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STATE: Washington gun measure passes > 18



LATIN AMERICA: Blistered feet is big challenge for migrants > 17



SPORTS: Seahawks take step back from winning formula > 13

– NATIONAL —

Troop deployment creates tense atmosphere on US border

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)

s the first active-duty military troops sent to the U.S. border with Mexico installed coils of razor wire on a bridge and a riverbank Friday, a sense of unease spread across Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

President Donald Trump's portrayal of a border under siege by drug smugglers and other criminals is at odds with what residents in towns along the 1,954-mile (3,126-kilometer) divide with Mexico see in their daily routines, with U.S. border towns consistently ranking among the safest in the country.

Some Valley residents question the need for a large military presence and fear it will tarnish the area's image. And some are afraid of violence if and when the caravan of Central American migrants that the troops have been sent to confront reaches the U.S. border.

While the southern tip of Texas is the



Military personnel put up razor wire along the United States-Mexico border at the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge in McAllen, Texas, on Friday, November 2, 2018.

busiest corridor for illegal crossings, border agents make many arrests far from public view, on uninhabited banks of the Rio Grande and on nearby dirt paths and roads lined by thick brush.

"I feel safer here than when I go up to bigger cities," lifelong Rio Grande Valley resident Emmanuel Torres said Friday while working at a coffee shop in Brownsville, the region's largest city, with about 200,000 people.

Torres, 19, said the area feels "a lot like family," and he worries the military presence will fuel outsiders' perceptions of a dysfunctional border.

"People that don't live

"People that don't live here are just going to create a bigger negative image," Torres said

When Trump pledged this week to send up to 15,000 troops to the border in response to the slow-moving caravan of migrants, he unnerved the economically struggling

region of 1 million people that stretches over flat, sun-drenched citrus groves and farms of cotton, sugar cane and vegetables.

The Pentagon said more than 3,500 troops have been deployed to staging bases along the border, including about 1,000 Marines in California. Still, there were only about 100 troops at the border on Friday, working at and near a bridge leading to McAllen, Texas, the Rio Grande Valley's second-biggest city, with about 140,000 people.

More than a dozen military members in fatigues were at the northern bank of the river, below the bridge, laying concertina wire. Other soldiers erected wire barriers on the bridge's pedestrian paths.

The largest caravan traveling through Mexico is still weeks away from the U.S. border, and migrants have given no indication where they might cross. The Rio Grande Valley is the shortest route from Central America but also one of the most dangerous.

The troops are being sent in what has been described as a support role, helping border agents. But Trump said he told the military that if troops face rock-throwing migrants, they should react as though the rocks were rifles.

Conchita Padilla, a volunteer at the Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, said she believes the U.S. has the right to defend its borders. But she also said she is frightened by the troops because she doesn't know what they will do or how they will react to the caravan.

"My worry is that if they fight each other, there might be innocent people in the way that are suffering consequences," said Padilla, 66. "We are just praying that they go in peace."

Table of Contents

- 19 NATIONAL: Troop
 deployment creates tense
 atmoshphere on US border
- 18 **STATE:** Washington gun measure wins, initiative for carbon tax trailing
- 17 LATIN AMERICA: Swollen and blistered feet are big challenge for migrants
- 15 **EDUCATION:** College transition program receives additional funds
- 14 **POLITICS:** NAFTA 2.0 could draw some jobs back to US, but at what cost?
- 13 **SPORTS:** Seahawks sit at 4-4 after step back from winning formula
- 13 NATIONAL: Jury selection begins for El Chapo's US trial



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STATE —

Washington gun measure wins, initiative for carbon tax trailing

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

ashington state voters have passed measures tightening gun regulations and making it easier to prosecute police for negligent shootings.

But an initiative that would charge the nation's first tax on carbon emissions to tackle climate change trailed in early returns Tuesday in the state's costliest initiative campaign.

The fight over whether to make polluters pay for their carbon emissions was closely watched nationwide. Experts said Initiative 1631 would show that states can take climate action even if the Trump administration doesn't, and create momentum for other states.

"We know we're in a hole," said Nick Abraham, a spokesman for the carbon-fee supporters said late Tuesday. The initiative was losing 44 percent to 56 percent. "Regardless whether we win or lose, this problem isn't going anywhere."

The opposition campaign sponsored by the Western States Petroleum Asso-

ciation, an oil industry group, outspent carbon-fee supporters by roughly 2-to-1. The No on 1631 campaign spent about \$30 million, or twice the \$15 million supporters spent.

In other ballot measures, a measure tightening state gun laws including enhanced background checks for people buying semi-automatic rifles won. Initiative 1639 had 60 percent of the vote.

"Washington state made history by passing the most comprehensive gun violence prevention measure in state history,"

Stephen Paolini, campaign manager for Yes On 1639, said in a statement.

The measure would also increase the minimum age to buy semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21, add a waiting period to get those weapons and add firearm storage provisions.



Sherita Cooks drops her ballot in the King County Elections ballot drop box on Election Day, on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, in Burien, Washington.

Opponents said the measure strips the constitutional rights of 18- to 20-year-olds and that forcing gun owners to lock away their firearms could put them in danger.

Supporters said the goal is to curb gun violence and make schools and communities safer by putting safeguards in place. They say making the checks as thorough as the one used for buying a pistol will help ensure that weapons are kept out of dangerous hands.

Voters also approved a measure designed to make it easier to prosecute police for negligent shootings. Initiative 940 is designed to improve police training in de-escalation tactics and eliminate a requirement that prosecutors prove officers acted with malice to get a conviction in negligent shootings.

A measure backed by the beverage industry that would block local governments from taxing soda and

other groceries had a solid lead in early returns. Initiative 1634 would prohibit local governments from imposing new taxes on soda or grocery items and was part of an effort by the industry to stop the expansion of taxes on soda and other sweetened beverages.



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LATIN AMERICA -

Swollen and blistered feet are big challenge for migrants

CORDOBA, Mexico (AP)

are among the biggest challenges for the thousands of Central American migrants making their way through southern Mexico in hopes of starting new lives in the United States.

Three weeks of pounding the hot asphalt of highways every day takes a toll, especially for those plodding along in flimsy flip flops. Whenever possible, the migrants discard damaged footwear, replacing them with donated shoes found at stops along the way or with spare pairs they carry in backpacks.

The most grueling days demand treks of more than 100 miles (160 kilometers). Migrants eager to find strength in numbers must keep that pace to remain with the group. And they do so in cheap shoes and sweat-drenched socks, which they eagerly peel off at the end of each day.

Blisters are a nasty foe for migrant feet, young and old alike. Red Cross personnel at waystations bandage swollen feet or

apply antiseptic to broken blisters. Children wince as their wounds are treated. Flies gather on open sores. The risk of infection is high.

"These are extreme conditions," says Ignacio Escotto, a Mexican vascular surgeon who specializes in treating extremities. Unrelenting contact with hot pavement will cause the feet to swell, he says, while dehydration and malnutrition wreak havoc on soft tissue. "At the end of the day, this articulation must be painful."

Yet the migrants hobble through the pain, determined to reach the U.S. They grin and bear it as they limp along. Those who can no longer take it bow out of the caravan. The Mexican government says around 3,000 migrants have applied for refuge in Mexico in recent weeks and about 500 have asked for assistance to



In this October 26, 2018 file photo, Mexican Red Cross volunteers treat the blistered and cut feet of Central American migrants whose caravan stopped for the night in Arriaga, Mexico.

return to their countries of origin.

On Sunday, 21-year-old Marisol Salamanca dug into a pile of donated shoes at a sports facility in Cordoba in search of a replacement for the sandals she has padded around in since leaving El Salvador several weeks earlier. "I keep tripping and hurting myself," she said.

Darwin Hueso, a 39-year-old-farmer

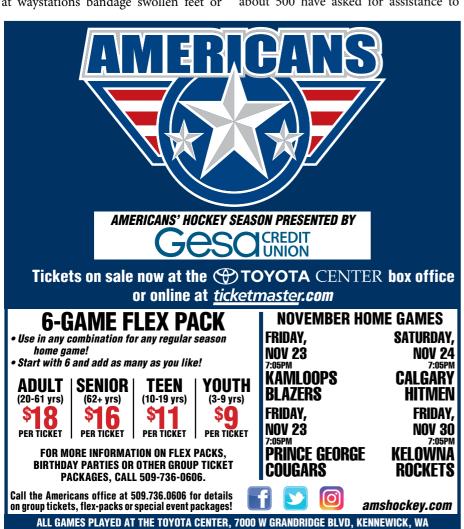
from Honduras, was also thrilled to find fresh shoes, even though they were a bit tight and formal. The soles of the work boots he has been wearing for more than 21 days are inflexible and tough.

Adan Lara Barahona, 62, a wiry rancher from Potrerillos, Honduras, dismissed the blisters on his feet as a minor nuisance. "They are drying out already," he said, complaining instead of dizziness brought on by a severe respiratory infection.

There's no turning back for Lara Barahona, who says gangs killed his wife and two of his children seven months ago when he didn't pay them protection

monev

Many of the about 4,000 migrants in the caravan have now covered more than 800 miles since setting out from Honduras on Oct. 13, hitching rides on flatbed trucks when possible and they face another more than 800-mile trek to the nearest U.S. border crossing.







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EDUCATION —

College transition program receives additional funds

By Todd Mordhorst, Office of Provost

he Cougs Rise college transition program received an additional \$120,000 to support early faculty interaction with incoming first-year students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

Cougs Rise, a student success initiative of the Office of the Provost, provides low-income and first-generation students college preparation programming and mentorship designed to boost their chances of earning a college degree.

In addition, first-year students who are enrolled at WSU for fall semester, take part in a summer bridge program, which helps them build a network of resources, develop a sense of belonging, engage in academic coursework, and take part in other high-impact practices that support long-term success. The new funding will enhance that effort, with a specific focus on students entering STEM fields.

The program is taking shape for



Cougs Rise students participate in a community gardening project.

summer 2019 and project director Ray AcuñaLuna is seeking faculty who are interested in either developing STEM short-courses so students may explore fields of interest, or hosting students in lab, office, or field placements. Cougs Rise has the opportunity to support both faculty and students with this funding.

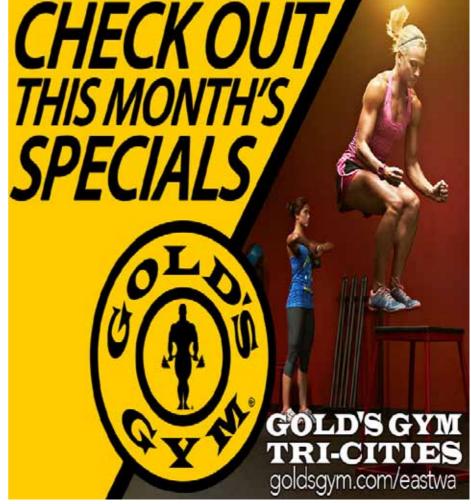
"Connecting students to research and faculty mentoring has been proven critical for academic engagement and attainment," AcuñaLuna says. "Early on access to mentoring and opportunities to engage in high-impact experiences outside the traditional classroom can ensure a well-connected student."

"This is part of our continuing effort to ensure students have the relationships of a supportive community and the belief in themselves to be academically engaged at WSU," says Michael Highfill, director of student success initiatives and principal investigator on the project.

Cougs Rise began in 2017 and currently connects students from five Washington high schools with resources and tools designed to ease the transition to college. The program serves students from Bremerton, Hudson's Bay, Rogers, University, and Wenatchee high schools.

Cougs Rise is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education at \$945,465 annually.





POLITICS —

NAFTA 2.0 could draw some jobs back to US, but at what cost?

WASHINGTON (AP)

resident Donald Trump insists his new North American trade deal will deliver a victory for U.S. factory workers by returning many highpaying jobs to the United States.

Maybe. But a review of the agreement suggests that it could also mean higher prices for consumers and more inefficiencies for businesses. And the biggest winners might end up being robots and the companies that make them.

As Americans vote in the midterm elections, Trump is heralding the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement as a triumph for his antagonistic trade policy - an approach that he says will usher in "a new dawn for the American auto industry and the American auto worker."

The pact, unveiled Sept. 30, does appear to meet some of Trump's goals: It could shift more factory production to the United States, thereby reversing a long-standing flow of jobs to lower-wage Mexico. And it could result in better working conditions and perhaps higher pay for Mexico's longsuffering laborers.

But shifting away from a business model that relies on Mexican labor would likely mean higher-priced cars for American consumers. And North America's automakers could become less competitive compared with rivals in Europe and Asia.

"It's going to be harder to keep North America competitive as a manufacturing hub," said Michael McAdoo of the Boston Consulting Group.

What's more, much of the manufacturing work that does return to the United States would likely be done by robots in America's increasingly automated plants, not by human workers.

The deal — known by its acronym, USMCA — is meant to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump had long condemned the 24-year-old NAFTA as a killer of American jobs.

NAFTA had erased most trade barriers separating the United States, Canada and Mexico. Trade among the three surged. But many U.S. manufacturers moved factories and jobs to Mexico to capitalize on cheaper labor. Those manufacturers could then ship



In this Monday, October 1, 2018 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks as he announces a revamped North American free trade deal, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

cars and other goods back to the United States and Canada, duty-free.

Trump demanded a new deal more favorable to American workers. Negotiations began in August 2017 and eventually produced USMCA.

USMCA isn't a done deal. It has yet to be signed by the leaders or ratified by the legislatures of the three countries.

What's more, Canadian and Mexican lawmakers might think twice about ratifying the deal unless Trump frees them from the import taxes he's imposed on steel and aluminum in a separate dispute.

To qualify for duty-free benefits, USMCA requires carmakers to acquire 75 percent of auto content from within North America - up from 62.5 percent under NAFTA. That means more content would have to be homegrown in higher-wage North America, not imported more cheaply from elsewhere.

At least 40 percent of vehicles would also have to originate in places where workers earn at least \$16 an hour. That would likely benefit the United States or Canada — not Mexico, where auto assembly workers earn an average of just \$7.34 an hour and parts workers \$3.41 an hour.

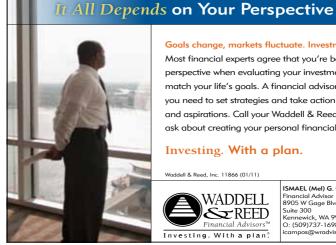
Gladys Cisneros of the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center, which advocates for unions, said she doubts the \$16-an-hour wage requirement would do much for Mexican workers.

"Not a single auto parts or auto assembly plant pays that much" in Mexico, Cisneros said. "You're not going to get them to \$16 anytime soon."



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SPORTS -

Seahawks sit at 4-4 after step back from winning formula

RENTON, Washington (AP)

he Seattle Seahawks figured out just how easy it is to get off track. After successfully resetting its roster and figuring out a style and method for winning in the first half of the season, Seattle took a major step backward in a loss to the Los Angeles Chargers. The Seahawks had built a winning formula on running the ball, avoiding mistakes on offense and stopping the run on defense. Now, Seattle has to prove it can beat a quality opponent when the script doesn't play out perfectly.

"We've found ourselves in most of the games we didn't win right there at the end, so close to getting it done," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "I'm hoping the second half of the season will allow us to finish those games and get the wins that we want and turn this season into a really positive year for us."

The 25-17 loss to the Chargers revealed how quickly the Seahawks can lose the style of play that led them to win four of the previous five games. They sit at 4-4, facing a challenging three-game stretch that starts this week with the Los Angeles Rams.

"I've never looked at this like it's a rebuilding year. (GM) John (Schneider) and I didn't look at this like that. We saw the opportunities to fill the spots and we thought we could keep moving and going," Carroll said. "There's always going to be some growing time and we saw that the first two weeks of the season. As far as expectations, our expectations are higher and that's why we're disappointed that we're not in better shape than we are right now."

Seattle still had a chance to force overtime against the Chargers until Russell Wilson's pass for David Moore at the back of the end zone was tipped slightly and fell incomplete on the final play.

The Seahawks issues started long before that pass hit the turf.

Seattle did not stop the run, giving up 7.3 yards per carry to the Chargers and letting Melvin Gordon run for 113 yards and a touchdown.

The end result was too much reliance



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver David Moore (83) us unable to make the final reception during an NFL game on Sunday, November 4, 2018, in Seattle, Washington. **Photo by Braulio Herrera**

on Wilson for a fourth-quarter rally. While Wilson nearly pulled it off, the Seahawks fell to 5-6 at home over the past

two seasons and have lost the last five games when Wilson has attempted 30 or more passes dating to last season.

— NATIONAL —

Jury selection begins for El Chapo's US trial

NEW YORK (AP)

ury selection began Monday for the U.S. trial of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman with potential jurors, including a self-described professional Michael Jackson impersonator, quizzed about how much they knew about Guzman's reputation as a ruthless drug lord in Mexico.

They were also questioned in Brooklyn's federal court about their views on the legalization of marijuana, their fluency in Spanish and their feelings toward both law enforcement and cooperating witnesses. Guzman sat at the defense table listening through an interpreter and wearing street clothes — a dark suit and a white shirt with an open collar — instead of a jail uniform for the first time since he was extradited to the United States early last year.

Guzman has pleaded not guilty to charges that his Sinaloa cartel smuggled tons of cocaine and other drugs, laundered billions of dollars and oversaw a ruthless campaign of murders and kidnappings. He faces life in prison if convicted. Opening statements in the trial are expected Nov. 13.

Potential jurors arrived at the courthouse Monday to find it under tight security that included heavily armed officers, some doing sweeps with bomb-sniffing dogs. Prosecutors have also sought to hide the identity of cooperating witnesses out of concerns the cartel could seek retribu-

tion, while a judge is keeping the jury anonymous to protect them from intimidation.

Most of the would-be jurors questioned at the outset said Guzman's name



In this January 19, 2017 file photo provided U.S. law enforcement, authorities escort Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, center, from a plane to a waiting caravan of SUVs at Long Island MacArthur Airport, in Ronkonkoma, New York.

"sounded familiar" to them. Some mentioned they were aware he had escaped from prison in Mexico. Others recalled how he did an interview with actor Sean Penn while he was on the run.

One potential juror was excused after

she indicated the case made her feel unsafe. Another was sent home after she said she couldn't be impartial, saying, "I feel very bad about drugs."

One man mentioned that a local delinear where he works has on a menu featuring a bagel sandwich with a name that was a reminder of Guzman.

"I don't know why it's called the 'El Chapo," he said. "But it's delicious."

And as for the Michael Jackson impersonator, prosecu-

tors expressed some concern his identity couldn't be kept secret because there are so few people in his profession.

Both he and the sandwich-lover were kept in the jury pool for the time being.

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