

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Derrick Davis**, director of parking and transportation at Georgia Southern University, said students had a way to turn their parking tickets into "a positive thing" when the school offered to waive the fines in exchange for donations of canned goods during a one-day event that collected about 1,000 pounds of food.

■ **Mark Johnson**, who spotted two deer locked in battle while he was hunting in central Michigan, said he thought the animals would die from exhaustion or starvation if they stayed stuck together, and his friend used a branch saw to cut part of an antler, allowing the bucks to pull away and run off.

■ **Oleg Sokolov**, a history professor at St. Petersburg State University in Russia, signed a statement of guilt in the death of a student after he was pulled from a frigid river carrying a backpack that contained severed arms and after police found the woman's body in his apartment, reports said.

■ **Jeffrey Yohai**, Paul Manafort's former son-in-law, was sentenced to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud for schemes in which victims lost more than \$13 million.

■ **Edward Mobley**, 36, and Jerome Benamon, 26, were sentenced to prison for the robbery of a postal carrier in Porterville, Miss., in which money was taken from the driver after a gun was pointed at his head, and the robbers fled in different directions.

■ **Chris Cox** and Emma Cox said they did not realize until the next morning that they'd been robbed of thousands of dollars in checks, cash and gift cards, along with their marriage license, while they partied during their wedding reception in Bradenton, Fla.

■ **Gretchen Rose**, a police officer in the San Francisco Bay Area, said police were searching for a suspect after arrows were shot at a homeless encampment in Richmond, Calif., striking two men in the abdomen and hitting another in the leg.

■ **Malcolm Hill**, 26, who faces a capital-murder charge, was found in Foley, Ala., five days after being released from a lockup in Columbus, Miss., because of a clerical error.

■ **Ben Ball**, 36, of Oshtemo Township, Mich., whose hobbies include ritualized combat with replica weapons from the Middle Ages, said he wielded a battle ax he calls "my baby" to fend off an intruder who had once dated Ball's ex-roommate when the attacker, whom Ball believed to be armed, kicked in the door of his apartment.

Morris out as coach at UA



Chad Morris leaves the field Saturday at Reynolds Razorback Stadium after his final game as Arkansas' head football coach. More photos are available at arkansasonline.com/1111uagallery.

TOM MURPHY
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
FAYETTEVILLE — The Chad Morris era at the University of Arkansas is over less than two years after it began.

Morris was fired as head football coach by UA Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek on Sunday morning. The move came less than 24 hours after Arkansas lost 45-19 to Western Kentucky in the season's on-campus finale in front of an announced crowd of 42,985, the worst attendance at Reynolds Razorback Stadium since its expansion to 72,000 seats before the 2001 season.

Arkansas fell to 2-8 on the season and 4-18 under Morris, the worst 22-game stretch in the program's history. Morris was 0-14 in SEC

FORMER QB Lunney named interim head coach. Page 1C.

HALL: MORRIS not right coach to fix what's wrong. Page 1C.

games as part of the Razorbacks' current 17-game losing streak in conference play.

A UA news release announced that former Arkansas quarterback Barry Lunney Jr. will serve as interim coach for the Razorbacks' final two games, a road date at No. 2 LSU on Nov. 23 and the finale against Missouri at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on Nov. 29. Lunney has served as the Razorbacks' tight ends coach for the past seven years.

Lunney and Yurachek will hold a news conference at noon today at the Broyles

Athletic Center.

Yurachek, contacted by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* as he left his office at the Broyles Center on Sunday morning, said he could not comment as he was running late for his flight to watch the Arkansas women's soccer team in the SEC championship game in Orange Beach, Ala.

He issued a statement as part of the UA release announcing the firing.

"As part of my continued evaluation, I have come to the conclusion that a change in leadership is necessary to move our football program forward and position it for success," Yurachek said in the statement. "It is clear that we have not made the progress necessary to compete See **MORRIS**, Page 3A

Bolivian's exit celebrated



AP/JUAN KARITA

Opponents of Bolivian President Evo Morales celebrate Sunday in La Paz after the announcement of the leader's resignation. Morales faced pressure from the military and the public after his reelection victory raised allegations of vote-rigging and led to weeks of deadly protests. More photos are available at arkansasonline.com/1111morales/. Article, 6A

Iran finds 53 billion-barrel oil field

Regime mocks U.S. sanctions; work starts on 2nd nuclear site

AMIR VAHDAT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN, Iran — Iran has discovered a new oil field in the country's south with more than 50 billion barrels of crude, Iran's president said Sunday, a find that stands to boost the country's proven reserves by a third as it struggles to sell energy abroad in

the face of U.S. sanctions.

The announcement by President Hassan Rouhani comes as Iran faces crushing American sanctions after the U.S. pulled out of its nuclear deal with world powers last year.

Iran also began pouring concrete for a second nuclear power plant Sunday, further

straying from the 2015 nuclear power deal.

Rouhani made the oil find announcement in a speech in the desert city of Yazd. He said the field was in Iran's southern Khuzestan province, home to its crucial oil industry.

Some 53 billion barrels See **IRAN**, Page 8A

Testimony list by GOP raises inquiry dispute

Democrats question relevance

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

With the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump poised to enter a public phase this week, lawmakers sparred Sunday over the witnesses who will be allowed to testify, with Democrats dismissing GOP efforts to call the anonymous whistleblower and the son of former Vice President Joe Biden.

Democrats and Republicans have crafted different strategies for controlling the narrative of what happened between Trump and Ukraine.

Democrats are trying to conduct a narrow investigation that focuses on Trump. Republicans are pushing to expand the scope of the inquiry, arguing that Trump's actions are far from impeachable and represent business as usual in Washington.

Trump, meanwhile, urged in a tweet that Republicans say his actions were "PERFECT," rather than saying only that they were "not impeachable."

Both parties' game plans were shown in sharp relief Sunday on the morning talk shows. See **INQUIRY**, Page 3A

Turkey's allies said to abuse civilians

Syria refugees report killings, threats

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

BEIRUT — In the month since Turkey intervened to drive U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters from a large area of northern Syria, proxy forces backed by Ankara have been blamed for a growing number of abuses against the population, undermining Turkey's stated goal of creating a "safe zone" for civilians.

More than 200,000 people have been internally dis-

placed by the Turkish-led offensive, according to the United Nations. Families that have been scattered across eastern Syria say that Turkey's Syrian Arab proxies have carried out summary executions and beatings, kidnapped or detained their relatives and looted their houses. See **TURKEY**, Page 5A

Bipartisan effort expands display of POW/MIA flag

FRANK E. LOCKWOOD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
WASHINGTON — Thousands of federal buildings were once required to display flags honoring prisoners of war and those missing in action — but only on Veterans Day and a handful of other occasions.

Soon, the black-and-white banners will be appearing year-round at the Capitol, the White House, the Pentagon and at post offices from coast to coast.

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., sponsored the POW/MIA flag Act, which was signed into law Thursday by President Donald Trump.

U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., was the lead Republican sponsor of the bill, which

amended existing law.

"The POW/MIA flag will now fly at all major federal institutions as a visual and symbolic reminder that we will never forget those who served our nation and have not yet come home," the lawmaker from Dardanelle said in an interview. "I was very pleased to sponsor this legislation in the Senate, and I'm glad that the president has signed the bill into law."

More than 82,000 Americans are still missing in action, Cotton said.

All major military installations, Veterans Affairs medical centers and national cemeteries must now display the banner on "all days on which the flag of the United States is flown." See **FLAG**, Page 3A

Back to the polls in Spain



AP/EMILIO MORENATTI

Voters in Barcelona, Spain, wait to cast their ballots Sunday as the country holds its second general election this year. Preliminary results showed an election victory for Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez, the caretaker prime minister, though the far-right Vox party made big gains. More photos are available at arkansasonline.com/1111spain/. Article, 2A

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Rain likely.
High 54.
Tonight Sleet possible.
Low 25.

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Morris

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and win, especially within the Southeastern Conference.

“Throughout our history in football, as well as with our other sport programs, we have demonstrated that the University of Arkansas is capable of being nationally competitive. I have no doubt that as we move forward, we will identify a head coach that will help lead our program to that benchmark.

“I want to express my personal and professional regard to Coach Morris and thank him for his investment in the lives of our student-athletes.”

Yurachek announced he would start a nationwide search to find Morris' replacement.

The Razorbacks will conduct their fourth coaching search since Bobby Petrino was fired for cause after a motorcycle wreck in the spring of 2012. He had a 34-17 record in four seasons.

Morris, 50, served the shortest tenure of a noninterim Arkansas head coach since Bowden Wyatt went 11-10 in the 1953-54 seasons, including the 25 Little Pigs Southwest Conference championship team of 1954, before leaving to coach at his alma mater, Tennessee.

Morris agreed to a six-year deal on Dec. 5, 2017, with an annual salary of \$3.5 million. Based on the terms of his contract, Morris would be owed a little more than \$10.1 million for the remaining four-plus years of his agreement.

Morris maintained after Saturday's loss that he was the right man to conduct the Razorbacks' rebuilding effort.

“It's going to take some time,” Morris said. “This is not an overnight fix. We've seen

that now for two years. We're all frustrated. We're all incredibly frustrated.

“We have a big youth movement on this team and a lot of young guys that are contributing and who will be tremendous football players. Where we are right now with these guys, we have some major deficiencies that we have to fix, we have to fill.”

The Razorbacks' flagging attendance was accompanied by a 16% drop in season-ticket sales this year, to an average of 43,397.

Based on announced numbers of tickets distributed for Arkansas' six home games, more than 135,000 tickets went unsold at Reynolds Razorback Stadium.

John Goodson, chairman of the UA board of trustees, offered his support to the administration.

“The board of trustees has tremendous confidence in our [UA System] President Don Bobbitt, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz and Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek,” said Goodson, an attorney from Texarkana. “We have no reason not to support their decisions.”

Asked about the board's role in a coaching search, Goodson referred again to the UA System and campus leaders.

“We support those decisions that are made by our president and our chancellor and athletic director. And that's the system that we have in place, and we'll follow that system,” Goodson said.

Arkansas' offensive performances under Morris — a prep coaching legend in Texas, where he will be inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame next year — did not reflect the style he boldly predicted when he was hired.

“You won't find a more explosive offense in all of college football,” Morris said at his in-

troductory news conference on Dec. 7, 2017.

The Razorbacks ranked 13th in the 14-team SEC in total offense last season, and they are 11th this season.

Morris arrived in Fayetteville with gusto after starting a turnaround at SMU, a program that went from 1-11 in the year before his arrival to 7-5 in his final season in 2017.

Former UA interim Athletic Director Julie Cromer Peoples guided the hiring of Morris with input from a search firm and school officials. Yurachek, announced as the permanent athletic director the day before Morris' hiring, gave his approval to the decision.

Yurachek said the day before Morris' hiring that a great structure was in place to succeed at Arkansas.

“And really what we need is we need a football program that competes for championships in the Southeastern Conference,” Yurachek said. “That's what drives the train. It's really what drives your revenue. That's what creates that brand perception that you need.

“We have other very, very nationally competitive sports here at the University of Arkansas, but for our entire athletic program to be successful year in and year out, we need our football program to be successful year in and year out, not only in the Southeastern Conference, but nationally.”

Morris and his staff delivered in one key area: recruiting. The Razorbacks' 2019 signing class, the only full season of recruiting done by Morris and his staff, earned the No. 23 spot in the 247.com composite national rankings, the highest finish in school history.

Several players from that class — including receivers Treyton Burks and Trey Knox, defensive end Mataio Soli, offensive lineman Ricky Strom-

berg and defensive back Greg Brooks Jr. — have been season-long contributors.

The Razorbacks went 2-10 in Morris' first season, the first 10-loss campaign in Arkansas football history. They won two of their first three games this season: the opener over Football Championship Subdivision-level Portland State, 20-13, and a 55-34 victory over Colorado State.

However, Arkansas lost to three-touchdown underdog San Jose State 31-24 the next week, sparking the current seven-game losing streak.

Morris and the Razorbacks just completed a four-game stretch that included the worst scoring differential in school history.

Arkansas' losses to Auburn (51-10), at Alabama (48-7) and against Mississippi State (54-24) and Western Kentucky (45-19) by a combined 138 points is the largest total in a four-game sequence by the Razorbacks.

After Morris announced that the Razorbacks were entering a four-game stretch that presented an opportunity for a November to remember, the Hogs capped that week with the 30-point home loss to Mississippi State on Nov. 2 before an announced homecoming crowd of 52,256.

In Morris' final game, ex-Arkansas quarterback Ty Storey on Saturday ran for two touchdowns and passed for another while beating his former team.

Storey and Cole Kelley started 11 of 12 games last season for the Razorbacks, then transferred away as Morris and his staff brought in transfer quarterbacks Ben Hicks and Nick Starkel.

Information for this article was contributed by Matt Jones of *WholeHogSports.com* and Jaime Adame of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Inquiry

● Continued from Page 1A

“This is a very simple, straightforward act. The president broke the law,” Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., said on ABC's *This Week*. “He went on a telephone call with the president of Ukraine and ... proceeded to ask for an investigation of his rival.” She argued that “this is a very strong case of bribery.”

But Republicans have not focused on the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the focus of the whistleblower's complaint. Instead, Republicans are seen as wanting to publicly question witnesses on issues tangentially related to the case, such as unfounded claims that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election and that the Bidens acted nefariously in their dealings with Ukraine.

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., argued that “it's unfair to treat Trump under one standard and Joe Biden under a different standard.” He said a variety of American elected officials from both parties have in recent years sought to use leverage over Ukraine to advance their agendas.

“I would make the argument that every politician in Washington, other than me, virtually, is trying to manipulate Ukraine to their purposes,” Paul said.

Among those on the Republicans' witness list are Hunter Biden, whose father is a leading Democratic candidate to challenge Trump in 2020; Hunter Biden's business partner Devon Archer; the unnamed whistleblower, whom Trump and some of his allies have campaigned to publicly identify; the researcher Nellie Ohr of Fusion GPS, which commissioned a dossier that claimed to link Russia and Trump; and Alexandra Chalupa, a Ukrainian American who worked with the Democratic National Committee.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said in a statement Saturday that Democrats would evaluate the requests but that the impeachment probe “will not serve ... as a vehicle to undertake the same sham investigations” into the Bidens or the 2016 presidential campaign, or to retaliate against the whistleblower.

Several Democrats on Sunday pushed back against their GOP counterparts' request.

Speier, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, raised the issue of the “great risk associated with [the whistleblower's] life right now.” She said it is unnecessary for the individual to appear before the intelligence panel because other witnesses who were actually on Trump's phone call with Zelenskyy will testify.

“The only thing that the whistleblower can say is that he was told by other people about the phone call,” Speier said. “We have the other people coming forward to actually testify. So you have direct evidence, not indirect evidence.”

Speier argued that having Hunter Biden testify would also be “irrelevant” because he “is unrelated to the Ukraine call.” She added that some of the witnesses whom Republicans have requested may be allowed, including National Security Council official Tim Morrison and former Ukraine envoy Kurt Volker, both of whom have already testified in private.

Rep. Sean Maloney, D-N.Y., who is also on the House Intelligence Committee, rejected the call for Hunter Biden to testify.

“He has no knowledge of what the president did or didn't do here that is the subject of the impeachment hearing,” Maloney said on *Fox News Sunday*.

Some Republicans, meanwhile, focused on the process of the impeachment inquiry.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a vocal Trump ally, called the Democratic impeachment inquiry a “complete joke” because the whistleblower has not been identified and subjected to cross-examination.

“If they don't call the whistleblower in the House, this thing is dead on arrival in the Senate,” Graham said on *Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures*.

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., said on CBS' *Face the Nation* that the case could come down to Trump's intent and motive — and whether he was asking for an investigation of a political rival or a probe of possible corruption of someone who happened to be a political rival.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, argued on *This Week* that “there will be a taint to this one-sided, partisan approach to impeachment.”

He said it would be “inappropriate,” but not impeachable, for a president to ask a foreign leader to investigate a political rival, as Trump is accused of having done. But the importance of process, Thornberry maintained, cannot be ignored.

“There's a reason we let murderers and robbers and rapists go free when their due process rights have been violated,” Thornberry said.

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., said on CBS' *Face the Nation* that the case could come down to Trump's intent and motive — and whether he was asking for an investigation of a political rival or a probe of possible corruption of someone who happened to be a political rival.

If a request for an investigation of a rival could be proved, then that would be “over the line,” Kennedy said. Asked whether that means an impeachable offense, Kennedy replied, “yeah, probably,” but said he wants to hear the testimony.

In a tweet later Sunday, Trump suggested that saying his actions were “not impeachable” is not good enough. He urged Republicans to go further.

“The call to the Ukrainian President was PERFECT,” Trump said. “Read the Transcript! There was NOTHING said that was in any way wrong. Republicans, don't be led into the fools trap of saying it was not perfect, but is not impeachable. No, it is much stronger than that. NOTHING WAS DONE WRONG!”

On *Fox News Sunday*, Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said the impeachment inquiry “has been a partisan exercise from the very beginning.” He said Republicans want to hear testimony from Hunter Biden.

“I think we should just turn over every rock and pursue every lead to ultimately get to the truth,” Hurd said.

Hurd also argued that Schiff should be forced to testify about his office's contacts with the whistleblower, claiming that the committee chairman “misled the American public earlier in the year about what he knew about the contact with the whistleblower.”

Schiff said in September that his committee had “not spoken directly with the whistleblower.” He later said he “should have been much more clear.”

Other Republicans maintained that Trump sought to hold up military aid to Ukraine over general concerns about corruption — despite closed testimony from witnesses who said the White House had threatened to withdraw the aid unless Kyiv announced investigations of Trump's political benefit.

“I remain sympathetic with President Trump's legitimate concerns about the corruption,” Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said on CNN's *State of the Union*. “When you're going to provide hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars into a system, you want to make sure it isn't corrupt. ... I never heard the president say, ‘I want to dig up dirt on 2020 opponents.’”

Information for this article was contributed by Felicia Sonmez, Joel Achenbach, Paige Winfield Cunningham, Rachael Bade and Colby Itkowitz of *The Washington Post*; and by Mark Niquette, Craig Torres and Christopher Condon of *Bloomberg News*.

Flag

● Continued from Page 1A

States is displayed,” the law states.

The U.S. State Department and a handful of other federal offices are also affected.

Veterans groups had favored the legislation, which was introduced earlier this year.

Warren and Cotton teamed up on similar legislation last year.

“Even though we have some big differences in Congress, there are still some things that can bring us together, and this is certainly one of them,” Cotton said.

While growing up in Oklahoma, Warren watched her family members answer the call to serve.

“All three of my veteran brothers came home safe after their service, but many do not,” Warren said in a news release Friday. “This bipartisan law ensures that the POW/MIA Flag is consistently and prominently displayed and that we never forget those servicemembers who have not returned home.”

Under existing federal law, the flag's daily presence was already mandatory at the



Cotton



Warren

World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials.

Lawmakers have designated the POW/MIA flag as “the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.”

U.S. law does not require that the flag be flown from a flagpole. It must, however, be displayed “in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.” At some locations, the law calls for the flag to be kept in a “case of display.”

In a written statement, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz welcomed passage of the legislation.

“This is a historic victory for every man and woman who courageously defended this nation and remain unac-

counted for,” he said. “Today's presidential signing and the daily display of the POW/MIA flag at all prominent federal properties now serves as a daily reminder that these heroes, and their families, are forever etched in our DNA.”

The POW/MIA flag, which dates to the Vietnam War, includes the silhouette of a U.S. service member, head bowed, with a guard tower and a strand of barbed wire behind him. The acronyms “POW” and “MIA” hover above him. Beneath him are the words: “You are not forgotten.”

The flag is a common sight at American Legion posts, according to Keith Dover, public relations chairman for the American Legion Department of Arkansas.

The flag is a sign “that those individuals are never forgotten and that the search for those individuals will never end until all our people are brought home.”

Mary Helen Hoff, a Florida mother of five whose husband disappeared in January 1970, came up with the idea for a flag nearly five decades ago.

New Jersey-based Annin Flagmakers agreed to help and Newt Heisley, a commercial artist and World War II

veteran, created the design.

The Vietnam War ended April 30, 1975, but demand for the POW/MIA flag continued. Today, it is the flag company's second-best-selling flag, surpassed only by the stars and stripes.

Hoff died in 2015 at age 84. Her pilot husband, Navy Cmdr. Michael G. Hoff, remains among the missing.

Mark Lane Stephensen II, vice chairman of the National League of POW/MIA Families, was among those supporting the legislation.

“For us as families, [the flag] is the ultimate symbol of those who sacrificed and who remain unaccounted for,” he said.

Stephensen's pilot father, Air Force Col. Mark L. Stephensen, was listed as missing in action after his plane went down in North Vietnam. His remains were repatriated in 1988.

The sacrifice made by prisoners of war and those missing in action must never be forgotten, the son said.

The obligation to bring them home remains as well, he said.

“We as Americans, I've found, we have a short attention span, and we need to be reminded of these things,” he said.



Japanese Emperor Naruhito (left) and Empress Masako wave Sunday during the royal motorcade in Tokyo.

Japanese emperor honored at parade

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO — Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako waved and smiled from an open car in a parade Sunday marking Naruhito's enthronement as more than 100,000 well-wishers cheered, waved small flags and took photos from packed sidewalks.

Security was extremely tight, with police setting up 40 checkpoints leading to the parade area. Selfie sticks, bottles and banners — and even shouting — were not allowed inside the restricted zone. Residents in high-rise apartment buildings along the road were advised not to look down from

their windows or balconies.

Naruhito succeeded his father, Akihito, on May 1 after Akihito's abdication, and formally ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in a palace ceremony last month. He has pledged to follow his father's example to fulfill his responsibilities as a state symbol, stick with pacifism and stay close to the people. Under Japan's post-war constitution, the emperor has no political power and is limited to ceremonial roles.

Sunday's parade started from the Imperial Palace, with the Kimigayo national anthem played by a marching band.

Shooting, explosion rattle Swedish city

JARI TANNER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELSINKI — A 15-year-old boy was killed and another teenager was in critical condition after a shooting in a busy square in the southern Swedish city of Malmo, police said Sunday. Similar incidents and explosions in Malmo recently have alarmed politicians and residents.

Malmo police said the slain boy was one of two people hit when unknown assailants opened fire into a pizza parlor Saturday evening. Witnesses saw the attackers flee on bicycles.

The shooting took place just minutes after an explosion in another Malmo district where a bomb set under a car detonated, destroying the vehicle and damaging other cars.

Police couldn't say yet whether the two incidents were linked, and they have not identified suspects in either case.

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, chairwoman of the local municipality council, told Swedish broadcaster SVT that she was concerned Saturday's events would escalate the violence seen in recent years in Malmo, a city of some 320,000 residents.

“It is every parent's nightmare to lose a child. It's been a heavy and black night in Malmo,” Stjernfeldt Jammeh said, adding that Swedish police

consider many similar incidents in the past to be linked and gang-related.

“We've been in this situation before with similar events. This is what the police have warned about, namely an escalation of cruel and reckless violence in Malmo,” she said.

Explosions and shootings in the past few years in Malmo, Sweden's third-largest city, have been linked mainly to organized crime and feuding gangs.

Ulf Kristersson, leader of the center-right opposition Moderate Party, urged Social Democratic Prime Minister Stefan Lofven to act quickly to curb the violence.

Area resident Jacob Bjorkander told the Swedish newspaper *Sydsvenskan* that he had been cycling near the pizza parlor with his two young children the night of the shooting.

“It's regrettable, absolutely awful, and lacking in any respect,” Bjorkander told *Sydsvenskan*. “This should be the end of it. It's gone too far. People should be out on the streets showing what they think, that we don't want this in our town.”

The Swedish news agency TT said five fatal shootings and 29 explosions, including Saturday's incidents, have taken place in Malmo this year, figures substantially lower than during 2018, according to police statistics.