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Groton Area is 2 hours late on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019.

**No 8:30 Preschool.
OST opens at 7 a.m.
Buses will travel where possible.**

YOU CAN BE
CHILDLIKE
WITHOUT BEING
CHILDISH.
A CHILD ALWAYS
WANTS TO HAVE
FUN.
ASK YOURSELF,
"AM I
HAVING
FUN?"

-CHRISTOPHER MELONI



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys 7th/8th Tournament at Faulkton High School

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Sippel Novice Debate at Groton Area High School

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: James Valley Telecommunications Open House

4:15pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game hosts Clark/Willow Lake

7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

12:30pm- 3:00pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

Thursday, December 5, 2019

7:00pm: MS/HS Christmas Concert at GHS Gymnasium

Friday, December 6, 2019

State Oral Interp at Yankton High School

4:15pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game (Rescheduled from 11-21-19) hosts Britton-Hecla JH

7th Grade @ 4:15 and 8th Grade @ 5:15

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9 a.m. to Noon: Santa Day at Professional Management Services

State Oral Interp at Yankton High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Tournament at Clark Junior-Senior High School

10:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Jamboree at Groton Area High School

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Olive Grove Tour of Homes

Sunday, December 8, 2019

2:00pm- 6:00pm - Open Gym - Groton Area High School Arena

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:00pm- 10:00pm: School Board Meeting

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Remember your fire hydrant

It is not the city's or the fire department's responsibility to clean around the fire hydrant that may be located in your corner. Please keep them visible and cleared like the one shown above on Third Street.

JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, December 3rd 10am - 4pm
235 E 1st Ave, Groton

DOOR PRIZES - TREATS - SPECIALS

Register in stores or online
at jamesvalley.com for the
12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!

How to Live 40 Percent Longer

"Doc, I've started on this new diet and I wonder what you think," said my patient. Then I hear about the patient's latest weight loss plan. There are so many plans out there...the Noom® plan, the Shark Tank diet, the keto diet, the Mediterranean diet, the paleo diet, the sugar-free diet, the low-carbohydrate diet, the one day a week fast. Some diets increase the intake of water, of fiber, of antioxidants and the list goes on. Many of these new plans are variations of a low-carb plan, which I like. I also have found that a weekly fast seems to work for some people.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

About 20 years ago, two huge studies compared the low-carbohydrate diet with the low-fat diet. Both studies showed the same thing. People liked the low-carb diet better and with it, they lost more weight easily and initially. After one year, however, most people from both groups regained the weight they had lost. Similar studies through many years showed the same thing, no plan seems to keep the weight off long term. The two questions commonly left unanswered are, is it good to eat less, even without weight loss; and how important is exercise in all this?

The most powerful studies have shown that when people eat 40 percent less than what they would eat if they had no limit, they live about 40 percent longer. It is the calorie count that matters, not weight loss. Add to this the multiple scientific studies that show if an overweight person is fit and in good condition then their risks of death are no greater than for a thin person who is in good condition.

When people ask me, I recommend starting with three to seven days of calorie counting and exercise measurement before any changes are made. The calorie goal depends on one's height and age, but an average sized middle-aged woman or man needs fewer than 1800-2000 calories per day for maintenance and at least one mile of walking per day. By the way, I think a balanced diet with plenty of vegetables and fewer carbohydrates makes the transition easier to tolerate and is especially good if one is diabetic or pre-diabetic. The most important point remains...fewer calories.

Bottom line: Setting a goal to "lose weight" puts you at risk for disappointment. For heavy and thin people alike, your best chance for success is to be mindful of your calorie intake and exercise regularly. Then, love yourself as you are.

Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Chelsea Hanson - Region 1 Coach of the Year

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2018 SDPB/Craig Wollman

Here's the results for the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association Region coaches of the Year. Also the Assistant coach of the year for each class, and the Middle school COTY.

MS Coach Of The Year: Elissa Reppe Northwestern
Assistant Class B COY: Vanessa Bowman Faulkton
Assistant Class A COY: Lonnie Bermel Dakota Valley
Assistant Class AA COY: Garrett Priest Watertown
Region 1: Chelsea Hanson Groton
Region 2: Kelly Schroeder SFW
Region 3: Darci Wassenaar SFC
Region 4: Mary Miller Dakota Valley
Region 5: Tami Bies MCM
Region 6: Linda DeBoer Miller
Region 7: Elizabeth Kieffer RCC
Region 8: Mandy Lemmel Faith

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*Olive Grove's
4th Annual*

Christmas Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2019

TOUR OF HOMES - 4-7 P.M.

Steve & Betty Dunker
Brett & Anna Schwan
Ryan & Jennifer Schelle
Olde Bank n' Café

**COFFEE, APPLE CIDER AND
GOODIES AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

HOLIDAY PARTY - 4 P.M. TO CLOSE

A variety of snacks served
Silent Basket Items

Bidding Closes at 8:30 p.m.

Live Auction begins at 8:30 p.m.

**\$15 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
LORI'S PHARMACY, GROTON
GROTON FORD
HAIR & COMPANY, ABERDEEN**

COME ON OUT FOR A FUN EVENING!

Support your local golf course!

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Today



Fog then
Mostly Cloudy

High: 26 °F

Tonight



Gradual
Clearing

Low: 15 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 34 °F

Tuesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 22 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 33 °F

High Temperatures Today

Lemmon	37°	Mobridge	34°	Aberdeen	26°	Sisseton	30°	Fergus Falls	24°
Faith	37°	Faulkton	29°	Ortonville	30°	Watertown	28°	Marshall	29°
Wall	35°	Pierre	33°	Huron	29°	Brookings	27°	Mitchell	32°
Murdo	35°	Chamberlain	34°	Sioux Falls	31°				

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
12/2/2019 5:52 AM

Areas of fog, some locally dense, this morning

❖ Mostly Cloudy skies, with some sunny breaks this afternoon.

❖ Patchy blowing snow along eastern slopes of the Sisseton Hills.

3 Day Forecast Highs

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
32-39°	32-39°	29-37°

Published on: 12/02/2019 at 12:57AM

More quiet conditions will settle in today as high pressure moves eastward. There could be a little fog to deal with during the morning commute. Otherwise, a mix of sun and clouds are expected today and in the days to come. Dry conditions look to continue through most of the week.

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Today in Weather History

December 2, 1978: A low-pressure system moved northeast from Kansas, causing snow to fall over all of southern Minnesota south of a line from Alexandria to Duluth on the 2nd and 3rd, with the heaviest snow falling from west central and southwest Minnesota to west central Wisconsin. Snow depths of six inches or more fell in southwestern Minnesota with 10 inches or more at Marshall, MN. Winds averaged near 20 mph, and temperatures ranged from 5 to 15 degrees above zero while the snow fell, but the snow did not cause extensive problems for the area. Wheaton had 2 inches, Artichoke Lake and Browns Valley had 3 inches.

December 2, 1984: Snow fell in the central and northeast parts of South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 1st to the morning of the 2nd, with amounts ranging from 3 to 10 inches. The most substantial amounts were in the northeast part of the state with Day County reporting 8 to 10 inches. Five inches of snow fell at Clear Lake; six inches fell at Waubay, Clark, Miller, and 12 miles southwest of Harrold with 7 inches at Redfield.

December 2, 1950: A rare tornado event occurred when a storm system produces three tornadoes in Illinois and one in Arkansas. The three tornadoes in Illinois are relatively rare in December with a total of only three days with tornadoes from 1835 to 1950. The other years are 1876 and 1949.

Between November 19 and December 2, an estimated 20 inches of rain fell near the town of Frejus on the French Riviera. This rain caused the Malpasset Dam to collapse which sent a 130-foot high wall of water into the towns of Malpasset and Bozon. The wall of water 10 feet tall reached Frejus, flooding the western half of the city. The dam breach killed 423 people and caused \$68 million in damages.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 24 °F at 2:14 PM

Low Temp: 9 °F at 10:29 PM

Wind: 26 mph at 12:40 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 66° in 1995

Record Low: -27° in 1964

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 12°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.71

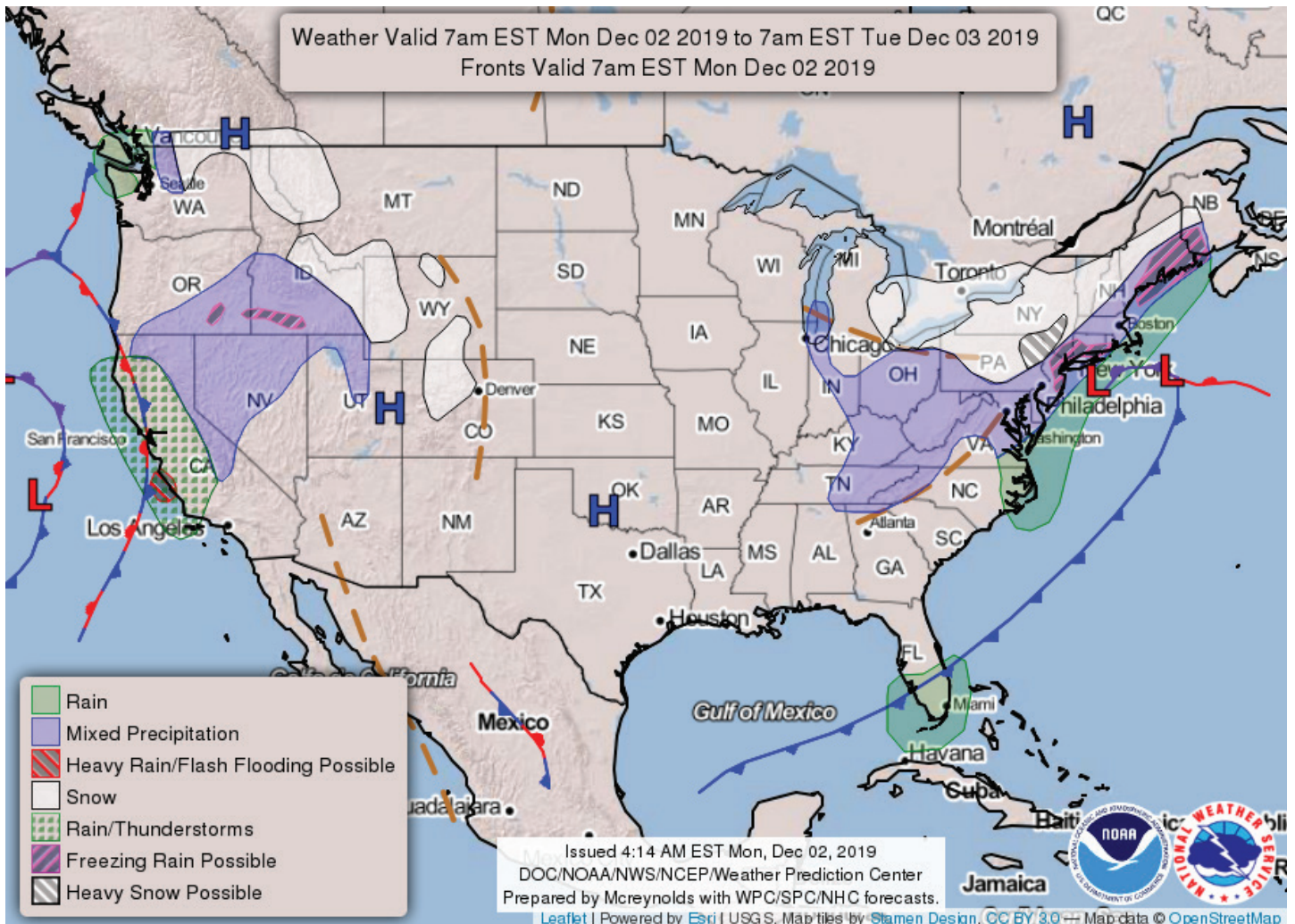
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.38

Average Precip to date: 21.18

Precip Year to Date: 26.95

Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Initially, He was named Jesus. Now we also call Him Christ.

Jesus was the name given to Him when He was born. It means the same as the Jewish name, Joshua, which literally means God is salvation! So, the message that God sent to Joseph through His angels was, "You shall call Him 'God is salvation' for He shall save His people from their sins." That name, Jesus, tells us all that we need to know because it reveals God's plan and purpose: God will save humanity through His only begotten Son.

Christ is more than a name. It is a title. It comes from the Greek word *Christos*, meaning "anointed" or "anointed one." Its meaning is the same as the Hebrew word *Messiah*. John quoted Andrew in a conversation that he had with his brother Peter. Said Andrew, "We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ)." So the terms *Messiah* and *Christ* are titles given to Jesus that assure us that He is the anointed one. Jesus is the One whom God anointed to fulfill the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.

The name Jesus proves that He was human, lived life on our level and faced the same issues and problems that we face. But the title *Christ* assures us that this One, once called Jesus, can lift us up to God's level because He is the One whom God anointed to be our Savior.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for what You did for us through Your Son, our Savior. We rejoice in Your love, mercy and grace that brought our salvation through Him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 1:41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 12/03/2019 – Christmas Open House 10am-4pm, James Valley Telecommunications
- 12/07/2019 – Santa Day 9am-12pm, Professional Management Services
- 12/07/2019 – Tour of Homes 4pm-7pm, Olive Grove Golf Course (Tickets available at Lori's Pharmacy, Groton Ford, Hair & Co (Aberdeen) and Vicki Walter (605) 380-0480)
- 12/19/2019 – Christmas Open House 10am-4pm, Wells Fargo Bank
- 12/20/2019 – Holiday Bake Sale & Open House 9am-4pm, Groton Community Transit
 - 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

9 family members killed in South Dakota plane crash

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

Federal investigators are expected to arrive Monday at the South Dakota site where nine members of an extended Idaho family were killed in a plane crash.

Travis Garza, president of the wellness company Kyani, said in a Facebook post Sunday that the crash near Chamberlain Saturday afternoon killed brothers and founders Jim and Kirk Hansen. Garza said the crash also killed their father, Jim Hansen Sr.; Kirk Hansen's children, Stockton and Logan; his sons-in-law, Kyle Taylor and Tyson Dennert; and Jim Hansen's son, Jake, and grandson, Houston.

Garza identified the injured as Kirk's son, Josh, and Jim's son, Matt, and son-in-law, Thomas Long. All three were hospitalized.

The Hansens were executives with Kyani, which markets nutritional, health and wellness products, as well as with petroleum products distributor Conrad & Bischoff and KJ's Super Stores.

East Idaho News, which first identified the victims, reported that the party had been on a hunting trip to South Dakota, one of the nation's top destinations for pheasants.

Brian Wood, owner of a funeral home in Idaho Falls, lamented the deaths on Facebook. He called the Hansens "pillars of our community" and wrote that they had offered many times over the years to help pay expenses for someone who might not be able to afford it.

"Our community has a dark cloud over it now," Wood wrote. "They will never know the many lives they touched."

Twelve people were aboard the Pilatus PC-12 bound for Idaho Falls when it crashed within a mile after takeoff in Chamberlain about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Peter Knudson said.

Federal investigators — one from Washington, D.C., and two from the Chicago area — likely would reach the crash site on Monday, Knudson said. Local authorities were guarding the site on Sunday.

Chamberlain and parts of South Dakota were under a winter storm warning Saturday and Brule County emergency manager Katheryn Benton said planes were unable to land at Chamberlain at the time of the crash.

Weather will be among several factors investigators will review, although no cause for the crash has been determined, Knudson said.

Deadly storm moves cross country taking aim at Northeast

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of flights were canceled and thousands delayed for travelers heading home after the Thanksgiving holiday as a deadly winter storm moved to the Northeast on Sunday, packing one last punch of snow and ice.

The National Weather Service predicted more than a foot (0.3 meters) of snow in swaths of upstate New York and New England, as well as ice accumulations in parts of Pennsylvania.

"We've got our shovels ready. We've got the snowblower ready. We're prepared," said Paul Newman of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

In New York, numerous schools announced closings and Gov. Andrew Cuomo advised non-essential state employees to stay home as the storm was forecast to bring snow, sleet, wind and rain through the day Monday.

State police had responded to more than 550 storm-related crashes across New York by 7 p.m. Sunday and Cuomo placed National Guard personnel on standby. Icy roads caused numerous crashes on Interstate 84 in Pennsylvania on Sunday and a section of Interstate 81 north of Binghamton was closed because

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of icy conditions for a while.

The same storm has been pummeling the U.S. for days as it moved cross country, dumping heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

It has been blamed for several deaths.

The bodies of a boy and a girl, both 5, were found in central Arizona after their vehicle was swept away Friday while crossing a swollen creek.

Two adults and four other children were rescued by helicopter, but a 6-year-old girl is still missing. Rescuers are combing the area of Tonto Basin, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix, with helicopters, drones, boats and dogs.

"We want to bring her home safely to her family," said Lt. Virgil Dodd of the Gila County Sheriff's Office. "She needs to come home today, and we're going to do that."

Two boys, ages 5 and 8, died Saturday near Patton, Missouri, when the vehicle they were riding in was swept off flooded roads.

A 48-year-old man died in a separate incident near Sedgewickville, Missouri, and a storm-related death was reported in South Dakota.

Also in South Dakota, a small-engine plane carrying 12 people crashed shortly after takeoff Saturday afternoon, killing nine people and injuring three others. Federal aviation investigators are looking into whether snowy weather was a factor.

Major highways reopened Sunday in Wyoming and Colorado, a day after blizzard conditions clogged roads with snow drifts.

Road crews were able to reopen all of Interstate 25 and most of I-80 in Wyoming early Sunday after strong winds abated. Major interstates in Colorado were also reopened.

Still, authorities warned travelers to remain alert for slick conditions and blowing snow.

The city of Duluth, Minnesota, was blanketed with 21.7 inches (0.6 meters) of snow as of 12 p.m. Sunday. City officials said streets were impassible and residents should stay inside.

Farther south, precipitation was in the form of rain and thunderstorms.

As the storm shifted east, flight delays and cancellations continued to pile up. As of 7:30 p.m., there were more than 800 Sunday flights cancelled in the U.S., compared with about 400 on Saturday, according to flight tracking site FlightAware. Nearly 6,000 U.S. flights were delayed.

Airports with the most canceled flights included San Francisco International Airport with 78 and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey with 60, according to FlightAware. Wind and rain caused some arriving flights at San Francisco to be delayed an average of 4.5 hours.

There were also dozens of flight delays in Chicago and Minneapolis.

In Denver, 100 flights were canceled Saturday because of high winds.

In the mountain communities northeast of Los Angeles, nearly 9,000 utility customers were without power because of the storm.

Another storm system developed in the mid-Atlantic Sunday and forecasters said it would move into a nor'easter through Monday.

Follow Sisak on Twitter at twitter.com/mikesisak and send a direct message to share your experiences, photos and video of the storm, but please do so only when it is safe.

Bob Moen in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Jonathan J. Cooper in Phoenix, Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, Pat Eaton-Robb in Hartford, Connecticut, Steve LeBlanc in Boston and Barbara Ortutay in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Wyoming residents concerned about proposed horse facility

By MARGARET AUSTIN Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A wild horse facility is looking to make its home in eastern Laramie County, but residents near the proposed site have some major concerns.

The facility would hold wild horses captured by the Bureau of Land Management, and the BLM would pay South Dakota-based Equine Elite an amount for each horse it houses.

But the project hit a snag when it came to gaining approval from neighbors within a 3-mile (4.8-kilometer) radius. Due to concerns ranging from water quality to increased traffic, the neighbors didn't give their approval for the project.

Right now in Laramie County, any Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation needs the consent of property owners within 3 miles of the proposed site of the CAFO. At the request of Equine Elite, the Laramie County Commission is considering lowering the distance to 1 mile (1.6 kilometer).

While the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality only requires approval from property owners within one mile, the county commissioners changed its rules to 3 miles years ago when a swine CAFO attempted to situate in Laramie County.

Ron Butler owns one of the properties closest to the proposed wild horse facility. If the commissioners ultimately decide to lower the distance to 1 mile, Butler's approval might not be required, depending on where Equine Elite builds the stables.

"This takes away pre-existing protections from landowners by changing the rules," Butler told the Wyoming Tribune Eagle.

The public notice and review process for the statute change will begin Tuesday.

"There's still a lot of things that have to happen before it comes before the commissioners," County Commission Chairwoman Linda Heath said.

Heath said the public hearings will give residents a chance to voice their opinions and share their viewpoints with the commissioners before they make a final decision.

Though the plan is in its beginning phases, residents within the original three-mile radius are not fond of the proposed facility or changes to the Laramie County statute. Resident Bob Tierney said he has concerns about water supply and contaminated runoff.

"They adopted the three-mile radius for a reason," Tierney said.

CAFOs are often utilized in the farming industry because they allow for specialization and large production operations. Perhaps the biggest issue with CAFOs, however, is the amount of waste they produce. According to a report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a facility can produce between 2,800 tons and 1.6 million tons a year, depending on the number of animals.

"If it was going to be stinking in their backyards, they wouldn't like it, either," Tierney said.

Waste from CAFOs is often used as fertilizer or kept in storage or containment units. The CDC's report said these practices can affect groundwater and surface water by runoff or leaks from the containment units.

Dale Sandberg now owns the property he grew up on, which is within the three-mile radius. He has another concern about the facility: Where will the water for the horses come from?

"It is going to increase the water supply need," Sandberg said.

Tierney raised the same issue, saying it would leave less water for people down the line.

Another problem the project might cause is increased traffic in the area. Sandberg said there's already a decent amount of road activity from the oil production, and this could bring even more. He is against the change, but also noted that the commissioners shouldn't alter any rule for an existing proposal.

With all that's up in the air, Butler said it's important for the residents to have their voices heard. He started an online petition to bring before the county commissioners.

"I think it compromises their quality of life," Butler said. "It compromises the value of their properties. It compromises their water quality. It's a myriad of problems."

As Noem opposes hemp, tribes see opportunity

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

As Alex White Plume gathered his children and grandchildren along the bank of Wounded Knee Creek to harvest hemp in September, he was one of just a handful of farmers in South Dakota with hopes of making money from the crop this year.

Gov. Kristi Noem has blocked industrial hemp from being grown in the state, but that's not stopping Native Americans who can regulate their own hemp crops under the 2018 Farm Bill. Many tribes are drawn to hemp's potential for bringing profits to communities that badly need it. They say that Noem's resistance is giving them an advantage to getting into the market, even as it may complicate their ability to transport and sell it.

White Plume first tried to grow hemp on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation when the Oglala Sioux Tribe passed an ordinance allowing industrial hemp in 1998. His efforts put him at odds with the federal government, including Drug Enforcement Administration agents who came to his land in 2000 armed with guns and weed trimmers to destroy his crops.

White Plume said hemp could bring money to his home in what he calls "the poorest community in the poorest county in the United States." He also said hemp could replace plastics and synthetic material in textiles.

And Noem's stance against hemp cultivation? That's just fine with White Plume.

"I give thanks to Noem," he said. "It gives me a chance and my family a chance to get ahead."

The 2018 Farm Bill cleared the way for states and tribes to grow hemp by submitting their plans to the Department of Agriculture. Earlier that year, White Plume decided it was time to harvest hemp again, relying on the argument that he was on tribal land made sovereign by treaties with the U.S. government.

Others are making sure the federal government approves of their hemp plans before putting seeds in the ground. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and White Plume's Oglala Sioux Tribe have filed applications with USDA to grow hemp. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe is holding a hemp vote before applying.

Tribes across several states have formed the Tribal Hemp Working Group to share information on drafting codes, gaining approval from the USDA, and using the best seeds and techniques.

They are also coordinating to make sure the new crop does not cause members to run afoul of the law. Rosebud Sioux Tribal President Rodney Bordeaux said he was concerned tribal members could get into trouble transporting hemp on South Dakota's highways.

South Dakota charged a Colorado man with drug trafficking after he was pulled over with 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of cannabis that he was delivering to the Minnesota Hemp Association. He said the plants were hemp, but a lab test found levels of THC — the compound in marijuana that produces a high — above the legal limit of 0.3 percent.

Noem has argued that it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for the state's law enforcement to test cannabis for THC levels.

Bordeaux said in a statement that he was concerned the hemp drivers may be arrested or have their crops confiscated if the state's law enforcement could not "field test the hemp to make sure that it is what we say it is."

Noem has indicated that South Dakota will comply with federal laws in allowing hemp to be transported across the state.

Tribal representatives said they would be working with the state to make sure their hemp plans don't run into trouble. Chase Iron Eyes, spokesman for Oglala Sioux President Julian Bear Runner, called the state "a necessary partner" and said that the tribes and South Dakota have the potential to lead the nation in hemp production if they worked together.

Tribes also face another set of bureaucratic hurdles. Tribes and individuals must apply with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to change the use of tribal lands that are held "in trust" by the federal government. While the policy is designed to make sure land stays in tribal possession, it has also held them back from developing agriculture, said Terry Anderson, who studies the economics of Native American reservations

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at the Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank.

Tribes that grow hemp also face competition from large agriculture companies, including tobacco companies, said Heather Dawn Thompson, a lawyer who is advising the Tribal Hemp Working Group. But she said tribes are ready to commit to hemp for the long term, and believe the hemp textile market will continue to develop and expand.

As hemp re-enters use after nearly 80 years of being outlawed in the United States, people are just beginning to discover how it can be processed and turned into products like construction material, clothing, and dietary supplements. Janie Simms Hipp, president of the Native American Agriculture Fund, said that gives Native Americans an opportunity that has been rare in modern agriculture — to have a place at the starting line with everyone else.

Still, Hipp said her organization is focusing on hemp research to make sure it doesn't make critical mistakes in the early going.

"Opportunities can turn sour in a heartbeat," she said. "Everyone needs to calm down and do their homework."

Storm bears down on East, promises up to 20 inches of snow

NEW YORK (AP) — A wintry storm that made Thanksgiving travel miserable across much of the country gripped the East with a messy mixture of rain, snow, sleet and wind, slowing the Monday morning commute, closing schools and offices, and snarling air travel.

Forecasters said the nor'easter could drop 10 to 20 inches of snow by Tuesday morning from Pennsylvania to Maine. Heavy snow was possible in the Appalachian Mountains down to Tennessee and North Carolina.

"We've got our shovels ready. We've got the snowblower ready. We're prepared," said Paul Newman, of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Schools closed preemptively as rain was expected to turn into snow in the region's first significant storm of the season, a nor'easter so named because the winds typically come from the northeast.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo advised nonessential state employees to stay home Monday, and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy declared government offices for nonessential employees would close at noon.

More than 180 flights into or out of the U.S. were canceled Monday morning, with more than 450 delays. Airports in the New York and Boston areas accounted for many of them.

Tractor-trailers were banned or lower speed limits put in place on stretches of interstate highways in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Inland areas appeared to be in for the worst of it, with the forecast in Albany, New York, predicting 6 to 14 inches.

Only 3 inches of snow was expected in New York City. Up to 9 inches, though, was possible in Boston by Tuesday night. As much as 5 inches was forecast for Philadelphia.

The trouble began in the East on Sunday as the storm moved out of the Midwest.

State police had responded to more than 550 storm-related crashes across New York by 7 p.m. Icy roads caused crashes on Interstate 84 in Pennsylvania, and ice closed part of Interstate 81 near Binghamton, New York, for a time.

The same storm has pummeled the U.S. for days as it moved cross country, dumping heavy snow from California to the Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

Duluth, Minnesota, is cleaning up more than 21 inches of snow. Major highways reopened in Wyoming and Colorado after blizzard conditions and drifting snow blocked them.

China to suspend US Navy visits to Hong Kong over new law

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — China said Monday it will suspend U.S. military ship and aircraft visits to Hong Kong and sanction several American pro-democracy and human rights groups in retaliation for the signing into law of legislation supporting anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous territory.

While the nature of the sanctions remained unclear, the move followed Chinese warnings that the U.S. would bear the costs if the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act was approved.

The steps are "in response to America's unreasonable behavior," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in Beijing, adding that the legislation seriously interfered in China's internal affairs.

The law, signed last Wednesday by President Donald Trump, mandates sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who carry out human rights abuses and requires an annual review of the favorable trade status that Washington grants Hong Kong.

The legislation was backed by U.S. lawmakers who are sympathetic to the protesters and have criticized Hong Kong police for cracking down on the pro-democracy movement.

Police say their use of tear gas, rubber bullets and other force is a necessary response to escalating violence by the protesters, who have blocked major roads and thrown gasoline bombs back at officers in riot gear.

Hong Kong has been living with almost nonstop protests for six months. The movement's demands include democratic elections and an investigation into the police response. More fundamentally, the protesters and others in Hong Kong fear that China is eroding the rights and freedoms they have under a "one country, two systems" framework.

Hua said China would sanction organizations including the National Endowment for Democracy, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Human Rights Watch, the International Republican Institute, Freedom House and others that she said had "performed badly" in the Hong Kong unrest.

"China urges the United States to correct its mistakes and stop any words and deeds that interfere in Hong Kong and China's internal affairs," she said, adding that China could take "further necessary actions" depending on how matters develop.

Hua accused the groups of instigating protesters to engage in "radical violent crimes and inciting separatist activities."

"These organizations deserve to be sanctioned and must pay a price," Hua said.

China has long accused foreign groups and governments of fomenting the demonstrations in Hong Kong, singling out the U.S., former colonial overlord Britain, and democratic, self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

Among the groups to be subject to the unspecified sanctions, the National Endowment for Democracy receives funding directly from Congress, while others generally draw their running costs from a mixture of private and public grants.

Derek Mitchell, the president of the National Democratic Institute, said in Hong Kong last week that accusations it was colluding with protesters were "patently false."

The institute has no role in the current protests, and "to suggest otherwise spreads misinformation and fails to recognize the movement stems from genuine grievances," he said.

While China has in the past suspended U.S. military visits, the sanctions on the various groups could bring conditions for civil society in Hong Kong one step closer to those in mainland China.

Beijing imposes restrictions on non-governmental organizations, and is particularly concerned about those involved in humanitarian causes, gender equality, the environment or minority rights.

In Hong Kong, several hundred people who work in advertising started a five-day strike Monday to show support for the anti-government protests. They said they would not go to work, respond to work emails or take part in conference calls.

Some held up signs with protest slogans at an early afternoon rally to launch the strike in Chater Garden, a public square in the central business district.

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Antony Yiu, an entrepreneur in advertising and one of the organizers, said they want other business sectors to join them.

"The government seems to be still ignoring the sound of the majority of the people," he said. The advertising industry wants "to take the first step to encourage other businesses to participate in the strike to give more pressure."

More than 10,000 people marched on Sunday to try to pressure the government to address the demands after pro-democracy candidates won a landslide victory in district council elections one week earlier.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has said she'll accelerate dialogue but hasn't offered any concessions since the elections.

The protests are blamed for driving the economy into recession. Tourism, airline and retail sectors have been hit particularly hard, with retail sales down about 20%.

"The willingness of tourists coming to Hong Kong has been significantly affected," the city's financial secretary, Paul Chan, said Monday.

He said the government will run a budget deficit for the first time in 15 years because of falling tax revenues and greater spending to try to offset the economic slowdown.

Associated Press journalists Dake Kang and Katie Tam contributed to this story.

Legal reckoning: New abuse suits could cost church over \$4B

By BERNARD CONDON and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At the end of another long day trying to sign up new clients accusing the Roman Catholic Church of sexual abuse, lawyer Adam Slater gazes out the window of his high-rise Manhattan office at one of the great symbols of the church, St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"I wonder how much that's worth?" he muses.

Across the country, attorneys like Slater are scrambling to file a new wave of lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by clergy, thanks to rules enacted in 15 states that extend or suspend the statute of limitations to allow claims stretching back decades. Associated Press reporting found the deluge of suits could surpass anything the nation's clergy sexual abuse crisis has seen before, with potentially more than 5,000 new cases and payouts topping \$4 billion.

It's a financial reckoning playing out in such populous Catholic strongholds as New York, California and New Jersey, among the eight states that go the furthest with "lookback windows" that allow sex abuse claims no matter how old. Never before have so many states acted in near-unison to lift the restrictions that once shut people out if they didn't bring claims of childhood sex abuse by a certain age, often their early 20s.

That has lawyers fighting for clients with TV ads and billboards asking, "Were you abused by the church?" And Catholic dioceses, while worrying about the difficulty of defending such old claims, are considering bankruptcy, victim compensation funds and even tapping valuable real estate to stay afloat.

"It's like a whole new beginning for me," said 71-year-old Nancy Holling-Lonnecker of San Diego, who plans to take advantage of an upcoming three-year window for such suits in California. Her claim dates back to the 1950s, when she says a priest repeatedly raped her in a confession booth beginning when she was 7 years old.

"The survivors coming forward now have been holding on to this horrific experience all of their lives," she said. "They bottled up those emotions all of these years because there was no place to take it."

Now there is.

AP interviews with more than a dozen lawyers and clergy abuse watchdog groups offered a wide range of estimates but many said they expected at least 5,000 new cases against the church in New York, New Jersey and California alone, resulting in potential payouts that could surpass the \$4 billion paid out since the clergy sex abuse first came to light in the 1980s.

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Lawyers acknowledged the difficulty of predicting what will happen but several believed payouts could exceed the \$350,000 national average per child sex abuse case since 2003. At the upper end, a key benchmark is the average \$1.3 million the church paid per case the last time California opened a one-year window to suits in 2003. That offers a range of total payouts in the three big Catholic states alone from \$1.8 billion to as much as \$6 billion.

Some lawyers believe payouts could be heavily influenced by the recent reawakening over sexual abuse fueled by the #MeToo movement, the public shaming of accused celebrities and the explosive Pennsylvania grand jury report last year that found 300 priests abused more than 1,000 children in that state over seven decades. Since then, attorneys general in nearly 20 states have launched investigations of their own.

"The general public is more disgusted than ever with the clergy sex abuse and the cover-up, and that will be reflected in jury verdicts," said Mitchell Garabedian, a Boston attorney who was at the center of numerous lawsuits against the church in that city and was portrayed in the movie "Spotlight."

Said Los Angeles lawyer Paul Mones, who has won tens of millions in sex abuse cases against the church going back to the 1980s: "The zeitgeist is completely unfavorable to the Catholic Church."

For Mones, the size of lawsuit payouts under the new laws could hinge on whether most plaintiffs decide to settle their cases with dioceses or take their chances with a trial.

"The X-factor here is whether there will be trials," he said. "If anyone starts trying these cases, the numbers could become astronomical."

Since the 15 states enacted their laws at different times over the past two years, the onslaught of lawsuits is coming in waves.

This summer, when New York state opened its one-year window allowing sexual abuse suits with no statute of limitations, more than 400 cases against the church and other institutions were filed on the first day alone. That number is now up to more than 1,000, with most targeting the church.

New Jersey's two-year window opens this week and California's three-year window begins in the new year, with a provision that allows plaintiffs to collect triple damages if a cover-up can be shown. Arizona, Montana and Vermont opened ones earlier this year. Even one of the biggest holdouts, Pennsylvania, is moving closer to a window after legislators voted last month to consider amending its constitution to make it easier to pass one.

Already, longtime clergy abuse lawyer Michael Pfau in Seattle says he's signed up about 800 clients in New York, New Jersey and California. Boston's Garabedian says he expects to file 225 in New York, plus at least 200 in a half-dozen other states. Another veteran abuse litigator, James Marsh, says he's collected more than 200 clients in New York alone.

"A trickle becomes a stream becomes a flood," Marsh said. "We're sort of at the flood stage right now."

Church leaders who lobbied statehouses for years against loosening statute-of-limitations laws say this is exactly the kind of feeding frenzy they were worried about. And some have bemoaned the difficulty of trying to counter accusations of abuse that happened so long ago that most witnesses have scattered and many of the accused priests are long dead.

"Dead people can't defend themselves," said Mark Chopko, former general counsel to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "There is also no one there to be interviewed. If a diocese gets a claim that Father Smith abused somebody in 1947, and there is nothing in Father Smith's file and there is no one to ask whether there is merit or not, the diocese is stuck."

Slater's Manhattan offices may have views of St. Patrick's Cathedral, spiritual home of New York City's Catholic archdiocese, but ground zero for his church abuse lawsuit operation is a call center, of sorts, about an hour's drive away in suburban Long Island, in an office building overlooking a parking lot.

There, headset-wearing paralegals in a dozen cubicles answer calls in response to ads on talk radio and cable TV news channels pleading: "If you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy, even if it happened decades ago ... you may be entitled to financial compensation."

That pitch spoke to 57-year-old Ramon Mercado, who had long kept silent about the abuse he suffered in the 1970s, in part because he didn't want to upset his devout Catholic mother. Since her recent death,

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he's ready to talk about the New York City priest who invited him into his Plymouth sedan to warm up on a cold day and ended up molesting him hundreds of times over the next three years.

"I was sitting in my living room and someone came on TV, 'If you've been molested, act now,'" Mercado said. "After so many years, I said, 'Why not?'"

When such calls come in, the paralegals are trained to press for details but to do so gently.

"What age would you say you were?"

"Ten or 11? OK. Would you remember the face if you saw it?"

"He would take you out of your bed? What did he say when he came to get you?"

"Do you want to take a break? Are you OK? Are you sure?"

The next step is to get a lawyer on the line to see if it's a case they can take to court. Slater says that out of the more than 3,000 calls his firm has taken leading up to and since the opening of New York's one-year window, it has signed up nearly 300 clients, and expects another 200 by the middle of next year.

One recent day, lawyers talked to at least a half-dozen potential plaintiffs by lunchtime, with one saying she was raped at a first communion party and another saying a priest sodomized him after he was told to pull down his pants so his temperature could be taken.

In a windowless break room over pizza, the lawyers recounted some of the other horrific claims they've heard in just the past few months: A young girl penetrated by a finger, then a fist; a boy raped by three priests at the same time; an altar boy told to perform oral sex and then swallow because it would "absolve him of his sins."

One plaintiff still smells the alcohol on the priest's breath decades later. Another says he can still hear the priest approaching his classroom as he came to get him, the squeak of shoes in the school hallway.

One man called with his story and later killed himself. A terminally-ill woman called from a hospice care center — "I've been holding this in my whole life."

Many of the accusations involve those already identified by dioceses as "credibly accused" — there are 5,173 priests, lay persons and other clergy member that meet that standard, according to a recent AP tally. Those are the easy cases.

But many others are like Mercado's, involving priests never accused publicly before, some long dead. And so that turns lawyers into cold-case investigators, calling retired Catholic school teachers and retired rectory staff, combing through yearbooks and, in Mercado's case, tracking down missionary workers who went on the priest's overseas trips.

"This type of case isn't for every law firm. It's not a hit-in-the-rear car accident," Slater said. "There is work to be done."

And money to be made. For his fee, Slater said he plans to ask for a full third of any awards his clients collect and he's been spending in anticipation, hiring a half-dozen new paralegals, opening an office in New Jersey and breaking a wall in Long Island to make more room.

One of the lawyers eating pizza, Steven Alter, pushed back when asked if the people coming forward are just in it for the money.

"It's not a cash grab," he said. "They want to have a voice. They want to help other people and make sure it doesn't happen again."

"I haven't had one person ask me about the money yet."

This is the day the Catholic Church has long feared.

The church spent millions of dollars lobbying statehouses for decades, arguing it would be swamped with lawsuits if time limits on suing were lifted. That battle now lost, it is girding for Round Two, by turning to compensation funds and bankruptcy.

Compensation funds offer payment to victims if they agree not take their claims to court. They offer a faster, easier way to some justice, and cash, but the settlements are typically a fraction of what victims can get in trials. And critics say the church is just using them to avoid both a bigger financial hit and full transparency.

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New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan set up the first fund in 2016, pitching it as a way to compensate victims without walloping the church and forcing it to cut programs. It has since paid more than \$67 million to 338 alleged victims, an average \$200,000 each.

The idea has caught on in other states. All five dioceses in New Jersey and three in Colorado opened one, as did seven dioceses in Pennsylvania and six in California, including the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the largest in the U.S.

Such funds, Dolan said in a newspaper op-ed piece last year, "prevent the real possibility — as has happened elsewhere — of bankrupting both public and private organizations, including churches, that provide essential services in education, charity and health care."

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League and a longtime critic of the new statute-of-limitations laws, said their effect — if not their intent — "is to disable the church."

"When a diocese goes bankrupt, everyone gets hurt," he said.

But bankruptcy has become an increasingly more common option. Less than a month after New York's one-year lookback window took effect, the upstate Diocese of Rochester filed for bankruptcy, the 20th diocese or religious order in the country to do so, listing claims from alleged abuse survivors and other creditors as much as \$500 million. Assets to pay that are estimated at no more than one-fifth that amount.

The Diocese of Buffalo may be next. It has begun paying victims of the 100 priests it considers "credibly accused" of abuse, tapping proceeds from the sale of a lavish \$1.5 million mansion that once housed its bishop who is facing pressure to resign.

When a diocese files for bankruptcy, lawsuits by alleged abuse survivors are suspended and payments to them and others owed money — contractors, suppliers, banks, bondholders — are frozen while a federal judge decides how much to pay everyone and still leave enough for the diocese to continue to operate. It's orderly and victims avoid costly and lengthy court cases, but they often get less than they would if they were successful in a trial.

A recent Penn State study of 16 dioceses and other religious organizations that had filed for bankruptcy protection by September 2018 found that victims received an average settlement of \$288,168.

Bankruptcy can also leave abuse survivors with a sense of justice denied because the church never has to face discovery by plaintiff lawyers and forced to hand over documents, possibly implicating higherups who hid the abuse.

For many of his clients, Slater said, the fight in court is crucial because they want to expose the culture behind the crime, not just out a single priest.

"They want to see how the church allowed them to be abused, how they ruined their lives. The church is solely in possession of the information and there is no other way to get it," he said. "It's a different process in bankruptcy — you don't get discovery and you don't get it in compensation programs. The truth never comes to light."

Other church tactics in the past few months could be a harbinger for the future.

In July, the Archdiocese of New York sued 31 of its insurers, fearing they would balk at paying all the new alleged victims.

And just last month, church officials on nearby Long Island sought to throw out New York's new statutes of limitations law in sex abuse cases, arguing it violates the due process clause of the state constitution. The Diocese of Rockville Centre contends time limits to file suits can only be extended in "exceptional circumstances," such as when plaintiffs are unable to file because they are abroad in a war zone.

Another pair of long shot cases are being closely watched because of the obvious financial implications. Five men who claim they were sexually abused by priests when they were minors filed suit in Minnesota earlier this year contending some of the responsibility rests with the world headquarters of the church — the Vatican. Then came another abuse suit last month in Buffalo accusing the Vatican of racketeering.

The Vatican is a sovereign state widely seen as off limits to abuse victims, but some lawyers say it's time, especially now that U.S. dioceses are under attack, that it begins tapping its vast wealth.

Raymond P. Boucher, a veteran Los Angeles sexual abuse attorney, contends the Vatican's legendary riches include stashes of art in vaults that could not possibly be exhausted "and still pay every single claim

that anybody could bring in the United States.”

“They have them just in the vaults. They don’t even have to take anything off the walls.”

Democrats aim to catch up to Trump’s 2020 cash advantage

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are narrowing President Donald Trump’s early spending advantage, with two billionaire White House hopefuls joining established party groups to target the president in key battleground states that are likely to determine the outcome of next year’s election.

Priorities USA and American Bridge, two of the leading Democratic outside groups, are ramping up operations. The organization ACRONYM recently pledged to spend \$75 million. And former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has pledged to spend \$100 million on ads targeting Trump, while California billionaire Tom Steyer promised \$50 million.

The billionaires have come under fire from some Democratic rivals for trying to buy the presidency. But the influx of cash is soothing anxiety in some corners of the party that Trump, who has repeatedly broken fundraising records, was off to an unprecedented early start in the 2020 advertising wars. Some had argued that the Democrats’ overwhelming focus on the sprawling presidential primary field allowed the president to burnish a reelection narrative unchallenged ahead of what is expected to be an exceptionally close election.

“It’s safe to say the gap is closing,” said David Brock, who leads several Democratic groups, including American Bridge. “People can breathe a little bit of a sigh of relief that there is a major Democratic response now and that Trump’s spending will be met.”

The money has put Democrats on firmer footing in states such as Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Arizona, which will be key to victory in 2020. But it’s unclear how long it will last.

Trump has built a massive money-raising machine that has fused a traditional network of big-dollar Republican donors with a sophisticated digital operation that has raked in small contributions from rank-and-file supporters.

Sitting presidents have long used their office to draw a spotlight and rake in money while the party out of power fights its way through a primary. Trump, however, never really ceased campaigning and has been running for reelection essentially since taking office, giving him a far earlier head start.

For months, his campaign has spent comparatively little on digital advertising in battlegrounds, while dumping money in population-dense states like New York, California and Texas, which are rich in potential donors but won’t decide the outcome of the election. Yet the money he is raising there will enable him to flood important states with advertising early next year.

Over the summer, the lack of spending fueled worries — and some snipping — that not enough was being done counter Trump.

“We welcome other efforts. But we also need to remember that Trump has yet to start spending money big in swing states,” said Patrick McHugh, the executive director of Priorities USA, which spent roughly \$200 million during the 2016 election. “Matching dollar for dollar now would come at the detriment of matching his spending online and on television once he begins spending in earnest in states that matter.”

While the economy overall has performed well during Trump’s presidency, Priorities is driving a message that aims to move beyond the topline and connect peoples’ frustration with their own financial well-being directly to the president. The group has yet to say how much it will spend on the 2020 contest, but it has outspent Trump \$6.5 million to \$2.2 million since July on Facebook and Google in Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

American Bridge, which has traditionally focused on conducting opposition research, has launched a \$50 million radio, TV and digital advertising campaign in the same states that is geared toward rural and exurban voters in about 80 counties that Barack Obama carried but later switched to Trump.

“It’s a margins game that we’re playing, but we think that we can get enough people to defect,” Brock said.

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The group ACRONYM will spend \$75 million between now and Election Day on online advertising highlighting the “broken promises” and perceived corruption of the Trump administration. Recent ads have attacked Trump for failing to deliver on his pledge to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. by highlighting the decision by General Motors to close its Lordstown, Ohio, plant.

Organizations financed by Steyer, meanwhile, are working to register young people to vote. That includes a door-knocking campaign, as well as digital advertising by NextGen America, where he was president until stepping down over the summer to launch his campaign.

An early salvo of ads run by Bloomberg accuses Trump of not caring about health care and questions his temperament and social media use. One recent Facebook ad captioned “What did he tweet today?” features an image of a man facepalming his forehead.

“The president is out making his case. And we’ve got to make sure that he doesn’t make it un rebutted,” said Bloomberg chief adviser Howard Wolfson.

Since Trump took office, many Democrats have celebrated an outpouring of small-dollar online contributions from an energized grassroots base. Some progressives have touted this success as a viable alternative to the party’s historic reliance on wealthy donors, whom they criticize for having outsized influence.

But the reality is both streams of money will be needed against Trump. Particularly before the nominee is chosen, outside groups and the Democratic National Committee — they depend on major donors to finance their efforts — will be handling the lion’s share of general-election work.

During a recent DNC fundraiser headlined by Obama, tech CEO and philanthropist Amy Rao fired up a well-heeled crowd of about 100 who gathered at the home of megadonor Karla Jurvetson, high in the hills overlooking Silicon Valley.

Defeating Trump, she said, was so important that they should be digging in to their “retirement and what you thought you were going to leave to your children” to support the party regardless of who becomes the nominee. She encouraged the crowd to give “so much that it actually hurts.”

“It’s only money. You’ll never miss it,” Rao said. “The biggest gift you can give to the generations that follow us is to make sure this president loses in 2020.”

AP National Political Writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT CHANGES TO SEX-ABUSE LAWS COULD COST CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Associated Press finds that a wave of new laws in 15 states could result in at least 5,000 new cases against the church and more than \$4 billion in payouts.

2. IMPEACHMENT INVITATION REJECTED

The White House has declared it will not participate in the first impeachment hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

3. BEIJING PUSHES BACK AGAINST WASHINGTON

China says it will suspend U.S. Navy visits to Hong Kong and sanction pro-democracy non-governmental organizations in retaliation for U.S. legislation supporting human rights in the semi-autonomous territory.

4. FOREST FIRE DANGER SPARKS INNOVATION

A new technology being tested by California utilities is aimed at diagnosing problems before they can cause power outages or spark wildfires.

5. CHINA’S COMPLICATED ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

It’s the top emitter of greenhouse gases and burns about half the coal used globally each year. But it’s also the leading market for solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles, and manufactures most of

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the world's solar cells.

6. A CONCERT THAT TURNED TRAGIC, 40 YEARS LATER

Eleven people were killed in a frantic stampede of people trying to get into The Who's Dec. 3, 1979, Cincinnati concert. Three were teens from Finneytown, Ohio. Neither the city nor the band have forgotten.

7. A CHALLENGING DANCE FOR A VISA

Ballroom dance studio owners say the immigration clampdown has made it even more difficult to find qualified instructors, and it's hurting their businesses.

8. CAPTURING HISTORY BEFORE IT'S GONE

A group of U.S.-based scientists are rushing to document ancient indigenous sites along Puerto Rico's coastline that date back a couple thousand years and are threatened by rising sea levels.

9. LEBANESE WOMEN PUSH BACK AGAINST RELIGIOUS LAWS

Lebanon's many religious sects mean it has 15 sets of laws over such things as rules for marriage, divorce and child custody. Critics say it discriminates against women of all faiths, and recent protests have given them a platform.

10. MEASLES OUTBREAK DEVASTATES SAMOA

Most of the 53 people who have died during the epidemic on the South Pacific island have been babies and young infants, including 23 children aged less than 1 and 25 children aged between 1 and 4.

UN chief urges countries not to surrender on climate fight

By ARITZ PARRA and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres urged countries Monday not to give up in the fight against climate change, as representatives from nearly 200 countries gathered in Madrid for a two-week meeting on tackling global warming.

In his opening speech to delegates, Guterres cited recent scientific data showing that levels of heat-trapping gases have hit a record high, reaching levels not seen for at least 3 million years when sea levels were 10-20 meters (33-66 feet) higher than today.

Unless emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are sharply cut, temperatures could rise to twice the threshold set in the 2015 Paris accord by the end of the century, he warned.

"Do we really want to be remembered as the generation that buried its head in the sand, that fiddled while the planet burned?" Guterres asked.

His appeal came after Chile's environment minister, Carolina Schmidt, said the Dec. 2-13 meeting needs to lay the groundwork for moving toward carbon-neutral economies while being sensitive to the poorest and those most vulnerable to rising temperatures — something that policymakers have termed "just transition."

"Those who don't want to see it will be on the wrong side of history," said Schmidt, who is chairing the meeting. She called on governments to make more ambitious pledges to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases ahead of a deadline to do so next year.

The summit, which moved to the Spanish capital after Chile had to pull out amid anti-government protests, aims to put the finishing touches to the rules governing the 2015 Paris accord.

That involves creating a functioning international emissions-trading system and compensating poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

"We have a common challenge but with differentiated needs and urgencies, which we can only overcome if we work together," said Schmidt.

Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times. Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.

Guterres called out big greenhouse gas emitters that are still building coal-fired power plants, saying that unless the world stops burning coal "all our efforts to tackle climate change will be doomed."

He noted that had countries started cutting their emissions drastically a decade ago, reaching the Paris goal would have been much easier.

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"Ten years ago, if countries had acted on the science, they would have needed to reduce emissions by 3.3% each year," he said. "Today, we need to reduce emissions by 7.6% each year."

"The impact on all life on the planet — including ours — would be catastrophic," he added. "The only solution is rapid, ambitious, transformative action by all — governments, regions, cities, businesses and civil society, all working toward a common goal."

Organizers expect around 29,000 visitors at the meeting, including around 50 heads of state and government for Monday's opening session.

Except for the European Union's newly sworn-in leadership, which was due to begin a five-year term by paying a visit to the summit, the rest of the world's largest carbon emitters — the United States, China and India — are sending ministerial or lower-level officials to the meeting.

The U.S. delegation is led by Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, a senior Department official. That's because the procedures to quit the Paris accord initiated last month by the administration of President Donald Trump won't be technically completed until Nov. 4, 2020.

But Democratic members of Congress led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the nation remains committed to the 2015 agreement's goals.

"We're still in it," said Pelosi, adding that climate change poses a threat to public health, the economy and national security.

Jordans reported from Berlin.

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

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Democrat Steve Bullock ends struggling presidential campaign

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and MATT VOLZ Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock announced Monday that he's ending his Democratic presidential campaign, saying it's become clear that he won't have a shot at being his party's nominee.

The two-term governor and former state attorney general tried to make the case that he was the best bet to beat President Donald Trump because he was the only Democratic candidate to win in a state that Trump won in 2016. But he got a late start, announcing his candidacy in May and joining nearly two dozen other Democratic candidates competing for attention and campaign donations.

"While there were many obstacles we could not have anticipated when entering this race, it has become clear that in this moment, I won't be able to break through to the top tier of this still-crowded field of candidates," Bullock said in a statement.

The governor said that he ran to win back places Democrats have lost and end the influence of "dark money" in politics. Those concerns have not changed, he said, but he leaves the race "filled with gratitude and optimism, inspired and energized by the good people I've had the privilege of meeting over the course of the campaign."

The 53-year-old struggled to raise money and register in the polls, managing to meet qualification thresholds for only one Democratic National Committee debate in July.

He's the third Western governor or former governor to drop out of the 2020 race after struggling to build a national profile and donor base against well-known alternatives like former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper dropped out in August to instead run for the Senate. His departure was followed quickly by that of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who is seeking reelection.

Democrats had been pushing Bullock to give up his presidential bid and run instead for Senate, where first-term Republican Steve Daines is running for reelection. But Bullock has consistently and repeatedly said

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he has no interest in the Senate seat and that there are already strong candidates running against Daines. Bullock's spokeswoman Galia Slayen reiterated that Monday.

"While he plans to work hard to elect Democrats in the state and across the country in 2020, it will be in his capacity as a governor and a senior voice in the Democratic Party — not as a candidate for U.S. Senate," Slayen said in a statement.

Bullock had been exploring a presidential run since 2017, but he said he couldn't announce his candidacy until he had finished his work in Helena, where the state legislature was meeting.

He staked his presidential campaign on Iowa, and he made repeated trips to the state to campaign alongside prominent state Attorney General Tom Miller, the first statewide elected official in Iowa to endorse a 2020 candidate.

Bullock stuck strictly to his campaign message of needing to win back rural Trump voters, noting he won reelection the day that Trump carried his state by 20 percentage points. He also touted his history as a crusader to eliminate the influence of anonymous and foreign money in elections.

But he remained at the bottom of the polls and unfamiliar to many voters. His biggest national exposure appeared to come when he didn't make the cut for the first debate, resulting in a slate of news stories and an appearance on "Late Night with Stephen Colbert."

Bullock was Montana's attorney general for a term before he became governor in 2013. Before that, he worked as an assistant attorney general, as an attorney in private practice in Helena and for law firms in New York and Washington, D.C.

Price reported from Las Vegas.

Patriotism is the theme of Christmas at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Patriotism is the theme of Christmas at the White House this year.

Melania Trump announced "The Spirit of America" as the theme in a late Sunday tweet that included a minute-long video of the Christmas decorations being unveiled Monday.

The video shows the first lady walking through the public floor of the White House amid Christmas trees decked out with white lights.

Mrs. Trump is seen sprinkling fake snow on a tree and adjusting roses decorating a fireplace. She also tweaks a mini-wreath on a window of the traditional gingerbread White House in the State Dining Room.

Mrs. Trump says in the tweet that "The Spirit of America' is shining in the @WhiteHouse!" She adds that she's "delighted to share this beautiful exhibit of patriotism for all to see."

House impeachment report coming ahead of landmark hearing

By HOPE YEN, LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House impeachment report on President Donald Trump will be unveiled Monday behind closed doors for key lawmakers as Democrats push ahead with the inquiry despite the White House's declaration it will not participate in the first Judiciary Committee hearing.

The Democratic majority on the House Intelligence Committee says the report, compiled after weeks of testimony, will speak for itself in laying out what Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., called the evidence of "wrongdoing and misconduct" by the Republican president over his actions toward Ukraine. It was being made available for committee members to review ahead of a vote Tuesday to send it to the Judiciary Committee for Wednesday's landmark hearing.

Late Sunday, White House counsel Pat Cipollone denounced the "baseless and highly partisan inquiry." In a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., he also declined the invitation for the president's counsel to appear before his panel Wednesday.

Cipollone, in continuing the West Wing's attack on the House process, said the proceeding "violates all past historical precedent, basic due process rights, and fundamental fairness." Trump himself was sched-

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uled to attend a summit with NATO allies outside London on Wednesday.

As the impeachment inquiry intensified, Wednesday's hearing will be a milestone. It is expected to convene legal experts whose testimony, alongside the report from the Intelligence Committee, could lay the groundwork for possible articles of impeachment, which the panel is expected to soon draw up.

Democrats are focused on whether Trump abused his office by withholding military aid approved by Congress and a White House meeting as he pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to launch investigations into Trump's political rivals. The report also is expected to include evidence of possible obstruction of Congress by Trump's instructions that officials in his administration defy subpoenas for documents or testimony.

Trump maintains he did nothing wrong, and as the House presses forward on an ambitious schedule toward an impeachment vote, the president and his Republican allies are aligned against the process.

Cipollone's letter applied only to the Wednesday hearing, and he demanded more information from Democrats on how they intended to conduct further hearings before Trump would decide whether to participate in them. House rules provide the president and his attorneys the right to cross-examine witnesses and review evidence before the committee, but little ability to bring forward witnesses of their own.

Republicans, meanwhile, wanted Schiff, the chairman who led the inquiry report, to testify before the Judiciary Committee, though they have no power to compel him to do so, as they joined the White House effort to try to cast the Democratic-led inquiry as skewed against the Republican president.

"It's easy to hide behind a report," said Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee. "But it's going to be another thing to actually get up and have to answer questions."

Schiff has said "there's nothing for me to testify about," that he isn't a "fact" witness and that Republicans are only trying to "mollify the president, and that's not a good reason to try to call a member of Congress as a witness."

Democrats were aiming for a final House vote by Christmas, which would set the stage for a likely Senate trial in January.

"I do believe that all evidence certainly will be included in that report so the Judiciary Committee can make the necessary decisions that they need to," said Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a member of both the Intelligence and Judiciary committees.

Trump has previously suggested that he might be willing to offer written testimony under certain conditions, though aides suggested they did not anticipate Democrats would ever agree to them.

Democrats had pressed Trump to decide by Friday whether he would take advantage of due process protections afforded to him under House rules adopted in October for follow-up hearings, including the right to request witness testimony and to cross-examine the witnesses called by the House.

"If you are serious about conducting a fair process going forward, and in order to protect the rights and privileges of the President, we may consider participating in future Judiciary Committee proceedings if you afford the Administration the ability to do so meaningfully," Cipollone said in the Sunday letter.

Collins called the hearing Wednesday "a complete American waste of time of here." He wanted the witness list expanded to include those suggested by Republicans. "This is why this is a problematic exercise and simply a made-for-TV event coming on Wednesday."

Still, Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., a Judiciary Committee member, said he believes Trump would benefit if he presents his own defense. McClintock said he doesn't believe Trump did anything wrong in the July 25 call with Zelenskyy that is at the heart of the investigation.

"He didn't use the delicate language of diplomacy in that conversation, that's true. He also doesn't use the smarmy talk of politicians," McClintock said.

To McClintock, Trump was using "the blunt talk of a Manhattan businessman" and "was entirely within his constitutional authority" in his dealings with Ukraine's leader.

Collins appeared on "Fox News Sunday" and Demings and McClintock were on ABC's "This Week."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

2020 Watch: Why Biden is blitzing Iowa and more questions

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Politics Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

Days to Iowa caucuses: 63

Days to general election: 337

THE NARRATIVE

With just two months before primary voting begins, top Democrats are confronting their principal political liabilities with a new sense of urgency. It's unclear how many voters will be paying attention, however, as the 2019 holiday season is here and impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump accelerate. As Democrats fight amongst themselves in key primary states, Trump is focused on the states that matter most in the general election.

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Can he get back on track in Iowa?

Joe Biden storms into the week on an eight-day, 18-county bus tour across Iowa. It's no secret that the former vice president's standing in the kickoff-caucus state isn't as strong as national polls might suggest. The Iowa investment this week reflects the reality that a bad start in the opening contest threatens Biden's standing in states that follow. He's spending much of his tour focusing on small-town Iowa, where aides believe he has strong support. It's unclear if that'll be enough to overcome his weakness with the party's energized liberal base elsewhere, but this is what his advisers think is the best way forward.

Can she keep the lights on?

Speaking of Iowa, the California senator who said she's moving there is facing mounting pressure to prove her campaign is still viable. Kamala Harris' critics cheered last week's news that one aide resigned, citing poor treatment of staff and lack of a coherent strategy. That's just four weeks after she shuttered offices in New Hampshire. And she's still the only major candidate currently not running TV ads in Iowa, although her team says that may be changing. Harris retreats to California for at least one campaign fundraiser this week, and she needs the money. She has qualified for the next debate, so it's unlikely she'll be forced out of the race before then, but the former top-tier candidate is teetering on the edge.

Can anyone weaken Biden's grip on South Carolina's black voters?

For all the vulnerability Biden is showing in Iowa and New Hampshire, polls suggest he's maintaining a lead in South Carolina thanks to his dominant showing with African-American voters — particularly older ones. Pete Buttigieg's challenges with black voters are well documented here, but he's not the only one trying to loosen Biden's grip on the critical voting bloc this week. Sen. Cory Booker is hosting a "man-to-man conversation focused on issues impacting black men" Monday in South Carolina, while Sen. Bernie Sanders opened the week Sunday at a black church in the state. Buttigieg will spend much of Monday and Tuesday courting minority voters across South Carolina, including a Monday visit to the site of the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968. He'll also make a stop in Alabama to court more black voters before heading to one of the least diverse states in the nation, New Hampshire, for the end of the week.

Have Bloomberg's millions made any impact?

Voters in key states across America have had a full week to watch Michael Bloomberg's massive advertising blitz. Did it have any impact? It may be difficult to determine, given that the New York billionaire is focusing on Super Tuesday states and beyond — states that typically don't get polled this early. But Bloomberg and his growing team will be under increasing pressure to prove that his cash-backed, television-heavy strategy is working if he hopes to become a serious part of the Democratic narrative moving forward. This week should offer some clues.

Guess who's not forgetting about the general election?

As Democrats fight for primary votes, Trump and his team will spend another week targeting general election voters in a premier general election battleground. The Republican president headlines the Florida GOP's biggest annual fundraiser at the end of the week in Miami. It's the second consecutive week that

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Trump is making a campaign appearance in Florida. And it comes as Trump prepares to finish the year with visits in three more critical general election states: Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. With no significant Republican primary challenge, Trump obviously has a big advantage over Democrats at this phase of the race, and he's using it.

THE FINAL THOUGHT

With much of the nation shifting into holiday mode, don't expect the broader narrative to change any time soon. The holiday freeze is likely bad news for underperforming candidates Harris, Booker and Sen. Amy Klobuchar and good news for those at the top of the pack like Biden, Buttigieg and Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

2020 Watch runs every Monday and provides a look at the week ahead in the 2020 election.

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

In death and life, Lebanese woman shows religious law fight

By MARIAM FAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Nadya Jouny's sister taped up two messages in her memory inside a closet at the family home — one of motherly love tinged with pain, another of defiance.

The first Jouny wrote to her 9-year-old son on the one day a week she was allowed to see him under a custody ruling by a Shiite religious court. "Peace be upon the holy nights when you fall asleep near me," she wrote. "Peace be upon the trace of love painted on your face and features ... This is my night."

That night, Oct. 4, would be her last with her son. Two days later, Jouny was killed in a car accident at age 29.

The second message, written by a relative, has a photo of a smiling Jouny with her son's arms wrapped around her neck. "They think your voice has disappeared. Nadya, we are your voice; get some rest...we will fight for you," it declares.

In death as in life, Jouny — affectionately called Om Karam, Arabic for "mother of Karam" — has showcased the struggles of Lebanese women who are battling laws that give religious courts say over many aspects of their lives.

Lebanon allows its many religious sects to govern personal status issues in their communities, resulting in 15 different sets of laws over such things as rules for marriage, divorce and custody and visitation of children. In cases of divorce for Shiite Muslims like Jouny, the Shiite religious courts usually grant custody of children to the fathers at age two for sons and age seven for daughters. Jouny waged a campaign — online and in street protests — against the laws ever since she lost custody of her son and was given visitation rights of only 24 hours a week.

Supporters of the system say it reflects the country's plurality of faiths. Critics say it discriminates against women of all faiths and means women are treated differently based on their sect. For example, divorced Sunni mothers can keep sons and daughters until age 12.

"Women have really borne the brunt of the sectarian system of governance and we see that in the personal status laws," said Lama Fakih, Human Rights Watch Beirut office director. "These are egregious abuses that are resulting in violence against women, that are resulting in outcomes where children are not being taken care of by the parent that is most suited to take care of the child, where families are really not well served."

Multiple solutions and demands have been put forward: reform or oversight of the religious courts, an option of a civil system for those who don't want to use religious courts, or a unified civil personal status law for all.

Protests convulsing Lebanon for more than a month have given a new platform for those demanding change. The protests erupted over proposed new taxes and escalated into calls for the removal of Leba-

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non's entire political elite and its sectarian power-sharing system.

Zoya Rouhana of the feminist organization KAFA said the myriad of personal status laws is intertwined with sectarian politics.

"Unfortunately, this renaissance that we've witnessed and seen on the streets lately through the leadership of women ... is not reflected in the laws," she told a small group who had gathered to discuss a KAFA-proposed draft for a civil personal status law.

Jouny died just before the current protests. But her face or name have at times appeared on protesters' signs and banners. "The beautiful revolutionary ... Your soul is present here with us," read one. At a memorial marking 40 days since her death, candles spelling out her name in Arabic lit up a main Beirut protest square. "We cannot delay issues of women's rights ... Death does not wait," read a pin on her sister Nada's chest.

Badia Fahs, a 49-year-old who has turned out for the current round of protests, first met Jouny at a protest years ago. She remembers a young woman, her hair down, wearing — Fahs thought disapprovingly — too much red lipstick. Jouny was chanting, "Corruption, corruption, it's underneath the turbans," a controversial slogan she became known for, referring to allegations against some religious judges.

Fahs, who covers her hair with a scarf, said she was so amazed she broke into tears. "What a way to shatter taboos. I couldn't believe it," she said. "Even our men cannot talk like that."

"I would look at her and think here's this young girl who feels like she can change the world and she is not afraid — not of a sect or of clerics ... What am I lacking?" Fahs said.

Lawyer Fadia Hamzeh said she often hears criticism from her Shiite community that she is scandalizing them. She founded a Facebook page called "Revolution of a Shiite woman" to educate women about their rights in the Shiite courts, share their stories and let them know that "if you don't rebel, you won't get your rights."

"We opened the door. Most families are suffering from tragedies. I didn't create this," she said. "We must offer an example for other sects because just like we have injustices in religious courts, other sects do too."

Hamzeh was inspired by the ordeal of her sister, who made news in 2016 when she was arrested and held for a few days over her refusal to turn over her son to his father. Jouny, she said, was one of the people who helped her sister's case become public and led chants in a march to the police station where she was taken.

"Where are we headed when our mothers die feeling oppressed and when we are depriving our children of their mothers when they're still alive?" she said.

Sheikh Moussa al-Sammoury, a judge who sits on one of the Shiite courts, said, "Religious matters are not subject to street pressure. The issue has to do with God's satisfaction; God wants this or doesn't want this," adding, "The judge is not acting on a whim or on what he wants."

But, he said, he and his fellow judges have room to consider the children's best interest on a case-by-case basis. "If he's a bad father and is not to be trusted, we don't award him custody," he said.

Ahmad Taleb, a Shiite cleric, said the solution is to reform the rules of religious courts, noting that there is more than one opinion on the custody issue in Shiite jurisprudence. He supports raising the maternal custody age to at least seven while allowing judges to leave the kids with the mother longer when it's in their best interest.

"Religion in its essence is mercy, not plastic texts," he said. "People who are religiously devout, and I am one of them, demand change." He said failing to provide solutions within the religious context could drive people to look elsewhere. "Today in Lebanon, there are complaints about religious courts of all sects, Muslim and Christian."

Zeina Ibrahim, who founded a campaign to raise the age of maternal custody, said she supports the idea of a unified civil law for personal status but believes it is a "far dream." A more attainable goal, she said, is to raise the age to seven for boys and nine for girls.

She remembered Jouny, with whom she worked for years, as "extremely enthusiastic" and extremely "hurt."

In many of her photos, Jouny flashes a wide, seemingly carefree smile that belies the anguish her family says she kept private. "She would tell me, 'Mama, I'm burning from the inside. My son is getting older and I know nothing about him,'" her mother Majida said.

Married before she turned 19, Jouny's relations with her husband and in-laws soured early on. There was violence. Her sisters said they saw bruises. One day after a fight with her husband, she tried to leave only to have her husband and his mother yank Karam away, her family said. Her activism on the custody issue was born.

"She considered her cause one for all women," her father said. Her family said she advocated for many causes, including helping street children and refugees and campaigning against sexual harassment and the marriage of minors.

In the Beirut square where Jouny's family and friends gathered to commemorate her death, Zainab Kawtharani, 25, lit a candle. "Your cause is safe with us. We will continue till the end," she said she wanted to tell Jouny.

She then clutched a sign: "Your voice has been and will continue to be a revolution, Nadya."

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

10 wounded in shooting near New Orleans' French Quarter

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ten people were shot and wounded early Sunday near the French Quarter in New Orleans, a popular spot for tourists. Hours later in another part of town, another shooting killed two men and wounded two others.

Police said both shootings remain under investigation, and authorities did not immediately draw any connection between them.

Two of the 10 people shot on Canal Street near the French Quarter were in critical condition in local hospitals, Police Superintendent Shaun Ferguson said. No arrests were announced by midday Sunday, and police did not immediately release information about any of the victims.

"What happened in our city overnight was a cowardly and senseless act that we cannot and will not tolerate," Ferguson said in a statement.

He said New Orleans has seen a significant reduction in violent crime over the past four years.

Ferguson told The New Orleans Advocate/The Times-Picayune that a person of interest has been detained, but it was not immediately clear whether the person had any connection to the shooting.

The first shootings happened about 3:20 a.m. on a busy commercial block of Canal Street that has streetcar tracks and is near many hotels.

Ferguson said police quickly responded to the scene as patrols were heightened for this weekend's Bayou Classic, the annual Thanksgiving weekend rivalry football game between Grambling State and Southern University at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

"While this investigation is in the very beginning stages, one thing is certain — we will not stop until we identify and arrest those responsible," Ferguson said in his statement.

New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell also pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"The shootings on Canal Street early this morning were an ugly disruption of an otherwise beautiful holiday weekend. We will do everything we can to wrap the victims and their families in our love and support, and to bring the criminals responsible to justice," she said via Twitter on Sunday.

Kenneth Culbreth told The New Orleans Advocate/The Times-Picayune that he had gone into a CVS pharmacy in the early morning hours to make a quick purchase. Moments later, he walked out to a crime scene.

"On my way out of the CVS, I heard pops," Culbreth said. "It was so many, I couldn't keep count."

Culbreth spent the rest of the morning watching the scene, with law enforcement and several emergency vehicles moving in and out at a rapid pace.

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Police initially said 10 people were wounded. They later said 11 were wounded, but the police department then sent a statement saying the correct number was 10.

The shooting on Canal Street happened near the spot where 10 people were shot, one of them fatally, on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter on Nov. 27, 2016. One man was convicted of attempted manslaughter and obstruction of justice, but jurors could not reach a verdict on a second-degree murder charge. Another man awaits trial.

The shooting Sunday afternoon that killed two men and wounded two others happened in a residential area about 3 miles (5 kilometers) north of the French Quarter.

Rock tragedy: Music superstars, small suburb forever linked

By DAN SEWELL Associated Press

FINNEYTOWN, Ohio (AP) — The concrete bench in a small northern Cincinnati suburb depicts a guitar, with the message "My Generation" just below it.

In the background are plaques with the faces of three teenagers, Jackie Eckerle, Karen Morrison and Stephan Preston, frozen in time 40 years ago. Bricks in the plaza around the bench carry eight other names.

All 11 were killed in a frantic stampede of people trying to get into the British rock band The Who's concert on Dec. 3, 1979, at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. The city of Finneytown suffered disproportionately, and its three losses included the two youngest victims, 15-year-olds Eckerle and Morrison. Their schoolmates say well over 100 other people from Finneytown were there.

"Everyone's connected to it, everywhere you go around here," said Fred Wittenbaum, who was a freshman at Finneytown High School then but did not attend the concert. "Either they went to the concert, or they had a friend or a family member who was there."

Since then, the community of around 12,000 people, many living in ranch-style homes built years before the concert, has been inextricably linked with The Who, which was already well on the way to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame with such hits as "Won't Get Fooled Again," "Can't Explain," and "My Generation," an anthem of rebellious youth.

Most of the blame afterward focused on the first-come, first-served arrangement for seating that saw thousands of fans line up for hours ready to charge toward the coveted floor spots, and on confusion over and lack of preparation for when the doors were opening. Besides those trampled in the stampede, some two dozen other fans were injured.

Frontman Roger Daltrey and guitarist Pete Townshend, the last survivors of the original band, say they have struggled emotionally over the years with the concert carnage, which they didn't know about until their show was ending.

"Because there's always a certain amount, 'If I hadn't been doing this, it wouldn't have happened,' you know," Daltrey said during an unpublicized visit last year to the Finneytown memorial site. "That's just human nature. That's what we carry with us."

"It took a long time for us to get a sense that this was not just about the 11 kids, it was about the community," Townshend told The Associated Press in a recent interview in New York.

The sad stories and traumatic memories among Finneytown alums evolved three decades later into a plan to memorialize their friends.

John Hutchins was playing an acoustic set at a nearby venue in December 2009 and dedicated songs such as The Who's "Love Ain't For Keeping" to those who died at the concert. Hutchins was at The Who concert; he skipped school that day, got to the coliseum nearly seven hours early to be among the first in line, and got close enough to the stage to see The Who's song list.

Fellow Finneytown High alum Steve Bentz, who wasn't at the concert, approached Hutchins after his performance with a thought, that "we should do something." The thought soon grew into the memorial bench.

They joined with Wittenbaum and Walt Medlock — who remembers being pressed tightly against Preston before making the possibly life-saving decision to work his way out of the crowd — to create the P.E.M.

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scholarship fund, using the last-name initials of their three schoolmates.

"We wanted to take what was a terrible tragedy and try and turn it into something that could be looked at as good," Wittenbaum explained. "We wanted to pay it forward."

Launched in 2010, the scholarships reward three Finneytown students with \$5,000 each for the study of music or any other arts. There have awarded 27 so far.

Auctions and raffles at an annual December show featuring music by alumni at the school's performing arts center help pay for the scholarships. The Who became involved in the third year, making an exclusive DVD for showing at that year's benefit with comments from the band about the tragedy and new concert footage.

More aid from the band followed. Last year, Wittenbaum drove Daltrey from a private airstrip near Dayton to view the Finneytown memorials that include artwork, personal items and photos of the three in a Who-donated display case. Daltrey also met with relatives of those killed and with fans who attended the concert.

"It's been a really cathartic process for everybody," Wittenbaum said.

Daltrey-autographed books, albums, guitars and other items have been sold online, including on the band's official site, to add to the fund. The P.E.M. leaders' next goal is to see Daltrey and Townshend perform in Cincinnati for the first time since the deadly concert. In the AP interview, Townshend said the band plans to return to Cincinnati.

An announcement is expected Tuesday night, after a 40th anniversary documentary featuring interviews with Daltrey and Townshend airs on WCPO-TV in Cincinnati.

Alleson Arnold, 18, among the latest scholarship winners, moved to Finneytown several years ago and soon learned about the pain the community has felt. She said she is "very grateful" for the fund that will help her study fashion and design.

"It's heartbreaking to know that I'm the same age as many of them," she said. "I get to do the things that I want to be doing, but all that was taken away from them."

Associated Press writer John Carucci contributed from New York.

Follow Dan Sewell at <https://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

Death toll put at 20 for Mexico cartel attack near US border

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican security forces on Sunday killed seven more members of a presumed cartel assault force that rolled into a town near the Texas border and staged an hour-long attack, officials said, putting the overall death toll at 20.

The Coahuila state government said in a statement that lawmen aided by helicopters were still chasing remnants of the force that arrived in a convoy of pickup trucks and attacked the city hall of Villa Union on Saturday.

Gov. Miguel Angel Riquelme said late Sunday afternoon that authorities had determined the casualty count from the gunbattles stood at 14 gunmen dead and four police officers killed. He said two civilians also were slain by gunmen after being abducted.

The governor said six more officers were wounded as were four young people who had been taken by the attackers.

Francisco Contreras, an official in the state security agency, said later that the two slain civilians were a firefighter and an engineer who worked for the municipality. He said a second firefighter was missing.

The reason for the military-style attack remained unclear. Cartels have been contending for control of smuggling routes in northern Mexico, but there was no immediate evidence that a rival cartel had been targeted in Villa Union.

Earlier Sunday, the state government had issued a statement saying seven attackers were killed Sunday in addition to seven who died Saturday. It had said three other bodies had not been identified, but its later

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statement lowered the total deaths to 20.

The governor said the armed group — at least some in military style garb — stormed the town of 3,000 residents in a convoy of trucks, attacking local government offices and prompting state and federal forces to intervene. Bullet-riddled trucks left abandoned in the streets were marked C.D.N. — Spanish initials of the Cartel of the Northeast gang.

Several of the gunmen stole vehicles as they fled and kidnapped locals to help guide them on dirt tracks out of town, the governor said. At least one of the stolen vehicles was a hearse headed for a funeral, according to the newspaper Zocalo of Saltillo.

The town is about 35 miles (60 kilometers) south-southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, and 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the town of Allende — site of a 2011 massacre involving the Zetas cartel in which officials say 70 died.

Rapid gunfire could be heard in videos posted to social media along with frantic people telling friends to stay indoors. Images of the aftermath of the shootout showed burned out vehicles, while the facade of Villa Union's city hall was riddled with bullets.

The governor said security forces would remain in the town for several days to restore a sense of calm. Falko Ernst, senior Mexico analyst for the non-profit Crisis Group, which seeks to promote peace, said there are few incentives for armed groups in the country to refrain from violence.

"Solving this issue — which underpins impunity — would have to be the centerpiece of an integrated security strategy. But such a thing is yet to be presented by (President) López Obrador and his team," said Ernst.

"The price of that absence is not least the flaring up of regional conflict scenarios."

Mexico's homicide rate has increased to historically high levels, inching up by 2% in the first 10 months of the presidency of Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Federal officials said recently that there have been 29,414 homicides so far in 2019, compared to 28,869 in the same period of 2018.

The November slaughter by Mexican drug cartel gunmen of three women who held U.S. citizenship and six of their children focused world attention on the rising violence.

Saturday's attack also showed cartels again resorting to quasi-military operations in a brazen challenge to state authority.

In October, a massive operation by the Sinaloa cartel prompted the federal government to release the captured son of a drug lord and pull back the army, which found itself outmaneuvered on the streets of Culiacan.

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a radio interview last week that he plans to designate Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations, though he declined to say what actions might follow that designation.

Mexican officials have opposed such a designation, worried it could lead to unilateral U.S. interventions in its territory.

Coahuila state itself has been far from the worst-hit part of Mexico amid violence in recent years. The government census bureau's survey of public perceptions of security found that Coahuila ranked well this year, with only three other states having a higher public perception of safety.

Watson throws 3 TDs, catches another; Texans top Pats 28-22

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Deshaun Watson has long admired Tom Brady for his talent and resilience.

He beat him Sunday night by not only throwing touchdown passes, but by catching one, too.

"I told them I'm an athlete ... the more you can do, the longer you play in this league," he said. "So I can do it all."

Watson threw three touchdown passes and had the first TD reception of his career, and the Houston Texans frustrated Brady in a 28-22 victory over the New England Patriots.

Texans coach and former Patriots assistant Bill O'Brien got his first win in six tries against New England coach Bill Belichick. It was Houston's second win over the Patriots and first since Jan. 3, 2010.

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Watson had 234 yards passing and threw touchdown passes of 14, 13, and 35 yards as Houston (8-4) built a 21-3 lead against New England's vaunted defense.

"This is pretty big just because it's Brady," Watson said. "I was 0-2 against him and who knows when he's going to hang it up. That's my role model, a guy that's been doing it forever, over 20 years ... so it's pretty awesome to finally get one."

Brady completed two of his three TD passes in the final 4 minutes to pull within six. A Patriots (10-2) player got a hand on Jake Bailey's onside kick attempt with 50 seconds remaining, but the ball bounced out of bounds.

"There's really not a whole lot to say here," Belichick said. "The Texans did a good job tonight, across the board, in every area. They were just better than we were."

James White had a 12-yard reception for New England's first touchdown late in the third quarter, but Watson grabbed the first reception of his career on a flip from DeAndre Hopkins on a trick play with about 10 minutes left to make it 28-9. Watson took the snap and handed off to Duke Johnson, and he gave the ball to Hopkins on a reverse to the right. Hopkins tossed to Watson on an option near the sideline, and Watson dived into the end zone for a 6-yard score.

The Patriots entered needing a win to be the first AFC team to clinch a playoff spot after Oakland's loss to Kansas City earlier in the day. Instead, they struggled to sustain drives, and Brady often looked upset on a night he was 24 of 47. He threw an interception and was sacked three times, hit on 12 other occasions and was seen yelling at his receivers on the sideline after a drive with several incompletions in the first half. He finished with 326 yards.

"Execution," Brady said. "Just got to do a better job, and it's tough to get behind and come back. Just put ourselves in a pretty deep hole and you can't do that on the road."

New England dealt with a flu bug this week that swept through the locker room and left two players inactive Sunday.

Brady connected with White again with about four minutes left, but the 2-point conversion failed to leave New England down 28-15. The Patriots attempted an onside kick after that and Houston recovered but couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

Brady threw a 20-yard pass to Julian Edelman that cut the lead to six with 50 seconds left. But the Patriots couldn't recover a second onside kick and Houston ran out the clock.

There were about seven minutes left in the third quarter when the Patriots went for it on fourth-and-1 and Johnathan Joseph broke up a pass intended for Mohamed Sanu.

On the next drive, Houston had a touchdown reception by Will Fuller called back after a review. It didn't matter much as the Texans got a 35-yard TD on a nearly identical route by Kenny Stills on the next play to push the lead to 21-3.

New England was able to sustain a drive for the first time since its opening possession when White grabbed his 12-yard TD from Brady late in the third. Kai Forbath missed the extra point to leave the Patriots down 21-9. Forbath was signed on Friday to replace Nick Folk, who was released after having an emergency appendectomy.

The Patriots led 3-0 after a field goal on their first drive. The Texans had to punt on their first possession but got the ball back three plays later when Bradley Roby jumped a route and intercepted Brady. Roby, who also had a sack, returned after missing the last five games with a hamstring injury.

Houston cashed in on the miscue when Watson connected with Johnson on a 14-yard TD pass to make it 7-3 late in the first quarter. It is Watson's fifth game this season with at least three touchdown passes, which is tied for most in the NFL.

The Texans padded the lead when they capped a 13-play, 88-yard drive with a 13-yard touchdown reception by Darren Fells.

INJURIES

Patriots: OL Marcus Cannon left in the third quarter with an illness. ... C Ted Karras injured his knee in the third quarter and didn't return.

Texans: RB Taiwan Jones left in the third quarter with a hamstring injury and didn't return.

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HOPKINS THE QB

Hopkins had previously attempted two passes in his career — an interception and an incompleteness. He was feeling pretty good about himself after his TD toss to Watson and had this to say when asked to rate himself as a QB.

"I would give myself a 10, 11, maybe, because I took a hit just to get it to him," Hopkins said with a smile.

WATSON IN PRIME TIME

Watson has 21 touchdowns and just three interceptions in eight night games in his career.

"He's come up big in important games throughout his life: high school, Clemson, Houston," O'Brien said. "He's a great guy to coach. He's got great poise."

UP NEXT

Patriots: Host Kansas City next Sunday.

Texans: Host Denver next Sunday.

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

Shelley Morrison, Rosario on 'Will & Grace,' dies at 83

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shelley Morrison, an actress with a 50-year career who was best known for playing a memorable maid on "Will & Grace," died Sunday, her publicist said.

Morrison died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles from heart failure after a brief illness, publicist Lori DeWaal told The Associated Press. She was 83.

Morrison played Rosario Salazar, a maid from El Salvador, in the original run of "Will & Grace" from 1999 to 2006, becoming part of a cast that won a Screen Actors Guild award for best ensemble in a comedy series.

The character, originally written for a single episode, proved so popular in her interactions with co-star Megan Mullally that she would appear in 68 episodes during the NBC series' eight seasons.

"Rosario is one of my all-time favorite characters," Morrison said recently, according to a statement and biography announcing her death. "She reminds me a lot of my own mother, who loved animals and children, but she would not suffer fools. It is very significant to me that we were able to show an older, Hispanic woman who is bright and smart and can hold her own."

Mullally, who played Morrison's boss Karen Walker, praised the actress on Twitter.

"My heart is heavy. putting shelley, her beloved husband walter & their children in the light. thank you for your friendship & partnership, shell. you accomplished wonderful things in this world. you will be missed," she tweeted.

Eric McCormack, who starred as Will in the NBC sitcom, recalled Morrison on Twitter as a "beautiful soul" and wonderful actor. "Her work as Rosario, season after season, was as nuanced and real as it was hysterical," McCormack tweeted.

Debra Messing, who starred as Grace in the sitcom, tweeted: "Oh, Shelley... what a loss. Our dear Rosario has passed on. Shelley had a career that spanned decades, but she will always be our dear Rosie. All my love to Walter and the entire family."

Sean Hayes, who played Jack McFarland on the sitcom, wrote in an Instagram post that Morrison "was absolutely hilarious and had the biggest heart."

Besides the opportunity to portray a strong Latina, Morrison valued "Will & Grace" for its breakthrough TV depiction of gay characters, said her husband, Walter Dominguez.

"Shelley's greatest pride as an actress was in playing the indomitable Rosario, in a comedy series that furthered the cause of social equity and fairness for LGBTQ people. ... She believed that the best way to change hearts and minds was through comedy," Dominguez said in a statement.

Before "Will & Grace," Morrison was best known for playing Sister Sixto on "The Flying Nun" alongside Sally Field from 1967 to 1970.

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She guest-starred on dozens of television series starting in the early 1960s, including "The Fugitive," "L.A. Law" and "Murder, She Wrote." Most recently, she voiced a character, Mrs. Portillo, on the Disney animated series "Handy Manny."

Born Rachel Mitrani to Jewish parents from Spain in the Bronx, New York, in 1936, Morrison spoke primarily Spanish as a child. She was often cast as Latina characters, but she played a range of ethnicities in theater, television and film.

Her movie roles put her in casts with Hollywood's biggest stars of several eras.

She appeared with Dean Martin in 1968's "How to Save a Marriage and Ruin Your Life," with Barbra Streisand in "Funny Girl" the same year, with Gregory Peck in 1969's "Mackenna's Gold," with Shelley Long in "Troop Beverly Hills" in 1989, and with Salma Hayek in "Fools Rush In" in 1997.

Morrison is survived by her husband of more than 40 years.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Scientists race to document Puerto Rico's coastal heritage

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A group of U.S.-based scientists is rushing to document indigenous sites along Puerto Rico's coast dating back a couple of thousand years before rising sea levels linked to climate change destroy a large chunk of the island's heritage that is still being discovered.

Scientists hope to use the 3D images they've taken so far to also help identify which historic sites are most vulnerable to hurricanes, erosion and other dangers before it's too late to save the island's patrimony.

"It's literally being washed away," said Falko Kuester, director of the Cultural Heritage Engineering Initiative at the University of California, San Diego, which is involved in the project. "A big part of what we're working on is to make the invisible visible and make sure it stays in our memory."

Also involved in the project are UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Para la Naturaleza, a nonprofit environmental group based in Puerto Rico.

The first site scientists targeted was a large swath along the U.S. territory's north coast that includes a ceremonial center used by the Taino Indians roughly 2,000 years ago, said Isabel Rivera Collazo, an environmental archaeologist at UCSD who is overseeing the project that began in August 2017.

Scientists discovered what appears to be a large settlement just east of the ceremonial site thanks to drones and technology including 3D images, she said. They were also able to determine the shape of the ceremonial site, she added.

Armed with that information, scientists used excavations to determine that one of six plazas previously discovered appears to have been used for ceremonial dances and the veneration of ancestors.

"The inside of the plaza was intensively trampled," Rivera said.

The Tainos populated various Caribbean islands but were eventually wiped out after the arrival of Christopher Columbus and European settlers.

"Up to today, there is still a lot we don't know about indigenous culture along our coasts," Rivera said. "It's not in our history books."

"The entire coast is blanketed with archaeological sites," she said. "We want to recover that information before it disappears."

Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources has said the sea level around the island is rising by more than 3 millimeters — a little over a tenth of an inch — per year. But climate change has more immediately dramatic effects as well, destroying habitats, eroding coastlines and causing more powerful storm surges when hurricanes hit.

Some scientists say that warmer temperatures increase the frequency and intensity of storms. Puerto Rico is exposed to storms every year for six months during the Atlantic hurricane season, and the scientists noted that the storm surge from Hurricane Maria washed away part of the region they're studying.

"It's literally in the eye of the storm quite regularly," Kuester said of the island.

Eric Lo, an engineer with the UCSD's cultural heritage initiative, flew to Puerto Rico in August 2017 to launch the project a month before Maria hit the island as a Category 4 hurricane. Lo was surprised at what he saw upon his return to the U.S. territory months later.

"Pieces of land where I had stood and flown the drone didn't exist anymore," he said. "They were underwater."

Scientists are now trying to determine the extent of coastal erosion in that region and the hurricane's impact on the archaeological site they are studying.

Three-dimensional models based on drone images are being used to measure distances, areas, volumes and explore fine details: "You start asking these details that historically you couldn't," Kuester said.

The engineering initiative that he oversees has helped explore other historic sites elsewhere, including an underwater cave with prehistoric fossils and a baptistery in Florence, Italy.

UN chief warns of 'point of no return' on climate change

By ARITZ PARRA and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no return."

Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the U.N. chief said the impact of rising temperatures — including more extreme weather — is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will."

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and hurtling toward us."

Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the finishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the Dec. 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair. Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible."

Countries agreed in Paris four years ago to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times. Already, average temperatures have increased by about 1C, leaving little room for the more ambitious target to be met.

Guterres said growing demands from citizens, particularly young people, have shown there is widespread desire for climate action.

"What is still lacking is political will," he said. "Political will to put a price on carbon. Political will to stop subsidies on fossil fuels. Political will to stop building coal power plants from 2020 onwards. Political will to shift taxation from income to carbon. Taxing pollution instead of people."

Guterres noted that some 70 countries — many of them among the most vulnerable to climate change — have pledged to stop emitting more greenhouse gases by 2050.

"But we also see clearly that the world's largest emitters are not pulling their weight. And without them, our goal is unreachable," he said.

The U.N. chief said he hoped the meeting in Madrid would see governments make more ambitious pledges ahead of a deadline to do so next year.

He also said that creating a worldwide market for emissions, which is a key element of the sixth article of the Paris accord, remained one of the most contentious issues for negotiators.

"We are here to find answers for article 6, not to find excuses," Guterres said.

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Guterres also announced that outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney will become his new special envoy on "climate action and climate finance" from next year.

Organizers expect around 29,000 visitors, including some 50 heads of state and government for Monday's opening, as well as scientists, seasoned negotiators and activists during the two-week meeting.

Some of the world's largest carbon emitters — the United States, China and India — will be represented by ministers or lower-level officials.

The U.S. administration of President Donald Trump, which has announced the intention to withdraw from the Paris agreement, is represented by Marcia Bernicat, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a delegation of Democratic lawmakers to the talks.

More than 5,000 police officers are charged with keeping the summit safe, Spain's Interior Ministry said Sunday. Although authorities have stepped-up border controls and cybersecurity measures, authorities have kept the country's terror alert one level under the highest, where it has been ever since extremist attacks in Tunisia and France in mid-2015.

Jordans reported from Berlin.

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

Rescuers search for girl, 6, missing after truck swept away

TONTO BASIN, Ariz. (AP) — Nine members of an Arizona family, together for the Thanksgiving holiday, were in an oversized military-style truck when they got stuck in a raging creek swollen by intense runoff from a powerful storm.

Four children and two adults got out and were rescued by helicopter, but three children stayed in the truck and it was later swept away.

Rescuers with helicopters, drones, boats, dogs and an army of volunteers searched frantically Sunday for a 6-year-old girl missing since Friday. Her brother and cousin, both 5, were found dead on Saturday.

"We want to bring her home safely to her family," said Lt. Virgil Dodd of the Gila County Sheriff's Office. "She needs to come home today, and we're going to do that today."

At dusk Sunday, rescuers said they found a shoe that might belong to the girl. The shoe was about 200 yards from where the family's vehicle got stuck in the creek.

"There was a shoe in the area where there was some interest in that debris," Lt. Virgil Dodd of Gila County Sheriff's Office told the Arizona Republic. "At this time, we believe that it may belong to the little girl that we're searching for."

More than 100 volunteers gathered near Tonto Basin, a small community northeast of Phoenix, early Sunday to help search for the missing girl, Willa Rawlings, the Republic reported.

"I cannot thank you enough," the girl's uncle, Nathan Sherwood, told the crowd of people ready to help, according to the newspaper. "This is about the only light in this dark situation."

Volunteers trudged in small groups through the muddy brush, toward the creek, to search for the missing girl, who was last seen wearing jeans and a purple jacket.

Willa's parents, Daniel and Lacey Rawlings, both escaped from the truck but their son, Colby Rawlings, and niece, Austin Rawlings, were not in the vehicle when it was pulled from the creek the next day. Their bodies were found about 600 to 1,000 yards (meters) from the failed crossing.

The creek crossing was marked as closed with barricades and signs, authorities said.

A National Weather Service meteorologist said the agency issued a flood warning for the region that includes the Tonto Basin area at 8:53 a.m. Friday based on data from an upstream flooding gauge.

Meteorologist Sean Benedict in Phoenix estimated that up to 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain fell in the area, with some of the runoff coming from snow that fell on nearby peaks.

The region got up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain about a week before, Benedict said. "So the

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grounds were already pretty wet and that probably helped with the runoff.”

Adverse conditions included heavy brush and slippery mud along the creek and frigid water from snow-melt, but officials said they remained hopeful.

Volunteers trudged in small groups through the muddy brush to search for the missing girl, who was last seen wearing jeans and a purple jacket.

“The Rawlings family are a fixture,” said David Merrill, one of the volunteers, told The Republic. “They’re the salt of the earth and they have done so much. Little League, school ... volunteers for football ... whatever it took, they’ve been in the middle of it.”

Merrill came with a group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pinetop, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) east of the search area.

“The whole community’s rallied around them to show their love and support during this tragedy,” he said.

Dodd, of the sheriff’s office, confirmed Sunday that the number of people rescued Friday night was six after conflicting reports on Saturday.

Deadly storm moves cross country taking aim at Northeast

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of flights were canceled and thousands delayed for travelers heading home after the Thanksgiving holiday as a deadly winter storm moved to the Northeast on Sunday, packing one last punch of snow and ice.

The National Weather Service predicted more than a foot (0.3 meters) of snow in swaths of upstate New York and New England, as well as ice accumulations in parts of Pennsylvania.

“We’ve got our shovels ready. We’ve got the snowblower ready. We’re prepared,” said Paul Newman of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

In New York, numerous schools announced closings and Gov. Andrew Cuomo advised non-essential state employees to stay home as the storm was forecast to bring snow, sleet, wind and rain through the day Monday.

State police had responded to more than 550 storm-related crashes across New York by 7 p.m. Sunday and Cuomo placed National Guard personnel on standby. Icy roads caused numerous crashes on Interstate 84 in Pennsylvania on Sunday and a section of Interstate 81 north of Binghamton was closed because of icy conditions for a while.

The same storm has been pummeling the U.S. for days as it moved cross country, dumping heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain.

It has been blamed for several deaths.

The bodies of a boy and a girl, both 5, were found in central Arizona after their vehicle was swept away Friday while crossing a swollen creek.

Two adults and four other children were rescued by helicopter, but a 6-year-old girl is still missing. Rescuers are combing the area of Tonto Basin, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix, with helicopters, drones, boats and dogs.

“We want to bring her home safely to her family,” said Lt. Virgil Dodd of the Gila County Sheriff’s Office. “She needs to come home today, and we’re going to do that.”

Two boys, ages 5 and 8, died Saturday near Patton, Missouri, when the vehicle they were riding in was swept off flooded roads.

A 48-year-old man died in a separate incident near Sedgewickville, Missouri, and a storm-related death was reported in South Dakota.

Also in South Dakota, a small-engine plane carrying 12 people crashed shortly after takeoff Saturday afternoon, killing nine people and injuring three others. Federal aviation investigators are looking into whether snowy weather was a factor.

Major highways reopened Sunday in Wyoming and Colorado, a day after blizzard conditions clogged roads with snow drifts.

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Road crews were able to reopen all of Interstate 25 and most of I-80 in Wyoming early Sunday after strong winds abated. Major interstates in Colorado were also reopened.

Still, authorities warned travelers to remain alert for slick conditions and blowing snow.

The city of Duluth, Minnesota, was blanketed with 21.7 inches (0.6 meters) of snow as of 12 p.m. Sunday. City officials said streets were impassible and residents should stay inside.

Farther south, precipitation was in the form of rain and thunderstorms.

As the storm shifted east, flight delays and cancellations continued to pile up. As of 7:30 p.m., there were more than 800 Sunday flights cancelled in the U.S., compared with about 400 on Saturday, according to flight tracking site FlightAware. Nearly 6,000 U.S. flights were delayed.

Airports with the most canceled flights included San Francisco International Airport with 78 and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey with 60, according to FlightAware. Wind and rain caused some arriving flights at San Francisco to be delayed an average of 4.5 hours.

There were also dozens of flight delays in Chicago and Minneapolis.

In Denver, 100 flights were canceled Saturday because of high winds.

In the mountain communities northeast of Los Angeles, nearly 9,000 utility customers were without power because of the storm.

Another storm system developed in the mid-Atlantic Sunday and forecasters said it would move into a nor'easter through Monday.

Follow Sisak on Twitter at twitter.com/mikesisak and send a direct message to share your experiences, photos and video of the storm, but please do so only when it is safe.

Bob Moen in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Jonathan J. Cooper in Phoenix, Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, Pat Eaton-Robb in Hartford, Connecticut, Steve LeBlanc in Boston and Barbara Ortutay in San Francisco contributed to this report.

White House says it won't participate in impeachment hearing

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House declared Sunday it would not participate in the first impeachment hearings before the House Judiciary Committee as Democrats prepared to approve their report Tuesday making the case for President Donald Trump's removal from office.

The Democratic majority on the House Intelligence Committee says its report will speak for itself in laying out possible charges of bribery or "high crimes and misdemeanors," the constitutional standard for impeachment. After receiving the report, the Judiciary Committee would prepare actual charges.

That committee's first hearing was already set for Wednesday and was expected to feature four legal experts who will examine questions of constitutional grounds as the committee decides whether to write articles of impeachment against Trump, and if so, what those articles would be.

The White House was invited to attend the Wednesday hearing, but its counsel declined in a fiery letter released Sunday evening.

"This baseless and highly partisan inquiry violates all past historical precedent, basic due process rights, and fundamental fairness," said White House counsel Pat Cipollone, continuing the West Wing's attack on the procedural form of the impeachment proceedings. Trump himself was scheduled to attend a summit with NATO allies outside London on Wednesday.

Cipollone's letter applied only to the Wednesday hearing, and he demanded more information from Democrats on how they intended to conduct further hearings before Trump would decide whether to participate in those hearings. House-passed rules provide the president and his attorneys the right to cross-examine witnesses and review evidence before the committee, but little ability to bring forward witnesses of their own.

Republicans, meanwhile, wanted Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the Intelligence Committee,

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to testify before the Judiciary Committee, though they have no power to compel him to do so, as they joined the White House effort to try to cast the Democratic-led inquiry as skewed against the Republican president.

"If he chooses not to (testify), then I really question his veracity in what he's putting in his report," said Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

"It's easy to hide behind a report," Collins added. "But it's going to be another thing to actually get up and have to answer questions."

Schiff has said "there's nothing for me to testify about," that he isn't a "fact" witness and that Republicans are only trying to "mollify the president, and that's not a good reason to try to call a member of Congress as a witness."

Coming after two weeks of public testimony and two months of investigation, the findings of the Intelligence Committee report were not yet publicly known. But the report was expected to focus mostly on whether Trump abused his office by withholding military aid approved by Congress and a White House meeting as he pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to launch investigations into Trump's political rivals.

Democrats also were expected to include an article on obstruction of Congress that outlines Trump's instructions to officials in his administration to defy subpoenas for documents or testimony.

Democrats were aiming for a final House vote by Christmas, which would set the stage for a likely Senate trial in January.

"I do believe that all evidence certainly will be included in that report so the Judiciary Committee can make the necessary decisions that they need to," said Rep. Val Demings, D-Fla., a member of both the Intelligence and Judiciary committees.

She said Democrats had not yet finalized witnesses for the upcoming Judiciary hearings and were waiting to hear back from Trump on his plans to present a defense.

"If he has not done anything wrong, we're certainly anxious to hear his explanation of that," Demings said.

Trump has previously suggested that he might be willing to offer written testimony under certain conditions, though aides suggested they did not anticipate Democrats would ever agree to them.

"The Democrats are holding the most ridiculous Impeachment hearings in history. Read the Transcripts, NOTHING was done or said wrong!" Trump tweeted Saturday.

Democrats had pressed Trump to decide by Friday whether he would take advantage of due process protections afforded to him under House rules adopted in October for follow-up hearings, including the right to request witness testimony and to cross-examine the witnesses called by the House.

"If you are serious about conducting a fair process going forward, and in order to protect the rights and privileges of the President, we may consider participating in future Judiciary Committee proceedings if you afford the Administration the ability to do so meaningfully," Cipollone said in the Sunday letter.

"Why would they want to participate in just another rerun?" asked Collins, D-Ga., noting that the Judiciary Committee previously heard from constitutional scholars on impeachable offenses during special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

"This is a complete American waste of time of here," said Collins, who is calling on the committee chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., to expand the witness list to include those sought by Republicans. "This is why this is a problematic exercise and simply a made-for-TV event coming on Wednesday."

Still, Republican Rep. Tom McClintock of California, a Judiciary Committee member, said he believes Trump would benefit if he presents his own defense.

"I think it would be to the president's advantage to have his attorneys there. That's his right," he said.

McClintock said he doesn't believe Trump did anything wrong in the July 25 call with Zelenskiy that is at the heart of the investigation.

"He didn't use the delicate language of diplomacy in that conversation, that's true. He also doesn't use the smarmy talk of politicians," McClintock said.

To McClintock, Trump was using "the blunt talk of a Manhattan businessman" and "was entirely within

his constitutional authority" in his dealings with Ukraine's leader.

Collins appeared on "Fox News Sunday" and Demings and McClintock were on ABC's "This Week."

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Daughter in admissions scandal returns to YouTube channel

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Social media star Olivia Jade Giannulli on Sunday posted her first YouTube video since the arrest of her parents, actress Lori Loughlin and fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, made her one of the most visible figures in the college admissions scandal that ensnared dozens of wealthy parents and their children.

"Welcome back to my YouTube channel, obviously I've been gone for a really long time," Jade says in the two-minute video, titled "hi again," posted to her account that has nearly 2 million subscribers.

She says she debated for months whether to return to her channel, which focused on fashion, beauty and video-diary entries about her life.

"I'm terrified to make this video and come back," Jade says, "but I want to start taking smaller steps in the right direction."

Loughlin and Giannulli are accused of paying \$500,000 to have their two daughters labeled as recruits to the USC crew team so they could gain admission to the school, even though neither participated in the sport.

Charged in federal court in Massachusetts with conspiracy to commit fraud, bribery and money laundering, they have pleaded not guilty and have refused to reach plea agreements with prosecutors as many other parents, including actress Felicity Huffman, already have done.

In her new video, Jade says she stayed away from social media because she is legally prohibited from talking about the scandal, and it seemed pointless to appear and ignore it.

"If I can't talk about it, is there a point in coming back and not being able to saying anything?" Jade says. It's not clear what legal restrictions would keep her from speaking or whether attorneys have simply advised her not to do so.

Jade said the pull of social media was too strong to stay away.

"I actually really, really miss it," she says. "I feel like a huge part of me is not the same because this is something that I'm really passionate about and something I really like to do. ... I'm really excited to start filming again and start uploading again."

Jade went silent on social media after her parents' March arrest and lost advertising deals that included cosmetics retailer Sephora and hair products company TRESemme.

Jade posted a link to the new video on her Twitter account and a screenshot of it on her Instagram page, both of which have been dormant since the scandal became public.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Alabama unveils statue of civil rights icon Rosa Parks

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A new statue of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks was dedicated in Alabama's capital city on Sunday, the 64th anniversary of her historic refusal to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man.

Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed and Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey pulled back a cloth to unveil the statue before a crowd of about 400 spectators.

The ceremony coincided with the anniversary of Parks' Dec. 1, 1955 arrest that sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a pivotal part of the civil rights movement.

"This depiction will inspire future generations to make the pilgrimage to our city, to push toward the path

of righteousness, strength, courage and equality," Reed, who recently became the first African American mayor of Montgomery, said at the ceremony, according to al.com.

Four granite markers near the statue honor plaintiffs in Browder v. Gayle, the court case that determined segregation on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional. One of the plaintiffs, Mary Louise Smith, took part in the ceremony Sunday.

Parks was 92 when she died in 2005.

Fred Gray, the attorney who defended Parks, the Browder v. Gayle plaintiffs and many other civil rights activists, sat in the second row at the unveiling.

"For the city officials, from the city and the county, to be able to honor Mrs. Parks and honor those plaintiffs, and even more importantly to honor the 40,000 African American men and women who stayed off of the buses for 382 days, it is indeed a step in the right direction," Gray told the Montgomery Advertiser.

Malta leader to resign amid protests over reporter's death

By **STEPHEN CALLEJA** Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat told the nation Sunday night that he would resign in January, following pressure from angry citizens for the truth about the 2017 car bombing that killed an anti-corruption journalist.

In a televised message, Muscat said he had informed Malta's president that he will quit as leader of the governing Labor Party on Jan. 12 and that "in the days after I will resign as prime minister."

Hours earlier, nearly 20,000 Maltese protested outside a courthouse in the capital, Valletta, demanding that he step down in the largest such turnout of nearly daily protests in recent weeks.

"As prime minister, I promised two years ago that justice would be done in the case of the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia," Muscat said, beginning his speech, adding that "today I am here to tell you that I kept my word."

But the slain reporter's family contended Muscat's departure won't satisfy those in the nation who are determined that corruption and cronyism between politicians and business figures be rooted out.

"People will be out in the streets again tomorrow," tweeted one of her sons, Matthew Caruana Galizia, who is also a journalist.

Muscat contended that "justice is being done."

He noted that in addition to three people arrested soon after the bombing for carrying out the actual attack, now there is "someone accused of being the principal person behind this killing."

Muscat was referring to prominent Maltese businessman Yorgen Fenech, who on Saturday night, was arraigned on charges of alleged complicity in the killing and of allegedly organizing and financing the bombing. Fenech entered pleas of innocence.

Muscat's former chief of staff Keith Schembri was allegedly linked to the killing. Schembri was among government members targeted by Caruana Galizia's investigative reporting. Schembri, who resigned last week, was arrested in the probe but later released. He denies wrongdoing.

The prime minister said the investigation continues.

The slain reporter had written extensively about suspected corruption in political and business circles on the European Union nation, an attractive financial haven for many investors.

Among her targets were those in Muscat's political inner circle, including those in his Cabinet. Caruana Galizia was the subject of lawsuits by some of her subjects, including in government. While many celebrated her as an anti-corruption champion, some on the island whose dealings she exposed scorned her work.

"I reiterate my deepest regret that a person, who, with all her positive and negative qualities and contribution toward the democracy of our country, was killed in such a brutal way," Muscat said.

"The sensations of genuine sadness and anger for this murder are justified. And I will never accept that someone conveys a signal that in any way he or she is justifying this murder," the prime minister said.

Muscat used his speech to praise his tenure's achievements, including strong economic growth and civil rights, including legalized marriage and adoption for same-sex couples.

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Referring to the reporter's slaying, the prime minister said, "This case cannot define everything that our country is and what we have accomplished together."

The political opposition seized on the resentment toward the government tangible in the protests.

"Muscat does not understand the anger of the people," said Adrian Delia, leader of the opposition Nationalist Party. Nor does he understand "political responsibility," Delia contended.

"He did not understand that Daphne Caruana Galizia's murder took place because of the sluggishness of our institutions," Delia said after Muscat's speech.

European Parliament lawmakers are due to visit Malta in coming days, amid concerns about the functioning of rule of law on the Mediterranean island nation.

Muscat struck a defensive note, saying, "Our institutions are strong, and they function."

Labor has a comfortable majority in Parliament, indicating that a new party leader could become premier without the need for a national election. That could thwart the opposition conservative party's hopes to rule the nation.

Muscat, first elected as prime minister in 2013, is serving his second term.

Fenech had requested immunity from prosecution promising to reveal information about government officials. His bid for immunity was rejected first by Muscat on his own and later by Muscat's Cabinet.

Participants in Sunday's protest carried photos of the slain journalist as well as placards with the last words she wrote on her blog shortly before getting into her car, which was blown up near her home. "The situation is desperate," she had written referring to what she unearthed with her digging into suspected widespread corruption in Malta's political and business circles. On the placards, protesters added the word "still" before "desperate."

Affixed to the courthouse gates were copies of a photo of Schembri posing the alleged middleman was unclear where and when the photo was taken.

The alleged go-between, Melvin Theuma recently was granted immunity from the prosecution in exchange for giving details on who was behind the bombing.

Also angering Muscat's opponents was the reinstatement on Sunday of Chris Cardona as economy minister. Cardona had suspended himself last week after being questioned by the police investigating the murder. Like Schembri, Cardona has always insisted he is extraneous to the case.

The new 'three amigos' riding into Trump impeachment inquiry

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "three amigos" used to stand for one thing in Washington — the pack of globe-trotting senators led by John McCain who brought American idealism to the world's trouble spots.

Now it refers to another trio, the Trump envoys who pushed Ukraine to pursue investigations of Democrats and former Vice President Joe Biden.

The shift represents more than the appropriation of a name. It also marks a departure from efforts by the late Arizona senator to build bipartisan alliances and further broad foreign policy ideals pursued by Republican presidents from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush. That approach is unrecognizable today as the GOP has become the party of Donald Trump and his "America First" approach.

"I knew the 'three amigos' and believe me, these are not three amigos like we were," said Joe Lieberman, the former Democratic, then independent senator from Connecticut who was part of the original group with Republicans McCain and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Lieberman said he believes McCain, his longtime friend, would be "really upset about what's happening in Ukraine now."

The House impeachment inquiry has detailed how the self-described "three amigos" — European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland, outgoing Energy Secretary Rick Perry and former U.S. special envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker — operated an "irregular" foreign policy channel that was pushing Ukraine to announce the investigations Trump wanted. In return, the White House would release \$400 million in military aid the Eastern European ally needed to counter Russian aggression and would arrange a coveted Oval Office

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visit with Ukraine's newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Led by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, the trio assembled as a loose contingent of envoys whose activities were initially unseen by others in the administration specializing in Ukraine issues. But as their actions became known, the "amigos" set off alarms among diplomats and officials who described them as pursuing the president's political agenda over U.S. national security interests.

Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser to the White House, testified before the impeachment inquiry that at one point she confronted Sondland to ask on whose authority he was operating in Ukraine.

The president, Sondland responded, according to Hill.

State Department official David Holmes testified that Sondland, Perry and Volker "styled themselves as the three amigos and made clear they would take the lead on coordinating our policy and engagement with for the Zelenskyy administration."

Holmes said that "over the following months, it became apparent that Mr. Giuliani was having a direct influence on the foreign policy agenda that the three amigos were executing on the ground in Ukraine."

Presidents have often used back channels to facilitate foreign policy and leverage U.S. resources to achieve their policy goals, experts say. The difference is that Trump's approach, as outlined in the impeachment inquiry, appears to be mobilizing U.S. policy and resource for personal political gain.

The Ukrainian matter is but one way the foreign policy landscape has shifted dramatically in the Trump era. As the White House pursues an "America First" agenda, the U.S. is seen as retreating from its traditional role of international engagement and democracy building and Trump is aligning himself with some of the world's more autocratic leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Richard Fontaine, a former McCain national security aide who is now chief executive officer at the Center for New American Security, said the broader, bipartisan agreement on the U.S. role in the world has now become a "debate over fundamentals."

Fontaine said McCain's "amigos" believed that "when the U.S. could act for the betterment of people, it should act ... rather than trying to keep our nose out of things."

It was former Army Gen. David Petraeus who called McCain's group the "three amigos" as the senators made frequent visits to Afghanistan and Iraq. They became the chief proponents of the troop increase that Bush proposed in 2006 and that Democrats and some Republicans derided as prolonging the unpopular war in Iraq.

But the trio also traveled broadly, including in Ukraine, where McCain repeatedly addressed democracy activists as the former Soviet state reached to the West.

Volker, who recently stepped down from his position at the McCain Institute at Arizona State University, distanced himself from his new title as one of Trump's amigos.

"Much has been made of the term 'three amigos' in reference to Secretary Perry, Ambassador Sondland and myself," Volker said in opening remarks before the impeachment inquiry.

"I never used that term — and frankly cringe when I hear it because for me, the 'three amigos' will always refer to Sen. John McCain, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, in reference to their work to support the surge in Iraq."

Brian Katulis, a national security expert at the Center for American Progress, said McCain's "amigos" are all but gone in the Trump era.

"They stood for a certain vision of America's role in the world — one that was more predictable and reliable — and one we don't have today," he said.

"That was certainly McCain's legacy," he said. "Like a lot of things in the GOP, it's so far gone because Trump has obliterated a lot of the ideals."

With prime minister out, Iraq in constitutional 'black hole'

By SAMYA KULLAB and MURTADA FARAJ Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament on Sunday formally accepted the prime minister's resignation, but the path to replacing Adil Abdul-Mahdi was clouded with legal questions that one lawmaker described as

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a "black hole in the constitution," which does not clearly spell out the next step.

Meanwhile, anti-government demonstrations went on in the capital, and one protester was shot dead. Demonstrators closed roads, including those leading to a major commodities port in southern Iraq. A special judicial committee was formed to investigate demonstrator deaths.

Parliament approved the resignation without a vote, according to four lawmakers in attendance. Lawmakers acted on the legal opinion of the federal supreme court because existing laws do not provide clear procedures.

"According to the federal court's interpretation, there is no need to vote," lawmaker Sarkwat Shamsedine said during the session. Lawmaker Mohamed al-Daraji made the reference to a black hole in the law.

Following the approval, Parliament Speaker Mohamed a-Halbousi asked President Barham Salih to nominate a new prime minister. The constitution requires parliament's largest bloc to name a candidate for the premiership within 15 days. Then the prime minister-designate has 30 days to form a government.

Officials and experts warned of a potential political crisis because the question of which coalition constitutes the largest bloc is unresolved.

Abdul-Mahdi's nomination as prime minister was the product of a provisional alliance between parliament's two main blocs — Sairoon, led by cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, and Fatah, which includes leaders associated with the paramilitary Popular Mobilization Units headed by Hadi al-Amiri.

In the May 2018 election, neither coalition won a commanding plurality that would have enabled it to name the premier alone. To avoid political crisis, Sairoon and Fatah forged a precarious union.

Salih began making rounds with different political blocs to reach a consensus, one lawmaker who requested anonymity in line with regulations said. Two Iraqi officials also said that Iranian Gen. Qassim Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force and the architect of its regional security apparatus, arrived in Baghdad and met with key officials.

"It is expected that not just Soleimani but other usual brokers of the prime minister candidate will be active from now on," said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of regulations. "But for sure no candidate will go through without the blessing of Najaf."

Najaf is the seat of Iraq's Shiite religious authority.

The possibility of Sairoon and Fatah re-committing to an alliance over the selection of the premiership was "the strongest scenario," Shamsedine said.

In Baghdad's historic Rasheed Street, security forces fired live ammunition to prevent crowds from breaching concrete barriers near the Ahrar bridge that leads to parliament and other government buildings. One protester was killed and 10 wounded, according to security and medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hundreds of anti-government demonstrators, including students and teachers, also took to the streets in the southern oil-rich city of Basra. They donned black clothes to mourn protesters killed in Najaf and Dhi Qar provinces in recent days.

The new investigative committee was formed to hear cases from the city of Nasiriyah, which has seen the most fatalities due to live ammunition used by security forces in recent days. The committee issued an arrest warrant against Lt. Gen. Jamil al-Shammari on charges of issuing orders that lead to the killing of demonstrators, according to Iraqi state TV.

Abdul-Mahdi recently withdrew al-Shammari from overseeing security matters in the southern city following the bloodshed.

Unlike elsewhere in Iraq, in Basra demonstrators have routinely targeted the country's economic interests.

Demonstrators staged a sit-in and cut roads to the West Qurna 1 oil field, operated by ExxonMobil. The field, among the country's largest, produces over 450,000 barrels of oil per day. A senior oil ministry official said the protests have not yet affected crude production.

Protesters continued to block roads to the country's main Gulf commodities port in Umm Qasr. Port officials previously said trade activity had been cut by 50 percent as a result.

Also Sunday, unknown attackers in Najaf torched the Iranian consulate, which was empty. It was the second time the building had been set ablaze in recent days, following an earlier fire started by protesters

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who stormed the structure.

At least 400 people have been killed since Oct. 1, when thousands took to the streets in mass protests in Baghdad and the predominantly Shiite south.

In Baghdad, protesters gathered in Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the movement, to reiterate calls for a complete overhaul of the sectarian political system. Hundreds of university students skipped classes to attend.

"First, we want a country. Second, we want all of them out. No one stays. They are all thieves," said a demonstrator who gave her name as Umm Zaynab, as protesters chanted anti-government slogans.

AP Top 25: Alabama out of top 5 for first time in 4 years

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Alabama dropped to No. 9 in The Associated Press college football poll, snapping the Crimson Tide's record streak of 68 appearances in the top five.

The top four teams in the AP Top 25 presented by Regions Bank were unchanged, with LSU at No. 1, followed by Ohio State, Clemson and Georgia.

The Buckeyes gained on LSU after their blowout victory at Michigan, receiving 19 first-place votes. The Tigers had 40, down 10 from last week. Clemson received three first-place votes.

Utah moved up to No. 5, followed by Oklahoma, Florida and Baylor.

The Crimson Tide lost to Auburn in a wild Iron Bowl on Saturday to give it two regular-season losses for the first time since 2010. The four-spot drop by Alabama broke a string of top-five appearances that began Nov. 8, 2015.

The week before the Tide's run started it had been seventh, and it had been as low as 12th earlier that season. Alabama passed the old record for consecutive top-five appearances of 55 by Miami (Oct. 8, 2000-Oct. 26, 2003) last season.

Wisconsin moved up three spots to No. 10 after routing Minnesota. The Gophers dropped six spots to No. 15.

POLL POINTS

Alabama could still finish ranked in the top five with a victory in its bowl game, but it would need some losses by teams ahead of it to make that big of a jump. There will be one more regular-season Top 25 after next weekend's conference championship games and then the final poll after all the bowls and national championship game have been played.

The last time the Crimson Tide finished a season outside the top five was 2013, when it lost the Iron Bowl on the famous Kick-Six and then dropped the Sugar Bowl to Oklahoma.

Other notable top-five streaks:

55 — Miami, Oct. 8, 2000-Oct. 26, 2003 (30 weeks at No. 1).

48 — Alabama, Preseason 2011-Dec. 8, 2013 (25 at No. 1).

48 — Oklahoma, Nov. 16, 1953-Nov. 11, 1957 (23 at No. 1).

48 — Ohio State, Preseason 1973-Sept. 20, 1976 (24 at No. 1).

Alabama did pass another milestone, extending its streak of consecutive weeks ranked to 210 (2008 preseason-present), moving past Florida for the third-longest streak in poll history. Florida was ranked for 209 straight weeks from Sept. 9, 1990-Oct. 5, 2002.

Nebraska has the longest streak at 348 weeks (Oct. 12, 1981-Sept. 22, 2002) and Florida State is second with 211 weeks (Sept. 24, 1989-Nov. 11, 2001).

IN

— No. 22 Virginia returned to the Top 25 after beating Virginia Tech on Friday to win the ACC Coastal Division for the first time.

— No. 25 Air Force is ranked for the first time since 2010. With Navy at No. 23, there are two service academies ranked at the same time for the first time since Oct. 14, 1985, when Air Force was No. 10 and Army was No. 19.

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OUT

— Oklahoma State dropped out after losing to rival Oklahoma.

— Virginia Tech fell out after two weeks ranked.

CONFERENCE CALL

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 2, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18).

SEC — 5 (Nos. 1, 4, 7, 9, 11).

American — 3 (Nos. 16, 21, 23).

Pac 12 — 3 (Nos. 5, 13, 24).

ACC — 2 (Nos. 3, 22).

Big 12 — 2 (Nos. 6, 8).

Mountain West — 2 (Nos. 19, 25).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 20).

Independent — 1 (No. 14).

RANKED vs. RANKED

Pac-12 championship: No. 5 Utah vs. No. 13 Oregon at Santa Clara, California, on Friday.

Southeastern Conference championship: No. 1 LSU vs. No. 4 Georgia at Atlanta.

Big Ten championship: No. 2 Ohio State vs. No. 10 Wisconsin at Indianapolis.

Atlantic Coast Conference championship: No. 3 Clemson vs. No. 22 Virginia at Charlotte, North Carolina.

Big 12 championship: No. 6 Oklahoma vs. No. 8 Baylor at Arlington, Texas.

American Athletic Conference: No. 21 Cincinnati at No. 16 Memphis.

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'Frozen 2' ices competition again with record Thanksgiving

By **ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Frozen 2" kept a wintry wind at its back in its second week, setting a Thanksgiving record with a whopping box office bounty, while newcomer "Knives Out" found its own broad audience.

Disney's new set of adventures for Anna, Elsa and Olaf brought in \$85.3 million in the U.S. and Canada over the weekend and earned an unprecedented \$132.7 million for the holiday frame of Wednesday through Sunday, according to studio estimates.

The first "Frozen" opened on Thanksgiving in 2013, but the sequel opened a week prior to the holiday, making it poised for a huge second week, with out-of-school kids happy to see it a second or a third time.

"Having the opening weekend falling a few days ahead of Thanksgiving really set it up perfectly," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for the box office tracker Comscore.

That came on top of a record-burying opening weekend of \$127 million debut domestically and \$350.2 million worldwide that made it the highest-grossing global debut for any animated film globally, and the largest opening for any for any Walt Disney Animation Studios release.

The original film and its world-making song "Let It Go" became a pop-culture phenomenon, earning \$1.27 billion worldwide and selling countless Elsa and Anna dresses.

The sequel has more than showed that the six years since has brought no thaw. It has already earned \$739 million globally and should certainly surpass the original's totals.

"Disney is usually immune to the waning interest that audience have with some sequels," Dergarabedian said.

"Knives Out," the innovative whodunit from writer and director Rian Johnson, rode great reviews and strong social media buzz to a \$27 million weekend and a five-day domestic total of \$41.7 million that easily

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earned back its budget.

The film's vast and eclectic cast included Ana de Armas, Christopher Plummer, Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon, Toni Collette and Chris Evans.

Johnson, the director of "Looper" and "The Last Jedi," had been the target of some Twitter fanboy outrage for the direction he took the second episode in the newest "Star Wars" trilogy, whose final chapter opens next month.

The "Knives Out" opening showed his name value was unharmed and might even have been strengthened by the online noise, and its reception could mean awards season consideration for Johnson and the cast.

"First and foremost, this starts with Rian Johnson," said David Spitz, president of domestic distribution for Lionsgate. "He wrote a screenplay we all loved and executed it to perfection."

In response to the strong showing, Johnson on Sunday morning tweeted "Wow - THANKS to everyone who came to #KnivesOut this weekend, and for all the lovely tweets, you guys are the best."

While put on the calendar to draw in adults while kids were watching and re-watching "Frozen 2," "Knives Out" proved to be more than a niche picture.

"We set it with the counterprogramming expectation, this is a good adult dramedy," Spitz said.

But, he said, it turned out younger audiences had even better reactions than older ones.

"It's playing to everybody," Spitz said.

While the weekend showed that there is nothing like a franchise to bring in blockbuster bucks, it also reflected that tentpoles aren't the only means to attract audiences.

"When it comes to adult fare, it seems that audiences want more originality," Dergarabedian said.

"Knives Out" also opened strong internationally with a weekend of \$28.3 million.

The weekend's other newcomer, "Queen & Slim," finished down in fifth with \$11.7 million, but with a limited number of screens and a modest reported budget of about \$20 million, it was still a successful opening for the Bonnie-and-Clyde-meets-Black-Lives-Matter story.

"Ford v Ferrari" rolled along in its third weekend of release, finishing in third place with \$13.2 million.

Tom Hanks' Mister Rogers story "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" also hummed along in its second weekend, earning \$11.8 million to put it fourth at the domestic box office.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Frozen 2," \$85.3 million (\$163.8 million international).
2. "Knives Out," \$27 million (\$28.3 million international).
3. "Ford v Ferrari," \$13.2 million (\$10.2 million international).
4. "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," \$11.8 million.
5. "Queen & Slim," \$11.7 million.
6. "21 Bridges," \$5.8 million (\$1.9 million international).
7. "Playing with Fire," \$4.2 million.
8. "Midway," \$4 million (\$2.7 million international).
9. "Joker," \$2 million (\$4.6 million international).
10. "Last Christmas," \$1.99 million (\$8 million international).

___ Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2019. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October.

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On this date:

In 1816, the first savings bank in the United States, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opened for business.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1969, the Boeing 747 jumbo jet got its first public preview as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, flew from Seattle to New York City.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered in El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1990, composer Aaron Copland died in North Tarrytown, New York, at age 90. Actor Bob Cummings died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 80.

In 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot to death by security forces in Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN').

In 2015, a couple loyal to Islamic State opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police.

Ten years ago: A day after President Barack Obama announced plans to deploy 30,000 more troops in Afghanistan, leading congressional Democrats said they had serious misgivings but would not try to stop the deployments. Republicans said they supported the force increase even as they questioned Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home. Tiger Woods issued a statement saying he'd let his family down with "transgressions" that he regretted "with all of my heart," and that he would deal with his personal life behind closed doors.

Five years ago: Israel's divided government fell apart as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired two rebellious Cabinet ministers and called for a new election more than two years ahead of schedule. Islamic militants killed 36 quarry workers in northern Kenya who they believed were non-Muslims.

One year ago: Israeli police recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery charges, adding to a growing collection of legal troubles for the longtime leader.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 88. Former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 80. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 75. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 74. Actor Ron Raines is 70. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 69. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 67. Actor Dan Butler is 65. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 65. Actor Dennis Christopher is 64. Actor Steven Bauer is 63. Country singer Joe Henry is 59. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 59. Actor Brendan Coyle is 56. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 51. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 51. Actress Rena Sofer is 51. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 51. Actress Lucy Liu (loo) is 51. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 49. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 46. Singer Nelly Furtado is 41. Pop singer Britney Spears is 38. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 36. Actress Yvonne Orji is 36. Actress Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 36. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 36. Actor Alfred Enoch is 31. Pop singer-songwriter Charlie Puth is 28. Actresses Deanna and Daniella Canterman are 27.

Thought for Today: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." — Henry J. Kaiser, American industrialist (1882-1967).

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