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Thursday, December 12, 2019

5:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game at Tiospa Zina High School
Both 7th and 8th grade games will be played at 5 PM

Due to roster issues with the Britton-Hecla JH Girls Basketball team their will be only one JH game on Dec. 13. The game will begin at 5:15 in the GHS Arena

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Closing for Inventory

We will be closing at Noon
on Wednesday, Dec. 18th
for Inventory

We will be reopening for normal hours on
Thursday, Dec. 19th

Thank you for your patronage!

S & S Lumber

HARDWARE HANK

201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

Football Awards



Brodyn DeHoet
Senior
Most Improved Offense
2019 NEC Honorable Mention



Thomas Cranford
Senior
2019 NEC Honorable Mention

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Kaden Kurtz
Sophomore
Most Improved Defense
2019 NEC All Conference



Jonathan Doeden
Senior
MVP Offense
2019 NEC All Conference

11B Honorable Mention
All-State Football Team
Argus Leader Elite 45
Running Back
Safety

Photos by Brooke Gengerke

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Alex Morris
Junior
MVP Lineman
2019 NEC All Conference



Jordan Bjerke
Scout Team Defense MVP

Photos by Brooke Gengerke

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Jacob Lewandowski
Scout Team Offense MVP



Peyton Johnson
MVP Defense

Photos by Brooke Gengerke

2019 Groton Area Football Letterwinners

Seniors:

Jonathan Doeden
Brody DeHoet
Thomas Cranford
Austin Jones
Peyton Johnson
Darien Shabazz
Kayde Stange
Grady O'Neill
Garret Schroeder
Jamesen Stange

Juniors:

Chandler Larson
Trey Gengerke
Alex Morris
Kale Pharis
Adrian Knutson
Caleb Furney

Sophomores:

Kaden Kurtz
Pierce Kettering
Jackson Cogley
Jordan Bjerke

Freshmen:

Andrew Marzahn

Student Managers/Water Girls:

Colby Merkel
Lee Iverson
Douglas Heminger
Brooke Gengerke
Alexa Herr



Jonathan Doeden — Honorable Mention All-State as BOTH a Safety and a Running Back. Quite an accomplishment!!

Photo by Brooke Gengerke

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2019 Groton Area Football Stats

Date	Loc	Opponent	Score	Overall Reco
08/23/19	h	McLaughlin Mustangs	1-0 Wf	1-0
08/30/19	a	EEK Thunder	22-12 W	2-0
09/06/19	a	Webster Bearcats	7-12 L	2-1
09/13/19	h	Sisseton Redmen	12-20 L	2-2
09/20/19	h	Milbank	0-17 L	2-3
09/27/19	a	Redfield Pheasants	46-6 W	3-3
10/04/19	h	Roncalli Cavaliers	26-0 W	4-3
10/18/19	a	Mobridge-Pollock Tigers	12-34 L	4-4
10/24/19	a	Webster Bearcats	6-24 L	4-5

Overall Record (4-5) **Home** (2-2) **Away** (2-3) **Neutral** (0-0)

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Groton Tigers	29	51	34	18	132
Opponents	35	21	23	46	125

FINAL SACKS

Player	# of Sacks	Yards Lost
Alex Moris	7	48
Grady O'Neil	5	14
Austin Jones	4	34
Peyton Johnson	3	12
Kaden Kurtz	3	6
Darien Shabazz	2	22
Thomas Cranford	1	5
Garret Schroeder	1	1
Trey Gengerke	1	1
Jonathan Doeden	1	1

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TEAM STATISTICS	GT	OPP
SCORING	131	125
--Points Per Game	16.4	15.6
FIRST DOWNS	106	86
--Rushing	80	57
--Passing	21	22
--Penalty	5	7
NET RUSHING YARDAGE	1273	904
--Yards Gained Rushing	1507	1110
--Yards Lost Rushing	234	206
--Rushing Attempts	290	254
--Average Per Rush	4.4	3.6
--Average Per Game	159.1	113.0
--TDs Rushing	11	12
NET PASSING YARDAGE	626	676
--Att/Comp/Int	79/46/4	93/51/0
--Average Per Pass	7.9	7.3
--Average Per Catch	13.6	13.3
--Average Per Game	78.3	84.5
--TDs Passing	6	7
TOTAL NET OFFENSE	1899	1580
--Total Plays	369	347
--Average Per Play	5.1	4.6
--Average Per Game	237.4	197.5
KICK RETURNS: NUMBER/YARDS	19/368	25/380
PUNTS RETURNS: NUMBER/YARDS	10/90	10/100
INTS RETURNS: NUMBER/YARDS	1/0	4/52
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	19.4	15.2
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.0	10.0
INT RETURN AVERAGE	0.0	13.0
FUMBLES/LOST	14/5	12/8
PUNTS/YARDS	22/747	30/851
--Average Per Punt	34.0	28.4
--Net Punt Average	29.4	25.4
KICKOFFS/YARDS	24/1013	27/1029
--Average Per Kick	42.2	38.1
--Touchback	0	5
PENALTIES/YARDS	57/461	48/402
--Average Per Game	57.6	50.3
TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME	00:00	00:00
3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	0/0	0/0
--3rd Down Pct.	0%	0%
4RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	0/0	0/0
--4th Down Pct.	0%	0%
SACKS BY/YARDS	28/144	20/123
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	18	20
FIELD GOALS/ATTEMPTS	0/0	2/2
PAT/ATTEMPTS	1/5	7/8
ATTENDANCE	0	0

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Rushing	G	Att	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	LongAvg/G	
Doeden, Jonathan	8	193	1000	74	926	4.8	5	53	115.8
Kurtz, Kaden	8	82	445	146	299	3.6	5	39	37.4
Schabazz, Darien	5	9	35	6	29	3.2	1	19	5.8
Cranford, Thomas	8	5	27	5	22	4.4	0	12	2.8
Marzahn, Andrew	8	1	0	3	-3	-3.0	0	0	-0.4
Total	8	290	1507	234	1273	4.4	11	53	159.1

Passing	G	Effic	Att	Cmp	Int	Pct	Yds	TD	LongAvg/G	
Kurtz, Kaden	8	139.3	73	41	4	0.56	582	6	52	72.8
Doeden, Jonathan	8	144.9	6	5	0	0.83	44	0	30	5.5
Total	8	139.7	79	46	4	0.6	626	6	52	78.3

Receiving	G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	LongAvg/G	
DeHoet, Brodie	8	17	277	16.3	3	51	34.6
Doeden, Jonathan	8	8	138	17.3	2	52	17.3
Cranford, Thomas	8	4	69	17.3	1	35	8.6
Schabazz, Darien	5	3	50	16.7	0	33	10.0
Johnson, Peyton	7	2	45	22.5	0	33	6.4
Marzahn, Andrew	8	2	6	3.0	0	0	0.8
Jones, Austin	8	1	17	17.0	0	0	2.1
Kettering, Pierce	5	1	13	13.0	0	13	2.6
Total	8	38	615	16.2	6	52	76.9

Punt Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Marzahn, Andrew	5	11	2.2	0	9
Doeden, Jonathan	3	79	26.3	1	70
Schabazz, Darien	2	0	0.0	0	0
Total	10	90	9.0	1	70

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Kurtz, Kaden	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	1	0	0.0	0	0

Kick Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Marzahn, Andrew	12	220	18.3	0	25
Doeden, Jonathan	4	96	24.0	0	57
Cranford, Thomas	2	38	19.0	0	24
Jones, Austin	1	14	14.0	0	14
Total	19	368	19.4	0	57

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Fumble Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
DeHoet, Brodie	1	4	4.0	0	0
Total	1	4	4.0	0	0

Total Offensive Yds	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	Avg/G
Doeden, Jonathan	8	199	926	44	970	121.3
Kurtz, Kaden	8	155	299	582	881	110.1
Schabazz, Darien	5	9	29	0	29	5.8
Cranford, Thomas	8	5	22	0	22	2.8
Marzahn, Andrew	8	1	-3	0	-3	-0.4
Total	8	369	1273	626	1899	237.4

Scoring	TD	FGs	Kick	PATs			DXP	Saf	Points
				Rush	Rcv	Pass			
Doeden, Jonathan	8	0/0	0/0	3/4	0	0/0	0	0	54
Kurtz, Kaden	5	0/0	0/0	2/2	0	0/7	0	0	34
DeHoet, Brodie	3	0/0	0/0	0/0	2	2/0	0	0	22
Schabazz, Darien	1	0/0	0/0	0/1	0	0/0	0	0	6
Cranford, Thomas	1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	6
Marzahn, Andrew	0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1	1/0	0	0	2
Cogley, Jackson	0	0/0	1/5	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	1
Total	18	0/0	1/5	5/7	3	3/7	0	0	125

Field Goals	FGM/FGA	Pct	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	LgM/LgA	Blk

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TB	FC	I20	Blkd
Cogley, Jackson	4	151	37.8	49	0	0	0	0
Johnson, Peyton	18	596	33.1	59	0	0	1	0
Total	22	747	34.0	59	0	0	1	0

Kickoffs	No	Yds	Avg	TB	FC	OB
Johnson, Peyton	12	512	42.7	0	0	0
Cogley, Jackson	12	501	41.8	0	0	1
Total	24	1013		0	0	1

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All Purpose Yds	G	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR	IR	MR	TotAvg/G	
Doeden, Jonathan	8	926	138	79	96	0	0	1239	154.9
Kurtz, Kaden	8	299	0	0	0	0	0	299	37.4
DeHoet, Brodie	8	0	277	0	0	0	0	277	34.6
Marzahn, Andrew	8	-3	6	11	220	0	0	234	29.3
Cranford, Thomas	8	22	69	0	38	0	0	129	16.1
Schabazz, Darien	5	29	50	0	0	0	0	79	15.8
Johnson, Peyton	7	0	45	0	0	0	0	45	6.4
Jones, Austin	8	0	17	0	14	0	0	31	3.9
Kettering, Pierce	5	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	2.6
Total	8	1273	615	90	368	0	0	2346	293.3

No	Player Name	GP	Tackles				Sacks		Pass Def		Fumbles		Blkd	
			UT	AT	Total	ForLoss	No/Yards	Int/Yds	BrUp	Rcv/Yds	FF	Kick		
20	Kurtz, Kaden	8	15	52	67	4.0/7.0	3.0/6.0	1/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
18	Jones, Austin	8	23	40	63	4.0/34.0	4.0/34.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	0	0	
6	Doeden, Jonathan	8	25	35	60	3.0/10.0	1.0/1.0	0/0	0	1/0	2	1	1	
59	Morris, Alex	8	14	30	44	11.0/62.0	7.0/48.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	0	0	
54	O'Neill, Grady	7	11	33	44	7.0/20.0	5.0/14.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	1	1	
32	Johnson, Peyton	7	18	21	39	5.0/19.0	3.0/12.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
3	Cranford, Thomas	8	27	11	38	1.0/5.0	1.0/5.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
21	Larson, Chandler	8	6	26	32	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	0	0	
34	DeHoet, Brodie	8	14	15	29	5.0/16.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	1	1/4	0	0	0	
62	Gengerke, Trey	5	9	15	24	1.0/1.0	1.0/1.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	0	0	
17	Marzahn, Andrew	8	7	17	24	1.0/2.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
33	Schabazz, Darien	5	9	9	18	2.0/22.0	2.0/22.0	0/0	0	1/0	0	0	0	
5	Kettering, Pierce	5	4	9	13	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
56	Schroeder, Garret	4	3	6	9	2.0/3.0	1.0/1.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
25	Bjerke, Jordan	3	2	3	5	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
9	Stange, Jamesen	2	1	4	5	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
7	Stange, Kayde	2	3	1	4	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
64	Pharis, Kale	2	0	4	4	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
55	Knutson, Adrian	1	1	2	3	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
57	Furney, Caleb	1	0	3	3	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
24	Cogley, Jackson	7	0	1	1	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	
TOTALS		8	192	337	529	46.0/201.0	28.0/144.0	1/0	1	8/4	2.0	2	2	

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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Shih Tzus 16, Cheetahs 16, Chipmunks 13, Foxes 13, Coyotes 13, Jackelopes 13

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 233, 210, 205, Roger Colestock 205, Roger Spanier 203, Brad Larson 200

Women's High Games: Karen Spanier 174, Darci Spanier 170, Michelle Johnson 169

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 648, Roger Colestock 553, Roger Spanier 519

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 480, Vicki Walter 447, Darci Spanier 444

Groton Coffee Cup

Team Standings: Biker Chix 4, Ten Pins 2, Kens 2, James Valley 0

High Scores: Nancy Radke 182, Sandi Bistedeau 179, Joyce Walter 166

High Series: Joyce Walter 458, Sandi Bistedeau 440, Sam Bahr 436

Conde National League

Team Standings: Cubs 4, Tigers 3, Braves 3, Mets 1, Giants 1, Pirates 0

Men High Scores: Ryan Bethke 209, 195; Russ Bethke 195; Larry Frohling 179

Men's High Series: Ryan Bethke 536, Russ Bethke 512, Larry Frohling 489

Women's High Scores: Cheryl Reyelts 190, Sandy Hoops 179, 178, Mary Larson 178

Women High Series: Sandy Hoops 482, Vickie Kramp 429, Nancy Radke 421



Community Emergency Response Team Course

Brown County Emergency Management will be offering the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Course starting in January 2020.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in that event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting the training in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.






In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- Manage utilities and put out small fires.
- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock.
- Provide basic medical aid.
- Search for and rescue victims safely.
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

More information including the entire schedule and registration sheet can be found at brown.sd.us/cert or by calling the Brown County Emergency Management office at 605-626-7122.

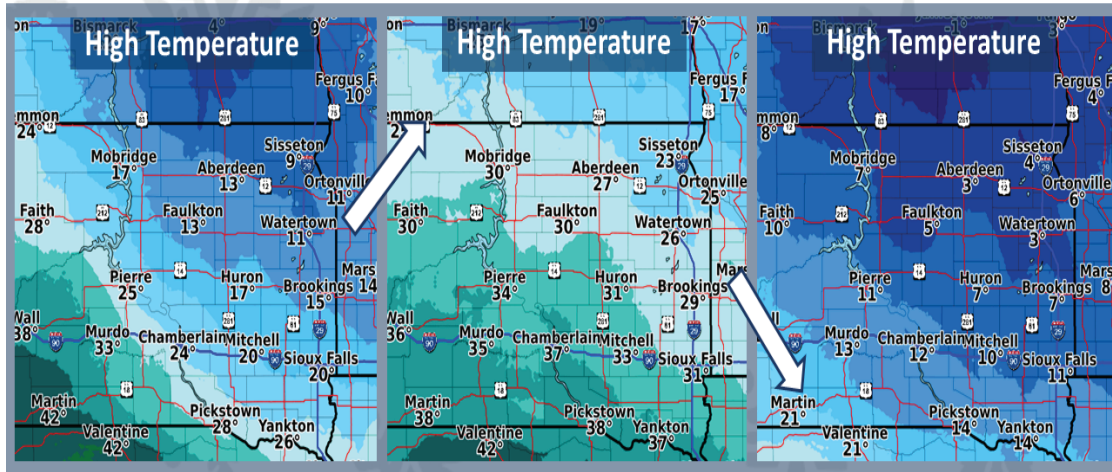
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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Cold
High: 12 °F	Low: 5 °F↑	High: 26 °F	Low: -2 °F	High: 3 °F

3-Day Weather Outlook

Today	Friday	Saturday
Mostly cloudy, light winds. Chance of light snow late.	Mostly cloudy, warmer. Chance of light snow mainly in the AM. Arctic front with gusty winds by the afternoon.	Much colder. Mostly cloudy, dry.



Aberdeen, SD

Graphic Created 12/12/2019 5:57 AM

Another round of light snow is possible tonight into Friday morning. Enjoy a brief warm-up for Friday, before an arctic front passes through during the afternoon. Some drifting of loose snow across roads is possible as gusty winds develop from the northwest Friday afternoon and evening.

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Today in Weather History

December 12, 1968: An intense blizzard visited most of South Dakota and Minnesota on the 12th and 13th of December. The storm began in the western part of South Dakota on the morning of the 12th then spread into the eastern part of the state and west central Minnesota by that afternoon, where it continued into the morning of the 13th. Freezing rain preceded snow, and in west central Minnesota, with thunder and lightning as well. Winds of over 50 mph caused blowing and drifting snow, which occasionally reduced visibilities to near zero. Gusts reached 70 mph in many places. Temperatures were falling to near zero during the day also resulted in dangerously low wind chills, particularly in Minnesota. The eastern half of South Dakota into west central Minnesota experienced the most severe blizzard conditions. Many schools were closed, and most other activities were greatly curtailed.

Automobile accidents were numerous across the area. Multiple utility lines were downed, and power and telephone outages were numerous due to the high winds. Power outages from less than an hour up to 12 hours were common across Minnesota. Snowfall ranged from around one inch in western South Dakota, to five inches in eastern South Dakota, to five to ten inches in west central Minnesota. One death in South Dakota was attributed to the storm when a man died of exposure to the cold near Allen in southwest South Dakota. In Minnesota, one man was found frozen to death near his car after it had run into the ditch several miles northwest of Boyd in Lac Qui Parle County. Another man was killed by a train when his vehicle became stalled on a railroad crossing at Hancock. 5 inches of snow fell at Watertown, Sisseton, and Webster with 6 inches at Clear Lake.

December 12, 1967: From December 12th through the 20th, Flagstaff, Arizona, a series of snowstorms buries Flagstaff with nearly 85 inches of snow.

1882 - Portland, OR, was drenched with 7.66 inches of rain, a record 24 hour total for that location. (12th-13th) (The Weather Channel)

1960 - The first of three Middle Atlantic snowstorms produced a foot of snow at Baltimore MD. A pre-winter blizzard struck the northeastern U.S. producing wind gusts as high as 51 mph, along with 16 inches of snow at Nantucket MA, and 20 inches at Newark NJ. (David Ludlum)

1969 - The worst tornado of record for western Washington State tracked south of Seattle, traveling five miles, from Des Moines to Kent. The tornado, 50 to 200 yards in width, began as a waterspout over Puget Sound. One person was injured and the tornado caused half a million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - While a developing winter storm began to spread snow across New Mexico into Colorado, high winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the southwestern states. Winds in California gusted to 60 mph in the Sacramento River Delta, and in the San Bernardino Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold arctic air spread from the Great Lakes Region to the Appalachian Region. Twenty-five cities, mostly in the northeastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 12 degrees below zero at Albany NY was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Saranac Lake NY was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 28 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A winter storm produced snow from northern Mississippi to the Middle Atlantic Coast, with 10.5 inches reported at Powhatan VA. Heavy snow whitened the Black Hills of South Dakota, with 36 inches reported at Deer Mountain. Thirteen cities in the north central U.S., from Minnesota to Texas, reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth MN and Yankton SD with morning lows of 22 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995 - A severe coastal storm is blamed for five deaths and loss of power to over one million people in Oregon and Washington. Winds at Sea Lion Caves near Florence topped out at 119 mph before problems developed with the anemometer. In Newport, a gust of 107 mph occurred downtown, while Astoria and Cape Blanco also had gusts of over 100 mph. Astoria's air pressure dropped as low as 28.53 inches, an all-time record (and comparable to the central pressure of a Category 2 hurricane!). Gusts in the Willamette Valley exceeded 60 mph.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 12 °F at 8:19 PM

Low Temp: -11 °F at 7:45 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 9:50 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 55° in 1924

Record Low: -28° in 1893

Average High: 26°F

Average Low: 7°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.19

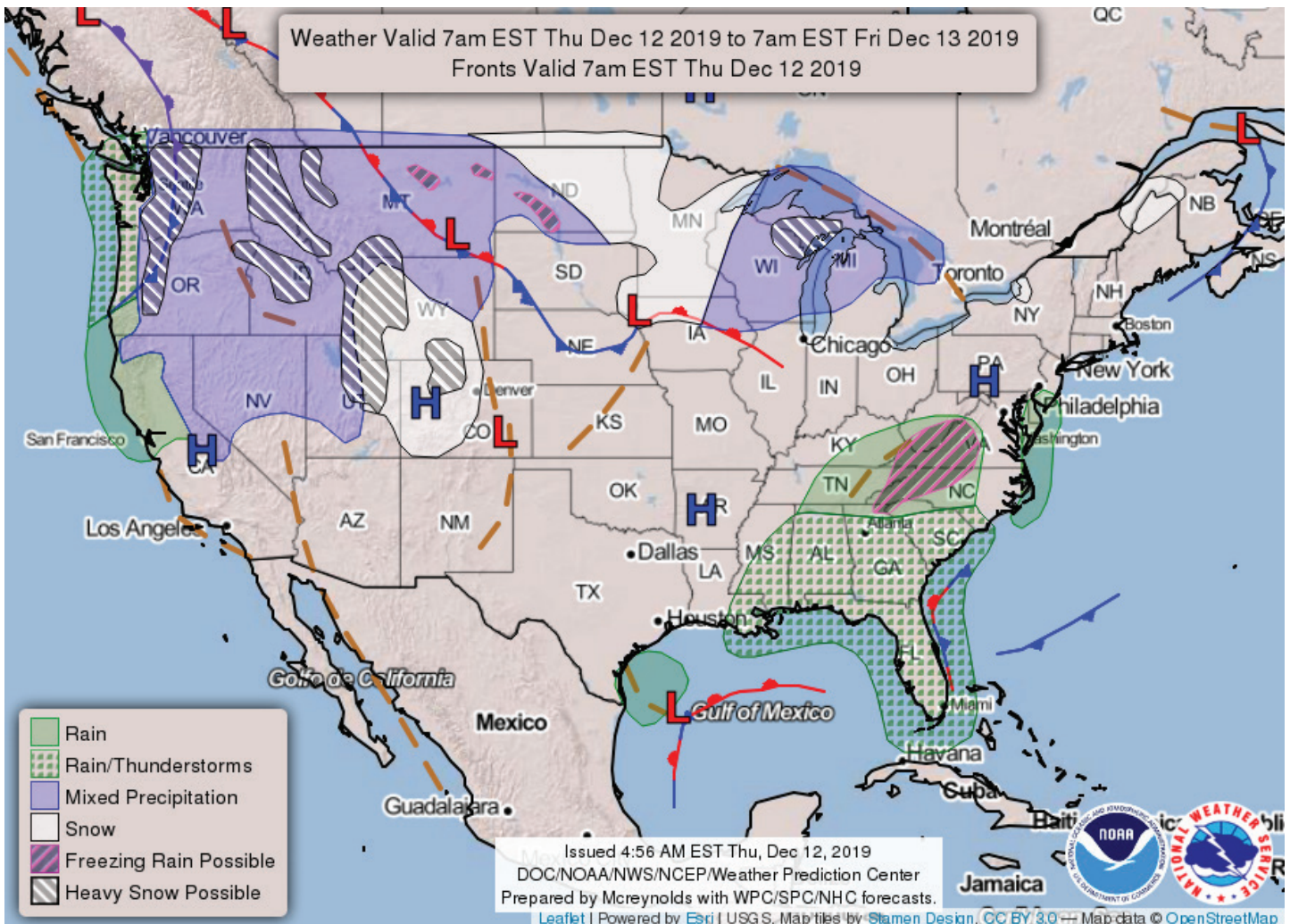
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 21.39

Precip Year to Date: 28.06

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:05 a.m.





WHAT KIND OF DAY WILL IT BE?

As you look forward to Christmas, what special memories will you take from the day that will remain with you after it's over? Will it be a "horrible day," a "holiday" or a "holy day?"

For some, it will be a "horrible" day. It will be a day when families gather and feuds erupt, unwanted gifts are exchanged, stomachs are stuffed, alcohol generated hangovers will dull minds and memories, and promises to "never do this again" are made. Not ever!

Or, will it be a holiday? Families traveling many miles to get together to share problems and pains that brought them closer together, share joyous memories of special events that united them in love and laughter, introducing a new-born child or one who will soon be the next in-law uniting two "love-birds."

Would it not be special, however, if we made it a "holy day?" A day of worship and praise, a day when we set aside time to share and emphasize the gift of our new birth through Christ?

Paul wrote some inspiring words about the gift of our new birth made possible because of the birth of Jesus. "You have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you."

This "new nature" means that it is possible for us to have a new life through His Son, our Savior, and the hope that one day we will be like Him and spend eternity with Him.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for the gift of Jesus Who gives us a new life and the promise of joy, peace, and presence that comes with the assurance of salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Colossians 3:10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

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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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

05-10-17-18-30

(five, ten, seventeen, eighteen, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$380,000

Lotto America

23-29-34-41-51, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 3

(twenty-three, twenty-nine, thirty-four, forty-one, fifty-one; Star Ball: eight; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.85 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$340 million

Powerball

24-29-42-44-63, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 4

(twenty-four, twenty-nine, forty-two, forty-four, sixty-three; Powerball: ten; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

Sioux Falls police identify man killed in stabbing

Sioux Falls police have identified a man who was fatally stabbed.

Dugan Francis Tobacco, 25, of Sioux Falls died early Tuesday. Tobacco was stabbed in Sioux Falls along with another 26-year-old man, who was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Sioux Falls Police Sgt. Sean Kooistra said that "all involved parties" in the case are accounted for, but that no arrests had been made as of Wednesday morning, the Argus Leader reported.

Report: South Dakota Gov. Noem's daughter gets pay raise

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The daughter of South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has received a pay raise since she and other state employees got a salary boost in July, according to a report.

Kennedy Noem works for her mother as a policy analyst. State employees received a 2.5% pay bump in July after South Dakota lawmakers voted to increase state salaries.

KELO-TV reports Kennedy Noem has received another pay boost since July, and now makes nearly \$58,000 a year — nearly half of what her mother makes. The Republican governor's salary is \$116,400.

In an email, Gov. Noem's office said her daughter's salary increased after she was assigned more duties.

"Those duties include more policy work and additional responsibilities. Like most employers, we review compensation on a periodic basis to ensure salary is aligned with job duties," the governor's office told KELO.

As governor-elect, Noem hired her daughter as part of her transition team a year ago. At the time, Kennedy Noem was being paid \$40,700 for the position in her mother's office. She became a policy analyst in January and her salary rose to \$50,000. In July, she got a 2.5% salary boost along with other state employees, bringing her income to \$51,250.

According to South Dakota's transparency website, Open SD , Kennedy Noem is now making \$57,912 a year.

The governor's son-in-law Kyle Peters, who is married to Noem's other daughter, works for the Governor's Office of Economic Development as well and is paid nearly \$60,000.

Colorado man gets prison after 13th DUI

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado man has been sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to his 13th DUI.

Denver prosecutors say Maynard Rome compiled the DUIs in four Colorado counties and in South Dakota's Lawrence County since 1986.

His latest case involves a traffic accident in Denver in June. District Attorney Beth McCann's office said in a statement Wednesday that it's a miracle that Rome didn't kill anyone over that time.

Rome, 60, pleaded guilty to the latest count in October and was sentenced on Friday by Denver District Court Judge Michael Vallejos.

McCann noted that December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

\$100 million solar park in South Dakota is moving forward

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota agency could vote next month to approve a permit for a historic \$100 million solar electricity generation project on a reservation in the southwestern part of the state.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission reviewed a settlement stipulation Tuesday for Lookout Solar Park I LLC's project, the Rapid City Journal reported. The three-member commission decided to postpone action on it because they didn't have much time to review it. The permit application has been under review since last year.

"It's kind of fun to be historical in South Dakota in a positive way," Commissioner Kristie Fiegen said at the meeting.

The 110-megawatt project would be the biggest solar park in the state. It's the first solar generation proposal big enough to need PUC approval. The threshold for a permit is 100 megawatts of maximum output.

If built, the solar park will be on the Pine Ridge Reservation, which is about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from Rapid City. It would have about 500,000 solar panels in arrays across an area of 250 acres. The German company will lease the land from the Rapp family, for whom the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs holds the land in trust.

Lynn Rapp, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, spoke for the family at the meeting. She said the lease agreement is the first of its kind for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"We are their example lease for other reservations," Rapp said. "We will be bringing it around to other reservations that have trust land."

Besides the permit, several more steps are required before the project can be constructed. The project needs a connection with the Western Area Power Administration's transmission system, which has been requested and is under review. A buyer for the electricity is also needed, which developers indicated Tuesday.

Father, son plead guilty in black market eagle trafficking

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A father and his adult son have pleaded guilty in South Dakota to federal charges in a widespread case that offered a glimpse into the illegal trafficking of eagles and other protected birds.

Troy Fairbanks and his son, Majestic Fairbanks, were among 30 people and pawn shops indicted in 2017 as part of a two-year investigation into the black market trade of eagle carcasses, eagle parts and feathers.

Prosecutors say they found more than 100 eagle carcasses or eagle parts in the Fairbanks' Rapid City home, according to the Rapid City Journal.

Eagle heads or wings can fetch hundreds of dollars, though sellers sometimes exchange the eagle parts for other animal parts, such as bear claws, buffalo horn caps or animal hides. The eagle parts are often used in Native American-style handicrafts.

Undercover investigators say they purchased protected bird parts from suspects in South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska and Iowa.

Troy Fairbanks pleaded guilty Friday in federal court in Rapid City to wildlife trafficking conspiracy, which is punishable by up to five years in prison. Majestic Fairbanks pleaded guilty to violating the Bald and Golden

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Eagle Protection Act, which is punishable by up to one year in prison. Last month, Majestic's brother, Troy Young Fairbanks, pleaded guilty to violating that act.

Bond set for man accused in intoxicated hit-and-run death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The man accused in the hit-and-run death of a Rapid City father of five is being held on \$250,000 cash bond.

Zachary Fegueroa, 25, made an initial court appearance Monday via video from the Pennington County Jail. A request for a lower bond by his attorney was rejected.

Joseph Martinez, 34, was struck and killed Friday evening while walking in Rapid City. Fegueroa is charged with vehicular homicide, hit and run with injury, marijuana possession and drunken driving.

The victim's wife, Timber Martinez, described her husband in court as a family man and hard worker. The couple have a 12-year-old, 7-year-old, twin 2-year-olds and a 2-month-old baby.

Prosecutors say a field sobriety test given to Fegueroa after he was located found he had a 0.13% blood alcohol content, well above the legal limit of .08%.

The Rapid City Journal reports that if convicted, Fegueroa could be sentenced up to 15 years in prison for the homicide charge, two years in prison for the hit and run, and one year in prison for each of the other charges.

Fears of anti-Semitism hang over New Jersey attack probe

By DAVID PORTER and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — Investigators are looking to pinpoint what prompted a deadly attack on a Jewish market in Jersey City amid fears that it was motivated by anti-Semitism.

A gunbattle and standoff at the JC Kosher supermarket this week turned the neighborhood into a virtual war zone and left six people dead — the two attackers, a police officer and three people who had been inside the store.

Officials recounted Wednesday how a man and woman deliberately targeted the store a day earlier. They also believe the two dead attackers identified themselves in the past as Black Hebrew Israelites, a movement whose members have been known to rail against white people and Jews, according to a law enforcement official who was briefed on the matter but was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition, authorities have found social media postings from at least one of the attackers that were anti-police and anti-Jewish, the official said.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop called the bloodshed a hate crime against Jews, as did New York's mayor and governor.

But others have urged caution, saying much remains unknown about the attack. New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said Wednesday that officials have obtained evidence that could reveal a motive, but that it's still too early in the investigation to say what might have prompted the assault.

"The why and the ideology and the motivation — that's what we're investigating," Grewal said.

The attackers were identified as David N. Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50 — both of them also prime suspects in the slaying of a livery driver found dead in a car trunk in nearby Bayonne over the weekend, Grewal said.

But authorities are still trying to determine if anyone else is involved in the Jersey City attack, according to Grewal. Anderson was armed, but the attorney general wouldn't confirm if Graham also had a weapon when she followed Anderson into the market. Several weapons were recovered from the store.

Two of the victims at the store were identified by members of the Orthodox Jewish community as Min-del Ferencz, 31, who with her husband owned the grocery, and 24-year-old Moshe Deutsch, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn who was shopping there. Authorities identified the third victim as store employee Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, 49.

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Members of New York's ultra-orthodox Jewish community gathered Wednesday night for funerals for Ferencz and Deutsch.

The bloodshed in the city of 270,000 people across the Hudson River from New York City began at a graveyard, where Detective Joseph Seals, a 40-year-old member of a unit devoted to taking illegal weapons off the street, was gunned down by the assailants, authorities said. They then drove the van about a mile to the kosher market.

The drawn-out battle with police filled the streets with the sound of high-powered rifle fire, as SWAT officers in full tactical gear swarmed the neighborhood. The attackers were killed in the shootout with police.

A fourth bystander was shot at the store when the attackers burst in, but escaped, Grewal said. His name was not released.

The prospect of attacks against Jews weighed heavily on the more than 300 people who attended a vigil Wednesday night at a synagogue about a mile from where the shootings took place.

In the deadliest such attack in U.S. history, 11 people were killed in an October 2018 shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last April, a gunman opened fire at a synagogue north of San Diego, killing a woman and wounding a rabbi and two others.

The heartbreak was obvious Wednesday night as thousands of mostly men followed Ferencz' casket through the streets of Brooklyn hugging and crying. Many prayed.

The kosher grocery is a central fixture in a growing community of Orthodox Jews who have been moving to Jersey City in recent years and settling in what was a mostly black section of Jersey City, causing some resentment.

Mustian reported from New York. Associated Press writer Mike Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed.

Trump criticizes teen climate activist after magazine honor

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out at 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg on Thursday, a day after she was named by Time as its Person of the Year, calling her selection "ridiculous."

The Swedish teen has become a symbol of a growing movement of young climate activists after leading weekly school strikes in Sweden that inspired similar actions in about 100 cities worldwide. She has drawn large crowds with her fiery appearances at protests and conferences over the past year and a half.

In a Thursday morning tweet, Trump said, "Greta must work on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend!"

He added: "Chill Greta, Chill!"

It's not the first time Trump has lashed out after not being recognized for his influence. In 2015, Trump attacked German Chancellor Angela Merkel for "ruining Germany" after she was named Person of the Year, when he was listed as a runner-up.

Trump is the second world leader to take aim at Thunberg this week, after her concern over the slayings of indigenous Brazilians in the Amazon drew a harsh rebuke from the Latin American nation's president Tuesday.

"Greta said that the Indians died because they were defending the Amazon," Jair Bolsonaro said. "It's impressive that the press is giving space to a brat like that," he added, using the Portuguese word "pirralha."

Thunberg responded by changing her bio on Twitter, where she has over 3 million followers, to say "Pirralha."

Thunberg did not immediately respond to Trump's attack.

Nobel winner's army defense blasted in Myanmar genocide case

By ALEKS FURTULA and LORNE COOK undefined

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Lawyers seeking to halt what they allege is ongoing genocide in Myanmar have slammed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's defense of her country's armed forces, saying Thursday

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that the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former pro-democracy icon chose to ignore “unspeakable” crimes targeting Muslim civilians.

The United Nation’s top court is conducting emergency legal proceedings to determine if military personnel committed genocide against Myanmar’s Rohingya minority in 2017. The African nation of Gambia, acting on behalf of a large group of Muslim countries, requested the International Court of Justice hearings and alleges that human rights violations against the Rohingya continue.

With maps, satellite imagery and graphic photos, Myanmar’s accusers have detailed what they insist is a deliberate campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide — including the killing of civilians, raping of women and torching of houses — that forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Gambia wants the U.N. court to take “all measures within its power to prevent all acts that amount to or contribute to the crime of genocide.”

The U.N. court proceedings in The Hague produced the astonishing spectacle on Wednesday of Suu Kyi, who was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for championing democracy and rights under Myanmar’s then-ruling junta, defending the army that kept her under house arrest for some 15 years.

“We heard nothing about sexual violence from Myanmar yesterday, not a single word about it,” lawyer Paul Reicher told the world court Thursday as Suu Kyi watched on impassively. “Because it is undeniable and unspeakable, they chose to ignore it completely. I can’t really blame them. I would hate having to be the one to defend it.”

Suu Kyi testified Wednesday that the exodus of Rohingya was a tragic consequence of hostilities initiated by insurgents. The allegations of genocide and other crimes by the army stemmed from “an internal armed conflict started by coordinated and comprehensive armed attacks ... to which Myanmar’s defense services responded,” she said.

Suu Kyi also insisted that Gambia’s legal representatives had painted “an incomplete and misleading factual picture” of what happened in Myanmar’s northern Rakhine state in August 2017.

Reicher argued otherwise, saying: “There is no reasonable conclusion to draw other than the inference of genocidal intent from the state’s pattern of conduct.”

Referring to a U.N. fact-finding mission’s report on military “clearance operations,” Reicher said: “Everyone was a target and no one was spared. Mothers, infants, pregnant women, the old and infirm. They all fell victim to this ruthless campaign.”

He also refuted Myanmar’s claims that no mass graves were found.

“To be sure, Myanmar has not made it easier to find them” by denying access to suspect sites, Reicher said. “Nevertheless, The Associated Press located at least five mass graves of Rohingyas.”

Suu Kyi was expected to take the stand later Thursday for final remarks before the hearing concludes. The court will likely issue a decision on Gambia’s request for provisional measures relatively quickly, but the main case will probably take years to resolve.

Cook reported from Brussels.

Exasperated Israelis prepare for third election in a year

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

RAMAT GAN, Israel (AP) — Exasperated Israelis were coming to grips Thursday with the dreaded reality that they will be heading to the polls for the third time in a year, pondering whether there was any way out of the seemingly endless stalemate after parliament dissolved itself once again and extended over a year of stubborn political paralysis.

Legislators passed a motion earlier in the day to hold elections on March 2, hours after the deadline to form a coalition government expired. The motion passed with a 94-0 vote in the house.

That now triggers a nearly three-month-long campaign ahead of the vote that most polls predict will not produce dramatically different results than those that led to the current crisis.

“It’s a terrible joke, something is broken in the system,” said 40-year-old Edna Naon, who was recently

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laid off from her high-tech job, in part because of delays in approving governmental projects her company relied upon. "There is just this helpless feeling. We are simple citizens who have no way of changing the reality. You can feel this stagnation in all walks of life."

Given Israel's divided state, and the deep mistrust between the opposing camps, there is no guarantee that another vote will break the loop of elections and instability that has rocked the country for the past year.

Another campaign, and the national holiday of Election Day, will cost the Israeli economy billions. But perhaps even a steeper price comes in the form of nearly 18 months of caretaker governments that cannot carry out major legislation, make appointments or pass budgets.

"This nightmare, in which we're heading into elections once again, the third within the space of a single year, is neither a parable nor a dream. It is completely real," wrote Sima Kadmon in the leading Yediot Ahronot daily. "There aren't words left that can express the public's disgust with and mistrust towards its elected representatives.

Reflecting the mood, her newspaper blared a front page headline with a single word: "Embarrassment."

As in the previous rounds, the two largest parties, Likud and Blue and White, blamed each other for the impasse and tried setting the narrative for what is likely to be a grueling and nasty campaign.

Israel has been mired in political deadlock for months, after two inconclusive elections and failed attempts by both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Blue and White's leader, former army chief Benny Gantz, to cobble together coalition governments.

The costly election campaigns put government work on indefinite hold and the perceived obstinacy of both sides has frustrated Israelis, who are used to fractious politics but have never before seen a repeat election, let alone a third one.

"The first feeling that comes to mind is despair," said Yaniv Feldman, 36, as he walked through a shopping center in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan. "But look what is happening around the world as well. It is what it is. All you can do it go out and vote."

The sense of disgust has indeed raised fears that turnout could be lower in March, producing an even more distorted expression of the will of the people.

President Reuven Rivlin urged the country to remain positive. "We must not allow ourselves to sink into despair or grievance, which does no good," he said. "We must not lose faith in the democratic system or in its ability to create the reality we live in with our own hands."

During government negotiations, both sides professed eagerness to reach a power-sharing agreement, but could not agree on its composition nor who would lead it. Netanyahu insisted on serving as prime minister, where he is best positioned to fight his recent indictment on a series of corruption charges. Gantz has refused to serve under a prime minister with such serious legal problems and called on Likud to choose a different leader.

Likud has seen a burgeoning insurrection by lawmaker Gideon Saar, who says the party needs a new leader because Netanyahu has been unable to form a government. Primaries are set for later this month, but fewer than a handful of Likud legislators have fallen behind Saar and Netanyahu is expected to be returned to party leadership, despite the political disarray and his legal woes.

Netanyahu faces charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three corruption cases in which he is accused of trading legislative or regulatory favors in exchange for lavish gifts or favorable media coverage. He denies wrongdoing and has waged an angry campaign against the media and law enforcement officials he said are bent on ousting him from office.

Netanyahu had hoped for a sweeping victory in elections in April and September that would have delivered a majority in favor of granting him immunity from prosecution. He can now hope that the next election delivers him a more favorable result. Netanyahu's trial is on hold until the immunity issue is resolved, a process that is expected to take months.

After the March election, he also could use coalition negotiations as leverage to push potential partners to support his immunity request.

Under Israeli law, a sitting prime minister charged with a crime is not required to step down. But Cabi-

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net ministers under indictment must resign and Netanyahu, who holds four portfolios, including health, agriculture and welfare, notified Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday that he would give up each ministry by the end of the year. The letter to the court, which was responding to a petition by a good governance group, stressed that Netanyahu would continue serving as prime minister.

Netanyahu's opponents argue he cannot guide the country through its myriad challenges while fighting his legal battles.

"The suicidal tailspin on the political system this past year originated with one person: Benjamin Netanyahu," wrote columnist Yossi Verter in the liberal Haaretz. "This election campaign, like its two predecessors in April and September, is the result of his ongoing escape from a trial that is likely to end in prison."

Associated Press writer Tia Goldenberg in Tel Aviv, Israel, contributed to this report.

UK voters decide who they want to resolve Brexit impasse

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS undefined

LONDON (AP) — U.K. voters were deciding Thursday who they want to resolve the stalemate over Brexit in a parliamentary election seen as one of the most important since the end of World War II.

Voting was underway across the country in a contest that pits Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who says he will take Britain out of the European Union by Jan. 31, against opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, who promises another referendum on Brexit.

Johnson voted at Methodist Central Hall in London, accompanied by his dog, Dilyn. Corbyn was greeted by supporters as arrived to cast his vote in his north London constituency.

With so much at stake, political parties have pushed the boundaries of truth, transparency and reality during five weeks of campaigning.

Johnson's Conservative Party was criticized for using misleading tactics on social media, while Corbyn's Labour Party sought to win votes by promising to tax the rich, boost government spending and nationalize industries such as railroads and water companies. One of the focal points of the ugly campaign was the National Health Service, a deeply respected institution that has struggled to meet rising demand after nine years of austerity under Conservative-led governments.

Jill Rutter, a senior research fellow at UK in a Changing Europe, said one of the things that stood out during the campaign was the shamelessness of the politicians. She cited Johnson's claim that the Conservatives would build 40 hospitals. In fact that number includes many existing facilities that will be renovated.

"Normally, if you point out to people that something doesn't stand up, it's actually sort of fiction, you slightly expect them to start ... replacing that with a different new fact," Rutter said. "But here, actually, you've seen this from No. 10 under Johnson that they're prepared to run a deeply manipulative operation."

All 650 seats in the House of Commons are up for grabs in the election, which is being held more than two years ahead of schedule.

The prime minister called early elections in hopes of breaking a logjam in Parliament that stalled approval of his Brexit agreement in October. Johnson didn't have a majority in the last Parliament and was stymied once he lost the support of the Democratic Unionist Party because of concerns about how Northern Ireland would be treated under his deal with the EU.

Opinion polls have consistently showed Johnson's Conservative Party in the lead, but recent surveys suggest the margin may have narrowed in the final days of campaigning. While Corbyn's Labour is unlikely to win an outright majority, smaller opposition parties hope to win enough seats so they can team with Labour to block Johnson's Brexit plans.

All of the parties are nervous about the verdict of voters who are more willing to abandon long-held party loyalties after three years of wrangling over Brexit. Photos of lines outside of polling stations suggested a brisk early morning turnout.

In Glasgow, Simon MacFarlane, a 49-year-old trade union worker, said the election was about more than just Brexit.

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"The issues facing the poorest people in Glasgow are no different from the poorest people in Liverpool, Manchester, or elsewhere around the whole of the country and Belfast," he said. "So, we need to tackle those issues. We have had enough of constitutional politics at this point in time."

The Conservatives have focused much of their energy on trying to win in a "red wall" of working-class towns in central and northern England that have elected Labour lawmakers for decades, but also voted strongly in 2016 to leave the EU. Polls suggest that plan may be working, and the Conservatives have also been helped by the Brexit Party led by Nigel Farage, which decided at the last minute not to contest 317 Conservative-held seats to avoid splitting the pro-Brexit vote.

Labour, which is largely but ambiguously pro-EU, faces competition for anti-Brexit voters from the centrist Liberal Democrats, Scottish and Welsh nationalist parties, and the Greens.

One of the campaign's defining images was a photo of a sick 4-year-old boy sleeping on a hospital floor because no beds were available. Johnson's initial failure to even look at the photo in an on-camera interview put the prime minister on the defensive because he was seen as being insensitive to the child's plight.

The photo, initially published by the Yorkshire Evening Post, swept across social media like a firestorm, injecting an explosive jolt into the political war of information in the final days of the election.

Social media platforms were a critical battleground during the campaign, with political mudslingers waging cyberwar with few legal constraints after the government failed to act on calls for a new law to protect democracy in the internet age. Just two years after Britain found itself at the epicenter of a global scandal over the misuse of Facebook data by political campaigns, the parties bombarded voters with social media messages — many of which were misleading.

The Conservative Party circulated a doctored video that made it look as if an opposition leader had been stumped when asked about his position on Brexit. Then during a television debate the party re-branded its press office Twitter account as a fact-checking service. The Labour Party also sought to co-opt the roll of independent fact-checker, rolling out a website called The Insider, which called on voters to "trust the facts."

The Conservative Party, with a dynamic online campaign, found itself in the crosshairs of many media critics. Some, such as Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, wondered why Johnson, who has been in the lead, would feel compelled to be at the forefront of pushing the edge of accepted norms.

"This is a governing party. It's a mainstream party. It's a career politician. This is not an outlier. You don't get more establishment than the British Conservative Party," Nielsen said. "If that is what they see as fit and proper, we must confront the fact that this is the new normal."

Matthew Goodwin, a visiting senior fellow at the Chatham House think tank, said the Conservative Party's tactics were partly motivated by alarm over the potential for a Corbyn-led government.

"We have to remember this is probably the most consequential election we've had in the post-war period," he said, citing Brexit and other implications of the vote.

"For the Conservatives, the reason they have become so direct and so personal is, I think, they view this as paving the way for a Marxist project, a radical left-wing project that is more of a threat to this country, to the union, to Britain's economy, to its place on the international stage — a greater threat than anything the country has faced before," Goodwin said.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit and British politics at <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. STAKES HIGH IN 'BREXIT ELECTION' U.K. voters are deciding who they want to resolve the stalemate over the divorce deal with the EU in an election seen as one of the most important since the end of World War II.

2. JUDICIARY PANEL TAKES FIRST STEPS TOWARD IMPEACHMENT VOTE Democrats are describing a strong sense of duty to hold President Trump in check, while Republicans are decrying the process and what it means for the future of the country.

3. DESPITE RISKS, NEW ZEALAND TEAM TO ATTEMPT RECOVERY A team of eight military specialists will land on a small volcanic island to attempt to retrieve the bodies of eight victims of a volcanic eruption that claimed eight other lives.

4. WHAT AUTHORITIES IN JERSEY CITY FEAR That a deadly shooting at a Jewish market in the northern New Jersey town was an anti-Semitic attack.

5. WHO TOPS LIST OF HARD-TO-COUNT CITIES AHEAD OF CENSUS Detroit has tens of thousands of vacant houses, sparse internet access and high poverty — all factors that will present obstacles for an accurate tally, AP finds.

6. WHERE DANGEROUS CHILDBIRTH PRACTICES PERSIST In Europe, where complaints include inadequate anesthesia, surgical incisions during vaginal births and failure to seek patient consent for certain procedures.

7. 'DON'T ASK ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THERE' The suspicious death of a Pakistani woman adds to growing evidence of mistreatment and abuses inflicted on hundreds of women and girls from the country who have been trafficked to China as brides, AP learns.

8. PELOSI DRUG BILL UP FOR HOUSE VOTE The legislation would use savings from lower drug costs to limit what seniors pay out of pocket for medicines and to establish new Medicare coverage for dental, hearing and vision care.

9. REESE WITHERSPOON HONORED AT WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT GALA The "Legally Blonde" actress was feted for excelling in film and her philanthropic efforts.

10. RENDON STRIKES IT RICH WITH ANGELS The World Series champion third baseman agrees to a \$245 million, seven-year contract, continuing a run on big contracts given out in free agency.

New Zealand planning retrieval of bodies on volcanic island

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WHAKATANE, New Zealand (AP) — A team of eight New Zealand military specialists will land on a small volcanic island early Friday to attempt to retrieve the bodies of eight victims of an eruption that claimed eight other lives.

New Zealand police said late Thursday the recovery attempt will go ahead even though scientists believe another eruption is possible on White Island. Steam and mud are being emitted from its active vents and volcanic tremors are rising, volcanologists said.

Police, military, volcano experts and others will monitor the recovery attempt from the HMNZS Wellington, which will be stationed nearby, authorities said.

Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement told reporters the recovery operation is "not without risk."

"They will go onto the island and they will make every effort to recover all of the bodies," Clement said at a news conference.

The continuing volcanic activity has delayed the recovery of the last victims since Monday's deadly eruption, which occurred as 47 tourists and their guides were exploring the island. In addition to the bodies left on the island, eight other people were killed and dozens were severely burned by the blast of scalding steam and ash.

Police have cited the need to preserve evidence that would help identify the victims as a reason to take a methodical approach, but the decision to make a faster recovery attempt appeared to have been partly motivated by weather forecasts.

Rain mixing with the heavy volcanic ash lying on the island could encase the bodies in a cement-like substance, making recovery more difficult.

"My concerns remain the weather, the direction of the wind, the sea state because they all bring risk

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and add complexity," Clement said.

New Zealand medical staff were working around the clock to treat the injured survivors in hospital burn units.

The enormity of the task was clear when Dr. Peter Watson, a chief medical officer, said at a news conference that extra skin has been ordered from American skin banks. Hospital personnel anticipated needing an extra 120 square meters (1,300 square feet) of skin for grafting onto the patients, Watson said.

Australian tissue banks have sent 2 square meters (21 square feet) to New Zealand to help the survivors. "Skin is predominantly used in patients who have the most life-threatening burns, usually if they have more than 50% burn over their body," said Stefan Paniatowski, head of Donor Tissue Bank Victoria.

A patient with that amount of burned skin doesn't have enough of their own healthy skin to transplant onto the wounded area, he explained. Additionally, in patients with an infection, creating a new wound to transfer their own skin is too risky, Paniatowski said.

Authorities say 24 Australians, nine Americans, five New Zealanders, four Germans, two Britons, two Chinese and a Malaysian were visiting the island at the time of the eruption. Many were from a Royal Caribbean cruise ship that had left Sydney two days earlier.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said 10 Australians were presumed among the dead. Twelve of the injured Australians were being medically evacuated to Australian hospitals for further treatment with one Australian patient staying in a New Zealand hospital, he said at a news conference Thursday.

Volcanologist Nico Fournier warned earlier that White Island remained "highly volatile." The GeoNet seismic monitoring agency has maintained the island's volcanic alert level at 2, noting there's been no eruption since Monday. On the scale, 2 signifies unrest while 5 signifies a major eruption.

White Island is the tip of a mostly undersea volcano that's about 50 kilometers (30 miles) off New Zealand's North Island and has been visited by thousands of tourists each year.

Judiciary panel takes its 1st steps toward impeachment vote

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee has taken the first steps toward voting on articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, beginning a marathon two-day session to consider the historic charges with a lively prime-time hearing at the Capitol.

Democrats and Republicans used the otherwise procedural meeting Wednesday evening to deliver sharp, poignant and, at times, personal arguments for and against impeachment. Both sides appealed to Americans' sense of history — Democrats describing a strong sense of duty to stop what one called the president's "constitutional crime spree" and Republicans decrying the "hot garbage" impeachment and what it means for the future of the country.

Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island asked Republicans standing by Trump to "wake up" and honor their oath of office. Republican Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana responded with his own request to "put your country over party." Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., shared his views in English and Spanish.

One Democrat, Rep. Val Demings of Florida, told the panel that, as a descendant of slaves and now a member of Congress, she has faith in America because it is "government of the people" and in this country "nobody is above the law." Freshman Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia emotionally talked about losing her son to gun violence and said that while impeachment was not why she came to Washington, she wants to "fight for an America that my son Jordan would be proud of."

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio said Democrats are impeaching because "they don't like us" and read out a long list of Trump's accomplishments.

"It's not just because they don't like the president, they don't like us," Jordan added. "They don't like the 63 million people who voted for this president, all of us in flyover country, all of us common folk in Ohio, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Texas."

The committee is considering two articles of impeachment introduced by Democrats. They charge Trump with abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden while withholding aid as leverage and with

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obstruction of Congress for stonewalling the House's investigation.

On Thursday, the committee will likely vote to send the articles to the full House, which is expected to vote next week. That could come after hours of debate over Republican amendments, though the articles aren't likely to be changed. Democrats are unlikely to accept any amendments proposed by Republicans unified against Trump's impeachment.

Democrats are also unified. They have agreed to the language, which spans only nine pages and says that Trump acted "corruptly" and "betrayed the nation" when he asked Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and the 2016 U.S. election. Hamstrung in the minority, Republicans wouldn't have the votes to make changes without support from at least some Democrats.

The Wednesday evening session of the 41-member panel lasted more than three hours, with opening statements from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler opened the hearing by making a final argument for impeachment and urging his Republican colleagues to reconsider. He said the committee should consider whether the evidence shows that Trump committed these acts, if they rise to the level of impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors and what the consequences are if they fail to act.

"When his time has passed, when his grip on our politics is gone, when our country returns, as surely it will, to calmer times and stronger leadership, history will look back on our actions here today," Nadler said. "How would you be remembered?"

Republicans are also messaging to the American people — and to Trump himself — as they argue that the articles show Democrats are out to get the president. Most Republicans contend, as Trump does, that he has done nothing wrong, and all of them are expected to vote against the articles.

The top Republican on the panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, argued that Democrats are impeaching the president because they think they can't beat him in the 2020 election.

Democrats think the only thing they need is a "32-second commercial saying we impeached him," Collins said.

"That's the wrong reason to impeach somebody, and the American people are seeing through this," Collins said. "But at the end of the day, my heart breaks for a committee that has trashed this institution."

Republicans are expected to offer an array of amendments and make procedural motions on Thursday, even if they know none of them will pass. The Judiciary panel is made up of some of the most partisan members on both sides, and Republicans will launch animated arguments in Trump's defense.

Earlier Wednesday, Collins said the GOP would offer amendments but said they'd mainly be about allowing more time to debate.

"Remember, you can't fix bad," Collins said. "These are bad, you're not going to fix it."

In the formal articles announced Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign power in "corrupting" the U.S. election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his political rivals, including Biden, while withholding U.S. military aid as leverage. That benefited Russia over the U.S. as America's ally fought Russian aggression, the Democrats said.

Trump then obstructed Congress by ordering current and former officials to defy House subpoenas for testimony and by blocking access to documents, the charges say.

Trump tweeted that to impeach a president "who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness."

The House is expected to vote on the articles next week, in the days before Christmas. That would send them to the Senate for a 2020 trial.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he would be "totally surprised" if there were the necessary 67 votes in the chamber to convict Trump, and signaled options for a swift trial. He said no decision had been made about whether to call witnesses.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Sold to China as a bride, she came home on brink of death

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

MAZAIKEWALE, Pakistan (AP) — Sold by her family as a bride to a Chinese man, Samiya David spent only two months in China. When she returned to Pakistan, the once robust woman was nearly unrecognizable: malnourished, too weak to walk, her speech confused and disjointed.

"Don't ask me about what happened to me there" was her only reply to her family's questions, her cousin Pervaiz Masih said.

Within just a few weeks, she was dead.

David's mysterious death adds to a growing body of evidence of mistreatment and abuses against Pakistani women and girls, mainly Christians, who have been trafficked to China as brides.

AP investigations have found that traffickers have increasingly targeted Pakistan's impoverished Christian population over the past two years, paying desperate families to give their daughters and sisters, some of them teenagers, into marriage with Chinese men. Once in China, the women are often isolated, neglected, abused and sold into prostitution, frequently contacting home to plead to be brought back. Some women have told The Associated Press and activists that their husbands at times refused to feed them.

A list attained by the AP documented 629 Pakistani girls and women sold to China as brides in 2018 and up to early 2019. The list was compiled by Pakistani investigators working to break up the trafficking networks. But officials close to the investigation and activists working to rescue the women say that government officials, fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing, have stifled the investigations.

"These poor people have given their daughters for money, and (in China) they do whatever they want to do with them. No one is there to see what happens to the girls," said Samiya's cousin, Masih. "This is the height of cruelty. We are poor people."

David's death, at the age of 37, shows the extremes of the cruelties trafficked women face. Other women have described being cut off without support, abused physically and mentally. Previously, the AP spoke to seven girls who were raped repeatedly when forced into prostitution. Activists say they have received reports of at least one trafficked bride killed in China but have been unable to confirm.

David now lies buried in an unmarked grave in a small Christian graveyard overgrown with weeds near her ancestral village of Mazaikewale in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province.

Before her marriage, she lived in a cramped two-room house with her brother Saber and her widowed mother in Francisabad Colony, a congested Christian neighborhood of small cement and brick houses in a warren of narrow streets in the Punjab city of Gujranwala. Christians are among the poorest in Pakistan, a mostly Muslim nation of 220 million people.

At the urging of a local pastor, her brother took money from brokers to force her into marriage with a Chinese man. The pastor has since been arrested on suspicion of working with traffickers. A few months after their marriage in late 2018, David and her husband left to China. "When she left for China she was healthy. She looked good and strong," said Masih.

Her husband was from a relatively poor, rural part of eastern Shandong province that has long struggled with lawlessness. The conservative culture in such areas strongly favors male offspring, which under China's strict population control policies meant that a great deal of little girls were never born, hence the demand for trafficked foreign wives. Overall, China has about 34 million more men than women.

After two months, her brother got a phone call telling him to pick his sister up at the airport in Lahore. He found David in a wheelchair, too weak to walk.

The AP met David in late April. Living again in the house in Francisabad Colony, she showed her wedding photos, taken six months earlier. In one, she was dressed in a white gown, smiling, looking robust, with long, flowing black hair.

David barely resembled the woman in the picture. Her cheeks were sunken, complexion sallow, her tiny frame emaciated and frail. She seemed confused, her speech incoherent. When asked about her wedding or time in China, she lost focus — her words wandering — and at one point suddenly stood to make tea, mumbling about the sugar. She paced, repeating, "I am ok. I am ok." When asked why she looked so

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different in the wedding photos, she stared vacantly into space, finally saying, "There is nothing wrong with me."

"She has the evil eye," said her brother, who was present at the interview.

She died a few days later, on May 1.

Dr. Meet Khan Tareen treated Samiya on her one visit to his clinic in Lahore.

"She was very malnourished and very weak," with anemia and jaundice, he said in an interview. Preliminary tests suggested several possible ailments, including organ failure, and he said he told her brother she needed to be hospitalized. "She was so malnourished . . . a very, very, very low weight," he said.

Her death certificate listed cause of death as "natural." Her brother has refused to talk to the police about his sister. When contacted by the AP in November, he said there was no autopsy and that he had lost her marriage documents, copies of her husband's passport and the pictures David had showed the AP.

David's cousin said the family is hiding the truth because they sold her as a bride. "They have taken money. That is why they are hiding everything," said Masih, who is a member of the town's Union Council, which registers marriages and deaths.

Breaking a family's silence is difficult, said a senior government official familiar with the investigations into the sale of brides.

"They might sell their daughters, and even if they discover that the marriage was bad or she is suffering, they would rather ignore it than lose face in front of friends and family," he said on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

The trafficking networks are operated by Pakistani and Chinese brokers who cruise Christian areas willing to sell daughters and sisters. They are known to pay off pastors, particularly at small, evangelical churches, to encourage their flock to do so.

Christian activist Salim Iqbal, who was among the first to sound the alarm last November about bride trafficking, is in touch with a number of Pakistani women in China via groups on the messaging app We Chat. He said one girl recently told him her husband doesn't give her food or medicine.

Another woman, Samia Yousaf, who was 24 when she was forced into marriage, told the AP of the abuses she suffered in China.

She and her husband went there after she became pregnant. When she arrived, nothing was as her husband had promised. He wasn't well off. They lived in one room on the edge of a field, infested with spiders.

She gave birth by cesarean section. Her husband's sister refused to let her hold her son after the birth and controlled when and for how long she could see the child during her six days in the hospital. "I started screaming at her one time when she took my baby," Yousaf recalled.

Her husband refused to let her breastfeed her son until doctors implored him to allow her to, she said. Unable to walk without assistance, the doctors asked her husband to take her for a walk and he repeatedly let her fall, refusing to help her back up.

After she left the hospital, abuses continued. Her husband denied her food. "He was cruel. I thought he wanted to kill me," she said.

Three weeks later, authorities threatened her with jail because her visa had expired. Her husband had kept her passport. Frightened and unwell, she pleaded with him to let her and her son go home to Pakistan.

But he refused to let her take the baby. She discovered her name was not on her son's registration, only her husband's.

The last time she saw her son was in September 2017, just before her return.

"Every day I think of my baby," said Yousaf, who works as a nanny in Lahore. "I wonder what he looks like. My heart is always sad."

Associated Press writer Shahid Aslam in Lahore, Pakistan, contributed to this report.

Beyond the hearings: What to watch on Trump impeachment

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Impeachment is moving beyond the hearing room.

House committee members are debating and voting on articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Thursday. But the political battle over Trump's fate is sweeping across the Capitol, the White House and Washington on the cusp of the 2020 election year.

At issue are two articles of impeachment charging Trump with obstructing Congress and abusing power, stemming from his pressure on Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden's family. Meanwhile, millions of dollars in military aid that Congress had approved wasn't being delivered to the U.S. ally.

All around these facts, political combatants are standing up stunts and strategies to deal with an expected House vote next week. Trump has devised a list of witnesses in a Senate trial, but it's become clear that Republicans have other ideas.

Here's what to watch:

THE STATE OF THINGS

Impeachment is a process, and it's heading through tedious territory.

On Wednesday night, the House Judiciary Committee began churning through the next step of "marking up" — considering changes to — the articles of impeachment.

Majority Democrats show no signs of willingness to make substantial changes. But that won't stop all 41 members of the panel from getting a chance to speak, object and offer revisions. This step is expected to last into Thursday and culminate with a party line vote to send the articles to the full House.

Ranking Republican Doug Collins of Georgia said GOP members will offer some amendments, mainly to allow more debate time.

"Remember, you can't fix bad," he said of the impeachment articles. "These are bad."

But the session is more than box-checking, given the constitutional gravity of impeachment. Sending the articles to the full House for a vote next week would put Trump on the brink of becoming only the third impeached president in American history.

ELSEWHERE IN THE HOUSE

The wait is on for moderates like Michigan's Elissa Slotkin and Virginia's Abigail Spanberger, national security experts who flipped Trump-won districts in 2018. Members of this group were among the last to sign onto an impeachment inquiry. How they'll vote is a test of strength for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and of confidence for these members as they head into their first re-election campaigns.

But it's not a passive waiting game. Pelosi has said she won't "whip" or lobby members for their impeachment votes. But she has dangled some implicit incentive for these members, in the form of trade deal many of them like — as well as a defense authorization bill that passed the House on Wednesday.

Her lieutenants are quick to emphasize the House is giving these moderates accomplishments to take home to their constituents.

"They got elected basically saying that they were capable pragmatic problem solvers, right?" said Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "So these are the problems that they're solving."

SUSPENSE IN THE SENATE

A vote to impeach Trump would send the articles, or charges, to the Senate for a trial on whether to convict and remove Trump from office. That would require a two-thirds majority in the GOP-controlled chamber, an unlikely prospect.

But there's intensifying talk among Senate Republicans, some of it in concert with the White House, about what the trial might look like. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the trial would be the first order of business when Congress resumes in January. But fiercely protective of his 53-47 majority, McConnell has made clear he wants none of the spectacle that Trump desires. He wants a quick trial not

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mucked up by witnesses.

Watch for Republicans trying to change Trump's mind.

"If you start opening up to witnesses, you start opening up to all witnesses," said Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, a Trump ally. "I think the president's got to really decide, to what extent does he want to start going down that road versus just making a strong case?"

TRUMP

Trump wants vindication, and he sees Republicans not just as defenders but as partners in punishing Democrats.

In recent weeks, the president has devised a wish list of witnesses for the Senate trial, relishing the opportunity for his lawyers to finally cross-examine his accusers and argue the case that his actions toward Ukraine, including the July 25 call when he asked for a "favor," were "perfect."

Trump's team has argued that the president would call such witnesses as House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, the still-anonymous intelligence community whistleblower, or even Joe Biden and Hunter Biden.

The president, fond of displays of Republican loyalty, has given GOP members added incentive for defending him on Thursday. Later in the evening, the Trumps are hosting lawmakers at the White House for an annual holiday party.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

AP Source: Angels, Anthony Rendon reach \$245M, 7-year deal

RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Third baseman Anthony Rendon and the Los Angeles Angels agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contract Wednesday, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced and was subject to a successful physical.

Rendon gets a \$4 million signing bonus payable by Dec. 31 and salaries of \$25.5 million next season, \$27.5 million in 2021, \$36 million in 2022 and \$38 million each year from 2023-26. He would receive a \$250,000 bonus for World Series MVP, \$150,000 for League Championship Series MVP, \$125,000 for election as an All-Star starter and \$100,000 for selection as a reserve.

Rendon is the third prized free agent to strike a big-money deal at this week's baseball winter meetings. He'll join three-time MVPs Mike Trout and Albert Pujols on a team that's made just one postseason appearance in the past decade.

The Angels had missed out on free agent right-hander Gerrit Cole, who agreed to a record \$324 million, nine-year contract with the New York Yankees on Tuesday night, a person familiar with the deal told the AP.

"With our flexibility, if we miss a big player, there's still very talented players that are accessible in the free agent and trade market right now," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said earlier Wednesday.

Rendon, who has played all seven of his major league seasons with Washington, drove in a career-best 126 runs while helping the Nationals capture the franchise's first World Series championship this year. His 19.9 Wins Above Replacement, per FanGraphs, over the past four seasons trails only Trout, Boston's Mookie Betts and Milwaukee's Christian Yelich among position players.

Rendon is the latest big signing by owner Arte Moreno, following Pujols, Shohei Ohtani, Josh Hamilton and C.J. Wilson.

"We're within some structure of a budget and a payroll forecast that you relatively want to be near and then we just take those opportunities to Arte and see if he'll grant us the permission to do those things," Eppler said. "There's good players out there and players that warrant some sizeable contracts. I know the

players that he likes.”

Rendon follows Bryce Harper as a homegrown star in Washington to leave via free agency — Harper signed a \$330 million, 13-year deal with the Philadelphia Phillies last March. The Nationals had remained in contact with the 29-year-old Rendon’s representatives Wednesday, according to general manager Mike Rizzo.

“The third base market specifically is an active market,” Rizzo said. “There are several teams that are in the market for that particular position. I think it will move fairly rapidly, not only in the free-agent market but in the trade market I think we’ll see some activity.”

After the news broke, Nationals shortstop Trea Turner tweeted video of himself kicking around a T-shirt featuring a picture of Rendon’s face and the message: “Anthony is my favorite player.”

It marks the fourth big free-agent deal of the offseason pulled off by agent Scott Boras. Infielder Mike Moustakas joined the Cincinnati Reds on a \$64 million, four-year contract, then right-hander Stephen Strasburg reached a \$245 million, seven-year contract Monday to stay with the Nationals before Cole’s pending signing came together a day later.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Detroit tops list of hard-to-count cities ahead of census

By **COREY WILLIAMS, MIKE SCHNEIDER and ANGELIKI KASTANIS** Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — When the U.S. Census Bureau starts counting people next year in Detroit, obstacles are bound to arise: The city has tens of thousands of vacant houses, sparse internet access and high poverty — factors that will make it the toughest community to tally.

Other Rust Belt towns that have lost population and cities in the Sun Belt with large numbers of immigrants and transplants will pose similar challenges in the coast-to-coast headcount, an Associated Press analysis of government data found. Nationwide, about a quarter of the population lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods, including a majority of people in Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Memphis, Tennessee, and Fresno, California.

Obtaining an accurate count is critical because the census determines the allocation of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending and decides which states gain or lose congressional seats.

“There is nothing more important, no higher priority, than reaching the hard to count,” Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham told lawmakers last summer.

Detroit’s recent resurgence has led to refurbished downtown buildings, new boutique hotels and an invigorated arts community. But the renaissance has done little for some residents who live in persistent poverty and harbor lingering mistrust after decades of racial upheaval. The many empty homes are relics of the mass exodus that began in the 1950s and sent Detroit’s population plummeting from about 1.8 million to 670,000.

About 86% of Detroit’s population lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods, by far the largest proportion of any major U.S. city, the AP analysis found.

Annette Brock, who lives northeast of downtown, said some residents see no connection between answering questions from the government and improving their lives.

“Everybody else outside of us gets help before we do,” Brock said. “I don’t blame nobody if they don’t want to participate, or if they don’t want to help, or if they don’t want to say nothing no more. They’re tired of speaking their mind.”

Nationwide, the Census Bureau predicts a 60.5% response rate.

About 70% of Detroit residents turned in their 2000 Census forms. That figure fell to 64% a decade later, when the national rate was 74 percent.

In 2010, 220,000 Detroit residents were living in households that did not fill out questionnaires, costing the city \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually for every uncounted person, said Victoria Kovari, executive director of Detroit’s 2020 Census Campaign.

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To get those numbers back up, city census teams have knocked on nearly 130,000 doors in neighborhoods that were under-counted in the last census and spoken with more than 26,000 people. But Kovari is still concerned. For the first time, the Census Bureau would like respondents to answer questions online, but the agency estimates that 30% of Detroit households lack regular connection to the internet, roughly double the national percentage.

The Census Bureau sends workers to homes that don't respond. In Detroit, that means knocking on the doors of vacant houses and others where residents may not answer.

Almost 80 percent of Detroit is African American, and observers "know we are going to have an under-count among the black population," said Diana Elliott, an Urban Institute researcher who co-wrote a report last summer that estimated anywhere from 900,000 to 4 million people could be missed.

"That puts Detroit at greater risk just because of the demographics," Elliott said.

Researchers have learned that Latinos, African Americans, non-English-speaking immigrants and children under 5 are the hardest to count, along with tribal members, nontraditional families and people with informal living arrangements.

Experts say the Trump administration's effort to put a citizenship question on the questionnaire may scare off immigrants who live here illegally and others. Although the effort failed, opponents of the question say damage has already been done.

California and New Mexico have some of the nation's largest concentrations of Latinos. In those states, over 40 percent of the population lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods.

By contrast, Vermont, Maine and West Virginia have some of the highest concentrations of white residents and older people, who are more likely to fill out census forms. There, less than 5% of the population lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods.

To tout the importance of the 2020 census, California is spending an estimated \$187 million on advertising and events and recruiting neighborhood leaders to encourage participation. California census officials have hired liaisons whose sole focus is 15 specific hard-to-count groups, including farm workers, the homeless and people without broadband subscriptions.

"You really have to understand the structural barriers that exist," said Ditas Katague, director of the California Complete Count-Census 2020 Office.

Gathering accurate population data in Detroit can be daunting because of its size and the emptiness of some neighborhoods. The city was almost bursting its limits through the 1950s, until good-paying auto and other manufacturing jobs allowed a burgeoning white middle class to find bigger homes and better schools in the suburbs. Years of housing discrimination made it harder for the city's black residents to leave.

Tensions between Detroit's black residents and its mostly white police department exploded in a riot in 1967, scarring the landscape and driving more white flight.

The 1973 election of Coleman A. Young as the city's first black mayor was a milestone in Detroit's rise as a city dominated by African Americans. But soon many in the black middle class also sought better homes, schools and safety in the suburbs.

In the late 2000s, the national housing crisis and economic downturn fell hardest on the Motor City. Foreclosures abounded. Three of every 10 adults was jobless and about 4 of every 10 people lived in poverty. Thousands more left the city, and the population dropped by 2010 to 713,000.

In 2013, Detroit became the largest city in the U.S. to file for bankruptcy. When it emerged the following year, it was able to wipe out or restructure about \$7 billion in debt, sparking a turnaround that helped fuel a massive demolition program. Since 2014, about 19,000 vacant houses have been razed, mostly with federal dollars.

Still, current Postal Service estimates show nearly 60,000 vacant units in Detroit.

Mayor Mike Duggan's office has recruited volunteers and groups to go into neighborhoods to speak to friends and churches to explain why census participation is important and to dispel fears.

"You just can't walk and knock on somebody's door, now," said Charles Jones Jr., who also lives northeast of downtown. "You've got to find somebody in the neighborhood that the people trust. Not strangers. They're scared of strangers."

Edith Floyd understands why being counted matters. Working in a community garden, the 70-year-old digs up dirt for composting and makes winter preparations for greens and other crops still in the ground. A cold, stiff breeze blows across scores of vacant lots, broken by the few homes that have withstood time and busy bulldozers leveling vacant structures.

"We need all the money we can get for the city and for ourselves," Floyd said. "There's very few people over here, and everybody counts. Everybody needs to participate."

Schneider contributed from Orlando, Florida. Kastansis contributed from Los Angeles.

Follow Corey Williams on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/coreywilliamsapreporter>. Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>.

Outdated, dangerous childbirth practices persist in Europe

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

BARCELONA (AP) — When Clara Massons was in labor with her son, a midwife climbed onto her bed and pushed down on Massons' belly, explaining that she was helping to deliver her baby. For the next few hours, the midwife and a doctor took turns pressing down during contractions, using an old, now controversial technique for troubled deliveries.

Masson said her pleas to stop were ignored at the Barcelona hospital where she delivered two years ago, and she later complained to authorities. The hospital said doctors took "appropriate measures" during her delivery.

"I thought I was going to die," she said. "For one month after, my belly was blue and purple."

The technique is known as the Kristeller maneuver and was first described in an 1867 German textbook. It is sometimes used during the second stage of labor to assist delivery and avoid a cesarean section when complications arise. But many doctors in developed countries say they have stopped using it because of the potential for broken bones, organ damage, and other complications. The World Health Organization does not recommend the technique.

Yet the procedure is still commonly performed in many European countries, highlighting how once-accepted practices can persist even long after they're considered to be unnecessary or even dangerous.

Europe has some of the world's lowest maternal and infant death rates, and assertions of mistreatment during childbirth are more common in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But the Kristeller maneuver and some other medical practices related to childbirth have come under increasing scrutiny in Europe, including complaints about inadequate anesthesia, surgical incisions during vaginal births and failure to seek patient consent for certain procedures.

"Depending on the act, these practices rise to the level of a human rights violation," said Mindy Roseman, director of a global justice and women's rights program at Yale Law School. "Not obtaining consent from women for medical procedures, not providing pain relief or doing something that's not scientifically justified, that is simply not the standard of care and it's troubling wherever that occurs."

Last year, Croatian lawmaker Ivana Nincevic Lesandric drew attention to the anesthesia issue when she complained to Parliament she did not receive any for an emergency procedure after a miscarriage.

"I don't think I've ever been in (a) much more painful situation in my life," Lesandric said.

In response, the Speaker of the House chastised Lesandric for speaking over her allotted time and for publicly sharing such intimate details, saying it put him in an awkward position.

The Ministry of Health, while not directly commenting on her case, said doctors typically use a local anesthetic for such procedures. Officials suggested there may have been a "misunderstanding" on Lesandric's part regarding the type of anesthesia she received.

Dr. Frederick Mercier, chair of obstetrics for the European Society of Anesthesiology, said general anesthesia is "most often used" in procedures like the one Lesandric had. He said local anesthesia isn't used because "it is less effective."

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In the days following her speech to Parliament, a childbirth advocacy group asked for and received hundreds of complaints about medical care from Croatian women. Three U.N. human rights experts, including two from Croatia, later said the responses “showed a pattern of abuse and violence against women undertaking medical procedures.”

“I see it as another #MeToo campaign where certain issues were not being seen as human rights violations and were being tolerated,” said Ivana Radacic, a Croatian who sits on a panel for the U.N.’s Human Rights Council.

In submissions for a U.N. report presented in October, several European countries or government-appointed experts acknowledged lapses in how informed consent from women during childbirth was obtained. The Czech Republic wrote that women were sometimes given documents to sign “without any explanation or information on the nature or reason for the procedure.”

Dr. Ozge Tuncalp, a maternal and reproductive health care expert at WHO, said the U.N. health agency has noted increasing reports of mistreatment by women seeking health care in Europe.

“Some of these things have become common practice and people think this is what they’re supposed to do, so it is very difficult to undo,” she said.

The WHO says a once common procedure — a surgical incision to enlarge the vagina during childbirth and prevent tears — should not be used in more than about 10% of women and that consent should be mandatory. Yet government figures show rates range from 30% to more than 90% in countries including the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Romania. In France, a 2018 government report estimated that half of women who had the incision weren’t told beforehand. In Italy, one survey estimated 61% of women did not consent.

Marta Busquets, a Spanish lawyer, said she asked the two midwives handling her delivery not to make the incision, but that they cut her anyway.

“I felt really humiliated, but it’s my word against theirs,” she said. The hospital would not comment on her case, but said the procedure should not be performed routinely and that it obtains verbal consent when it is performed.

In October, the Council of Europe passed a resolution on “obstetrical and gynecological violence.” Among other recommendations, it called on European member countries to implement laws on informed consent and to create specific reporting and complaint mechanisms, including sanctions for mistreatment.

How often the Kristeller maneuver is used isn’t clear since it often isn’t included in medical records. Doctors, nurses and midwives in countries including Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain told The Associated Press they see it used on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

A French government report last year estimated it was used in about 22% of births. In Italy, researchers concluded in a 2018 study that the Kristeller technique was documented in medical records only in about 10% of cases.

“The evidence says it’s not helpful, it’s actually harmful,” said the WHO’s Tuncalp. “The fact that so many women are getting an intervention that both national and international guidance recommend against, is very worrying.”

The technique is prohibited in the U.K., according to Dr. Patrick O’Brien, of Britain’s Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. In the United States, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said they had no guidelines on the Kristeller maneuver because it is not recommended.

“I can’t think of any reason you would resort to this,” said O’Brien.

Dr. Ligita Jokubkiene of Sweden said she thinks it is still used because many doctors and midwives aren’t aware of the dangers. She learned it in medical school but no longer performs it herself.

“If the woman was having bad contractions or if we wanted the delivery to go a bit quicker, it was easier to press on the woman and try to get the baby out fast,” she said.

Spain’s Ministry of Health instructed health professionals to stop using it in its 2007 guidelines. But in a 2016 evaluation, government officials found it was still being done in about a quarter of women having vaginal births.

Massons and her husband, Toni, remain troubled by the birth of their son Jaume, now 2. Massons was told the technique was needed because her labor had slowed, and because the baby was in a worrying position.

In a letter to Massons that she shared with the AP, Dr. Miquel Gomez, medical director of the private Barcelona hospital where Massons gave birth, wrote that doctors took "appropriate measures."

The ombudsman for the Catalonia region noted the Kristeller technique was "discouraged" but not legally banned.

WHO's Tuncalp said that transforming medical care — and not just guidelines — is very difficult.

"It can take generations of doctors to actually change practices in the labor ward," she said.

Fears mount that New Jersey shooting was anti-Semitic attack

By DAVID PORTER and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — Fears that a deadly shooting at a Jewish market in Jersey City was an anti-Semitic attack mounted on Wednesday as authorities recounted how a man and woman deliberately pulled up to the place in a stolen rental van with at least one rifle and got out firing.

A day after the gunbattle and standoff that left six people dead — the two killers, a police officer and three people who had been inside the store — state and federal law enforcement officials warned they have not established the motive for the attack.

"The why and the ideology and the motivation — that's what we're investigating," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said, adding that authorities are also trying to determine if anyone else was involved.

But Mayor Steve Fulop said surveillance video of the attackers made it clear they targeted the kosher market, and he pronounced the bloodshed a hate crime against Jews, as did New York's mayor and governor.

Also, investigators believe the two dead attackers — who were thought to be a couple — identified themselves in the past as Black Hebrew Israelites, a movement whose members have been known to rail against whites and Jews, according to a law enforcement official who was briefed on the matter but was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition, authorities have found social media postings from at least one of the killers that were anti-police and anti-Jewish, the official said. The FBI on Wednesday searched the Harlem headquarters of the Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, which is the formal name of the Black Hebrew group, according to the official.

The killers were identified as David N. Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50 — both of them also prime suspects in the slaying of a livery driver found dead in a car trunk in nearby Bayonne over the weekend, Grewal said. Anderson served about four months in prison in New Jersey on weapons charges and was paroled in 2011, authorities said.

Two of the victims at the store were identified by members of the Orthodox Jewish community as Mindel Ferencz, 31, who with her husband owned the grocery, and 24-year-old Moshe Deutsch, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn who was shopping there. The Ferencz family had moved to Jersey City from Brooklyn. Authorities identified the third victim as store owner Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, 49.

"The report from the Jersey City mayor saying it was a targeted attack makes us incredibly concerned in the Jewish community," said Evan Bernstein, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish civil rights organization. "They want answers. They demand answers. If this was truly a targeted killing of Jews, then we need to know that right away, and there needs to be the pushing back on this at the highest levels possible."

The bloodshed in the city of 270,000 people across the Hudson River from New York City began at a graveyard, where Detective Joseph Seals, a 40-year-old member of a unit devoted to taking illegal weapons off the street, was gunned down by the assailants, authorities said. They then drove the van about a mile to the kosher market.

Grewal said that within seconds of pulling up to the market, Anderson got out with a rifle and immedi-

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ately began shooting, and Graham followed him into the store. He would not say whether Graham had a weapon.

A pipe bomb was found in the van, FBI agent Gregory Ehrie said.

Jersey City's mayor said it was clear that the killers deliberately made their way toward the kosher market, passing many other possible targets along the way, and calmly and promptly opened fire.

"We shouldn't parse words on whether this is a hate crime at this point. This was a hate crime against Jewish ppl + hate has no place," he tweeted, adding: "Some will say don't call it anti-semitism or a hate crime till a longer review but being Jewish myself + the grandson of holocaust survivors I know enough to call it what this is."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio likewise said the attack was a "premeditated, violent, anti-Semitic hate crime," while New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo called it a "deliberate attack on the Jewish community." They announced tighter police protection of synagogues and other Jewish establishments in New York as a precaution.

The drawn-out battle with police filled the streets with the sound of high-powered rifle fire and turned the city into what looked like a war zone, with SWAT officers in full tactical gear swarming the neighborhood. The attackers were killed in the shootout with police.

A fourth bystander was shot at the store when the attackers burst in, but escaped, Grewal said. His name was not released.

Chabad Rabbi Moshe Schapiro said he spoke with the survivor at a hospital. "He said the guy next to him fell to the ground," Schapiro said. "He suffered two gunshot wounds but managed to run out of the store and climb over fences."

The prospect of attacks against Jews weighed heavily on the more than 300 people who attended a vigil Wednesday night at a synagogue about a mile from where the shootings took place.

"I think maybe we have two parts of our brain," said Temple Beth-El president Tom Rosensweet. "One part is absolutely not expecting something like this to happen in Jersey City, but the other part knows we have to be careful."

In the deadliest such attack in U.S. history, 11 people were killed in an October 2018 shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Last April, a gunman opened fire at a synagogue north of San Diego, killing a woman and wounding a rabbi and two others.

The heartbreak was obvious Wednesday night as thousands of mostly men followed Ferencz' casket through the streets of Brooklyn hugging and crying. Many prayed.

The kosher grocery is a central fixture in a growing community of Orthodox Jews who have been moving to Jersey City in recent years and settling in what was a mostly black section of Jersey City, causing some resentment.

Mordechai Rubin, a member of the local Jewish emergency medical services, said the small Jewish community has grown over the past three or four years, made up mostly of people from Brooklyn seeking a "nicer, quieter" and more affordable place to live. Next to the store is a synagogue with a school and day care center where 40 students were present at the time of the shooting, he said.

"It's unfortunate what happened, but we don't even want to think about what would have happened if they made their way up to the day care or to the synagogue," he said.

Authorities also warned that several fake Go Fund me pages have popped up purporting to be raising funds for the family of the slain officer, a father of five.

Associated Press writers Wayne Parry in Atlantic City, N.J.; Michael R. Sisak, Karen Matthews, and Deepti Hajela in New York; and Michael Catalini in Trenton, N.J., contributed to this story along with AP researchers Rhonda Shafner and Randy Herschaft.

Judiciary panel takes first steps toward impeachment vote

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee took the first steps Wednesday evening toward voting on articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, beginning a marathon two-day session to consider the historic charges with a lively prime-time hearing at the Capitol.

Democrats and Republicans used the otherwise procedural meeting to deliver sharp, poignant and, at times, personal arguments for and against impeachment. Both sides appealed to Americans' sense of history — Democrats describing a strong sense of duty to stop what one called the president's "constitutional crime spree" and Republicans decrying the "hot garbage" impeachment and what it means for the future of the country.

Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island asked Republicans standing by Trump to "wake up" and honor their oath of office. Republican Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana responded with his own request to "put your country over party." Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., shared his views in both English and Spanish.

One Democrat, Rep. Val Demings of Florida, told the panel that, as a descendant of slaves and now a member of Congress, she has faith in America because it is "government of the people" and in this country "nobody is above the law." Freshman Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia emotionally talked about losing her son to gun violence and said that while impeachment was not why she came to Washington, she wants to "fight for an America that my son Jordan would be proud of."

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio said Democrats are impeaching because "they don't like us," and read out a long list of Trump's accomplishments.

"It's not just because they don't like the president, they don't like us," Jordan added. "They don't like the 63 million people who voted for this president, all of us in flyover country, all of us common folk in Ohio, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Texas."

The committee is considering two articles of impeachment introduced by Democrats. They charge Trump with abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden while withholding aid as leverage, and obstruction of Congress for stonewalling the House's investigation.

On Thursday, the committee will likely vote to send the articles to the full House, which is expected to vote next week. That could come after hours of debate over Republican amendments, though the articles aren't likely to be changed. Democrats are unlikely to accept any amendments proposed by Republicans unified against Trump's impeachment.

Democrats are also unified. They have agreed to the language, which spans only nine pages and says that Trump acted "corruptly" and "betrayed the nation" when he asked Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and the 2016 U.S. election. Hamstrung in the minority, Republicans wouldn't have the votes to make changes without support from at least some Democrats.

The Wednesday evening session of the 41-member panel lasted more than three hours, with opening statements from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler opened the hearing by making a final argument for impeachment and urging his Republican colleagues to reconsider. He said the committee should consider whether the evidence shows that Trump committed these acts, if they rise to the level of impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors and what the consequences are if they fail to act.

"When his time has passed, when his grip on our politics is gone, when our country returns, as surely it will, to calmer times and stronger leadership, history will look back on our actions here today," Nadler said. "How would you be remembered?"

Republicans are also messaging to the American people — and to Trump himself — as they argue that the articles show Democrats are out to get the president. Most Republicans contend, as Trump does, that he has done nothing wrong, and all of them are expected to vote against the articles.

The top Republican on the panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, argued that Democrats are impeaching the president because they think they can't beat him in the 2020 election.

Democrats think the only thing they need is a "32-second commercial saying we impeached him," Col-

lins said.

"That's the wrong reason to impeach somebody, and the American people are seeing through this," Collins said. "But at the end of the day, my heart breaks for a committee that has trashed this institution."

Republicans are expected to offer an array of amendments and make procedural motions on Thursday, even if they know none of them will pass. The Judiciary panel is made up of some of the most partisan members on both sides, and Republicans will launch animated arguments in Trump's defense.

Earlier Wednesday, Collins said the GOP would offer amendments but said they'd mainly be about allowing more time to debate.

"Remember, you can't fix bad," Collins said. "These are bad, you're not going to fix it."

In the formal articles announced Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign power in "corrupting" the U.S. election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his political rivals, including Biden, while withholding U.S. military aid as leverage. That benefited Russia over the U.S. as America's ally fought Russian aggression, the Democrats said.

Trump then obstructed Congress by ordering current and former officials to defy House subpoenas for testimony and by blocking access to documents, the charges say.

Trump tweeted that to impeach a president "who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness."

The House is expected to vote on the articles next week, in the days before Christmas. That would send them to the Senate for a 2020 trial.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he would be "totally surprised" if there were the necessary 67 votes in the chamber to convict Trump, and signaled options for a swift trial. He said no decision had been made about whether to call witnesses.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Watchdog caught in political crossfire on his Russia report

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department's internal watchdog was caught in a political tug of war Wednesday as Republican and Democratic senators used his report on the origins of the Russia investigation involving Donald Trump's 2016 campaign to support their views that it was a legitimate probe or a badly bungled farce.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about his findings that while the FBI had a legitimate basis to launch the investigation and was not motivated by political bias in doing so, there were major flaws in how that investigation was conducted.

The hearing was the latest reflection of Washington's intense politicization. Senators from both parties praised a detailed, nuanced report by a widely respected, nonpartisan investigator, while pressing him to call attention to findings that back their positions.

Horowitz himself tried to strike a balance.

He noted, on one hand, his conclusion that there was a proper basis to open the investigation and that that decision did not appear motivated by political bias. And under questioning from Democrats, he acknowledged the absence of evidence for some of the most sensational claims by Trump and his supporters: that the investigation into ties between his presidential campaign and Russia had been opened for political reasons, that agents had infiltrated his election bid or that former President Barack Obama had directed a wiretap of the Republican candidate.

Still, his opening statement was overwhelmingly critical of the investigation, and he returned time and again throughout the hearing to serious problems that he said underscored the need for policy changes. He made clear that the FBI should not be comforted by his findings.

The most serious problems, he said, concerned FBI applications for court approval to eavesdrop on a former Trump campaign aide. He rebuked officials up and down the chain of command for failing to update judges as they learned new information that undercut some of their original assertions.

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"It doesn't vindicate anybody at the FBI who touched this, including the leadership," Horowitz said. That was a rejection of the views of former FBI Director James Comey, who earlier this week had claimed vindication for the bureau based on Horowitz's conclusions.

Republicans and Democrats pressed Horowitz on whether he believed the FBI had acted with partisan bias. His response was hedged: He said the multitude of errors during the surveillance warrant process, which included the altering of an email by an FBI lawyer, was so "inexplicable" and yielded no obvious explanations that he could not be confident about the intention.

Even so, Horowitz also repeatedly noted under questioning from Democrats that he had not found evidence that the FBI opened its investigation for political reasons. The probe began with proper cause, he said, after the FBI learned that a Trump campaign aide had been told that Russia had information that could hurt the presidential campaign of Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

"It finds that it was a properly predicated investigation based on the rules of the FBI," Horowitz said of his report.

Trump and his supporters are counting on different conclusions from a separate investigation led by John Durham, a prosecutor selected by Attorney General William Barr to investigate the early days of the Russia investigation. Durham issued a statement disputing some of Horowitz's conclusions.

But Horowitz said they had a relatively technical disagreement — Durham, he said, believed the evidence was sufficient to open a preliminary investigation but not a full one. The latter gives the FBI more intrusive tools for an investigation.

Horowitz's report identified significant problems with applications to receive and renew warrants to monitor the communications of former Trump campaign aide Carter Page in 2016 and 2017. Investigators were concerned about Page's ties to Russia, but never accused him of wrongdoing.

Horowitz told senators that the FBI failed to follow its own standards for accuracy and completeness when it sought a warrant from the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to monitor Page's communications.

"We are deeply concerned that so many basic and fundamental errors were made by three separate, handpicked investigative teams, on one of the most sensitive FBI investigations, after the matter had been briefed to the highest levels within the FBI," Horowitz said.

Asked at one point if he believed that Page had been treated fairly, Horowitz responded that he didn't believe the applications were handled fairly and that Page "was on the receiving end."

The report detailed 17 errors and omissions during those wiretap applications, including failing to tell the court when questions were raised about the reliability of some of the information that it had presented to receive the warrants.

Those problems were especially alarming because the warrant to monitor Page "related so closely to an ongoing presidential campaign" and "even though those involved with the investigation knew that their actions were likely to be subjected to close scrutiny."

Horowitz's findings that the FBI was justified in launching the investigation has been criticized by Barr, a vocal Trump defender. On Tuesday, Barr said the Russia investigation was based on a "bogus narrative." He declined to rule out that agents may have acted in bad faith.

Horowitz said he has spoken with Barr about his findings and that the attorney general did not present anything that changed his conclusions.

Republican senators asked about another criticism Horowitz leveled at the FBI — that the bureau sent a representative from its Russia investigation team to a strategic intelligence briefing that intelligence officials gave to both the Clinton and Trump campaigns, including to Trump himself and aide Michael Flynn, who later became the administration's national security adviser.

The agent's presence was a "pretext," Horowitz said, to collect information that might be relevant for the investigation.

The FBI debated but ultimately opted against giving a standard and more extensive defensive briefing that Russia might be trying to influence their campaign, fearful it could impede the ongoing counterintelligence investigation.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., suggested the FBI's decision was reasonable, particularly because Flynn was himself under suspicion. He later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his interactions with Russia's ambassador to the United States.

Nonetheless, Horowitz said, "it raises significant policy questions."

FBI Director Christopher Wray, who has said he accepts all the inspector general's findings, is making changes on the briefing process. The FBI said that, going forward, briefings will be "solely intended to provide candidates" with relevant information and that FBI briefers will not be associated with any ongoing FBI investigation.

In a blistering opening statement, the committee chairman, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said the code name for the FBI investigation, "Crossfire Hurricane," was an apt title "because that's what we ended up with — a 'Crossfire Hurricane.'"

"What happened here is the system failed. People at the highest levels of government took the law into their own hands," said Graham, a Trump ally.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the committee's top Democrat, said, "I believe strongly that it's time to move on from the false claims of political bias."

Fewer kids report sex abuse in US juvenile detention centers

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A new federal report has found the number of kids who say they have been sexually victimized in juvenile detention centers has dropped across the U.S. compared with past years. But remarkably high rates of sexual abuse persist in 12 facilities stretching from Oregon to Florida, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics report released Wednesday.

The report analyzed data collected during more than 6,000 anonymous interviews last year at nearly 330 juvenile detention facilities. Young people were asked about any forced or coerced sexual contact they experienced, whether by staffers or other kids, ranging from rape to unwanted touching to being shown sexual pictures or movies.

Nationwide, an estimated 7.1% of children in juvenile facilities reported being sexually victimized during the previous 12 months, the report said. That's a drop compared with the last time the survey was done in 2012, when 9.5% of youth reported being victimized.

"Today's report shows that the juvenile detention system is making long overdue strides in preventing sexual abuse," Lovisa Stannow, executive director of Just Detention International, an organization seeking to end sexual abuse in detention, said in a statement. "But even one sexual assault is too many and, as the report makes clear, this violence remains commonplace in youth facilities across the U.S."

Twelve facilities had dramatically higher rates of sexual victimization, including three juvenile residential centers in Florida, three in Texas, and one each in Oregon, Arkansas, Idaho, Georgia, Ohio and New Jersey, according to the report.

At the Liberty Juvenile Unit for Specialized Treatment in Florida, just over 26 percent of youth reported being sexually victimized in the past 12 months. Similarly high rates — about 22% and 21% — were reported at the Hastings Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment Program and Gulf Academy, both in Florida.

Florida officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

At the Juvenile Correctional Center in the small eastern Idaho town of St. Anthony, nearly 13 percent of youths reported being sexually victimized within the last 12 months. Roughly 500 miles (805 kilometers) north in a Lewiston, Idaho, juvenile correctional center, meanwhile, no incidents of sexual victimization were reported.

Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections Director Monty Prow said he was surprised to learn the St. Anthony facility had a high rate of victimization. Calling children's safety the "primary task," he said his department would dig into the data.

"If the kids don't feel safe, they won't move to the treatment aspects of what we're trying to offer," he said.

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Kids at the St. Anthony facility can contact trusted adults and child protection hotlines around the clock and report abuse in other ways, Prow said. They get training at least once every three months on how to report problems if they feel unsafe.

He said Idaho also takes part in a national program called Performance-based Standards, which uses outside experts and data analysis to help officials improve conditions in juvenile detention facilities.

"Based on all the things we do, we were surprised to see St. Anthony end up on that list," Prow said. "But we're definitely looking into it to make sure there's not something we can do better. We're always looking to do better because the kids deserve it, and we will never stop doing that."

The report's findings raise concerns about states' level of oversight of each problematic facility and whether enough is being done to uncover and respond to sexual abuse, said Marsha Levick, chief legal officer for the Juvenile Law Center, a rights organization within the child welfare and justice system.

"They need to step it up, quite frankly," she said. "The fact that we see such variability across and within states of course heightens the need to ensure that we're asking every child so we really understand what the victimization looks like."

Research shows that trauma inflicted on kids in residential programs like detention centers increases the risk that they will experience mental health problems, have delays in their educational progress or harm themselves or others, Levick said.

"We removed these children from their homes, we have an obligation to keep them safe," she said. "We do it because we claim we're going to treat them, provide them an opportunity for rehabilitation, but if they are victimized in those facilities, we have failed them."

The previous Bureau of Justice Statistics report included information about kids' demographics, along with the finding that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender young people were abused at a far higher rate than others.

The newest report doesn't include that data yet. The information will be analyzed and published in a future report, Bureau of Justice Statistics unit chief Erica Smith said.

Stannow of Just Detention International said the lack of demographic information is baffling. The report also didn't include information about the circumstances surrounding the abuse, which was previously included.

Smith said the report's findings are "generally a good story."

"The real takeaway is that we are seeing a reduction in the total prevalence of sexual victimization, and that is essentially across the board," she said.

It's too soon to tell if the drop is tied to a federal law that began requiring states in 2012 to meet standards designed to reduce and prevent sexual abuse behind bars, Smith said. Future reports will help determine if the Prison Rape Elimination Act is making a difference, she said.

Weinstein reaches tentative \$25M deal with accusers

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A tentative \$25 million settlement revealed Wednesday to end nearly every sexual misconduct lawsuit brought against Harvey Weinstein and his former film studio's board was praised by a plaintiff and some lawyers but criticized by others who say those who opt out are punished.

Louissette Geiss, a plaintiff in a Manhattan federal court class-action lawsuit, said the settlement was "our way to hold all women up. We are trying to create a new reality where this type of behavior is not accepted."

In a statement, she said the lawsuit was intended as "a wake-up call for all companies that they will be held accountable if they protect predators in their midst."

"Now that The Weinstein Company is in bankruptcy and Harvey is about to stand to trial, this settlement will ensure that all survivors have the chance for recovery and can move forward without Harvey's damaging lock on their careers," Geiss said.

The New York Times first reported the deal, which was confirmed to The Associated Press by several

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lawyers for plaintiffs.

Attorney Thomas Giuffra said the agreement was the same deal announced several months ago but with more punitive provisions aimed at forcing holdouts to accept it.

"The most troubling aspect of this settlement is a punitive provision designed to force victims to settle," Giuffra said in a statement that included the names of several other lawyers from his firm. "Shockingly, any funds that would have been allocated to claims from the settlement fund for non-settling claimants would be turned over to Harvey and Robert Weinstein to defend against their claims in court."

"We understand that many victims have been so emotionally devastated and drained by this process that they cannot go on," he added. "But this proposed settlement does not allow for a truly voluntary choice."

Attorneys Douglas H. Wigdor and Kevin Mintzer said in a statement that they reject the notion that it was the best possible settlement, especially because it penalizes those who continue their lawsuits.

They also called it "shameful that \$12 million of the settlement is going to the lawyers for the directors who we alleged enabled Harvey Weinstein."

Other lawyers praised the deal, including Steve Berman in Seattle and Elizabeth Fegan in Chicago.

"Given the hard legal issues involved this allows for some decent justice for the victims and therefore we are pleased with the settlement," Berman said.

Fegan said the settlement helps ensure women will be compensated, particularly since Weinstein is in bankruptcy proceedings and some court rulings have resulted in the dismissal of many claims.

"Our clients have shouldered a heavy burden, fighting a battle on behalf of all survivors to create a victims' fund that will be available for every woman who was abused by Weinstein to make a confidential claim," she said.

"Harvey Weinstein stripped the survivors of everything — dignity, dreams, careers, and money," Fegan added. "There is no amount of money that could restore what he took from the survivors. But a settlement will finally give the survivors a safe and confidential place in which to share their stories and receive the justice that the courts have withheld."

The \$25 million is part of a larger pool of \$46.7 million, with the remainder going to the Weinstein companies, general unsecured creditors and lawyers for defendants, Fegan said.

Fegan said at least 29 actresses and former Weinstein employees who had sued the movie mogul for accusations ranging from sexual misconduct to rape had agreed to the deal. She said that number included the New York attorney general's office, which also had sued.

Lawyers for Weinstein did not return messages seeking comment. Gerald Maatman, attorney for The Weinstein Co., declined comment.

Weinstein would avoid paying any of his own money and he would not be required to admit wrongdoing as part of the deal. Insurance companies representing the Weinstein Company would cover the settlement's cost, the Times reported.

The proposed settlement would require court approval before payouts could occur.

The settlement's terms remain uncertain. Eighteen of the alleged victims would split \$6.2 million, with no individual receiving more than \$500,000. A separate \$18.5 million would go toward those involved in a class-action case, the New York attorney general's suit and any future claimants, the Times reported.

Rebecca Goldman, chief operating officer of the Time's Up gender equality initiative, called the deal "more than a math problem — it's a symptom of a problematic broken system that privileges powerful abusers at the expense of survivors."

Weinstein faces a Jan. 6 trial on rape and sexual assault charges. His bail was increased from \$1 million to \$5 million on Wednesday for allegedly mishandling his electronic ankle monitor.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges he raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

More Americans are dying at home rather than in hospitals

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer**

For the first time since the early 1900s, more Americans are dying at home rather than in hospitals, a trend that reflects more hospice care and progress toward the kind of end that most people say they want.

Deaths in nursing homes also have declined, according to Wednesday's report in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"It's a good thing. Death has become overly medicalized over the last century" and this shows a turn away from that, said the lead author, Dr. Haider Warraich of the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System.

Betsy McNair, a tour guide who now lives in Mexico, is proud of the ending she helped give her father. Robert McNair was 83 when he died at home in Belle Haven, Virginia, in 2009, six weeks after learning he had lung cancer.

"I made him exactly what he wanted to eat, whenever he wanted it. He had a scotch every night, he had a very high quality of life. If he woke up at 2 o'clock in the morning and wanted to have coffee and pie, that's what we did," she said.

Warraich and Duke University graduate student Sarah Cross used government health statistics on deaths from natural causes, rather than accidents or homicides, from 2003 through 2017. The portion that occurred in hospitals fell from 40% to 30% over that period and in nursing homes from 24% to 21%.

Deaths in homes rose, from 24% to 31%. Some assisted living centers may have been counted as homes; researchers had no way to tell.

People who were younger, female or a racial or ethnic minority were less likely to die at home than those who were older, male or white. Cancer patients were more likely to die at home; people with dementia, in a nursing home, and people with lung diseases, in a hospital.

The type of illness matters, McNair said. Besides her father, she helped care for a brother who died of Lou Gehrig's disease in his 50s, and her mother, who died at age 92 in a nursing home after a long decline in health.

"They were all completely different experiences," and sometimes it's not possible to adequately care for a family member at home, McNair said.

Allison Beach and her husband struggled to figure out how to get help for her mother, Kathryn Beach, who lived with them for three years before dying at their home in Hinesburg, Vermont, in 2016. She had lost her vision, had suffered a fall and then succumbed to heart failure at age 91.

"We had to really reshuffle our lives. I was determined not to put her into a facility," Beach said. "We were alone with her at the time of death and I wish we had had more support."

The experience led Beach, who was a nurse, to seek special training in end-of-life care, hoping to help others in such circumstances.

The rise of home hospice services has helped more people spend their last days at home, Warraich said.

"I have met many patients who just want to spend one day at home, around their dog, in their bed, able to eat home food," he said.

People are not only living longer, but they're often spending more years at the end of life with chronic illnesses.

"Ideally we'd like to see people live longer and with fewer disabilities," he said. "We have work to do there."

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Impeachment trial: Trump wants drama, but GOP wants it over

By ZEKE MILLER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

Washington (AP) — Donald Trump wants more than acquittal. He wants vindication.

With impeachment by the House appearing certain, the president has made clear that he views the next step, a trial in the GOP-controlled Senate, as his focus. The president sees the senators not just as a jury deciding his fate, but as partners in a campaign to discredit and punish his Democratic opponents. His Senate allies aren't so sure that's a good idea.

In recent weeks, Trump has devised a wish list of witnesses for the Senate trial, relishing the opportunity for his lawyers to finally cross-examine his accusers and argue the case that his actions toward Ukraine, including the July 25 call when he asked for a favor, were "perfect."

Trump and his allies have been building up the likely Senate trial, an effort to delegitimize the Democratic-controlled House's impeachment process by contrast. In the Senate, the Trump team has argued, the president would get the opportunity to challenge witnesses and call some of his own, such as House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, the still-anonymous intelligence community whistleblower, or even Joe Biden and Hunter Biden.

He sees that as a chance to embarrass Democrats, including the former vice president and 2020 Democratic rival, and use the friendlier ground to portray himself as the victim of a partisan crusade.

"It is pretty clear the president wants a trial," says Hogan Gidley, the principal deputy White House press secretary. "The president is eager to get his story out."

But it is increasingly clear that Senate Republicans, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have other ideas. McConnell, who is fiercely protective of his 53-47 Senate majority, has signaled that he wants none of the spectacle Trump desires. Instead he wants a swift trial, potentially with no new witnesses called.

"Here's what I would anticipate: The House managers would come over, make their arguments, the president's lawyers would then respond. And at that point the Senate has two choices," McConnell told reporters this week. "It could go down the path of calling witnesses and basically having another trial. Or it could decide -- and again 51 members could make that decision -- that they've heard enough."

In other words, the president, who is almost certain to be found not guilty by the Republican-controlled Senate, can win the hard way or the easy way.

Senate Trump allies and advisers inside the White House have in recent days urged the president to temper his expectations and choose the path of least resistance. But Trump, according to three people familiar with the conversations, has responded by repeating his desire for a politically charged trial that drags the Bidens and others into the impeachment spotlight. Still, some aides believe Trump will ultimately relent to McConnell's advice.

Trump's solicitation of Ukraine for investigations into the Bidens — while withholding military aid from the ally nation facing Russian aggression — forms the core of one article of impeachment against the president. His efforts to block the House investigation forms the second.

On Capitol Hill, the emerging GOP consensus is that doing Trump's defense his way would jeopardize a predictable outcome, test GOP's fragile loyalties to him and open a Pandora's Box of unanticipated consequences.

"People are beginning to realize that could be a pretty messy and unproductive process," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said Wednesday. "If you start opening up to witnesses, you start opening up to all witnesses. And so I think the president's got to really decide, to what extent does he want to start going down that road versus just making a strong case."

Democrats would be expected to retaliate by trying to call the president's senior-most advisers, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani.

Under Senate rules, McConnell's ability to control the proceedings are limited. The Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, presides over the trial and any senator may be able to put a motion on witnesses up for a vote. That means defections by just a few GOP senators could thwart McConnell's plans.

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With the Republicans slim majority, it's not at all clear they want to start down the path of a full-blown trial. Should they try to call the whistleblower or the Bidens to testify, they may not find enough votes of support from their ranks. At the same time, they would have to consider whether to accept or fend off witness requests from Democrats.

McConnell also worries that a prolonged impeachment trial would not benefit the handful of GOP senators setting out in the new year on potentially tough reelection bids. Swing state Sens. Susan Collins in Maine, Cory Gardner in Colorado, Joni Ernst in Iowa and Martha McSally in Arizona are among those whose actions will be closely watched. They would much rather be talking about the economy or the pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement than engaging in a prolonged, unpredictable impeachment trial.

But Republicans also acknowledge they are unlikely to find the 51 votes needed to dismiss the charges against the president outright. Some vulnerable lawmakers and Trump skeptics, such as Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah who has said he is troubled by Trump's actions, will insist on some semblance of trial.

Comparisons are being made to the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, in which the Senate had to deal at length with allegations of sexual misconduct, though his confirmation by the Republicans was becoming increasingly apparent.

"I think the American people are pretty tired of this," says Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. "I think if we can honor the White House's concern, OK. But let's do it in a reasonable time limit. We don't need six weeks like we did with Clinton."

Around the White House, a divide has emerged between aides and allies embracing the president's call to use the Senate trial to get back at Democrats and those, particularly in the White House counsel's office, advising him to heed the warnings of the GOP lawmakers.

On Wednesday, senators invited some of Trump's top House allies, including Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, to lunch to provide an overview of the case. And lawmakers huddled last week with top White House officials to caution against a path toward an explosive Senate trial.

McConnell says no decisions have yet been made, and the Senate's calendar for the new year has conspicuously left off the schedule for January. McConnell's task in the days ahead will be to survey his conference and work with the president to find common ground.

AP writer Alan Fram contributed.

Follow Miller and Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller> and <https://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

Israel to hold 3rd straight election, prolonging stalemate

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's deadlocked parliament on Wednesday failed to meet a midnight deadline to form a coalition government, triggering an unprecedented third election in a 12-month period while giving scandal-plagued Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a welcome break as he fights to save his political career.

The move prolongs a year-long political stalemate that has paralyzed the government and undermined public trust in the government. The country now enters what once again is sure to be a bitter three-month political campaign that is expected to deliver very similar results.

"Keep your children away from the television," said Yair Lapid, a leader of the opposition Blue and White party, saying the campaign will be a "festival of hate, violence and disgust."

"What used to be a celebration of democracy has become a moment of shame for this building," he added. "There are only three reasons for this election — bribery, fraud and breach of trust," he said, referring to the criminal charges filed against Netanyahu last month.

Following the Sept. 17 vote, Netanyahu's Likud party and the rival Blue and White, led by former military commander Benny Gantz, both failed to cobble together a governing coalition. Then, during a final three-week window that ended Wednesday, they were unable to agree on a power-sharing agreement or find an alternative leader.

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Both men had insisted they want to avoid another costly election campaign. And together, their parties control a solid majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

But neither was willing to compromise on their core demands for a unity government. Netanyahu insisted on serving as prime minister, where he is best positioned to fight his corruption charges. Gantz has refused to serve under a prime minister with such serious legal problems and called on Likud to choose a different leader.

Hours before the deadline, parliament took an initial step to dissolve itself on its own. But as speeches and committee work stretched into the night, the lawmakers managed to pass only one of three required readings of the bill on time by a 91-0 margin. Even after the deadline automatically dissolved parliament, lawmakers worked throughout the night to finalize the March 2 election date.

Given the divisions in Israeli society, and the deep mistrust between the opposing camps, there appears to be little hope that another vote will break the loop of elections and instability that has rocked the country for the past year. The recent campaigns have been characterized by mudslinging and accusations that Netanyahu has incited against the country's Arab minority.

Netanyahu did not participate in the late-night parliamentary debate. But in a video on social media, he accused Gantz of courting Arab "terror supporters" and forcing new elections. "In order to prevent this happening again, there is only one thing we must do: win and win big," he said.

The upcoming campaign is expected to cost the economy hundreds of millions of dollars and continue the paralysis until the middle of next year. With limited authority, a string of caretaker governments over the past year have frozen major legislation, key appointments, long-term planning and budgets for the military and important government ministries.

But for Netanyahu, the country's longest-ever serving leader, a new campaign offers a much-needed lifeline.

Netanyahu is desperately clinging to power to wage his legal battle from the favorable perch of prime minister. Israeli law does not require a sitting prime minister to resign if charged with a crime.

Netanyahu can now use his office in the coming months as a bully pulpit to continue his attacks on prosecutors and police investigators, whom he has accused of staging an "attempted coup" against him.

Without a functioning parliament in place, Netanyahu can also put on hold his expected request for immunity from prosecution.

The outgoing parliament did not have a majority in favor of granting him immunity. Netanyahu can now hope that the next election delivers him a more favorable result. Netanyahu's trial is on hold until the immunity issue is resolved, a process that is expected to take months.

After the March election, he also could use coalition negotiations as leverage to push potential partners to support his immunity request.

Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, said that being in the prime minister's post during these negotiations is a huge advantage. "Because then one can trade politically important Cabinet portfolios and so on in return for support for the immunity," he said.

Netanyahu's first immediate challenge will be to fend off an insurrection inside Likud. The party announced Wednesday that it will hold a leadership primary on Dec. 26.

One renegade lawmaker, Gideon Saar, has already said he will challenge Netanyahu, though the prime minister remains popular in the party and appears to have a solid edge.

Netanyahu could also face new legal questions. Although he is currently not required to step down, Israeli law is unclear about whether he could be given the authority to form a new government after the next election. Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, who was criticized for his slow decision making before he indicted Netanyahu, will now have to rule on that question as well.

Even if Netanyahu overcomes these challenges, polls indicate that he will not be able to muster a majority in favor of granting him immunity or forming a coalition government.

Maverick politician Avigdor Lieberman, a former Netanyahu ally, has turned into the prime minister's greatest nemesis.

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Lieberman served in a string of Netanyahu governments, but then abruptly resigned as defense minister last December to protest what he thought were weak policies toward Gaza militants.

That resignation pushed the country into its current predicament, setting the stage for inconclusive elections in April and then in September.

Refusing to endorse either Netanyahu or Gantz, Lieberman has repeatedly called on them to form a broad secular unity government. But with all three leaders refusing to bend, a new election may not be able to break the deadlock.

Lieberman said the two big parties were responsible for what he called "unnecessary" elections. "Neither Likud nor Blue and White wanted a unity government," he said.

Ryan Reynolds says he related to Peloton actress' plight

By JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Reynolds says he relates to the social media criticism heaped on the Peloton ad actress. In fact, that feeling led him to hire her for a commercial promoting his gin company.

Reynolds spoke Tuesday about the uproar while promoting his new action flick, the Michael Bay-directed "6 Underground."

In the Peloton commercial, Monica Ruiz portrays a wife who receives an exercise bike as a Christmas present, and chronicles her yearlong journey to get in shape. The commercial ends with the wife thanking her husband for the gift. After the spot aired, the character was mocked for several reasons: Some noted she was already thin, others mocked her for having a "nervous" expression, and others were angry her husband gave her an exercise gift, as if she needed to lose weight.

Reynolds thought the viral negativity was unfair, and said it's "a situation that I've been in many times before" as an actor.

"You put it out there, and it doesn't quite work, and you feel a little alienated and stuff. So, I had tremendous empathy for her in that moment," Reynolds said at the premiere of his new action flick, "6 Underground."

"Doing the Aviation Gin ad sort of gave her some authorship over some of this conversation, which I loved," he said. "And she's, she's the best. She's really funny, really smart."

In "6 Underground," "which premieres Friday on Netflix, Reynolds stars as the leader of a group of six warriors, each with their own special set of skills. After faking their own deaths, they take on a number for their names, ranging from One to Six, and go underground to take down a dictator. Reynolds plays One.

The movie also stars French actress Melanie Laurent, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Ben Hardy, Adria Arjona, Dave Franco and Israeli actor Lior Raz.

It was directed by Michael Bay, who is known for the big-screen action movies like "Armageddon," "The Rock," and "The Transformers" series. But he says it worked for him to pair with Netflix.

"Here's the thing I love big cinema. But Netflix is a new voice. It is a big, it's a big name out here right now. And it's doing a lot of interesting content. And it gives it — it's all over the world, you know, access to almost 250 million people," Bay said.

He also says the studios wouldn't back the \$150 million dollar action thriller because of its R-rating.

"Our price-point was a little high for an R-rated movie. And studios were just like, 'We love it. But it's a little too expensive,' because they have a certain price-point and an R-rated movie. And Netflix says, 'we'll do it.' They didn't shy away from it," Bay said.

Saudi stock offering creates world's most valuable company

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabian oil company Aramco surpassed Apple as the world's most valuable public company Wednesday when its shares made their debut on the Saudi stock exchange, part of an ambitious shift away from the very fossil fuels the country's economy depends on.

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The shares' 10% rally brought state-owned Aramco's value to \$1.88 trillion. The 1.5% of the company that is listed has raised \$25.6 billion, a record for an initial public offering. As of Tuesday's close in the U.S., Apple was valued at \$1.19 trillion.

Despite the success of the sale, the kingdom's decision not to list the company on a larger foreign exchange points to concerns that a global flotation would raise. Listing shares outside Saudi Arabia would open up the company to greater disclosure rules and expose it to foreign laws at a time when the country is under scrutiny for its role in regional conflicts as well as for the killing of a dissident journalist.

"A local Saudi offering is, by all accounts, a friendly audience of Saudi investors," said Gianna Bern, the author of "Investing in Energy" and lecturer at the University of Notre Dame. She said the real test for Aramco will be a global offering, in another jurisdiction, such as London or Asia. Aramco, however, has said it will not sell more shares for at least another year.

Wednesday's shares were sold mainly to investors in the region: a 0.5% stake to individual retail investors in Gulf Arab states and 1% to institutional investors.

Non-Saudi investors contributed just 23% of the institutional investment generated in the IPO, according to lead adviser Samba Capital. Saudi companies and government institutions raised 51% of the overall demand, Samba Capital said.

Some analysts said that the surge on the first day of trading suggests heavy buying from investors close to the crown prince to make the operation a hit.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman plans to use the money raised from the sale of a sliver of the kingdom's crown jewel to diversify the country's economy and fund major national projects that create jobs for millions of young Saudis entering the workforce.

The sale raises capital for the Public Investment Fund overseen by Prince Mohammed, but it is only part of a much larger transformation program to move the economy away from reliance on oil exports for revenue.

The share sale also has been an exercise in national prestige, with the 34-year-old crown prince looking for the flotation to value Aramco at \$2 trillion.

Zachary Cefaratti, chief executive officer of Dalma Capital, which manages Saudi equity funds that invested in Aramco, said the company could on day two of trading become the first in the world valued at over \$2 trillion if the stock gains another 10%.

The shares rose sharply in the first moment of trading Wednesday to hit the 10% limit on stock price fluctuation allowed by Saudi regulators. That pushed the price to 35.2 riyals, or \$9.39 a share, where it held until closing at 3 p.m.

The \$2 trillion value was considered too high for many international investors, particularly as global oil prices are under pressure from rising production in other countries, especially the United States, and amid a global push toward renewable energy.

Foreign investors have also been spooked by the geopolitical risks associated with Aramco. A stunning missile attack in September struck Aramco's main crude oil processing facility. The Saudis and the U.S. blamed regional rival Iran, which denies involvement.

"A lot of international investors have felt that there should be a discount to Aramco shares due to perceived geopolitical risk. We actually believe geopolitical risk in Aramco is overstated and that the recent Sept. 14 attacks actually demonstrated Aramco's resilience," Cefaratti said.

The kingdom's reputation has, meanwhile, been stained by the killing of Saudi critic and writer Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Turkey last year. Controversy over that killing and Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen have hampered efforts to attract more Western investment to Saudi Arabia.

Still, Aramco remains an attractive investment locally. It was the most profitable company in the world last year, earning \$111 billion in net income.

Aramco, which has exclusive rights to produce and sell the kingdom's energy reserves, was founded in 1933 with America's Standard Oil Co. before becoming fully owned by Saudi Arabia four decades ago.

To encourage Saudi citizens to buy and keep hold of Aramco stock, the company says it will pay a dividend to shareholders of at least \$75 billion. Saudi citizens who hold their shares for six months from the

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first day of trading can also receive up to 100 bonus shares, or one for every 10 held. The government also made it easier to access credit for Saudis to buy stock.

The result was that just over 5 million individuals, nearly all of them Saudi nationals out of a population of around 20 million citizens, generated subscriptions of \$13 billion.

With oil prices hovering around \$63 a barrel, the kingdom needs a break-even oil price of \$87 a barrel to balance its budget and climb out of deficit, according to Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

One of the biggest expenditures is government salaries for the millions of Saudis who work in the public sector. Aramco's flotation helps generate billions of dollars to invest in projects that benefit private businesses and keep unemployment from rising beyond current levels of roughly 12%.

In the lead-up to the flotation, there had been a strong push for Saudis, including princes and businessmen, to contribute to what's seen locally as a moment of national pride, and even duty.

A brief ceremony as trading started on Wednesday saw a countdown in Arabic, the sounding of a bell, a light show with music and applause all around. At the celebration at the Fairmont hotel in Riyadh, Aramco Chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan, described the sale as "a proud and historic moment for Saudi Aramco and our majority shareholder, the kingdom."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2019. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 12, 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1870, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first black lawmaker sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1915, singer-actor Frank Sinatra was born Francis Albert Sinatra in Hoboken, New Jersey.

In 1917, during World War I, a train carrying some 1,000 French troops from the Italian front derailed while descending a steep hill in Modane (moh-DAN'); at least half of the soldiers were killed in France's greatest rail disaster. Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1963, Kenya became independent of Britain.

In 1977, the dance movie "Saturday Night Fever," starring John Travolta, premiered in New York.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 1989, in New York, hotel queen Leona Helmsley, 69, was sentenced to four years in prison and fined \$7.1 million for tax evasion. (Helmsley served 18 months behind bars, plus a month at a halfway house and two months of house arrest.)

In 1995, by three votes, the Senate killed a constitutional amendment giving Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration against Old Glory.

In 1997, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the international terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," went on trial in Paris on charges of killing two French investigators and a Lebanese national. (Ramirez was convicted and is serving a life prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: Houston elected its first openly gay mayor, with voters handing a solid victory to City

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Controller Annise Parker after a hotly contested runoff with former city attorney Gene Locke. Rescue crews found the body of a climber on Oregon's Mount Hood while two others remained missing. (The bodies of the other two climbers were found in Aug. 2010.) Sophomore tailback Mark Ingram became the first player at the University of Alabama to win the Heisman Trophy.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged the Senate to ratify a \$1.1 trillion spending bill opposed by some Democrats, judging it an imperfect measure that stemmed from "the divided government that the American people voted for." (The Senate passed the measure the next day.) Illustrator Norman Bridwell, 86, creator of Clifford the Red Dog, died in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

One year ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's one-time fixer, was sentenced to three years in prison for crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal Trump's alleged sexual affairs. British Prime Minister Theresa May survived a political crisis over her Brexit deal, winning a no-confidence vote by Conservative lawmakers that could have brought an end to her leadership. (May announced her resignation as Conservative leader in June of 2019, after her Brexit deal was rejected by Parliament three times.)

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 96. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 87. Singer Connie Francis is 82. Singer Dionne Warwick is 79. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 76. Hall of Fame race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 73. Actor Wings Hauser is 72. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 70. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 69. Country singer LaCosta is 69. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 67. Author Lorna Landvik is 65. Singer-musician Sheila E. is 62. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 61. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 58. International Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin is 57. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 56. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 52. Author Sophie Kinsella is 50. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 50. Actress Jennifer Connelly is 49. Actress Madchen Amick is 49. Actress Regina Hall is 49. Country singer Hank Williams III is 47. Actress Mayim Bialik is 44. Model Bridget Hall is 42. Actor Lucas Hedges is 23. Actress Sky Katz is 15.

Thought for Today: "If you possess something but you can't give it away, then you don't possess it... it possesses you." — Frank Sinatra (1915-1998).

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