

Paris assesses damage after worst riot in decade

■ More than 130 people were injured, including 23 police officers

By **Sylvie Corbet**
The Observer

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron asked for an evaluation of possible protest security measures Sunday, a day after a Paris demonstration against increased taxes and living costs devolved into France's worst urban riot in a decade.

Hours after he flew back to the French capital from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron held an emergency meeting at the Elysee presidential palace while crews worked to remove charred cars, broken glass and graffiti from the famed Champs-Élysées Avenue and other top Paris sites.

Paris police said 133 people were injured, including 23 police officers, as crowds trashed the streets of the capital Saturday. Officers fired tear gas and used water cannon to tamp down the violence as protesters torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores and tagged the Arc de Triomphe with spray paint.

Paris police Prefect Michel Delpuech said some officers described encountering "unprecedented" violence, including protesters using hammers, gardening tools, bolts, aerosol cans as well as rocks in physical confrontations.

Some radical far-right and far-left activists were involved in the riot, as well as a "great number" of protesters wearing yellow jackets, Delpuech said. The fluorescent jackets, which French motorists are required to have in their cars for emergencies, are an emblem of a grassroots citizens' movement protesting fuel taxes.

Fires were started at six buildings and more than 130 makeshift barricades and 112 vehicles were torched, Delpuech said.

Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said 378 people remained in police custody as of Sunday evening, 33 of them minors.

Earlier Sunday, Macron visited the Arc de Triomphe, which had damaged statues as well as graffiti.

One slogan on the famed war memorial read: "Yellow jackets will triumph." He then headed to a nearby avenue where activists battled police on Saturday to meet with firefighters, police officers and restaurant owners.

At the security meeting, the French leader asked his interior minister to consider making "adaptations" to security procedures to try to contain ongoing protests sparked by rising fuel taxes, Macron's office said in a statement.

Macron also asked Prime Minister Edouard Philippe to meet with the heads of France's major political parties and representatives from the grassroots movement behind the protests.

Plans for an earlier meeting between the prime minister and representatives of the movement collapsed last week after a request to broadcast the talks live was rejected.

It was the third straight weekend of clashes in Paris involving activists dressed in the yellow vests of the new protest movement. The grassroots protests began Nov. 17 with motorists upset over a fuel tax hike, but have grown to encompass a range of demands and complaints that Macron's government does not care about the problems of ordinary people.

The scene in Paris contrasted sharply with protests elsewhere in France that were mostly peaceful.

"It's difficult to reach the end of the month. People work and pay a lot of taxes and we are fed up," said Rabah Mendez, a protester who marched peacefully Saturday in Paris.

Speaking in Buenos Aires before he flew home to Paris, Macron said he welcomed the views of protesters but vowed that those who participated in wreaking havoc would be held responsible for their behavior.

"(Violence) has nothing to do with the peaceful expression of a legitimate anger" and "no cause justifies" attacks on police or pillaging stores and burning buildings, Macron said.

Ochocos Outdoors opens bricks-and-mortar shop

By **Dick Mason**
The Observer

The staff at Ochocos Outdoors, one of Union County's largest retailers of hunting gear and fishing tackle, is seeing something new this fall — foot traffic.

The La Grande store, which has sold outdoor supplies for hunters and fishermen online for six years, has opened a shop for the public at 2616 Bearco Loop in La Grande. The bricks-and-mortar store, which opened seven weeks ago, carries all of the merchandise that is sold online.

"We have had a good response," said Brad Watts, CEO of Ochocos Outdoors. "A lot of people are coming in."

Some of the shoppers are also online customers, including a man from Albany who stopped by Ochocos Outdoors late last month while visiting Northeast Oregon, said store manager Adam Wheeling.

Among the business' most popular items in the new shop are its hip and chest waders.

"We have the largest selection of waders in the area," Watts said. "We literally have waders for everyone."

Waders are often sought by steelhead fishermen this time of year, Watts said. Steelhead season in Northeast Oregon runs through April 15.

The waders carried by Ochocos Outdoors include those manufactured by



Dick Mason / The Observer

Adam Wheeling is the store manager of Ochocos Outdoors, which recently opened a store on Bearco Loop.

Simms, Hodgman and frogg toggs companies.

"We have waders for people who might go fishing just two days a year and ones for people who will be fishing much

more," Watts said.

Other fishing gear sold at the Bearco Loop store includes rods, reels, lines and leaders manufactured by firms such as RIO Products and Red-

ington. Fly fishing gear is not sold now at the store, but it will be available next spring when fly fishing begins. Fly fishing tackle is available

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Small business owners prepare for end of year

By **Greg Smith**
For The Observer

In addition to holiday shopping, small business owners are also busy during December preparing for the year's end. As 2018 ends and 2019 approaches, December is the time to close out the books on the year and prepare for the upcoming business year.



Smith

The following is a checklist many small business owners need to review and possibly accomplish before the first bottle of champagne is opened on New Year's Eve.

December is the time to reconcile accounts and get your finances in order. Prior to going forward in 2019, this year needs to be completed. December is the month to find those receipts in

the pickup, go over credit card statements and ensure all your banking transactions have been reconciled. If you need help in this area, now may be the time to consider placing a bookkeeper on the payroll.

As the year ends, you need to determine where your business is now. This process involves three steps, all equally important.

- First, look at your balance sheet listing all your business' assets, liabilities and equity. You also need to look at your income statement to determine if your business is profitable and your cash flow statement to determine where your money has gone.
- Secondly, evaluate your business goals from last year. Make some notes of your accomplishments or comments on goals not yet reached.

- Third, evaluate your current tax strategies. If appropriate, you may need to speak with an accountant or tax lawyer for advice. You may also investigate if your current business structure is still adequate. Has your business grown to the point where a switch to a corporate definition makes sense?

You will be making the trip to your tax preparer soon, so gather your documents. Even if you prepare your own taxes, the task will be easier if you have everything ready. One tip is cloud-based accounting software systems on the market. These make access easy for both you and your tax preparer.

Clean up old accounts. If you have customers still needing credits applied to accounts, take the time and get it done now. On the other side, if you have customers with open balances of a few cents,

decide if these small amounts are better written off. You also need to make the decision what steps to take for customers who will never pay.

Not a fun task, but you need to take inventory. Although no business owner wants to spend New Year's Eve with a clipboard walking through the back room, it is important your actual inventory matches what is reported on your financial statements. Old items that cannot be sold need to be written off the books. Inventory that sells poorly may need to be discounted so a new and improved inventory can be moved in.

Evaluate outsourcing some of your work. Your time is worth money and you need to decide where your time should be spent.

If you are spending five to 10 hours a week on bookkeeping, you

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Amazon's customers are still waiting for drones

By **David Koenig and Joseph Pisani**
The Associated Press

Jeff Bezos boldly predicted five years ago that drones would be carrying Amazon packages to people's doorsteps by now.

Amazon customers are still waiting. And it's unclear when, if ever, this particular order by the company's founder and CEO will arrive.

Bezos made billions of dollars by transforming the retail sector. But overcoming the regulatory hurdles and safety issues posed by drones appears to be a challenge even for the world's wealthiest man. The result is a blown deadline on his claim to CBS' "60 Minutes" in December 2013 that drones would be making deliveries within five years.

The day may not be far off when drones will carry medicine to people in rural or remote areas, but the marketing hype around instant delivery of consumer goods looks more and more like just that — hype. Drones have a short battery life, and privacy concerns can be a hindrance, too.

"I don't think you will see delivery of burritos or diapers in the suburbs," says drone analyst Colin Snow.

Drone usage has grown rapidly in some industries, but mostly outside the retail sector and direct interaction with consumers.

The government estimates that about 110,000 commercial drones are operating in U.S. airspace, and the number is expected to soar to about 450,000 in 2022. They are being used in rural areas for mining and agriculture, for inspecting power lines and pipelines, and for surveying.

Amazon says it is still pushing ahead with plans to use drones for quick deliveries, though the company is staying away from fixed timelines.

"We are committed to making our goal

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Pediatricians are saying the best toys for children are actually the old-fashioned, hands-on toys they can enjoy with their parents. The toys allow the children to use their imagination and creativity.

Empty boxes top high-tech toys on doctor-recommended list

By **Lindsey Tanner**
AP Medical Writer

Skip the costly electronic games and flashy digital gizmos. Pediatricians say the best toys for tots are old-fashioned hands-on playthings that young children can enjoy with parents — things like blocks, puzzles — even throwaway cardboard boxes — that spark imagination and creativity.

"A cardboard box can be used to draw on, or made into a house," said Dr. Alan Mendelsohn, co-author of a new report on selecting toys for young children, up to around age 5.

Many parents feel pressured by ads promoting tablet-based toys and games as educational and

brain-stimulating but there's not much science to back up those claims, Mendelsohn said. Their main misconception: "The toy that is best is the one that is the most expensive or has the most bells and whistles or is the most technologically sophisticated."

Simpler hands-on toys that parents and young children can play with together are preferable for healthy development, said Mendelsohn, a pediatrician at NYU Langone Health in New York.

The report published Monday by the American Academy of Pediatrics cites studies suggesting that heavy use of electronic media may interfere with

children's speech and language development, replace important playtime with parents and lead to obesity.

Studies also have found that more than 90 percent of U.S. kids have used mobile devices and most started using them before age 1.

The pediatricians' group recommends no screen time for children up to age 2, and says total screen time including TV and computer use should be less than one hour daily for ages 2 and older.

"A little bit of screen time here and there is unlikely to have much harm if a child otherwise has other activity," Mendelsohn

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