual 'emissions gap' report showing the amount of planet-heating gases being pumped into the atmosphere hitting a new high last year, despite a near-global pledge to reduce them.

"We need to catch up on the years in which we procrastinated," she said.

Over the coming decade, worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases will have to drop more than 7% each year to stop average global temperatures from increasing by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared with pre-industrial times, the agency said. Scientists say that target — contained in the 2015 Paris climate accord — would prevent many of the more dramatic consequences of global warming.

"What we are looking at is really that emissions need to go down by 55 percent by 2030," said John Christensen, lead author and director of the UNEP-Danish Technology Institute Partnership. He warned that CO2 levels have begun to rise again after several years of stabilization.

"If you look at the global emissions, they are still going up," he told journalists at a briefing in Geneva. "(Carbon dioxide) has started to increase again, and it doesn't look too good."

Even the less ambitious goal of capping global warming at 2C (3.6 F) would require annual emissions cuts of 2.7% between 2020 and 2030, the UNEP said.

As part of the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to review their efforts for cutting greenhouse gases by 2020.

Current national pledges would leave the world 3.2 degrees Celsius (5.8 Fahrenheit) warmer by 2100 than pre-industrial times, with dramatic consequences for life on Earth, the U.N. agency said, adding that getting the world back on track to 1.5 C would require a fivefold increase in measures pledged so far.

"The world is facing a climate emergency. It cannot be solved by governments alone," said Katia Simonova of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "2020 is our last best chance to turn the tide," she told the Geneva news conference.

Last week, UNEP published a separate report which found that countries are planning to extract more than twice the amount of fossil fuels from the ground than can be burned in 2030 if the 1.5C target is to be met.

"(What) countries are saying about supply doesn't match up with what they're saying about reducing emissions," said report co-author Michael Lazarus, a senior scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute.

This includes countries like the United States which, despite announcing its withdrawal from the Paris accord, claims to be reducing emissions even as it expands oil and gas production. But it also holds true for countries that tout their green credentials, such as Norway, which continues to drill for oil in the North Sea.

Christensen, the lead author, said the main cause of a recent increase in carbon dioxide emissions was economic growth in developing countries.

Officials appealed to governments that have already laid out targets for reducing their emissions to see if they can do more, and insisted that industries like power, transport, building and shipping can find opportunities to lower their emissions too.

"As individuals, we have a choice about how we live, what we eat and how we go about our business ... and opportunities to live a lower-carbon life," added Andersen.

Experts agree that the longer countries continue burning fossil fuels, the more warming will be "locked

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in" as emissions stay in the atmosphere for years or even decades.

Conversely, the sooner countries take steps to wean themselves off gas, coal and oil — such as by ending government subsidies for fossil fuels — the more warming will be prevented in the long term.

"If you're in a hole, you should start to stop digging," said Niklas Hagelberg of the U.N. Environment Program.

Jordans reported from Berlin. Seth Borenstein contributed to this report from Washington.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

E-commerce giant Alibaba's shares jump 7% in Hong Kong debut

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's shares jumped 6.6% in their debut on the Hong Kong stock exchange on Tuesday, an auspicious start at a time when the former British colony is reeling from political unrest.

Alibaba closed at 187.60 Hong Kong dollars (\$23.96) per share after trading as high as 189.50 Hong Kong dollars. Its offering price was 176 Hong Kong dollars.

The company's shares already are listed in New York, where its 2014 IPO set a record at \$25 billion.

This offering of 500 million new shares raised more than \$11 billion in Hong Kong's biggest listing since 2010 — a rare boost for the city after months of political unrest.

Charles Li, executive director and chief executive of Hong Kong Stock Exchanges praised the company for carrying out the listing.

"I am very thankful that Alibaba, after five years of traveling afar, finally came home. I'm also grateful that they choose to come despite the difficulties, despite the challenges that we are going through here in Hong Kong," Li said.

The closing price Monday for Alibaba's New York-traded shares was \$190.45 per share. Each of the U.S. shares is the equivalent of eight Hong Kong shares, which would put the price in Hong Kong terms at 186.30 Hong Kong dollars per share.

"The largest listing of the year comes at a worrying time for Hong Kong but everything appears to have gone very smoothly," Craig Erlam of OANDA said in a commentary.

"This was an opportunity to show that, despite the protests that have brought Hong Kong to a standstill and wreaked havoc on the economy, it's business as usual for the stock exchange," he said.

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

The company's share code, 9988, is a homonym in Chinese for "eternal prosperity."

It already has a significant cash pile of more than \$30 billion, but is tapping the momentum from recent strong earnings, including the \$38.4 billion it reported in "Singles Day" sales on Nov. 11, up 26% from a year earlier.

If a "greenshoe" overallotment option is exercised, the proceeds from the offering could be nearly \$13 billion.

Alibaba says the proceeds from the share sale will be used to promote strategies to expand its users, help businesses with "digital transformation, and continue to innovate and invest for the long term."

The company's 2014 initial public offering was held in the U.S. due to regulatory limitations that prevented an IPO in Hong Kong.

Ma stepped down as chairman in September but is a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors.

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Lamar Jackson throws 5 TD passes, Ravens rout Rams 45-6

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lamar Jackson basically hadn't allowed the football to touch the ground Monday night until he dropped an ordinary shotgun snap late in the first half at the Coliseum. He picked it up, split the pocket and sprinted away through the Rams' defense, going 35 thrilling yards before tripping right at the goal line.

Instead of celebrating, Jackson sprung up and remonstratively slapped both his hands on his helmet.

Baltimore's brilliant young quarterback wants to be perfect. He got awfully close in his "Monday Night Football" debut with the fearsome Ravens.

Jackson matched his career high with five touchdown passes and ran for 95 yards in another splendid all-around performance, and Baltimore routed Los Angeles 45-6 for its seventh consecutive victory.

Mark Ingram rushed for 111 yards and a TD and caught a scoring pass while the streaking Ravens (9-2) became the fourth team in the 21st century to score touchdowns on its first six drives in a game. With Jackson operating almost flawlessly at the controls, Baltimore embarrassed Aaron Donald and the previously solid Rams defense by racking up 480 yards with its evolving brand of high-octane football.

"We're clicking on all cylinders right now," Jackson said. "It's OK, but we're trying to win the Super Bowl. This is cool, but we're chasing that right now, and that's what we're focused on."

The Ravens' 22-year-old quarterback strengthened his Most Valuable Player case while going 15 of 20 for 169 yards and constantly making smart decisions with his arm and his feet. He hit Willie Snead with his fifth TD pass with 14:43 to play and took the rest of the night off, but even the LA crowd serenaded him with "M-V-P!" chants in the final minutes.

"That's just operating at the highest level you can operate as a quarterback," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said of Jackson's first half, in which he went 9 for 9 and led four TD drives.

Snead and Marquise Brown had two TD catches apiece for the Ravens, whose winning streak is their longest since they won seven straight to close the 2000 season on the way to their first Super Bowl title. At 9-2, the Ravens have matched their best start since 2012, which ended in their second Super Bowl championship. Baltimore has outscored its last three opponents 135-26.

Jared Goff passed for 212 yards with two interceptions and Todd Gurley rushed for just 22 for the defending NFC champion Rams (6-5), who took the worst loss of their three seasons under coach Sean McVay.

"We didn't do nearly enough to be competitive," McVay said. "It was impressive. When you sit there and watch and see (Jackson) up close and personal — on third down with his operation to find completions and making plays with his legs — I can see why they are talking about him being MVP."

Los Angeles hadn't lost by more than 21 points in its first 43 games under McVay, whose once-prolific offense had another humiliating performance with just 111 yards in the first three quarters before finishing with 221. The Rams failed to score a touchdown for the second time in three games, and Goff didn't throw a TD pass in November.

In the Coliseum's first Monday night game since the Rams' epic 54-51 win over Kansas City last November, the Rams gave up one more point than they had allowed in their previous four games combined. The Rams also were among the NFL's best offensive teams for the previous two seasons, but they've lost that status this year while Baltimore has ascended to dominance.

"We got our faces peeled off," said Rams safety Eric Weddle, who spent the past three seasons with Baltimore. "We didn't do much good out there. ... (Jackson) is amazing. The tempo and the speed. I thought the first series or two, we would take our bearings to get adjusted to his speed. He's one of a kind."

The Ravens scored on their opening drive for the seventh time already this season when Jackson lofted an easy TD pass to Brown, who spent a year playing community college ball in nearby Santa Clarita. Brown got his second TD from 18 yards out on Baltimore's second drive, and Ingram capped a 75-yard march with a 1-yard TD run on the third.

Baltimore got the ball back with only 1:55 left before halftime, but that was plenty for Jackson. He hit Snead with a 7-yard TD pass with 12 seconds left, and Rams fans booed their team off the field down 28-6.

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Baltimore opened the second half with another 75-yard drive capped by Ingram's TD catch. The Ravens held the ball for all but 59 seconds of the third quarter, and Snead made his second TD catch early in the fourth.

The Ravens finally had to punt in the fourth quarter, ending a streak of 18 consecutive drives without a punt.

LA REUNION

Baltimore cornerback Marcus Peters made an interception in the fourth quarter to cap his first meeting with the Rams since they traded him to the Ravens last month. Peters shook hands with dozens of former teammates throughout the night, but he also engaged in some demonstrative trash talking with Robert Woods on the field, and he celebrated his pick with relish. Peters then exchanged postgame words on the field and up the tunnel with Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey, who arrived two weeks after Peters' departure.

INJURED

Ravens: C Matt Skura was taken off the field on a cart in the first quarter with a knee injury. He didn't return, and Harbaugh had no update on his condition.

Rams: Brandin Cooks had two catches for 32 yards in his return from a two-game absence with his second concussion of the season.

UP NEXT

Ravens: Host the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

Rams: Visit the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

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

Safeguarding the seas, 1 protected area at a time

By **PATRICK WHITTLE** Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — From the surface, these 22 square miles of water are unexceptional.

But dip beneath the surface — go down 60 or 70 feet — and you'll find a spectacular seascape. Sponges, barnacles and tube worms cover rocky ledges on the ocean floor, forming a "live bottom."

Gray's Reef is little more than a drop in the ocean 19 miles off the Georgia coast, but don't confuse size for significance. In one of his last official acts, President Jimmy Carter declared the reef a national marine sanctuary at the urging of conservationists who said its abundance of life was unique and worth saving for future generations.

For nearly 40 years, the U.S. government has protected the reef, home to more than 200 species of fish and an amazing array of nearly 1,000 different kinds of invertebrates. Recreational fishing and diving are allowed, but commercial fishing and other kinds of exploitation are not.

And Gray's Reef has served as a global inspiration. Following the lead of the U.S., other nations have designated similar sanctuaries and protected areas, which now cover about 6% of the world's oceans — a bonanza for researchers but, more importantly, an important tool for safeguarding the seas.

Doubts remain about how much of the ocean they can truly save. Last year was the hottest on record for the planet's oceans, and protected areas can't slow the biggest source of that warming — increasing greenhouse gases. The federal government says more than 90% of the warming that has occurred on the planet over the past half-century has taken place in the ocean.

That has had dramatic effects in the waters that cover 70% of Earth's surface. Scientists have tied the warming to the rise of sea levels, the disappearance of fish stocks and the bleaching of corals. The ocean also has become more acidic as humans have released higher concentrations of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that jeopardizes valuable shellfish and the plankton that form the base of the food chain.

The supporters for the protected areas range from sustenance fishermen on the tiniest islands of the Pacific to researchers at the most elite institutions of academia.

"We're not protecting these areas just for ourselves," Roldan Muñoz, a research fishery biologist with the U.S.'s National Marine Fisheries Service, says during a research trip to the reef, "they're for our nation."

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On a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expedition to Gray's Reef, the federal research vessel Nancy Foster is packed with scientists conducting research on subjects ranging from whether invasive lionfish are present to how changing ocean conditions are affecting coral species.

Sanctuary research coordinator Kimberly Roberson and other scientists prepare to dive to collect data about what fish can be found in the area, while Craig Aumack, an assistant professor of biology at Georgia Southern University, peers through a microscope at algae.

Aumack notes that more types of seaweed and tropical species of fish are appearing on the reef as waters warm, like the odd-looking and colorful clown wrasse, a fish native to the Caribbean Sea that was found off the coast of Georgia this summer, most likely pushed hundreds of miles to the north by changing ocean temperatures.

The sanctuary is named after Milton "Sam" Gray, a biologist who studied it in the 1960s and identified it as an ecosystem worth saving — a reef not far from the U.S. coast that teemed with life, especially an "abundance of diversity of invertebrates," Roberson notes.

Without that designation, the habitat could have vanished due to high-impact industries such as bottom-trawl commercial fishing, which are now prohibited there.

"In some ways, it's a test of what a marine protected area can do for surrounding areas," says Clark Alexander, director and professor at the University of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and a former member of the sanctuary's advisory board. "It was sort of an ideal spot to preserve this kind of habitat and make it available for research and recreation."

In the decades since Gray's was established, large and more stringently protected zones have popped up all over the world.

Phoenix Island Protected Area, established in January 2008, covers more than 150,000 square miles off the tiny island republic of Kiribati and has been cited by scientists for bringing back species of fish in just over a decade. And an area nearly twice as large, the Rapa Nui Marine Protected Area, now surrounds Easter Island after its creation in 2018.

Former U.S. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama greatly expanded the U.S.'s protected areas. Bush created the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off Hawaii and Obama extended it late in his presidency to a whopping 582,578 square miles.

Smaller protected areas, such as the 5,000-square-mile Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument off New England, created by Obama in 2016, also have been established.

Nine years ago, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to the goal of protecting 10% of the world's oceans by 2020. The UN said in 2017 that it was on its way to meeting that target and that protected areas "contribute substantial social, economic and environmental benefits to society" and "provide food security and livelihood security for some 300 million people."

One commonly cited problem with the protected areas is the difficulty of enforcing rules that restrict commercial fishing and other intrusive industries from vast areas where few people ever venture, particularly in developing parts of the world where resources are limited.

Creating new protected areas without reducing fishing quotas won't save species, says Daniel Pauly, a professor of fisheries at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

And that is not a small issue, as some estimates say the number of fish in the ocean was reduced by half from 1970 to 2015, with warming oceans expected to add to that loss.

"Rebuilding will require not just new protected areas, but it will require quotas reduced," Pauly says.

Many scientists believe protecting broad swaths of the ocean simply might not be enough.

Last year, a group of researchers led by University of North Carolina marine ecologist John Bruno published a pessimistic study of the effects of climate change on the world's marine protected areas. Their findings: those areas will warm by nearly 5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100, destroying species and marine life despite the existence of protections.

Bruno's study reflects the reality of coral bleaching in places such as the Great Barrier Reef off Australia,

which is heavily protected but still vulnerable to the impacts of a warming world.

It's a lesson that illustrates the legacy of Gray's Reef: Protected areas can save pieces of the ocean from extinction, but they can't save it all.

"If it was up to me, we'd protect about 30% of the ocean," Bruno says. "We're just saying we've got to directly address climate change with emission reduction. There's no way around it."

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Remains found believed to be UFC fighters' stepdaughter

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — An Alabama district attorney said Monday that authorities have "good reason" to believe human remains found in a wooded area belong to the missing stepdaughter of a UFC heavyweight fighter.

The remains were found on a county road in neighboring Macon County, Lee County District Attorney Brandon Hughes told The Associated Press.

"I can confirm that human remains have been found in Macon County on County Road 2 and we have good reason to believe they are that of Aniah Blanchard," Hughes said.

Police arrested a third person Monday in connection with the disappearance of Blanchard, 19. She was last seen Oct. 23 in Auburn. Her stepfather is UFC fighter Walt Harris.

After she disappeared, Blanchard's black Honda CRV was found abandoned more than 50 miles (90 kilometers) away at an apartment complex in Montgomery, Alabama. Auburn police detective Josh Mixon testified at a hearing last week that Blanchard's blood was found in the car and it appeared she had suffered a life-threatening injury.

Mixon testified that convenience store video footage showed a man buying a beverage look over at Blanchard. He said tipsters later identified the man as Ibraheem Yazeed, 29, and a man at the store told investigators he saw Yazeed force Blanchard into her car and drive away.

Police have arrested Yazeed and a second man, 35-year-old Antwain Shamar Fisher of Montgomery, on kidnapping charges in Blanchard's disappearance. In an arrest warrant filed with the court Monday, police said Fisher helped Yazeed by disposing of evidence and driving him. Hughes said a third man, David Johnson, Jr., was arrested Monday in Montgomery and charged with hindering prosecution in the case.

The discovery of human remains comes after a month-long search for the missing teen whose face appears on billboards across the county.

Auburn Police said Monday that investigators "obtained information regarding the possible location of a body." Law enforcement officials searched a wooded area in Shorter, Alabama, and found what appeared to be human remains several feet into the woods.

"A complete investigation is under way by (the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency) and Auburn Police to determine the identity and how the victim came to be at that location. The examination will explore if the remains are those of Aniah Blanchard," Auburn police said in a statement.

Pope visits Jesuit Japan community that could have been his

By NICOLE WINFIELD and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Pope Francis wrapped up his visit to Japan in a very personal way Tuesday, spending the morning with his Jesuit confreres in the community that would have been his own had his dream to be a missionary come true.

Francis celebrated morning Mass in the chapel of the Jesuit-run Sophia University and visited retired and sick priests before delivering a speech on Jesuit education in the final event of his weeklong Asia pilgrimage.

"In a society as competitive and technologically oriented as present-day Japan, this university should be a center not only of intellectual formation, but also a place where a better society and a more hope-filled

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future can take shape," he told faculty and students.

As a young Jesuit in Argentina, the former Jorge Mario Bergoglio had dreamed of following in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier, who introduced Christianity to Japan in the 16th century.

He was prevented because of health reasons, but he joked with Japanese bishops upon arriving in Tokyo that he got his "revenge" when he was in charge of the order in Buenos Aires and sent five Argentine priests to Japan as missionaries.

One of those Argentine priests is now the head of the Jesuits in Japan, the Rev. Renzo De Luca, who served as Francis' interpreter for the trip.

De Luca has said his former seminary rector was someone who was particularly "close" to his students, always available even though at a certain point there were more than 100 living in the seminary.

"Even in that time, it was easy to find him: He'd sit with us, cooked with us. Every so often he cooked for us," De Luca told Vatican Media. "He was someone very close to us. He never wanted to be anyone important or hard to get ahold of."

If Francis had come to Japan as a missionary, he likely would have eventually ended up at Sophia, a prestigious private university that caters to the wealthy, like many of the Catholic schools in Japan.

There, Francis met his long-time friend Adolfo Nicolas, an 83-year-old former superior general of the Jesuits who had taught theology for three decades. Nicolas was recovering from a recent health problem.

Overall, even publicly funded higher education in Japan is expensive and generally reserved for the elites. Tuition for bachelor or equivalent level degrees in public schools in Japan are the fourth highest across OECD countries, after England, the U.S. and Chile, at \$5,218 a year, according to OECD data.

In his speech to students and faculty, Francis urged the school to not just be a center for elites, but to consider more marginal groups.

"Quality university education should not be the privilege of a few, but constantly informed by the effort to serve justice and the common good," he said. "The marginalized would be creatively incorporated into the life and curriculum of the university, in an effort to bring about an educational approach aimed at reducing distances and disconnects."

He also urged the university to boost its curriculum with more environmental concerns, following his own priorities and those recently articulated by the Jesuits globally as topics for their schools, churches and programs to incorporate.

Students massed outside the school to welcome Francis, including some from the theology department who toted an environment-themed banner saying "Welcome" in Spanish.

They said they felt particularly close to the pope because they considered him open-minded and a friend.

"We call him papa because he is so close to us," said Leo Ito, a theology student at Sofia.

Tsukasa Yano, a 19-year-old journalism student and Catholic, queued up hours before the Pope's arrival and was able to go close enough to get his cross blessed by the Pope.

"I'm totally overwhelmed. I have no other word," Yano said as he showed the cross in his hand. "He was so friendly to us."

Associated Press journalists Hau Dinh and Haruka Nuga contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the school name is spelled Sophia University, not Sofia University.

In Virginia, Bloomberg blasts Trump for Navy leader's ouster

By **BEN FINLEY** Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — New presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg traveled to the city that hosts the world's largest Navy base on Monday and blasted President Donald Trump over the recent ouster of the nation's Navy secretary.

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For the first stop of his Democratic campaign, Bloomberg went to Norfolk, where he criticized Trump over the firing of Richard Spencer. The civilian leader of the Navy said he could not in good conscience follow an order by the president to allow a Navy SEAL accused of war crimes to retire without losing his SEAL status.

"The fact remains: We have a president, a commander in chief, who has no respect for the rule of law, and no concern whatsoever for ethics or honor, or for the values that truly make America great," Bloomberg told a group of reporters at a downtown hotel.

Virginia is a critical Super Tuesday state that is key to Bloomberg's campaign strategy of bypassing early states to focus on the crush of states that vote later in the cycle. And the locale offered the billionaire and former mayor of New York City more than just the latest controversy in Washington to promote his platform.

The neighboring city of Virginia Beach suffered a mass shooting on May 31 that killed 12 people at a municipal complex. Bloomberg, 77, said that such shootings have become "almost routine" and that "we have to put an end to this madness."

Gun control is a hallmark of Bloomberg's political identity. His group, Everytown for Gun Safety, has pumped more than \$6 million into Virginia campaigns alone in recent years to support like-minded Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

Democrats retook both chambers in Virginia's Legislature earlier this month. Bloomberg said it was proof that "with the right candidate, we can turn areas from red to blue."

Bloomberg, a centrist who became a Democrat last year, joined the presidential race Sunday, just 10 weeks before primary voting begins. His Democratic rivals have already pounced on his plans to rely on his personal fortunes to fund his campaign, accusing him of trying to buy an election.

Bloomberg said Trump was a "threat to our country, to our values and our national security." But he also cast doubt on the crowded field of Democrats whose performance, he insinuated, forced him into the race.

"I think that there is a greater risk of having Donald Trump reelected than there was before," Bloomberg told reporters. "And in the end, I looked in the mirror and said that I just cannot let this happen."

The former Republican touted a platform that also focused on combating sea-level rise, economic inequality and health care.

He said he's already beaten Trump in other arenas, at least symbolically, devoting tens of millions of dollars to pursue policy priorities that are in sharp contrast to the president's.

For instance, Bloomberg 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.

"I know what it takes to beat Trump because we already have, and I will do it again," Bloomberg said.

Bloomberg also chatted with people at a diner in downtown Norfolk that was mobbed with reporters and at least some people who were eager to support him.

Among them was Craig Schranz, 43, an emergency medicine physician who said he's fiscally conservative and socially liberal like Bloomberg is. He praised Bloomberg for not "vilifying" capitalism and for supporting a health care plan that doesn't eliminate private-payer health insurance.

"I think he's someone who knows how to govern," said Schranz, who said he had supported former Vice President Joe Biden before Bloomberg joined the race. "I think he's going to implement sound policy that we need."

Bloomberg plans to go to Phoenix, Arizona, on Tuesday.

With testimony over, work begins on key impeachment report

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The witnesses have spoken, the politics are largely settled. Now impeachment investigators will make the case for public opinion.

On Monday, hundreds of pages from Democratic Chairman Adam Schiff's intelligence committee were being compiled into an exhaustive report that will begin to outline whether President Donald Trump en-

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gaged in “treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors” by withholding \$400 million in aid as he pushed Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden. The report may come as soon as next week.

There are rising political stakes for all sides. Americans remain deeply split over the impeachment question, despite hours of sometimes riveting testimony, and the country’s polarization now seems to foreshadow an outcome: Democrats are poised to vote to impeach the president while Republicans stand firmly with Trump.

Sending the case on to the Judiciary Committee, which is ready to start its own round of hearings in December, provides yet another chance to sway public opinion before a House vote expected by Christmas and a Senate trial in 2020.

“The evidence of wrongdoing and misconduct by the President that we have gathered to date is clear and hardly in dispute,” Schiff told colleagues in a letter Monday. “What is left to us now is to decide whether this behavior is compatible with the office of the Presidency, and whether the Constitutional process of impeachment is warranted.”

Republicans are not necessarily disputing the evidence, but insist the president did nothing wrong. While Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani pursued the political investigations with Ukraine in what witnesses described as an irregular foreign policy channel, Republicans argue it’s not clear the president directly intervened to withhold the money to Ukraine. Besides, they say, the military aid for the Eastern European ally countering Russian aggression was eventually released.

Trump gave Giuliani a vote of confidence Monday.

“Rudy is the best mayor in the history of New York. In my opinion, the strongest mayor, the best mayor,” Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

However, in a setback for the administration, a federal judge late Monday ordered former White House counsel Donald McGahn to appear before Congress. The president has tried to keep top aides from testifying, which Democrats say amounts to obstruction of Congress and potential grounds for impeachment. The administration will appeal the ruling.

Some Republicans, led by Sen. Lindsey Graham, prefer to keep digging into unfounded claims that Ukraine was involved in 2016 election interference, a theory that contradicts the findings of U.S. intelligence. They also see reason to scrutinize the work of Biden’s son, Hunter Biden, for a gas company in Ukraine.

“The whole Ukraine issue, particularly the way the House of Representatives is doing it, is a joke,” Graham tweeted Monday. “We’re less than a year away from the 2020 election. If you don’t like Trump — vote against him.”

When Congress resumes next week, Schiff is expected to send the report, compiled from 17 closed-door depositions and five public sessions, to the House Judiciary Committee, where Chairman Jerrold Nadler will soon begin hearings that are expected to result in articles of impeachment against Trump.

Rather than gather additional testimony, Nadler’s panel is likely to drill down into the questions surrounding impeachment and whether Trump’s actions toward Ukraine meet the bar.

For many Democrats, Trump already proved the case when he released a rough transcript of a July call in which he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for a “favor” — the investigations of Biden and the Democrats.

“The unusual fact about this inquiry is that the most explosive evidence is the first evidence we got: It was the President’s transcript,” said Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt. “All the other evidence is confirming it and showing how elaborate and sustained the effort was to put the squeeze on Ukraine to get the Biden investigations.”

Republicans are just as insistent the end result will not remove Trump from office.

“The only prediction I can make is that I can’t imagine a scenario under which 67 members of the Senate would remove the president from office in the middle of a presidential election,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said during an event Monday in Kentucky.

Even as investigators race to compile the report, Democrats aren’t ruling out more testimony.

The Intelligence Committee still could hear from John Bolton, the president’s former national security adviser, who left the White House after saying he didn’t want to be involved in whatever “drug deal” Gi-

uliani was cooking up, according to testimony from a top aide, Fiona Hill.

Schiff said Sunday he's also in discussions with counsel for Lev Parnas, the Giuliani associate who was arrested with business partner Igor Fruman on campaign finance charges.

Bolton has so far declined an invitation to testify. The panel has issued a subpoena to Parnas for documents about the matter.

"We are open to the possibility that further evidence will come to light," Schiff said. If other witnesses agree to testify, he said, "We are prepared to hear from them."

One witness Schiff does not expect to hear from is the still anonymous government whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's phone call with Ukraine sparked the impeachment probe.

Schiff said over the weekend that the panel initially wanted to hear from the person, but Trump's attacks have put the person's life in danger. The committee is now trying to protect the whistleblower from retaliation.

Associated Press writers Mark Sherman and Jonathan Lemire in Washington and Bruce Schreiner in Manchester, Ky., contributed to this report.

Lebanon clashes threaten to crack open fault lines

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **ZEINA KARAM** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Clashes between Lebanese protesters and supporters of the Shiite militant Hezbollah group are putting Lebanon's military and security forces in a delicate position, threatening to crack open the country's dangerous fault lines amid a political deadlock.

For weeks, the Lebanese security forces have taken pains to protect anti-government protesters, in stark contrast to Iraq, where police have killed more than 340 people over the past month in a bloody response to similar protests.

The overnight violence — some of the worst since protests against the country's ruling elite began last month — gave a preview into a worst-case scenario for Lebanon's crisis, with the country's U.S.-trained military increasingly in the middle between pro- and anti-Hezbollah factions.

By attacking protesters Sunday night, Hezbollah sent a message that it is willing to use force to protect its political power. Confronting the powerful Iranian-backed Hezbollah, however, is out of the question for the military as doing so would wreck the neutral position it seeks to maintain and could split its ranks.

"The army is in a difficult position facing multiple challenges and moving cautiously between the lines," said Fadia Kiwan, professor of political science at Saint Joseph University in Beirut.

She said the military has sought to protect the protesters and freedom of expression but is increasingly grappling with how to deal with road closures and violence.

The U.N. Security Council urged all actors in Lebanon on Monday to engage in "intensive national dialogue and to maintain the peaceful character of the protests" by respecting the right to peaceful assembly and protest.

Calling this "a very critical time for Lebanon," the U.N.'s most powerful body also commended Lebanon's armed forces and state security institutions for their role in protecting the right to peaceful assembly and protest.

Sunday night's clashes brought into full display the political and sectarian divisions that protesters have said they want to end.

"Shiite, Shiite, Shiite!" Hezbollah supporters waving the group's yellow flag shouted, taunting the protesters, many of them Christians. The protesters chanted back, "This is Lebanon, not Iran," and "Terrorist, terrorist, Hezbollah is a terrorist" — the first time they have used such a chant.

The violence began when supporters of Hezbollah and the other main Shiite faction, Amal, attacked protesters who had blocked a main Beirut thoroughfare known as the Ring Road — a move the protesters said was aimed at exerting pressure on politicians to form a new government after Prime Minister Saad Hariri offered his resignation Oct. 29.

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Carrying clubs and metal rods, the Hezbollah followers arrived on scooters, chanting pro-Hezbollah slogans. They beat up several protesters. Both sides chanted insults, then threw stones at each other for hours.

Security forces stood between them but did little to stop the fighting. Finally, after several hours, they fired tear gas at both sides to disperse them. The road was eventually opened before daybreak Monday.

By that time, protesters' tents were destroyed in areas close to the Ring Road. The windshields of cars parked near Riad Solh Square and Martyrs Square — the central hubs of the protests — were smashed as were the windows of some shops.

The nationwide protests have so far been overwhelmingly peaceful since they started Oct. 17.

Politicians have failed to agree on a new Cabinet since Hariri's government resigned Oct. 29. Hezbollah and Amal insist Hariri form a new government made up of technocrats and politicians, but Hariri — echoing protester demands — says it must be made up only of experts who would focus on Lebanon's economic crisis.

As the deadlock drags on, tempers are rising.

"The situation is moving toward a dangerous phase because after 40 days of protests, people are beginning to get tired and frustrated and might resort to actions that are out of control," Kiwan said.

One person has been killed by security forces during the protests, while six have died in incidents related to the demonstrations. In the latest, a man and his sister-in-law burned to death Monday after their car hit a metal barricade erected by protesters on a highway linking Beirut with the country's south.

Hezbollah issued a blistering statement Monday condemning the road closure, painting the protests as a danger to the country. It called the deaths the result of "a militia attack carried out by groups of bandits who practice the ugliest methods of humiliation and terrorism against people."

In the increasingly tense atmosphere, "the role of the army is getting bigger," Kiwan said.

The army is one of the few state institutions that enjoy wide support and respect among the public as it is seen as a unifying force in the deeply divided country. It has for the most part worked to defuse tensions and protect protesters, though on two occasions it allowed Hezbollah and Amal supporters to wreck tents at the main protest site in downtown Beirut.

Hisham Jaber, a retired Lebanese general who heads the Middle East Center for Studies and Political Research, said the army is in a "delicate" position and could not have done more than it did Sunday night.

The military is already at the center of a debate in U.S. policy-making circles. The Trump administration is now withholding more than \$100 million in U.S. military assistance to Lebanon that has been approved by Congress, without providing an explanation for the hold.

That has raised concerns among some in the U.S. security community who see the aid — largely used to buy U.S.-made military equipment — as key to countering Iran's influence in Lebanon. Others, however, including pro-Israel lawmakers in Congress, have sought to defund the military, arguing it has been compromised by Hezbollah, which the U.S. designates as a terrorist organization.

U.S. administrations have long believed that a strong Lebanese army could be a counter to Hezbollah's weapons and could deprive the militants of the excuse to keep their arms.

The 70,000-strong force split along sectarian lines during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. Since then, it has largely succeeded in achieving a level of stability by maintaining a tough balancing act that includes coordinating with Hezbollah on security matters.

Jaber said it is impossible for the security forces to clash with Hezbollah because "this will lead to divisions within the army."

"Hezbollah is a main part of the Lebanese people," he said. "Getting the army into a battle with them would lead to pulling away part of the Lebanese army, and this could be followed by other groups splitting from the army."

"The Lebanese army is the pole of the tent. If the pole collapses, the whole country will collapse. It is the duty of the army to protect state institutions."

No easy mark: Female bodybuilder, 82, clobbers intruder

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — An intruder didn't count on an 82-year-old woman living alone being an award-winning bodybuilder with nerves of steel.

Willie Murphy was getting ready for bed Thursday at her home in Rochester, New York, when a man pounded on the door and said he needed an ambulance, Murphy told WHAM.

She called police but wouldn't open the door. Then, she said, the man broke in and skulked through the dark house.

"He picked the wrong house to break into," Murphy said.

She clobbered him with a table, poured shampoo in his face and was beating him with a broom when police arrived.

"I was whaling on that man," Murphy told the Democrat and Chronicle. "'Cause I said to myself, 'If it's my time to go to hell, I'm taking him with me!'"

The man got his ambulance ride, after all. He was sent to a hospital, and police tweeted a selfie with Murphy, calling her "tough as nails."

Murphy works out almost daily at Rochester's Maplewood YMCA and said she can deadlift 225 pounds — more than twice her weight. She can do one-handed pullups and one-handed pushups.

She won the World Natural Powerlifting Federation Lifter of the Year award in 2014.

"She really helps dispel the myths of aging," said Michelle LeBoo, a program coordinator at the Maplewood YMCA.

Murphy is "a strong, beautiful woman" who does things "for the benefit of others," LeBoo said.

Murphy said she hopes her story inspires people of all ages.

Esper says Trump ordered him to stop SEAL review board

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper declared Monday that President Donald Trump ordered him to stop a disciplinary review of a Navy SEAL accused of battlefield misconduct, an intervention that raised questions about America's commitment to international standards for battlefield ethics.

Esper's comments are the latest twist in the case of Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, which led to a conflict between Trump and armed services leaders over military discipline. The dispute peaked over the weekend with the firing of Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer.

Gallagher was acquitted of murder in the stabbing death of an Islamic State militant captive but convicted by a military jury of posing with the corpse while in Iraq in 2017.

Esper initially favored allowing the Navy to proceed with a peer-review board which could have resulted in Gallagher losing his SEAL status, but he said he was obliged to follow Trump's order. Still, Esper also directed the Pentagon's legal office to review how service members are educated in the laws of armed conflict and trained to wartime behavioral standards.

"I can control what I can control," Esper told reporters when asked whether Trump sent the right message to U.S. troops by intervening to stop the Gallagher review. "The president is the commander in chief. He has every right, authority and privilege to do what he wants to do."

In yet another twist to the Gallagher saga, Esper also made an extraordinary accusation against Spencer.

Esper said Spencer had gone behind his back last week to propose a secret deal with the White House in which Spencer would fix the outcome of the Gallagher review. Esper said this was a violation of the military chain of command and said Spencer acknowledged his misstep.

Through a Navy spokesman, Spencer declined requests for comment on Esper's allegation. However, in a resignation letter Sunday he had said he could not in good conscience follow an order that he believed would undermine the principle of good order and discipline in the military — suggesting he had been ordered to stop the peer-review process for Gallagher.

Trump began to get involved in the Gallagher case in the spring after Bernard Kerik, a former business partner to his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, became an advocate for the family and made appearances

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in conservative media.

The SEAL also changed his defense team to include Marc Mukasey, a lawyer for the Trump real estate company.

The president has tweeted in support of Gallagher, praising the sailor's service and saying the case was "handled very badly from the beginning."

Earlier this month, Trump restored Gallagher's rank, which had been reduced in his military jury conviction.

Trump also pardoned two soldiers — a former Army special forces soldier set to stand trial next year in the killing of a suspected Afghan bombmaker in 2010 and an Army officer who had been convicted of murder for ordering his soldiers to fire on three unarmed Afghan men in 2012, killing two.

Beyond the Spencer firing, the Gallagher case has raised questions about the appropriate role of a U.S. president in matters of military justice. Esper said Trump had a constitutional right to intervene, but others worry that such actions undermine the credibility of American claims to be a leader in ethical and lawful behavior on the battlefield.

"What concerns me the most is the chilling effect this will have on special forces' willingness to report when they see illegal behavior," James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral, said in an email to The Associated Press. "That is tragic because in the end what separates us from our opponents on the battlefield is our willingness to follow the rule of law."

Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee and an Army veteran, accused Trump of "inappropriate involvement" in the military justice system.

"The White House's handling of this matter erodes the basic command structure of the military and the basic function of the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Reed said.

Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, said Trump's action undercut the military.

"We want to be a standard for the world in terms of rule of law," he said. "I'm concerned that it undermines our own military; it undermines our standing in the world."

Trump has said Gallagher was treated unfairly by the Navy.

"I think what I'm doing is sticking up for our armed forces," he said Monday. "There's never been a president who is going to stick up for them and has like I have."

Last week Trump tweeted that Gallagher must be allowed to retire as a SEAL, regardless of the Navy's intention to review his standing in the elite force. Esper's comments Monday revealed that on Sunday Trump had given the defense secretary a direct order to make this happen.

Even before receiving that order, however, Esper had decided the Gallagher process should be stopped. He said his rationale was that, "given the events of the last few days," it was no longer possible for Gallagher to get a fair shake.

"As professional as they are," he said of the Navy review board members, "no matter what they would decide, they would be criticized from many sides, which would further drag this issue on, dividing the institution. I want the SEALs and the Navy to move beyond this now, fully focused on their warfighting mission."

In announcing Sunday that he had dismissed Spencer, Esper said he acted after learning of Spencer's secret plan to "guarantee" in advance the outcome of the review board that was to convene next week.

Spencer had "proposed a deal whereby if the president allowed the Navy to handle the case, he would guarantee that Eddie Gallagher would be restored to rank, allowed to retain his Trident and permitted to retire," Esper said Monday.

This was "completely contrary" to what Esper and the rest of the Pentagon leadership had agreed to, he said, and contrary to Spencer's public position that the Navy disciplinary process should be allowed to play out with no interference.

Esper said he had previously advocated for allowing the Navy review to go forward. But when Trump gave him a "verbal instruction" to stop the process, he did so.

Esper did not say explicitly that he disagreed with Trump's order.

Once Trump gave the order, Esper said he responded, "Roger. I got it."

Associated Press writer Julie Watson in San Diego contributed.

Analysis: Hong Kong election shows desire for change

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — The people of Hong Kong have said in no uncertain terms that they want change. The question is whether they will get it — or a return to the violent protests that have plagued the city for nearly six months.

Voters came as close as they can, in what is a semi-autonomous Chinese territory, to voting out the government.

They can't directly select the city's leader and elect only half the legislature. So they turned out in record numbers Sunday for the only fully democratic elections in town, kicking out the pro-government and pro-Beijing forces that dominated the city's 18 district councils.

The election cleared up any doubts people may have had about Hong Kong's silent majority.

The central government in Beijing has portrayed the protests as the work of a small group of rioters wreaking havoc, disrupting and even endangering the lives of Hong Kong's 7.4 million people in the process.

Pro-government candidates said a vote for them would be a vote to end the violence and restore stability in the city.

The black-clad protesters believed they still had public support — including the office workers who joined lunchtime demonstrations in a central business district — even as they smashed storefronts, threw gasoline bombs and blocked rush hour traffic and trains in escalating tactics designed to get the government to bend to their demands, including full democracy and police accountability.

The protesters, it seems, were right. The pro-democracy forces trounced the ruling pro-Beijing camp in the election, taking control of 17 of the 18 district councils.

It would be too simple to see it as an endorsement of violent protest.

"We have our point of view, we have our demand, but we are not willing to see Hong Kong in turmoil," said Kim Wah Chung, a commentator and assistant professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. "We also want to restore stability like the Hong Kong government."

Rather, voters are more likely to blame the intransigence of the government, and secondly the police for its harsh crackdown, before the youthful protesters themselves for the spiraling violence.

Many also share the concern of protesters about growing Chinese influence over the former British colony, which was returned to China in 1997, and the erosion of their rights under the "one country, two systems" framework that gives Hong Kong its own legal system and government.

What they want is for the government to address the demands of the protesters as a way to end the violence, rather than reject them and rely on the police to restore order.

City leader Carrie Lam has been adamant in saying that the violence must stop before real dialogue can begin.

Instead, the violence has gotten worse, as the police have progressed from pepper spray and tear gas to water cannons, and the protesters from bricks to gasoline bombs and bows and arrows.

"It seems that people in Hong Kong are quite determined to show the government that they are not happy about that," Chung said. "They really want the government to change course and do something (else) to restore stability, instead of just trying to use force."

Lam said in a statement Monday that her government "will listen to the opinions of members of the public humbly and seriously reflect," but gave no indication of any change in strategy.

After months of clashes, the police have become the enemy for many of the protesters, and one of their main demands is for an independent investigation into the use of force to suppress the demonstrations.

One way out could be a review of both police and protester actions during the months of unrest, but that would be a major reversal for Lam, who has steadfastly supported police officers and their actions.

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In Beijing, the election results could prompt the government to reconsider its approach to the crisis, which has been to express support for Lam and the police while not intervening directly.

The military has several thousand troops in Hong Kong, but deploying them is a last resort as it would revive memories of the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy student protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 and bring widespread condemnation from the U.S. and other western powers.

Beijing has been firm in its refusal to make concessions to the democratic camp, reflecting its grip on political power in both Hong Kong and the mainland.

"I would suppose the central government must be aware that the majority of Hong Kong's people are dissatisfied with Carrie Lam, her government and the police, but there is no other real option," said Shi Yinhong, a Renmin University international relations specialist.

There may be some policy tweaks, but Beijing is likely to stay the course of supporting Lam, Shi said.

The election brought a respite in the unrest, as protesters focused on getting the vote out to support their cause — and not give the government a reason to postpone the vote because of the violence.

They haven't made their plans clear or whether, if the government still doesn't respond to their demands in the wake of the election setback, they will return to the streets.

Ken Moritsugu, the Greater China news director for AP, has covered Asia for more than a decade.

Justices reject call for new trial in 'Serial' podcast case

By **MARK SHERMAN** and **REGINA GARCIA CANO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a Maryland man's bid for a new trial based on information uncovered by the hit podcast "Serial."

The justices did not comment in leaving in place a 4-3 ruling by Maryland's highest court that denied a new trial to Adnan Syed, who was convicted of strangling a high school classmate he had once dated.

Syed is serving a life sentence after he was convicted in 2000 of killing 17-year-old Hae Min Lee and burying her body in a Baltimore park. Prosecutors said during his trial that Syed killed her after she broke off their relationship.

Syed's lawyers had argued that his trial lawyer's failure to investigate an alibi witness violated his right to competent legal representation.

"We are deeply disappointed by the Supreme Court but by no means is this the end of Adnan Syed," defense attorney C. Justin Brown told The Associated Press. "There are other legal options and we are exploring each and every one of them."

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh in a statement said the evidence against Syed "was overwhelming."

"We remain confident in the verdict that was delivered by the jury and are pleased that justice for Hae Min Lee has been done," he said.

Millions of people learned about Syed when the hit podcast "Serial" dedicated its entire first season to the case in 2014. The show shattered podcast-streaming and downloading records, shining a spotlight that led to renewed court proceedings.

Two Maryland courts found that Syed deserved a new trial. His lawyer during his first trial, Cristina Gutierrez, failed to contact a woman who said she saw Syed at a library at the time prosecutors say he strangled his ex-girlfriend in 1999. Gutierrez has since died.

But in 2018, the Maryland Court of Appeals denied Syed a new trial, even though it agreed his trial lawyer's work was lacking. The state high court said there was little chance the outcome would have been different had Gutierrez done what she should have.

Rabia Chaudry, an attorney and friend of Syed's family who first brought his case to the attention of "This American Life," which developed the podcast, said Monday that the Supreme Court's decision "was fully expected." She said his defense team has been preparing to file either a habeas petition in federal court or go back to the state court.

"We were just waiting. It was just a technicality. Now it's done, so we can move forward," she said of

the high court's move. "He is doing fine. He is hanging in there. He knows that none of us are basically giving up. He has a great legal team. He has a lot of public support and walking away is not an option."

Garcia Cano reported from Baltimore.

Failing ice cellars signal changes in Alaska whaling towns

By RACHEL D'ORO Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — For generations, people in Alaska's far-north villages have relied on hand-built ice cellars dug deep into the permafrost to age their whale and walrus meat 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. The ice cellars 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 whaling villages are working to adapt as more cellars — some stocked with tons of subsistence food — 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 liquids had collected 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>

Rabbis urge teaching of empathy to counteract religious hate

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At a time when anti-Semitic incidents are on the rise worldwide, schools should take steps to teach empathy as an antidote to racism and religious hatred, several rabbis attending an international conference said.

The religious leaders praised a pilot project in El Paso, Texas, that requires students to pause each day to consider others. Children are given a small box shaped like Noah's Ark. They collect money in it daily and give it to charities chosen by their classes.

"If you want to change the trajectory of the way things are going, you have to nip hatred in the bud," Rabbi Levi Greenberg said at the International Conference of Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries, a branch of Hasidism. The annual event ended Monday.

"Every child is a potential hater but is also is a potential lover. You have to make sure you cultivate that potential love that they have within them," Greenberg said.

Greenberg, who lives in El Paso, approached the El Paso Community Foundation in 2018 with an idea after seeing a similar program initiated by colleagues in South Africa. The theory is that daily giving connects the students emotionally to others outside their normal environment. They become more compassionate and empathetic to other cultures and circumstances, Greenberg said.

"Lectures are important, but action is transformative," and the repetition of the daily giving brings subtle changes. "It's like muscle memory," Greenberg said.

So far, the boxes have gone to 1,500 students of all ages, but plans are to reach "tens of thousands

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more," Greenberg said.

The program started in two schools and took on added poignancy in August after a gunman walked into a Walmart in El Paso, killing 22 people. Police say the assailant targeted Mexicans.

Another school was added to the pilot when fall classes began.

Greenberg said his best anecdote came from a principal who talked about a 15-year-old, upper-middle-class student who ignored the destitute people who often waited with him each morning to cross the border to El Paso from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. That has changed. Collecting the money daily raised his awareness about the lives of the poor in his community.

"He started to have empathy. That is very powerful feedback," the rabbi said. "It all happened because he was giving every day. He wasn't listening to lectures or speeches or anything like that."

Similar pilot programs are underway in several communities, including Lawrence, Kansas. Greenberg and others were approached by hundreds of attendees seeking to import the program locally.

The El Paso program is an extension of the philosophy of the movement's late leader, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, known as the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who was one of the most influential global leaders in Judaism in modern times.

"The Rebbe always taught that action is the most important thing," Greenberg said.

Earlier this year, Israeli researchers reported that violent attacks against Jews spiked significantly in 2018, with the largest reported number of Jews killed in anti-Semitic acts in decades.

Capped by the deadly shooting that killed 11 worshippers at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018, assaults targeting Jews rose 13% that year, according to Tel Aviv University researchers. They recorded nearly 400 cases worldwide, with more than a quarter of the major violent cases taking place in the United States.

Rabbi Yitzchok Loewenthal, of Copenhagen, Denmark, said some "Jewish or Jewish friendly" people in his community were targeted recently with anti-Semitic yellow stars painted on their post boxes, and dozens of graves were desecrated.

Security in Copenhagen was already heightened because of a 2015 attack in which a gunman opened fire outside of a bat mitzvah celebration, killing a Jewish security guard.

While anti-Semitic acts must be confronted, and security considered, "that must not be the focus. The focus should be a positive," Loewenthal said.

He has invited others outside Judaism to his community center and synagogue, where attendees socialize and learn more about Chabad. The efforts include adults, but the program is focused on the youth and schools and has the support of the local government to encourage interaction.

"It is across all borders," including Christians and Muslims, Loewenthal said.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Conan the dog gets hero's welcome at White House after raid

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. military dog that played a starring role in the raid that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi seemed oblivious to the praise that President Donald Trump heaped on it Monday at the White House.

Conan, a Belgian Malinois, seemed much more interested in the head scratches it was getting from Mike Pence, repeatedly looking up at the vice president in search of more attention.

Trump used a slew of adjectives to describe Conan, which was injured when it was exposed to electric wires in the late October raid while chasing al-Baghdadi at the terrorist's compound in northwest Syria. "Incredible." "Brilliant." "Smart." "Ultimate fighter." "Very special." "Tough cookie."

"So this is Conan," Trump said. "Right now, probably the world's most famous dog."

Trump said he bestowed a medal on Conan and presented the dog with a plaque. First lady Melania

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Trump stood a few feet away.

The president said initially Conan was going to be muzzled for the appearance, but Trump said he thought that would put the dog in attack mode.

"He's not in a bad mood today," Trump told dozens of reporters, cameramen and members of TV crews gathered in the Rose Garden. "So you're safe."

Trump said he asked members of the U.S. special forces who met with him Monday if an unarmed man would stand a chance against Conan. He said the special forces, who could not appear in public, told him "No."

"Conan is really a hero," Pence said, patting the dog on the head.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Inspiring tale of a Chicago neighborhood that would not die

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.

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 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,

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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.

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 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.

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"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 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.

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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 backyard 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.

Martha Irvine, an AP national writer and visual journalist, can be reached at mirvine@ap.org or at <http://twitter.com/irvineap>

Thieves steal 'priceless' jewel sets from Dresden museum

By DAVID RISING and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Thieves broke into Dresden's Green Vault, one of the world's oldest museums, early Monday morning, making off with three "priceless" sets of 18th century jewelry that German officials said would be impossible to sell on the open market.

The treasury of Augustus the Strong of Saxony was established in 1723 and today contains around 4,000 objects of gold, precious stones and other materials on display in Dresden's Royal Palace.

Authorities said it appeared the thieves had broken open only one glass case containing three sets of Baroque jewelry made up of dozens of gems each.

"This is a bitter day for the cultural heritage of Saxony," the state's interior minister, Roland Woeller, told reporters.

He said the thieves "stole cultural treasures of immeasurable worth — that is, not only the material worth but also the intangible worth to the state of Saxony, which is impossible to estimate."

Police said they have established a special investigation team, code-named 'Epaulette' and comprising 20 specialist officers, to solve the case. Museum officials said the sets that were stolen included intricate and dazzling brooches, buttons, buckles and other items.

Green Vault director Dirk Syndram stressed that the collections in the museum have "invaluable cultural value" — particularly their completeness.

"Nowhere in any other collection in Europe have jewels or sets of jewels been preserved in this form and quantity," he said. "The value is really in the ensemble."

Police said they were alerted shortly before 5 a.m. by unarmed museum security guards who had spotted two burglars inside the downtown museum on video surveillance cameras.

The first officers arrived on the scene within minutes but the thieves had already fled in a waiting getaway car, which managed to elude immediate attempts to find it in the surrounding area and on the nearby highway, Dresden police chief Joerg Kubiessa said.

Police later confirmed that an Audi A6 matching the description of the getaway car was found burned in an underground parking lot in Dresden.

"It's not just the State Art Collections that was robbed, but us Saxons," tweeted Michael Kretschmer, the governor of Saxony, where Dresden is located. "One can't understand the history of Saxony without the Green Vault."

Investigators suspect that a fire at an electrical junction box near the museum, which took out the streetlights at the time of the robbery, was linked to the crime, police said. The outage affected lights in front of a window through which the thieves gained entrance, somehow getting through bars and safety glass to reach the Jewel Room.

Security footage released by police shows two hooded figures entering the room, then smashing open the glass case with an ax.

"In total, the entire crime only took a few minutes," police said in a statement.

Dresden's State Art Collections director, Marion Ackermann, said it was impossible to estimate the value of the items.

"We cannot give a value because it is impossible to sell," she said, appealing to the thieves not to break the ensembles into pieces. "The material value doesn't reflect the historic meaning."

Woeller pledged that investigators would "do everything in (their) power not only to bring the cultural treasures back, but to capture the perpetrators."

Exhibition rooms at the museum focus on treasures featuring jewels, ivory, silver and amber among other objects.

One of its most famous and precious treasures, the Dresden Green Diamond, is currently on loan with other valuable pieces to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for an exhibit.

The 41-carat green diamond was acquired by Augustus III, the son of Augustus the Strong, in 1742, according to the museum.

The museum said the purchase cost 400,000 thalers, compared to the 288,000 thalers it cost to build Dresden's lavish Frauenkirche church at around the same time.

Virtual tour of burgled room: <https://gruenes-gewoelbe.skd.museum/en/exhibitions/historisches-gruenes-gewoelbe/>

Recent major art and jewelry robberies in Europe: <https://apnews.com/f99e5c65dd1a48d9afd0b98a-89be8b8b>

This stock trade isn't free: Schwab scoops up rival for \$26B

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Schwab is buying rival TD Ameritrade in a \$26 billion stock swap, a blockbuster agreement brought about by massive disruption in the online brokerage industry.

Bowing to competitive pressure, brokerages have made it free for customers to trade U.S. stocks online. A combination of two of the biggest players in the industry would allow Schwab to save billions of dollars and make up for revenue lost from no longer charging investors such commissions.

The tie-up creates a company so big, however, that it may draw scrutiny from antitrust regulators. The combined company would have more than \$5 trillion in client assets under management.

"With this transaction, we will capitalize on the unique opportunity to build a firm with the soul of a challenger and the resources of a large financial services institution that will be uniquely positioned to serve the investment, trading and wealth management needs of investors across every phase of their financial journeys," Schwab CEO Walt Bettinger said Monday in a prepared statement.

The transaction would give Schwab an additional 12 million client accounts, \$1.3 trillion in client assets and approximately \$5 billion in annual revenue. The combined company is expected to control 24 million client accounts.

By itself, Schwab controls roughly half the market for holding money managed by and providing other services to registered investment advisers, according to estimates by Kyle Voigt, an analyst with Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. TD Ameritrade may control about 15% to 20%,

The rewards for passing regulatory muster would be lucrative: A combined company "makes strong strategic sense," Voigt said. It could also save up to \$2 billion in annual costs.

The deal could also herald more mergers across the industry.

The full impact of the merger on consumers is still to be determined. But it's the result of several industry-shaking moves that have drastically lowered costs and made trading easier for customers. And a larger Schwab wringing out costs cuts for itself would likely have more wherewithal to keep expenses low for its customers, analysts said.

Schwab sent shockwaves through the industry less than two months ago when it said it would do away with commissions for online trading of U.S. stocks and exchange-traded funds, fees that have long fueled the industry. All major brokerages have followed suit.

Beyond players like Schwab, TD Ameritrade, Fidelity and E-Trade Financial, apps like robinhood.com out of Palo Alto, California, have entered the fray in recent years to help customers get invested in the market.

All the increased competition and lower fees mean investors can now whip out their phone and buy a low-cost ETF in an instant, all while paying zero commissions. It marks a golden age for investors because minimizing costs is one of the easiest ways they can maximize returns as they save for retirement, college tuitions and other goals.

But the fee war has sapped brokerages' revenue. TD Ameritrade, for example, said last month that it expected its earnings to fall in the current quarter because it dropped commissions. It estimated the revenue hit to be up to \$240 million per quarter.

Merging with another company helps to lower costs. Such combinations in the industry typically see the acquirer shaving off 50% to 70% of the costs of its buyout target, while holding onto about 90% to 95% of its revenue, according to analysts at Barclays.

Beyond commissions, brokerages make money from account fees and from interest earned on customers' cash, among other things. Schwab and TD Ameritrade made a combined \$2 billion in net interest revenue in their latest quarters, for example.

Rival Fidelity pointed out how Schwab and TD Ameritrade make some of that money by paying customers lower rates for cash in their trading accounts, known as "sweep accounts." Fidelity, which is privately held, would still have more in total customer assets than a combined Schwab.

The deal between San Francisco's Schwab Corp. and TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., of Omaha, Nebraska, would marry the biggest publicly traded brokerages. Schwab had \$3.85 trillion in total client assets at the start of the month, while TD Ameritrade had \$1.3 trillion at the end of September.

TD Ameritrade stockholders would receive 1.0837 Schwab shares for each TD Ameritrade share they own. The deal is expected to close in the second half of next year. It's anticipated to take 18 to 36 months to integrate the two businesses once the transaction is complete. The corporate headquarters of the combined company will eventually relocate to Schwab's new campus in Westlake, Texas.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, the son of TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts and a former chief operating officer at the company, said he'll try to persuade Schwab to keep a presence in Omaha.

The Toronto-Dominion Bank, which currently holds approximately 43% of TD Ameritrade's stock, will have an ownership position of approximately 13% in the combined company, with other TD Ameritrade stockholders and existing Schwab stockholders holding approximately 18% and 69%, respectively.

TD Ameritrade suspended its search for a CEO, naming Chief Financial Officer Stephen Boyle as interim CEO. The current CEO, Tim Hockey, announced in July that he would be stepping down early next year.

Shares of both Schwab and TD Ameritrade rose Monday, on top of the sizeable gains seen Friday when CNBC first reported that the companies were pursuing a deal.

AP Business Writer Michelle Chapman contributed to this story.

Lottery group settles with winner who sought bigger prize

By RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A national lottery group rocked by an insider's jackpot-rigging conspiracy said Monday it has settled a lawsuit brought by an Iowa grandfather who alleged that a \$9 million prize he won in 2011 should have been nearly three times as big.

The Multi-State Lottery Association and Larry Dawson informed a judge of the settlement this month, cancelling a trial that was scheduled to begin next week in Des Moines, Iowa. The terms of the deal are confidential.

"He's relieved that it's over," Dawson's attorney, Nicholas Mauro, said.

Dawson, a financial adviser who lives in Webster City, Iowa, won a \$9 million Hot Lotto jackpot in 2011. He happily claimed the \$6 million pre-tax cash payout, surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren.

But years later, he learned that the game's previous \$16.5 million jackpot had been rigged by Eddie Tipton, the lottery association's information security director, in a massive fraud.

Dawson, 66, sued in 2016 alleging that the \$16.5 million should have carried over to the prize he won under Hot Lotto's rules. His lawsuit sought \$10 million — the size of the lump sum cash option — plus interest.

The settlement is the second in recent months to resolve legal claims alleging that the association's lax security allowed Tipton's fraud to occur and cheated players. The association agreed to pay \$4.3 million to settle a class-action lawsuit, giving refunds to players who purchased tickets for tainted drawings between 2005 and 2013.

A statement issued by the association said the group and its insurance carrier "decided to settle the case to avoid additional litigation expenses." The group said the agreement "contains a confidentiality clause that prevents either party from discussing the terms or releasing it."

Settlement agreements involving government bodies are public records under Iowa law. But it's not clear how that law would apply to the association, a nonprofit that is owned by 38 state and territorial lotteries.

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In resolving his case, Dawson dismissed claims against the Iowa Lottery. That agency and the Iowa attorney general's office said they don't have copies of the settlement.

Iowa Lottery CEO Matt Strawn said no state or Iowa lottery money will fund the settlement.

"The settlement between the Multi-State Lottery Association and Mr. Dawson closes a chapter in lottery history that tested" the integrity of lottery games, he said. Iowa officials "passed this test" by investigating, uncovering and prosecuting Tipton's fraud, Strawn said.

Tipton secretly installed code in software used by lotteries that allowed him to predict winning number combinations on certain days of the year. For years, he worked with his brother and other associates to purchase winning tickets and claim prizes around the country. A judge sentenced him in 2017 to up to 25 years in prison.

Tipton's downfall began after he purchased a winning ticket for the \$16.5 million Hot Lotto jackpot at a gas station near the association's office in December 2010. Stunned colleagues identified him as the buyer after investigators released surveillance footage of the purchase years later. Tipton passed the ticket to associates but the Iowa Lottery refused to pay after lawyers for a trust declined to reveal who bought the winning ticket.

The money ultimately went back to the 16 states that operated the Hot Lotto as an "unclaimed prize." Dawson's lawsuit alleged that the jackpot should have carried forward and that states shouldn't receive a windfall for failing to operate a fair and secure game.

Iowa Lottery's previous CEO, Terry Rich, accused Dawson of trying to "rewrite history," saying it was impossible to know what would have happened if the prize had carried over.

Dawson — nicknamed "Lucky Larry" for his golf game — said he bought \$19 in tickets for every bi-weekly draw so he could cover all 19 "Hot Ball" options, after reading a book claiming to have the secrets to winning lotteries.

Attorney general: Israel's Netanyahu not required to resign

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's attorney general said Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not required to leave office following his indictment on corruption charges, giving a small boost to the embattled leader.

Avichai Mandelblit said in a statement that Netanyahu can remain interim prime minister, just days after serving him with charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery.

Netanyahu faces calls from his opponents to step down following the indictment. Mandelblit's opinion confirmed what had been a consensus legal view, that an indicted prime minister may remain in office while fighting criminal charges.

Israeli law requires other public officials, including Cabinet ministers, to resign if charged with a crime. But it doesn't explicitly state that a prime minister has to leave office in those circumstances.

Netanyahu is the first-ever sitting prime minister to be charged with a crime.

The attorney general did not weigh in on whether Netanyahu could keep his other ministerial positions while under indictment. Netanyahu also holds the agriculture, labor and welfare, health and Diaspora affairs portfolios.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest serving prime minister, has dismissed the charges as an "attempted coup" and refused to resign. He says he will fight the charges from the prime minister's office.

The indictment comes at a delicate time following the failure by both Netanyahu and his chief rival, former military chief Benny Gantz, to secure a parliamentary majority and form a new government.

Israel has held two parliamentary elections this year — in April and in September — both of which resulted in political deadlock, with neither Netanyahu nor Gantz capable of mustering support for a ruling coalition.

Last week Gantz conceded he was unable to form a government, setting in motion a 21-day period for a majority of Israel's 120-seat parliament to throw support behind Gantz, Netanyahu or a third candidate.

If a government is not formed by Dec. 11, Israel will be forced to hold elections for the third time in a

12-month period.

The Justice Ministry said the attorney general did not evaluate the legality of whether the president could task an indicted politician with forming a new government, which he said remained "theoretical."

Secret documents reveal how China mass detention camps work

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.

"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"

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in Xinjiang.

When asked about the documents on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated that issues surrounding Xinjiang are “purely China’s internal affairs.”

“Some media used underhanded tricks to sensationalize the Xinjiang issue,” Geng said during a regular news briefing. “The plot to smear and slander China’s anti-terrorism and deradicalization efforts in Xinjiang will not prevail.”

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.

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

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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.

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.

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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.

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

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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."

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

More polio cases now caused by vaccine than by wild virus

LONDON (AP) — Four African countries have reported new cases of polio linked to the oral vaccine, as global health numbers show there are now more children being paralyzed by viruses originating in vaccines than in the wild.

In a report late last week, the World Health Organization and partners noted nine new polio cases caused by the vaccine in Nigeria, Congo, Central African Republic and Angola. Seven countries elsewhere in Africa have similar outbreaks and cases have been reported in Asia. Of the two countries where polio remains endemic, Afghanistan and Pakistan, vaccine-linked cases have been identified in Pakistan.

In rare cases, the live virus in oral polio vaccine can mutate into a form capable of sparking new outbreaks. All the current vaccine-derived polio cases have been sparked by a Type 2 virus contained in the vaccine. Type 2 wild virus was eliminated years ago.

Polio is a highly infectious disease that spreads in contaminated water or food and usually strikes children under 5. About one in 200 infections results in paralysis. Among those, a small percentage die when their breathing muscles are crippled.

Donors last week pledged \$2.6 billion to combat polio as part of an eradication initiative that began in

1988 and hoped to wipe out polio by 2000. Since then, numerous such deadlines have been missed.

To eradicate polio, more than 95% of a population needs to be immunized. WHO and partners have long relied on oral polio vaccines because they are cheap and can be easily administered, requiring only two drops per dose. Western countries use a more expensive injectable polio vaccine that contains an inactivated virus incapable of causing polio.

The Independent Monitoring Board, a group set up by WHO to assess polio eradication, warned in a report this month that vaccine-derived polio virus is "spreading uncontrolled in West Africa, bursting geographical boundaries and raising fundamental questions and challenges for the whole eradication process."

The group said officials were already "failing badly" to meet a recently approved polio goal of stopping all vaccine-derived outbreaks within 120 days of detection. It described the initial attitude of WHO and its partners to stopping such vaccine-linked polio cases as "relaxed" and said "new thinking" on how to tackle the problem was needed.

This story has been corrected to show that of the two polio-endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, only Pakistan has reported vaccine-derived polio cases.

As stigma ebbs, college students seek mental health help

By COLLIN BINKLEY and LARRY FENN Associated Press

More college students are turning to their schools for help with anxiety, depression and other mental health problems, and many must wait weeks for treatment or find help elsewhere as campus clinics struggle to meet demand, an Associated Press review of more than three dozen public universities found.

On some campuses, the number of students seeking treatment has nearly doubled over the last five years while overall enrollment has remained relatively flat. The increase has been tied to reduced stigma around mental health, along with rising rates of depression and other disorders. Universities have expanded their mental health clinics, but the growth is often slow, and demand keeps surging.

Long waits have provoked protests at schools from Maryland to California, in some cases following student suicides. Meanwhile, campus counseling centers grapple with low morale and high burnout as staff members face increasingly heavy workloads.

"It's an incredible struggle, to be honest," said Jamie Davidson, associate vice president for student wellness at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, which has 11 licensed counselors for 30,000 students. "It's stressful on our staff and our resources. We've increased it, but you're never going to talk to anyone in the mental health field who tells you we have sufficient resources."

The Associated Press requested five years of data from the largest public university in each state. A total of 39 provided annual statistics from their counseling clinics or health centers. The remaining 11 said they did not have complete records or had not provided records five months after they were requested.

The data shows that most universities are working to scale up their services, but many are far outpaced by demand.

Since 2014, the number of students receiving mental health treatment at those schools has grown by 35%, while total enrollment grew just 5%. By last year, nearly 1 in 10 students were coming for help, but the number of licensed counselors changed little, from an average of 16 to 19 over five years.

On some campuses, that amounts to one counselor for every 4,000 students, including at Utah Valley University. An industry accrediting group suggests a minimum of one counselor per 1,500 students, but few of the 39 universities met that benchmark.

When Ashtyn Aure checked in at the mental health clinic at Utah Valley last year, she was suffering anxiety attacks and had not slept for days. Her mind kept returning to past traumas. When she asked to see a counselor, a staff member told her the wait list stretched for months. She left without getting help.

"I was so obviously distressed, and that was the place I was supposed to go. What do you do after that? Do you go to the hospital? Do you phone a friend?" said Aure, 25, who graduated this year.

Ultimately, she turned to her church, which helped her find therapy at an outside clinic. "If it wasn't for

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that," she said, "I don't know."

Officials at Utah Valley said they are working to avoid such cases. If staff know a student is in crisis, they said, a counselor can see that person in a matter of minutes. But staff members have only a few moments to make an assessment.

"Unfortunately, stories like this are not that uncommon," said Dr. William Erb, senior director of student health services at Utah Valley. "We train, review and revise these procedures so that situations like this can be avoided as much as possible."

At most universities, students contemplating suicide or otherwise in crisis are offered help right away. Others are asked to schedule an appointment. For cases that are not urgent, the wait can range from hours to months, depending on the time of year and the design of the clinic.

Many schools that provided data to the AP said it takes weeks to get an initial appointment. At Utah Valley, students waited an average of more than four weeks last year. At the University of Washington at Seattle, it was three weeks. During busy times at Louisiana State, wait times stretched to four or five weeks.

Some other schools have adopted a model that provides screenings the same day students ask for help, but it can take weeks to get further treatment.

To some students, waiting is just an inconvenience. But it raises the risk that some young people will forgo help entirely, potentially allowing their problems to snowball.

Students at Brigham Young University drew attention to delays last year after a student took her own life on campus. Days after the suicide, an anonymous letter was posted at the counseling center describing the dilemma some students face.

"I have a therapist on campus, and he is wonderful and well qualified. But I only see him once a month. Because he has too many clients to see in one week," the letter said. "It is the story of many of us barely getting by here at BYU. If I died would anything change?"

Students at the University of Maryland called for change last year after some on campus said they had to wait 30 days or more for an initial appointment. Organizers called the campaign "30 Days Too Late."

"We quickly realized that there were a lot of people on campus who believed in what we were doing and had had their own experiences," said Garrett Mogge, a junior who helped organize the effort. "Thirty days can be a long time. And once you get there, it's too late for some people."

Officials at the University of Maryland said the campaign showed there was a need to raise awareness about same-day crisis services available on campus. The school also has hired additional counselors since the campaign began.

Other schools that have received student petitions to improve counseling include Michigan State, Louisiana State, Columbia and Cornell universities.

For cases that are not urgent, some argue that waiting isn't necessarily bad — and could even lead to better outcomes.

A recent study found greater reductions in anxiety and depression at clinics that focus on providing students counseling at regular intervals, a system that might mean waiting for a therapist's caseload to open. That practice was compared with clinics that offer quick initial help but cannot always provide routine follow-up treatment.

The study by Pennsylvania State University's Center for Collegiate Mental Health found that prioritizing access over treatment "may have significant negative consequences for students in need."

The rising demand for campus mental health care has been attributed to an array of factors. Stigma around the issue has faded, encouraging more students to get help. Disorders that once prevented students from going to college are no longer seen as a barrier. Some people believe social media fuels anxiety, while others say today's students simply have more trouble coping with stress.

Mass shootings, and the fear they spread, have also been suggested as a factor. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, saw an increase in demand following a 2017 shooting at a nearby county music festival that left 58 people dead and hundreds wounded.

"That really increased the number of students we were seeing," said Davidson, the head of student wellness. The school later hired a trauma specialist and added a student mental health fee to hire more

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counselors, among other measures to reduce wait times.

For years, national surveys have found rising rates of anxiety and depression among college students. Most colleges that provided data to the AP said those conditions, and stress, were the most common complaints. Some schools also have seen more students struggling with thoughts of suicide.

The shifting landscape has spurred many universities to rethink how they provide help, including offering more short-term treatment options. More students are being steered to group therapy or anxiety workshops. Counseling centers offer yoga, and many train students to counsel one another.

"We're reframing what mental health looks like at a school. It's not necessarily 10 therapists sitting in offices," said Erb, the student health director at Utah Valley.

Rising demand has also opened doors for businesses promising solutions. Some schools have signed on with companies that provide therapy over the phone or through video chats. Others urge students to try smartphone apps.

But some say the changes will help little if clinics remain understaffed. Counselors at some California State University campuses are pressing the system to hire more staff even as it expands peer counseling programs and wellness workshops. A faculty union is lobbying to reach a ratio of one counselor for every 1,500 students. The system estimates it has one for every 2,700 students.

"Some students come in, and they can be seen maybe once every five or six weeks. They are shocked, because that's not what they're used to out in the real world," said Martha Cuan, a counselor at Stanislaus State University, one of the system's 23 campuses.

A state bill requiring the system to set a goal to meet the lower ratio failed to gain traction in the state Legislature this year, but its sponsor plans to reintroduce it next year. Other states tackling the issue include Illinois, which in August approved a law telling public universities to aim for one counselor per 1,250 students.

For many schools, finding the money to add counselors is a challenge. Many campus clinics don't charge students for services and generate little or no revenue. A 2016 bill in Congress proposed new grants for university counseling, but it never advanced to a vote.

Some schools are adding new campus fees to hire counselors or are subsidizing clinics through athletics revenue, as the University of Texas recently did.

Overall, the AP analysis found that campus counseling budgets have increased by about 25% over the last five years, but levels vary widely, from more than \$200 per student at some campuses to less than \$40 at others.

The way students feel about campus mental health services is mixed, according to a recent poll by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Among adults ages 18 through 29 who have pursued higher education, about a third said colleges do a good job handling mental health needs, while about as many said they think schools do a bad job. Another 3 in 10 said it's neither good nor bad.

Most university presidents say mental health is a growing concern, but they lack the tools to address it, according to a separate survey of school chiefs by the American Council on Education. Given unlimited funding, the survey found, most presidents said they would first hire more mental health staff.

On any campus, the greatest fear is that a student in dire need could fall through the cracks. Mike and Kim Predmore believe that's what happened to their son, Chris, who was struggling as a freshman at Illinois State University in 2014.

He had just been through a bad breakup. He didn't make the soccer team. He was stressed about school and wasn't sleeping. One night, he texted a friend and talked about suicide. His family persuaded him to visit the campus counseling center for help.

At an initial screening, Chris Predmore told a counselor he was not thinking about suicide but wanted to try therapy, according to notes from the visit. He was told that there was a wait on campus and that he should explore nearby clinics with his parents. He never did. Two days later, he took his own life.

His parents have since become regulars at a support group for families of suicide victims. Three other couples in the group also lost children who were in college. The Predmores wonder why there aren't more counselors and why schools can't do more. Often, they just wonder what might have been.

"I think if they would have said, 'Yeah, we're going to get you into counseling,' I don't think he'd be dead," Kim Predmore said. "I don't know. I'll never know. But I think he would have been able to hang on."

Collin Binkley can be reached on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/cbinkley>

Stop! Washing your Thanksgiving turkey could spread germs

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Go ahead and rinse your cranberries, potatoes and green beans. But food experts say don't — repeat don't — wash the turkey before popping it in the oven on Thanksgiving Day.

They say that could spread the germs lurking on your turkey in the kitchen sink or nearby food. But it's been a challenge trying to convince cooks to stop rinsing off raw poultry.

"If your mother did it and your grandmother did it, and suddenly the (government) says not to wash your turkey, you may take some time to adjust," said Drusilla Banks, who teaches food sanitation for the University of Illinois Extension.

Germs that can make people sick are common in the guts of healthy poultry and are legally allowed to be on raw turkey and chicken. The assumption is that nobody eats their poultry rare, and that thorough cooking will kill the bacteria.

So it's possible that two common causes of food poisoning — salmonella and campylobacter — are on the turkey, said Mindy Brashears, a food safety official at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The do-not-wash raw poultry advice from the USDA is relatively new and perhaps hasn't caught on because it goes against the ingrained belief that washing makes things clean, said Banks.

Participants in a food safety study offered their own rationale: "If it's still slimy — I'm not sure what that is. It just feels good to wash it," said one. Another said: "My grandmother taught me that. She just said to wash all your food because there's no telling where it's been before it got in the pack."

Benjamin Chapman, a study author and food safety expert at North Carolina State University, said the instinct to wash raw poultry goes back at least decades when people relied more on visual cues to spot problems with poultry. TV chef Julia Child was among those who said washing chicken was "just the safer thing to do" before experts began advising against it.

But food prep is a juggling act, and germs from poultry can be spread even if it's not washed, especially when birds are removed from packaging. It's why washing and sanitizing hands, utensils and surfaces are even more important.

The USDA-funded study underscores that point.

Researchers sprayed raw chicken with a harmless strain of E. coli and watched volunteer cooks at test kitchens. Among those who washed their raw chicken, about a quarter ended up spreading the bacteria to their lettuce. But even some of those who did not rinse the chicken got germs on the lettuce.

There are other opportunities for germs to survive and thrive on turkeys: thawing and cooking.

For thawing, experts say frozen birds shouldn't be left out on counters since germs can start multiplying on the outer parts that defrost first. They instead recommend thawing in fridges, cold water or in microwaves. You can also cook a frozen turkey, but it will take a lot longer.

And to ensure a bird is thoroughly cooked, they say to use a thermometer to check that the deepest and thickest parts of it have reached 165 degrees.

Even after the meal is cooked, you aren't out of the danger zone. To keep turkey and other leftovers safe, experts say they should be refrigerated after two hours.

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Asian shares mixed following Wall Street rally

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed after an upbeat start Tuesday on optimism over U.S.-China trade talks, prompted by Beijing's new guidelines for the protection of patents and copyrights.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 advanced 0.6% in morning trading to 23,431.74. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7% to 6,774.90. South Korea's Kospi added 0.4% to 2,131.92. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.1% at 26,969.25, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.1% to 2,905.07.

Gains on Wall Street were led by technology companies after China's announcement of new, stronger guidelines for protecting patents, copyrights and other intellectual property. Piracy is a sore point in U.S.-China trade tensions. Markets saw China's latest move as an encouraging sign for negotiations on the first phase of a deal to end a punishing tariff war between the two biggest economies.

"There is renewed hope on some progress of U.S.-China trade talk after China's state-backed news media Global Times said that both sides are 'very close' to phase one deal," said Zhu Huani, at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

An announcement by China's Commerce Ministry early Tuesday that top trade negotiators from both sides spoke by phone and agreed to continue talks did not seem to spur significant gains. That might be because the vaguely worded notice did not mention specifics or indicated how much progress has been made.

The S&P 500 rose 23.35 points, or 0.8%, to 3,133.64. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 190.85, or 0.7%, to 28,066.47, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 112.60, or 1.3%, to 8,632.49. All three indexes set records.

The Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks rose even more, though it is still below its peak set last year. It surged 32.96, or 2.1%, to 1,621.90.

In the U.S., stocks have been rallying for weeks as worries about a possible recession have faded. A resilient job market, which helps households continue to spend, and three interest-rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve have bolstered confidence.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil fell 3 cents to \$57.98 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 24 cents to \$58.01 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, lost 2 cents to \$62.60 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.99 Japanese yen from 108.93 yen on Monday. The euro was unchanged at \$1.1013.

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2019. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 2000, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore in the state's presidential balloting by a 537-vote margin.

On this date:

In 1789, Americans observed a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to mark the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1842, the founders of the University of Notre Dame arrived at the school's present-day site near South Bend, Indiana.

In 1883, former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Mich.

In 1941, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered a note to Japan's ambassador to the United States, Kichisaburo Nomura (kee-chee-sah-boor-oh noh-moo-rah), setting forth U.S. demands for "lasting and

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extensive peace throughout the Pacific area." The same day, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

In 1942, the Warner Bros. motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1943, during World War II, the HMT Rohna, a British transport ship carrying American soldiers, was hit by a German missile off Algeria; 1,138 men were killed.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 2007, Vice President Dick Cheney experienced an irregular heartbeat and was taken to George Washington University Hospital for evaluation.

In 2008, teams of heavily armed gunmen, allegedly from Pakistan, stormed luxury hotels, a popular tourist attraction and a crowded train station in Mumbai, India, leaving at least 166 people dead in a rampage lasting some 60 hours. A Missouri mother on trial in a landmark cyberbullying case was convicted by a federal jury in Los Angeles of three minor offenses for her role in a mean-spirited Internet hoax that apparently drove a 13-year-old girl, Megan Meier, to suicide. (However, Lori Drew's convictions were later thrown out.)

In 2010, Connecticut beat Howard 86-25 to win its 82nd straight game, setting an NCAA women's basketball record for consecutive victories.

Ten years ago: An investigation ordered by Ireland's government found that Roman Catholic Church leaders in Dublin had spent decades sheltering child-abusing priests from the law and that most fellow clerics had turned a blind eye. John Jones, a 26-year-old medical student stuck upside-down in a cave in Utah for more than a day, died despite the efforts of dozens of rescuers to extract him.

Five years ago: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a heart stent implanted, reviving talk about how long the 81-year-old liberal jurist would be staying on the court.

One year ago: A NASA spacecraft designed to drill down into Mars' interior landed on the planet; it was the first successful landing on Mars in six years. General Motors announced that it would cut as many as 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure, abandoning many of its car models, as part of a major restructuring. Scientists and bioethics experts reacted with alarm to a claim from a Chinese researcher that he had helped make the world's first genetically edited babies. Ukraine's government imposed martial law in parts of the county to fight what its president called "growing aggression" from Moscow. Italian filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci died in Rome at the age of 77. Stephen Hillenburg, who used his loves of drawing and marine biology to create the undersea world of "SpongeBob SquarePants," died of Lou Gehrig's disease at the age of 57.

Today's Birthdays: Impressionist Rich Little is 81. Singer Tina Turner is 80. Singer Jean Terrell is 75. Pop musician John McVie is 74. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 71. Actor Scott Jacoby is 63. Actress Jamie Rose is 60. Country singer Linda Davis is 57. Actor Scott Adsit is 54. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 54. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 54. Actress Kristin Bauer is 53. Actor Peter Facinelli is 46. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 45. DJ/record label executive DJ Khaled (KAL'-ehd) is 44. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 43. Country singer Joe Nichols is 43. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 41. Actress Jessica Bowman is 39. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 38. Actress Jessica Camacho is 37. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 35. Rock musician Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 35. Singer Lil Fizz is 34. MLB All-Star Matt Carpenter is 34. Singer Aubrey Collins is 32. Actress-singer-TV personality Rita Ora is 29.

Thought for Today: "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." — Oprah Winfrey.

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