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- Other Notices (updated 8-21)**
- Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)**
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- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Homecoming Week

Elementary Dress-Up Day: Class Color day (K-Black; 1st- Orange; 2nd- Yellow; 3rd- Red; 4th-Blue; 5th Pink; Staff- Brown)

MS/HS Dress-up Day: Color Day (Seniors- Black, Juniors- White, Sophomores- Red, Freshman- Blue, 8th- Purple, 7th- Grey, 6th- Gold/Yellow)

Senior Menu: Philly steak sandwich, hot potato salad, lettuce salad, blushing pears.

School Breakfast: Cheese omelette, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Beef sticks, smiley potatoes, cauliflower with dip, fruit.

Pre-School Screening: GHS Gym.

Boys Golf: at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

7th Gr. Football: hosts Aberdeen Central, 4 p.m.

Boys Soccer: at James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

Volleyball: hosts Sisseton, 7th and C team at 4:30 p.m.; 8th and JV teams at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

United Methodist: UMW, 1:30 p.m.

22

First day of Autumn

All School Dress-up Day: Spirit Day - Black & Gold

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Homecoming brats or hot dogs, beans, chips, bars.

Football: Homecoming Game with Moberidge-Pollock at 7 p.m.

Dance Practice: Groton Community Center (Sugar Babes 3:50 to 4:35, Sweet Sensations 4:40 to 5:25, Spice Girls 5:30 to 6:30)

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Men's Bible Study at the Groton Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.

			
			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“LIFE IS THE ART
OF DRAWING
WITHOUT AN
ERASER.”

-JOHN GARDNER

Warner beats Groton Area in volleyball

Groton 14 17 11

Warner 25 25 25

JV wins 2-0 (no scores)

C win 2-1 (no scores)

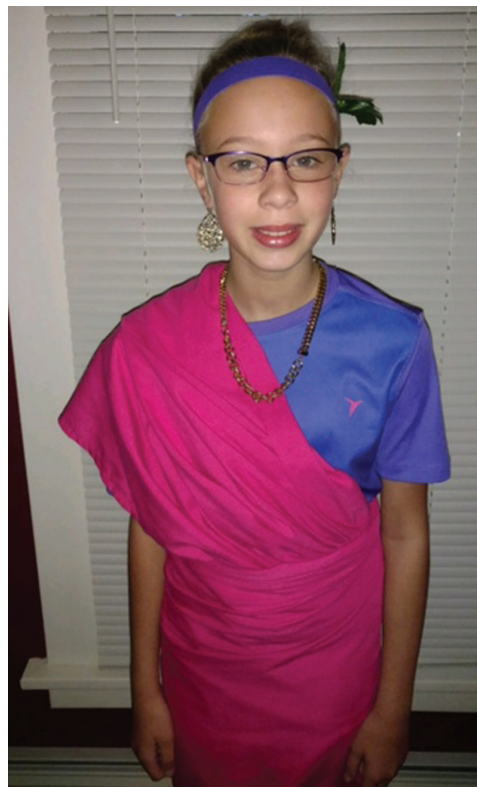
Serving: Bjerke 9-11 1 Ace, Wanner 6-6 1 Ace

Attacking: Gengerke 18-22 7 kills, Marzahn 19-21 5 kills

Setting: Hanson 73-73 14 assist

Digs 41 (Maine 13, Wanner 9)

Blocks: Gengerke 3, Doeden 2



**Anna Bisbee 6th grade
Toga Day winner.**



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

1967 and 1968 Groton graduates plan reunion

A duo class reunion of the Groton graduating classes of 1967 and 1968 will be held over Groton Homecoming weekend, September 22 and 23, 2017. Class members of 1967 will be celebrating 50 years while the class of 1968 will celebrate 49 years.

There were 53 class members in 1967 and 60 classmates in 1968. Ferney, Verdon and Bath areas joined Groton School District in 1965. Andover classmates came in 1966 and Columbia consolidated with Groton in 1967.

The duo classes will participate in the homecoming parade. Following the parade there will be an open house from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Groton Legion Club Room for anyone wanting to reminisce with the graduates.

Welcome home to all of the 1967 and 1968 Groton Graduates. Enjoy your time together!

Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,
Full or Part Time.

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

Contact Jessica Lindskov or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton
605-397-2365**

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Hawaiian/Tacky Tourist

6th grade winner was Lane Tietz, and behind him is 10th grade winner was Brody DeHoet, 7th grade winner was Jessica Figueroa, 9th grade there was a tie between Alexis Hanten and Erin Unzen, 12th grade was Jessica Bjerke, 11th grade Ashley Garduno.

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Granary Rural Cultural Center - Groton, S.D.

LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL

See The Past Come Alive!



Saturday, September 23, 2017

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME—GET A PRIZE!

Fun for All Ages! Reenactment, Demonstrations,
Hands On Activities, Spelling Bee at 2:30 p.m.,
Square Dance Lessons with Art Marmorstein
Pie Social from 1-4 p.m., Music & More!

NEW!

... As if you were there!

**PRESIDENT TEDDY
ROOSEVELT**

Played by Arch Ellwein of Flyin' Lion Productions



PERFORMANCES at 1 & 3 p.m.

Program made possible by: South Dakota Humanities Council
(An affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities)



Stop by for Lunch! Concessions by: **THE BRASS KETTLE**



THE GRANARY - Physical Address: 40161 128th St., Rural Groton
The Arts & Culture Campus of Dacotah Prairie Museum
Museum Website: www.dacotahpraiemuseum.com • Granary Website: granaryfinearts.org



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Today in Weather History

September 21, 1960: In the morning hours of September 21st, lightning struck and caused structural damage to a home in Clear Lake, Deuel County. Lightning also hit a home in Clark in Clark County, and two telephone poles near Milbank in Grant County. Power was also interrupted for a short time by lightning near Britton.

1894: A late season severe weather outbreak occurred across northwest Iowa, south central Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin during the late evening hours. Several communities were impacted by this outbreak with an estimated 55 to 65 deaths, and in additional 300 injuries. The strongest tornado was an estimated F5, which tore through the counties of Kossuth, Hancock, Winnebago in Iowa, and Faribault in Minnesota.

1894 - A heavy chicken house, sixteen by sixteen feet in area, was picked up by a tornado and wedged between two trees. The hens were found the next day sitting on their eggs in the chicken house, with no windows broken, as though nothing had happened. (The Weather Channel)

1924: A couple of tornadoes, one rated F4 and the other F5, tore paths of devastation through Eau Claire, Clark, and Taylor Counties in Wisconsin. The death toll was 18 and 50 people were injured. 1938: On this day, one of the most destructive and powerful hurricanes in recorded history struck Long Island and Southern New England. This Category 3 Hurricane was traveling at 47 mph when it made landfall near Bellport, New York. This storm caused at least 600 deaths and left approximately 63,000 homeless.

1938 - A great hurricane smashed into Long Island and bisected New England causing a massive forest blowdown and widespread flooding. Winds gusted to 186 mph at Blue Hill MA, and a storm surge of nearly thirty feet caused extensive flooding along the coast of Rhode Island. The hurricane killed 600 persons and caused 500 million dollars damage. The hurricane, which lasted twelve days, destroyed 275 million trees. Hardest hit were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island NY. The ""Long Island Express"" produced gargantuan waves with its 150 mph winds, waves which smashed against the New England shore with such force that earthquake-recording machines on the Pacific coast clearly showed the shock of each wave. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - The temperature at Deeth, NV, soared from a morning low of 12 degrees to a high of 87 degrees, a record daily warm-up for the state. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Tropical Storm Emily, which formed in the Caribbean the previous afternoon, caused considerable damage to the banana industry of Saint Vincent in the Windward Islands. Unseasonably hot weather continued in Florida and the western U.S. Redding CA and Red Bluff CA, with record highs of 108 degrees, tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation. (The National Weather Summary)


1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds and locally heavy rain in the southwestern U.S. One thunderstorm in west Texas produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Dell City completely destroying an airport hangar. A Cessna 150 aircraft housed within the hangar was flipped over and snapped in two. Thunderstorms produced large hail in east central Utah, while snow blanketed some of the higher elevations of the state. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: Hurricane Hugo made landfall on Isle of Palms, South Carolina as a Category 4 hurricane. This storm brought strong winds to many areas of South Carolina. In Downtown Charleston, sustained winds of 87 mph were reported; along with gusts of 108 mph. Total damage from this hurricane is estimated at \$10 billion, including \$5.2 billion in the United States. The National Weather Service office in Charleston, SC has a page dedicated to Hurricane Hugo.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Showers	Showers Likely
High: 82 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 58 °F



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD


Issued: 9/21/2017 5am Central

Today: 80s

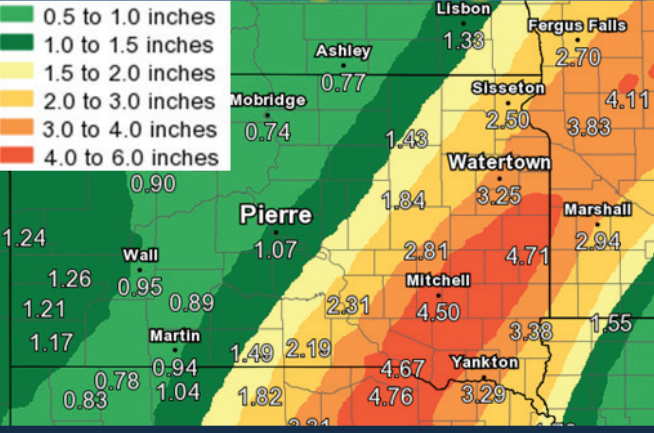


Caution!

Wet Weather Ahead




Rainfall Forecast tonight through Monday



■ 0.5 to 1.0 inches
■ 1.0 to 1.5 inches
■ 1.5 to 2.0 inches
■ 2.0 to 3.0 inches
■ 3.0 to 4.0 inches
■ 4.0 to 6.0 inches

Isolated intense storms possible late tonight, and again late Friday afternoon through Friday night over E SD and W MN



www.weather.gov/abr

Published on: 09/21/2017 at 5:51AM

Expect warm and breezy conditions today. An elongated trough of low pressure will set up across eastern South Dakota tonight through Friday night. Showers and thunderstorms will be possible along and east of this boundary, with a few storms becoming strong to severe late tonight, and again late Friday afternoon into Friday night. An extended period of wet weather will result in heavy rain falling especially southeast of a line from Watertown to Ortonville. Stay aware of the latest forecast at www.weather.gov/abr

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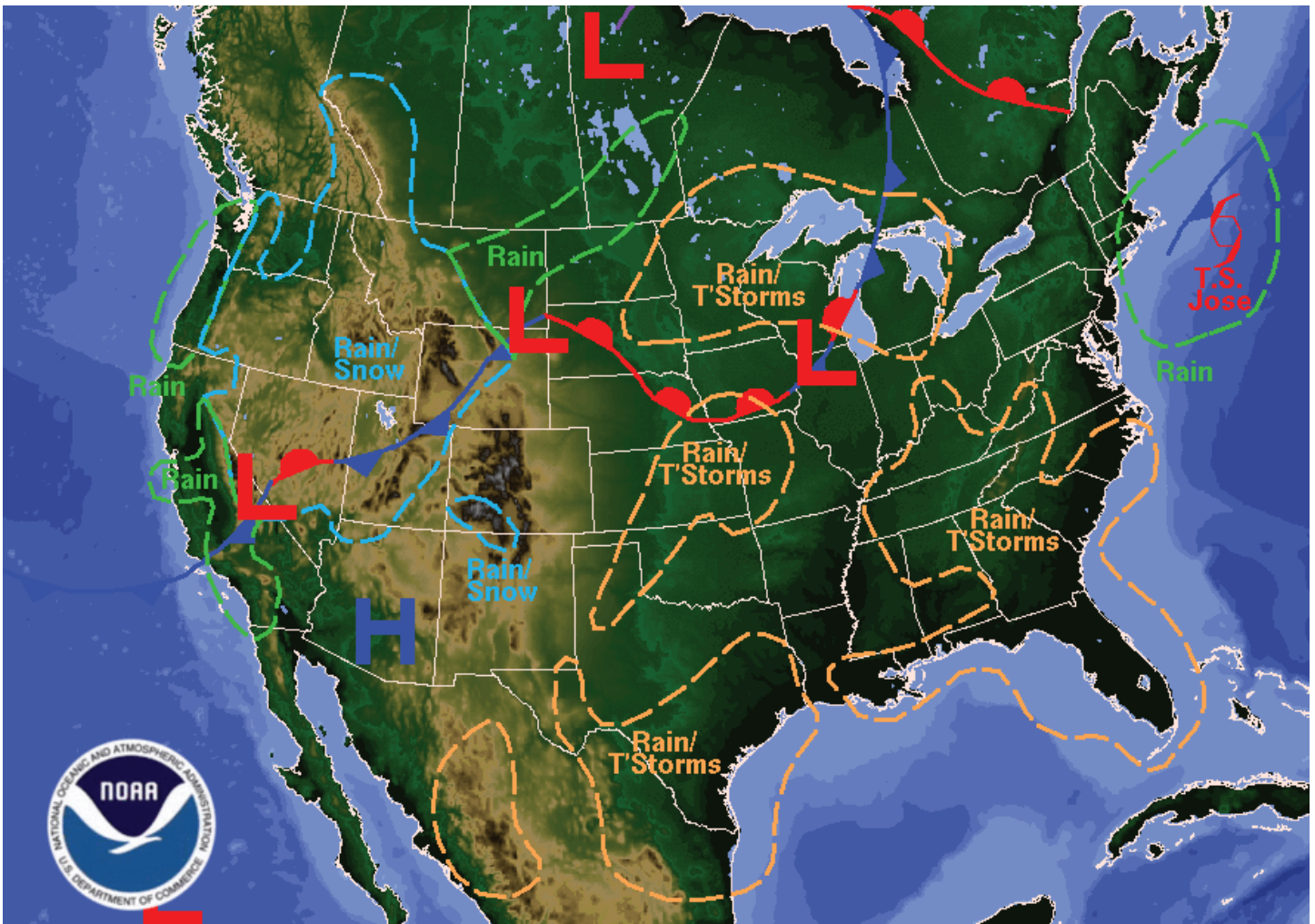
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 73.2 at 6:00 PM
Low Outside Temp: 47.7 at 7:44 AM
High Gust: 18 at 4:45 PM
Precip: 0.60

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1936
Record Low: 22° in 1893
Average High: 70°F
Average Low: 43°F
Average Precip in Sept: 1.55
Precip to date in Sept: 0.84
Average Precip to date: 17.84
Precip Year to Date: 10.36
Sunset Tonight: 7:32 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Sep 21, 2017, issued 4:50 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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DON'T FORGET YOUR GOD!

Recently an item appeared on the news that told the story of a 34-year-old man suing his parents for "not preparing him to earn a living." He asked the judge to force his parents to sell their home and from the proceeds purchase him a restaurant. Parents, he argued are responsible for providing a useful education for their children. However, this parental task is as old as mankind. It began with the children of Israel.

Psalm 48 begins with a call to praise the Lord. He is "great," said the Psalmist, and "worthy of praise." In between verses one and 14 the author gives many descriptions of the greatness of God and several reasons why He was worthy of praise. But why is He great and why is He worthy of praise?

Contained in the Psalm is a description of the City of Zion – the "joy of the whole earth." And what is this joy or its source? It is the City of the Great King – God Himself! And we read that "God is in her citadels; He has shown Himself to be her fortress; when kings joined forces and 'saw her' they fled in terror; it is the city of our God and in her temple God makes her secure forever; in His temple they meditate on His unfailing love; people in the villages are glad because of His judgments."

The people are then told to "walk about Zion count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels that you may tell of them the next generation!"

Why were the contents of this Psalm important to the children of Israel? In His wisdom God advised the writers of this Psalm to produce a document that contained a record of God's love and faithfulness, His goodness and guidance, His strength and power. This Psalm contains a most significant fact: Parents are to pass on to their children the fact that God, in His grace and goodness, will provide, protect and care for His children as long as they are faithful to Him.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for the record of Your might and majesty that gives us reasons to trust You for our salvation! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
06-09-12-24-32
(six, nine, twelve, twenty-four, thirty-two)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto
23-30-32-36-37, Hot Ball: 5
(twenty-three, thirty, thirty-two, thirty-six, thirty-seven; Hot Ball: five)
Estimated jackpot: \$10.72 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Powerball
39-48-53-67-68, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 3
(thirty-nine, forty-eight, fifty-three, sixty-seven, sixty-eight; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Polygamous sect leader pleads guilty to escape, fraud

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A high-ranking polygamous sect leader recaptured after a year on the run pleaded guilty Wednesday in a food-stamp fraud and escape case, ending a wide-ranging investigation seen as a crackdown on the secretive group.

Lyle Jeffs is facing three to five years in prison after pleading guilty to two felony counts in an agreement that also called for him to pay \$1 million in restitution.

U.S. Attorney for Utah John Huber said it was a fair end to a hard-fought court battle. "We're not out to punish people of faith, people with sincerely-held religious beliefs. We're out to punish fraudsters. Lyle Jeffs is now a convicted fraudster," he said.

Defense attorney Kathryn Nester declined to comment.

Jeffs will be sentenced Dec. 13 by U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart — the same judge who reversed an earlier ruling and released Jeffs from jail to home confinement in 2016 while he was awaiting trial in the food-stamp fraud case.

Days later, Jeffs slipped off his ankle monitor using olive oil and escaped. He was on the run for nearly a year. Jeffs was caught after South Dakota pawn shop workers recognized him as he sold two pairs of pliers. He was apparently living out of his pickup truck.

Jeffs was one of 11 members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints charged with helping funnel millions in food-stamp benefits to a communal storehouse and front companies. The funds were used to pay for a tractor, truck and other items. Jeffs was accused of orchestrating the scheme.

The other defendants have agreed to plea deals or seen the charges dismissed. Critics of the secretive sect have been frustrated that none of the others have served prison time, though prosecutors pointed to liabilities like a ruling allowing defense attorneys to argue that members were simply living out religious

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beliefs in sharing everything they had with the group.

Huber said his office has long seen Jeffs differently than the other defendants, as he was a leader who lived lavishly while low-ranking followers suffered.

"He's in shackles. He's in chains. He's not getting out anytime soon," Huber said.

Jeffs, 57, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit benefits fraud and failure to appear. Prosecutors dropped a money-laundering count in exchange for accepting the plea deal. Huber acknowledged that some may criticize the terms of the deal, but he said investigators will begin searching for property in Jeffs' name to seize for the restitution.

Authorities believe Jeffs was struggling in the weeks before his arrest without the help of fellow sect members after falling out with his brother Warren Jeffs, who runs the group while serving a life sentence in Texas for sexual assault of underage brides, the FBI has said.

The sect is based in a small community on the Utah-Arizona border. Members believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. The sect is an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, which disavowed polygamy more than 100 years ago.

The food stamp-case coincided with other government efforts to go after the group, including child labor cases in Utah and a religious discrimination case in Arizona. In that case, a jury found last year that the border towns that form the sect's home base denied nonbelievers police protection, building permits and water hookups on the basis of religion.

The communities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona, are now under court supervision for the next decade as punishment.

South Dakota lawmaker apologizes for Facebook post

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Republican South Dakota legislator under fire for a Facebook post has apologized for a "lack of judgment."

Rep. Lynne DiSanto of Box Elder shared a meme Sept. 7 depicting protesters being hit by a vehicle. It was posted less than a month after a driver hit counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a woman.

DiSanto told the Rapid City Journal she should have taken that into consideration, and doesn't condone protesters being hit by vehicles.

DiSanto is a Realtor. David Kahler with Keller Williams Realty Black Hills told The Associated Press that the Rapid City-based firm was disassociating itself with DiSanto.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm tells The Associated Press that the incident won't affect DiSanto's position as House majority whip.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Crash in Fall River County kills 73-year-old man

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A single-vehicle crash in Fall River County has killed a 73-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man was driving a pickup truck that left state Highway 71 and rolled mid-day Tuesday. The man died at the scene, about 10 miles south of Hot Springs.

The victim's name wasn't immediately released. He was alone in the vehicle.

Enrollment up slightly at South Dakota public universities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents says fall enrollment at the state's six public universities increased slightly compared to last year, up a third of one percent.

The total number of students at the six universities is 36,662. The increase equates to 131 additional students.

Regents say Dakota State University at Madison reported the greatest percentage growth with nearly 4

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percent more students. The University of South Dakota at Vermillion has about 2 percent more students. The regents' executive director Mike Rush says the goal is for 65 percent of the state's population, ages 25 to 34, to earn some type of postsecondary credential.

Sioux Falls woman claims record Dakota Cash lottery jackpot

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State lottery officials say a retired Sioux Falls woman has claimed a record Dakota Cash jackpot.

Lynda Blesi won more than \$614,000 in the Sept. 6 drawing, at odds of about one in 325,000. She claimed the money Tuesday.

The jackpot amount was the highest since the Dakota Cash game was launched in South Dakota in 1994.

Ellsworth poised for next generation bomber

ELLSWORTH, S.D. (AP) — Ellsworth Air Force Base will likely be home to the next generation bomber currently under development.

U.S. Sen. John Thune says Air Force officials told him that bases currently home to units of the bomber fleet will likely be chosen to host the B-21 Raider. Ellsworth is currently home to the 34th and 37th bomb squadrons.

About a decade ago, Ellsworth was on a list of possible base closures. South Dakota's politicians fought to keep it open, given the economic benefits to the western region.

The Argus Leader reports Thune says the latest news assures the base will remain operational in the future.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Woman sentenced for stealing from reservation nonprofit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Fort Thompson woman has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for stealing money from a nonprofit on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation.

Forty-two-year-old Tally Colombe was indicted on a larceny charge about a year ago for allegedly stealing from Hunkpati Investments while serving as executive director. She pleaded guilty in July to fraud and embezzlement charges in a deal with prosecutors.

The Capital Journal reports that Colombe was sentenced Tuesday to 27 months in federal prison and ordered to repay about \$40,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Annie Hoffman said Colombe's actions led to Hunkpati Investments owing \$550,000 to funding agencies with no way to pay it back.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

A stunned Puerto Rico seeks to rebuild after Hurricane Maria

By DANICA COTO, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans stunned by a hurricane that knocked out power for the whole island and paralyzed the U.S. territory with landslides, flooding and downed trees vowed to slowly rebuild amid an economic crisis as rescue crews fanned out Thursday.

The extent of the damage is unknown given that dozens of municipalities remained isolated and without communication after Maria hit the island Wednesday morning as a Category 4 storm with 155 mph winds, the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in over 80 years.

Uprooted trees and widespread flooding blocked many highways and streets across the island, creating a maze that forced drivers to go against traffic and past police cars that used loudspeakers to warn

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people they must respect a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew imposed by the governor to ensure everyone's safety. "This is going to be a historic event for Puerto Rico," said Abner Gomez, the island's emergency management director.

Previously a Category 5 with 175 mph (281 kph) winds, Maria hit Puerto Rico as the third-strongest storm to make landfall in the U.S., based on its central pressure. It was even stronger than Hurricane Irma that storm roared into the Florida Keys earlier this month.

In the capital of San Juan, towering eucalyptus trees fell nearly every other block over a main road dotted with popular bars, restaurants, and coffee shops, some of which were damaged. Outside a nearby apartment building, 40-year-old tourism company operator Adrian Pacheco recounted how he spent eight hours in a stairwell huddled with 100 other residents when the hurricane ripped the storm shutters off his building and decimated three balconies.

"I think people didn't expect the storm to reach the point that it did," he said. "Since Irma never really happened, they thought Maria would be the same."

Hurricane Irma sideswiped Puerto Rico on Sept. 6, leaving more than 1 million people without power but causing no deaths or widespread damage like it did on nearby islands. Maria, however, blew out windows at some hospitals and police stations, turned some streets into roaring rivers and destroyed hundreds of homes across Puerto Rico, including 80 percent of houses in a small fishing community near the San Juan Bay, which unleashed a storm surge of more than 4 feet.

"Months and months and months and months are going to pass before we can recover from this," Felix Delgado, mayor of the northern coastal city of Catano, told The Associated Press.

The sound of chain saws began to fill the silence that spread across San Juan late Wednesday afternoon as firefighters began to remove trees and used small bulldozers to lift toppled concrete light posts. Some neighbors pitched in to help clear the smaller branches, including Shawn Zimmerman, a 27-year-old student from Lewistown, Pennsylvania who moved to Puerto Rico nearly two years ago.

"The storm didn't bother me," he said. "It's the devastation. I get goosebumps. It's going to take us a long time."

Maria has caused at least 10 deaths across the Caribbean, including seven in the hard-hit island of Dominica and two in the French Caribbean territory of Guadeloupe. Puerto Rico's governor told CNN one man died after being hit by flying debris. No further details were available, and officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Maria weakened to a Category 2 storm later in the day but re-strengthened to Category 3 status early Thursday with winds of 115 mph (185 kph). It was centered about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and moving northwest near 9 mph (15 kph).

The hurricane was still dumping rain overnight Wednesday in Puerto Rico, where crumbled red roof tiles lay scattered across many roads, and curious residents sidestepped and ducked under dozens of black power lines still swaying in heavy winds. But they posed no danger: Maria caused an island-wide power outage, with officials unable to say when electricity would return.

Puerto Rico's electric grid was crumbling amid lack of maintenance and a dwindling staff even before the hurricanes knocked out power. Many now believe it will take weeks, if not months, to restore power.

Edwin Rosario, a 79-year-old retired government worker, said an economic crisis that has sparked an exodus of nearly half a million Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland will only make the island's recovery harder.

"Only us old people are left," he said as he scraped a street gutter in front of his house free of debris. "A lot of young people have already gone...If we don't unite, we're not going to bounce back."

Trapped girl a symbol for Mexico's quake rescue efforts

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, MARIA VERZA and CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A delicate effort to reach a young girl buried in the rubble of her school stretched into a new day on Thursday, a vigil broadcast across the nation as rescue workers struggled in rain and darkness to pick away unstable debris and reach her.

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The sight of her wiggling fingers early Wednesday became a symbol for the hope that drove thousands of professionals and volunteers to work frantically at dozens of wrecked buildings across the capital and nearby states looking for survivors of the magnitude 7.1 quake that killed at least 245 people in central Mexico and injured over 2,000.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said the number of confirmed dead in the capital had risen from 100 to 115. An earlier federal government statement had put the overall toll at 230, including 100 deaths in Mexico City.

Mancera also said two women and a man had been pulled alive from a collapsed office building in the city's center Wednesday night, almost 36 hours after the quake.

President Enrique Pena Nieto declared three days of mourning while soldiers, police, firefighters and everyday citizens kept digging through rubble, at times with their hands gaining an inch at a time, at times with cranes and backhoes to lift heavy slabs of concrete.

"There are still people groaning. There are three more floors to remove rubble from. And you still hear people in there," said Evodio Dario Marcelino, a volunteer who was working with dozens of others at a collapsed apartment building.

A man was pulled alive from a partly collapsed apartment building in northern Mexico City more than 24 hours after the Tuesday quake and taken away in a stretcher, apparently conscious

In all, 52 people had been rescued alive since the quake, the city's Social Development Department said, adding in a tweet: "We won't stop." It was a race against time, Pena Nieto warned in a tweet of his own saying that "every minute counts to save lives."

But the country's attention focused on the collapsed Enrique Rebsamen school on the city's south side, where 21 children and four adults had been confirmed dead.

Hopes rose Wednesday when workers told local media they had detected signs that one girl was alive and she speaking to them through a hole dug in the rubble. Thermal imaging suggested several more people might be in the airspace around her.

A volunteer rescue worker, Hector Mendez, said cameras lowered into the rubble suggested there might be four people still inside, but he added that it wasn't clear if anyone beside the girl was alive.

Dr. Alfredo Vega, who was working with the rescue team, said that a girl who he identified only as "Frida Sofia" had been located alive under the pancaked floor slabs.

Vega said "she is alive, and she is telling us that there are five more children alive" in the same space.

Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno confirmed that the girl was alive, but said it was still not confirmed if other children were also alive under the rubble. Strangely, Nuno said, no relatives of a girl named Frida could be found.

While optimism ran strong for the girl's rescue effort, only four corpses had been found in the wreckage during the day, Mendez said, and workers were still trying to get to the girl as the operation crossed into a new day.

The debris removed from the school changed as crews worked their way deeper, from huge chunks of brick and concrete to pieces of wood that looked like remnants of desks and paneling to a load that contained a half dozen sparkly hula-hoops.

Rescuers carried in lengths of wide steel pipe big enough for someone to crawl through, apparently trying to create a tunnel into the collapsed slabs of the three-story school building. But a heavy rain fell during the night, and the tottering pile of rubble had to be shored up with hundreds of wooden beams.

People have rallied to help their neighbors in a huge volunteer effort that includes people from all walks of life in Mexico City, where social classes seldom mix. Doctors, dentists and lawyers stood alongside construction workers and street sweepers, handing buckets of debris or chunks of concrete hand-to-hand down the line.

At a collapsed factory building closer to the city's center, giant cranes lifted huge slabs of concrete from the towering pile of rubble, like peeling layers from an onion. Workers with hand tools would quickly move in to look for signs of survivors and begin attacking the next layer.

Government rescue worker Alejandro Herrera said three bodies had been found Wednesday afternoon

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at the factory.

"There are sounds (beneath the rubble), but we don't know if they are coming from inside or if it is the sound of the rubble," Herrera said.

Not only humans were pulled out.

Mexico City police said rescue workers clearing wreckage from a collapsed medical laboratory in the Roma neighborhood found and removed 40 lab rabbits and 13 lab rats used by the firm that had occupied the building, now a pile of beams and rubble.

In addition to those killed in Mexico City, the federal civil defense agency said 69 died in Morelos state just south of the capital and 43 in Puebla state to the southeast, where the quake was centered. The rest of the deaths were in Mexico State, which borders Mexico City on three sides, Guerrero and Oaxaca states.

In Atzala in Puebla state, villagers mourned 11 family members who died inside a church when it crumbled during a baptism for a 2-month-old girl. People at the wake said the only ones to survive were the baby's father, the priest and the priest's assistant.

Power was being restored in some Mexico City neighborhoods that already spent a day without power. The mayor said there were 38 collapsed buildings in the capital, down from the 44 he had announced previously.

Associated Press writer Carlos Rodriguez in Jojutla contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHERE HURRICANE MARIA IS HEADING

The strengthening Category 3 storm is lashing the northeastern Dominican Republic and is expected to pass near the Turks and Caicos later in the day after causing damage, flooding and island-wide outage in Puerto Rico.

2. WHO IS SYMBOL OF DEVASTATING MEXICO QUAKE

A young girl trapped in her collapsed school is driving rescuers to work at dozens of wrecked buildings looking for survivors of the magnitude 7.1 temblor that killed 245 people.

3. CONGO DEEMED EPICENTER OF PEACEKEEPING ABUSES

The central African nation is home to more than 700 of the some 2,000 sexual allegations against U.N. peacekeepers and personnel worldwide since 2004, an AP probe finds.

4. SATELLITE IMAGES ILLUSTRATE ROHINGYA PLIGHT

Before-and-after imagery from DigitalGlobe released exclusively to the AP show refugee camps in Bangladesh growing dramatically since minority Muslims began fleeing attacks in Myanmar.

5. SEC REVEALS CYBER BREACH

The U.S. government agency says hackers infiltrated its EDGAR filing system and the attack may have provided the basis for some illegal trading in 2016.

6. WHAT EMAILS SAY MANAFORT DID

Trump's one-time campaign chairman offered "private briefings" to a Russian billionaire who the U.S. government says is close to Putin, but Manafort's spokesman says no briefings ever occurred.

7. 'TWO-STATE SOLUTION' PROSPECTS DIMMING

Palestinians are increasingly questioning their leaders' strategy of reaching statehood through negotiations with Israel after more than two decades of failures.

8. THE ATM TURNS 50

Ubiquitous now, but revolutionary then: automated teller machine's debut a half century ago trained people to interact with kiosks.

9. PRESS 'SURPRISED FACE'

The Japanese creator of the first emoji wanted to add nuance to mobile phone messages and never

imagined his 1999 work would become a global phenomenon.

10. MEET THE 'NEXT ONE'

Michigan's Emoni Bates is the best 13-year-old basketball player in America and AP has been granted behind-the-scenes access to follow his progress.

Diplomats meet on Iran deal as Trump stays mum on decision

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump has determined how he wants to approach the Iran nuclear deal — which he has called the worst agreement ever negotiated by the United States — but has not told even his top national security advisers what his decision is.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Wednesday that Trump had not informed him or others in the administration about his decision and had refused to share it with British Prime Minister Theresa May when she asked him about it.

Tillerson said he had been surprised when Trump publicly announced he had reached a decision. The secretary told reporters it would now take some time to prepare to implement the decisions. He gave no hint as to the direction Trump would take, but repeated the president's long-standing position that the deal does not address troubling non-nuclear behavior despite the hopes of those who negotiated it.

Tillerson spoke to reporters following a meeting of the parties to the nuclear deal, including Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The meeting marked the highest-level U.S.-Iranian encounter since Trump became president.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who hosted the meeting, said all parties to the accord — including Tillerson — agreed it "is working and is delivering for its purpose."

Tillerson did not dispute Mogherini's characterization but said that while Iran might be meeting its obligations to the letter of the deal, it is violating its spirit.

"Perhaps the technical aspects have (been met), but in the broader context the aspiration has not," Tillerson said. He later conceded that reports from the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, "continue to confirm that Iran is in technical compliance with the agreement."

However, he said the Trump administration was determined to address the flaws in the deal, the most serious of which are so-called "sunset provisions" that allow Iran to resume some aspects of its nuclear program after certain periods of time. Those provisions relate to enriching uranium to levels near those needed to produce the fuel for a nuclear weapon, as well as other activities that limit Iran's atomic capabilities at various sites.

"One can almost set the countdown clock to Iran resuming its nuclear activities," Tillerson said. He added that the world was made less safe by the Iran agreement as it stands, particularly at a time when the U.S. and its allies are being threatened directly by a nuclear-armed North Korea.

In her comments, Mogherini also alluded to North Korea, but made the opposite argument, saying "the international community cannot afford to dismantle an agreement that is working." Mogherini declined to say whether Tillerson had pledged to remain committed to the deal, but said the European Union is committed to preserving it. She suggested that U.S. complaints about Iran's troublesome non-nuclear activities should be discussed in a different forum.

The meeting in the U.N. Security Council chambers followed two days of increasingly hostile rhetoric between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, as well as Trump's surprise announcement about a decision on the nuclear deal.

"I have decided," he declared to reporters earlier Wednesday, a day after launching a scathing attack on Iran and its government in his address to the U.N. General Assembly. Trump's withering critique Tuesday included an accusation that Iran's government "masks a corrupt dictatorship behind the false guise of a democracy," while ruthlessly repressing its people and exploiting the limits of the nuclear deal.

"We cannot let a murderous regime continue these destabilizing activities while building dangerous missiles," Trump said. "And we cannot abide by an agreement if it provides cover for the eventual construction

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of a nuclear program.”

In response, Rouhani lashed out at “ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric” in Trump’s U.N. speech. Addressing the General Assembly on Wednesday, Rouhani said his country won’t be the first to violate the nuclear agreement, “but it will respond decisively to its violation by any party.” In a dismissive jab at Trump he said, “It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by rogue newcomers to the world of politics.”

“By violating its international commitments, the new U.S. administration only destroys its own credibility and undermines international confidence in negotiating with it or accepting its word or promise,” Rouhani said. That echoes criticism even some of America’s allies have leveled at a time when the United States hopes to draw North Korea into a negotiation over its rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal.

Rouhani then told reporters at a news conference that the Iranian people are waiting for an apology from Trump for his “extremely offensive” rhetoric and baseless allegations. He said Trump is seeking “an excuse” to pull out of the nuclear deal and it would be a “waste of time” for him to meet the president.

Trump has sent strong signals that he could walk away from the seven-nation agreement, which would potentially lead to new U.S. sanctions on Iran and its international trading partners. The Iranians, in turn, have threatened to respond to any U.S. pullout by restarting nuclear activities that could take them closer to bomb-making capability.

It wasn’t clear if Trump had made a final decision to leave or stick with the Iran deal. On several other issues over his presidency, he has teased reporters with the idea that a major verdict might be imminent, only to delay announcements for weeks or months. Trump must next certify by Oct. 15 if Iran is complying with the deal, and officials have said Trump may use that occasion to declare Iran in violation.

In any event, the U.S.-Iranian exchanges augured poorly for the diplomatic meeting, although Tillerson maintained that the atmosphere had been “very open and candid.”

“There was no yelling and we didn’t throw shoes at one another,” he said. “It was not an angry tone at all, it was a very, very matter-of-fact exchange about how we see this deal very differently.”

A year ago, such a get-together would have been considered routine as nations strove to implement an agreement that curtailed Iran’s nuclear activity in exchange for an end to various oil, trade and financial restrictions on the country. In the current environment, it is anything but ordinary.

Trump has said repeatedly that he is inclined not to certify Iranian compliance after having twice found the country compliant at earlier deadlines. Denying certification could lead the U.S. to reintroduce sanctions, which in turn could lead Iran to walk away from the deal or restart some nuclear activities it curtailed two years ago.

The rhetorical threats have worried the other countries who are part of the agreement: Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. The Europeans, in particular, have expressed their disapproval of Trump’s threats and talked about trying to lobby the U.S. to abide by the accord. If the U.S. tries to activate globally enforceable sanctions on Iran again, European countries could balk, another potential repercussion Trump must weigh.

Mexicans displaced by deadly quake seek refuge from fear

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — On rubber mats spread across a Mexico City recreation center, the Montero family cuddles under donated wool blankets, their first new possessions after abandoning their apartment following the deadly magnitude 7.1 earthquake.

Across the capital thousands of Mexicans are now believed homeless after the tremor leveled entire buildings and left others teetering on the edge of collapse. Men, women and children are now filling up gyms and event halls at more than two dozen designated shelters. Many are uncertain where they will go next, but grateful to have a safe refuge.

“I am sure nothing is going to fall here,” 7-year-old Oscar Montero says.

The Montero family lived on the first floor of a seven-story apartment building that on Tuesday became

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perilously sandwiched between neighboring towers on each side that have begun caving in. No one in the family of five was home during the quake. Oscar and his two older siblings were all at school, his parents at work.

Claudia Antonio, Oscar's mother, entered the home quickly the quake after to salvage her children's birth certificates and vaccination records. Other neighbors pulled out valuables like fridges and microwaves. In the first night after the tremor, some slept outside with the items they had pulled from the wobbly buildings.

The Montero family decided they would go to the Junior Club recreation center.

"Material things come and go," Antonio, 38, said. "What I value most is our lives."

The Junior Club is typically a place where children come to swim in the lap pool and adults spin on gym bikes. In the days since the quake it has become one of countless makeshift "homes of refuge," receiving piles of donated bottled water, baby diapers and toys.

On a second floor dozens of the newly displaced camp out on sleeping mats and share their stories. Teams of volunteer workers visit with each family to determine their needs.

Aside from material needs, Dr. Alfredo Reyes, who was helping out nearby at the site of a flattened six-story building, said many of the survivors are likely to struggle emotionally. A nervous fear lingers in residents, sparked by any sign that buildings which once seemed unmovable might now collapse at the slightest provocation.

At one plaza where rescue workers gathered to organize supplies Tuesday night, panic spread swiftly after people shouted that they'd seen a damaged building start to sway.

"I'm scared!" a young woman cried, her voice trembling

"They've lost loved ones, their homes," Reyes said, adding that the quake also bring up old traumas from prior quakes, like the one that hit Mexico City on the same day in 1985 and left thousands dead.

Oscar Montero, a boy with deep brown eyes whose playful energy sends him bouncing through the halls of the shelter, said the initial tremor didn't scare him. He comforted the frightened children at his school.

But he is afraid to go home.

"What if there's a quake again and things break?" he asks. "Here it won't."

Emails point to Manafort offer to brief Russian in campaign

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the middle of Donald Trump's presidential run, then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort said he was willing to provide "private briefings" about the campaign to a Russian billionaire the U.S. government considers close to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Manafort's offer was memorialized in an email exchange with a former employee of his political consulting firm in July 2016. It was first reported by The Washington Post, which said portions of Manafort's emails were read to reporters.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni confirmed to The Associated Press that the email exchanges were legitimate but said no briefings ever occurred. The email involved an offer for Oleg Deripaska, a wealthy Russian who made his money in the aluminum business.

The July 7, 2016, email came a little over a week before the Republican National Convention, while Manafort was leading the Trump campaign's day-to-day operations. It also occurred about a month after Manafort attended a meeting with a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower. That meeting was brokered by Donald Trump Jr., who was told in emails that the meeting was part of a Russian government effort to help his father's campaign.

The Manafort email exchange regarding Deripaska is one of thousands of pages of material turned over to congressional committees by the Trump campaign. It is also in the possession of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating whether there was any coordination between Trump associates and Russians looking to interfere in the presidential campaign. Mueller is also probing Manafort's taxes and his foreign banking as part of an investigation related to his consulting work in Ukraine.

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Manafort has denied any wrongdoing, saying his work in Ukraine was open and appropriate. He has also denied any involvement in any efforts to undermine the U.S. election on behalf of Russia. Deripaska has denied any involvement with the Trump campaign and said he is willing to testify before congressional committees investigating Russian election interference to defend his reputation and his name.

According to the Post, Manafort wrote the email to a former employee, Konstantin Kilimnik, who had worked for years with him on political consulting in Ukraine. Manafort asked Kilimnik to pass the offer to Deripaska.

"If he needs private briefings we can accommodate," Manafort wrote — referring to Deripaska — in the email, according to the Post.

In a statement, Maloni dismissed the correspondence as "innocuous." He said the exchange was part of an effort on Manafort's part to collect money from clients who owed him money. The Post reported that several email exchanges between Manafort and Kilimnik discussed money that Manafort said he was owed by former clients in Eastern Europe.

"It is no secret Mr. Manafort was owed money by past clients after his work ended in 2014," Maloni said in the statement.

The email is the first to indicate that Manafort was attempting to reach Deripaska while he was working on the Trump campaign, but it's unclear whether the offer ever reached Deripaska or his representatives. The Post reported that according to documents detailed to its reporters, there was no evidence Deripaska received the offer.

Attorneys for Deripaska in New York and Washington did not respond to phone messages or emails Wednesday evening. Kilimnik did not immediately respond to an email Wednesday evening. A phone number previously used by him was not accepting calls.

The Post quoted Vera Kurochkina, a spokeswoman for one of Deripaska's companies, who said inquiries about the emails "veer into manufactured questions so grossly false and insinuating that I am concerned even responding to these fake connotations provides them the patina of reality." She also dismissed the email exchanges, the Post said, as scheming by "consultants in the notorious 'Beltway bandit' industry."

The Associated Press reported in March that before signing with Trump's campaign, Manafort secretly worked for Deripaska and proposed plans for political consulting work in Eastern Europe that he said could "greatly benefit the Putin Government."

In a 2005 memo to Deripaska, Manafort laid out the details of the proposal that were subsequently spelled out the following year as part of a \$10 million contract, according to interviews with people familiar with payments to Manafort and business records obtained by the AP. It's unclear how much of the work was carried out. The AP previously reported that Manafort and Deripaska maintained a business relationship until at least 2009. The two later had a falling-out laid bare in 2014 in a Cayman Islands court.

The AP cited U.S. diplomatic cables from 2006 describing Deripaska as "among the 2-3 oligarchs Putin turns to on a regular basis" and "a more-or-less permanent fixture on Putin's trips abroad." Deripaska has also sworn in a New York state court document that he has been granted "a diplomatic passport from Russia, and on occasion I have represented the government in countries outside Russia."

Deripaska sued the AP for defamation over the story in May in U.S. District Court in Washington, alleging the story was inaccurate and hurt his career by falsely accusing him of criminal activity. Deripaska's lawyers complained to the AP at the time that the article "suggests that Mr. Deripaska has been involved with Mr. Manafort more recently," and the lawsuit said, "Mr. Deripaska severed relations with Mr. Manafort many years ago." The AP has said it stands by the accuracy of its story, and has asked a federal judge to dismiss the lawsuit.

Manafort has previously said he worked for Deripaska to advance his business interests but denied his work was meant to advance Russia's interests.

The Post reported that Kilimnik and Manafort at times referred to Deripaska as "OVD" in the emails. That shorthand is consistent with how Manafort and other employees at his former consulting business referred to the billionaire in other documents obtained by the AP, including the 2005 proposal that referred to a plan to "greatly benefit the Putin Government."

According to other emails obtained by the AP that are in the hands of Mueller and congressional committees, Manafort had previously shut down efforts to have Trump meet with Russians during the campaign.

In mid-May 2016, a Trump campaign aide wrote to Manafort that "Russia has been eager to meet Mr. Trump for quite some time," noting that representatives from the country had been reaching out to him.

Manafort responded to his deputy, Rick Gates, that the meetings were a nonstarter. "We need someone to communicate that DT is not doing these trips," he wrote, referring to Trump. The two decided that the communication should come from a person in the campaign who responds to "all mail of non-importance" so as not to send a message.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Google buys HTC's Pixel team in \$1.1B bet on devices

By RYAN NAKASHIMA and MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is biting off a big piece of device manufacturer HTC for \$1.1 billion to expand its efforts to build phones, speakers and other gadgets equipped with its arsenal of digital services.

It's buying the HTC engineering team that built the Pixel smartphone for Google in a cash deal, the companies said in a joint statement Thursday. Google is also getting a non-exclusive license for Taiwan-based HTC's intellectual property to help support Pixel phones.

The deal underscores how serious Google is becoming about designing its own family of devices to compete against Apple and Amazon in a high-stakes battle to become the technological hub of people's lives.

"We think this is a very important step for Google in our hardware efforts," Rick Osterloh, Google's senior vice president of hardware, said at a press conference in Taipei. "We've been focusing on building our core capabilities. But with this agreement, we're taking a very large leap forward."

The deal, which needs regulatory approval, is expected to close by early 2018.

Over the past decade, Google had focused on giving away its Android operating system to an array of device makers, including HTC, to ensure people would keep using its ubiquitous search engine, email, maps, YouTube video service and other software on smartphones and other pieces of hardware.

But that changed last year when Google stamped its brand on a smartphone and internet-connected speaker. HTC manufactured the Pixel phones that Google designed last year, paving the way for this deal to unfold.

HTC's Chief Financial Officer Peter Shen said about 2,000 engineers will be transferred to Google, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported. The staff are "primarily focused on research and development," Osterloh said.

Although Android powers about four out of every five smartphones and other mobile devices in the world, the software can be altered in ways that result in Google's services being de-emphasized or left out completely from the pre-installed set of apps.

That fragmentation threatens to undercut Google's ability to increase the ad sales that bring in most of the revenue to its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc., as people spend more and more time on smartphones and other devices instead of personal computers.

Apple's iPhone and other hardware products are also particularly popular among affluent consumers prized by advertisers, giving Google another incentive to develop its own high-priced phone as a mobile platform for its products and ads.

Google also wants to build more internet-connected devices designed primarily for home usage, such as its voice-controlled speaker that's trying to catch up with Amazon's Echo. The Home speaker includes a digital concierge, called Google Assistant, that answers questions and helps manage people's lives, much like the Alexa in Amazon's Echo.

Google's previous forays into hardware haven't panned out to be big winners so far. It paid \$12.5 billion for smartphone maker Motorola Mobility for \$12.5 billion five years ago only to sell it off to Lenovo Group for less than \$3 billion after struggling to make a dent in the market. And in 2014, Google paid more than

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\$3 billion for home device maker Nest Labs, which is still struggling to make money under Alphabet's ownership.

The latest purchase is a big gamble for Google Inc. and parent company Alphabet Inc. but analysts say this time it could pay off. That's because it gives a financial lifeline to Google's struggling Taiwanese partner while giving the Silicon Valley giant access to the strong R&D talent it needs in order to expand its share in the coveted premium smartphone market.

It's "a business decision to have access to one of the best R&D teams," said Neil Shah, research director at Counterpoint Technology Market Research. But it's also "a sort of emotional decision to save its close partners."

HTC, which teamed up with Google in 2008, has seen its market share shrink dramatically in the past decade in the fiercely competitive smartphone market. Its share of the global smartphone market fell to less than 1 percent last year from nearly 9 percent in 2011, according to Counterpoint data.

One risk, though, is that expanding into hardware threatens to further alienate Android-based device makers like Samsung Electronics, which has been forging closer ties with Google's rival Facebook, and China's Huawei.

Analysts also predicted Samsung could be the biggest loser as Pixel phones undercut the South Korean tech giant's market-leading smartphone business as consumers potentially turned off by high priced Galaxy devices defect to the Pixel, which is slightly cheaper and has Google's newest software.

Associated Press video journalist Johnson Lai in Taipei and Business Writers Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong and Youkyung Lee in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Ex-prosecutors unsure if nursing home deaths involved crimes

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — Nine elderly patients died after being kept inside a nursing home that turned into a sweatbox when Hurricane Irma knocked out its air conditioning for three days, even though just across the street was a fully functioning and cooled hospital.

From the perspective of Florida Gov. Rick Scott and relatives of those at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, criminal charges are warranted. But under Florida law, a prosecution might be difficult. Two of three ex-state prosecutors contacted by The Associated Press had doubts as to whether Dr. Jack Michel, the home's owner, or any of his employees will be charged.

All agreed that any criminal prosecutions will hinge on whether the nursing home staff made honest mistakes or were "culpably negligent." Florida defines that as "consciously doing an act or following a course of conduct that the defendant must have known, or reasonably should have known, was likely to cause death or great bodily injury."

Hollywood police and the state attorney's office are investigating.

The home has said it used coolers, fans, ice and other methods to keep the patients comfortable — and that might be enough to avoid prosecution.

"There is a difference between negligence, which is what occurs when you are not giving a particular standard of care vs. culpable negligence," said David Weinstein, a former state and federal prosecutor now in private practice. "So if they are doing everything humanly possible given the circumstances and this all still happened it may be negligent and provide the basis for a civil lawsuit, but not enough for criminal charges."

Retired University of Florida law professor Bob Dekle, who prosecuted serial killer Ted Bundy as an assistant state attorney, said he doubted charges would be brought.

"I would rather be a defense attorney on this case than a prosecutor," Dekle said. "There are some cases that are better tried in civil court than criminal and this might be one of them."

Former U.S. Attorney Kendall Coffey disagreed.

"Given the magnitude of the tragedy and the apparent availability of a hospital 50 yards away, prosecu-

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tors are not going to accept that this was an unavoidable tragedy," he said.

Gary Matzner, the nursing home's attorney, said in a statement that Michel and the staff are cooperating with the investigation.

"The center and its employees and directors are devastated by this tragedy," he said.

Irma reached Broward County on Sept. 10. The home has said a felled tree took out a transformer that powered the air conditioner, but it maintained power otherwise. It said it reported the loss to Florida Power & Light and was promised repairs in the next two days, but the utility never arrived.

Scott's office said that over those two days, home administrators Jorge Carballo and Natasha Anderson were in contact with the state about the failed air conditioner but never said the situation had become dangerous. The state said they were told to call 911 if needed.

On the afternoon of Sept. 12, the home borrowed portable air coolers from Memorial Regional Hospital, the trauma center across the street. Later that night, home administrators said, a physician's assistant checked the patients and none were overheated and the building temperature never exceeded 80 degrees. Under state law, the temperature was not supposed to exceed 81 degrees.

In the early hours of Sept. 13, the deaths began. Three 911 calls were made before 6 a.m., causing Memorial staff to rush across the street to offer assistance. Doctors and nurses said they found the home's staff working to cool the patients, although they and police have said the facility was very hot.

No temperature reading has been released as police have said that is part of the investigation.

Three people died on the home's second floor and six succumbed at the hospital, including a 93-year-old man who died Tuesday. The state said four of the deceased had body temperatures between 107 (41.6 Celsius) and 109 (42.7 Celsius) degrees.

Dr. Randy Katz, the hospital's emergency director, said last week it was impossible to say whether any of the dead would have survived if they had gotten to the hospital hours earlier.

The number of deaths and injured could be a determining factor in whether to bring charges. Weinstein said prosecutors could argue that after the first patients became seriously ill, administrators should have known an evacuation was necessary. Dekle agreed the number could be key.

"The more dead victims there are in a homicide case, the less likely a jury is to find reasonable doubt," Dekle said.

Trump to look at even stricter cap on refugees

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is considering a further reduction in the number of refugees allowed into the United States as the administration works to re-shape American immigration policy, officials say.

Trump has already slashed refugee admissions once since taking office. Now he faces a decision on how many to admit in the next budget year.

As is often the case with the Trump administration, Cabinet officials are divided as they weigh the costs and potential security risks associated with the program.

The Department of Homeland Security has been pushing for a reduction beyond the 50,000 maximum-entry mark set by Trump earlier this year as part of his travel ban executive orders — a number that is already the lowest in modern American history. In a proposal submitted late last week, the department called for a reduction to 40,000 refugees in the next budget year starting Oct. 1, citing concerns about its workload and ability to adequately vet those seeking entry.

The State Department, which oversees the program, has formally recommended that the number be kept at 50,000, according to Trump administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss internal deliberations. Agencies had been given until the close of business Wednesday to submit formal recommendations for consideration.

State Department officials would have been inclined to set their recommendation higher, several of the people said, but were taking their cues from the president's executive order and felt that 50,000 was the

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highest number that would be palatable to him.

Trump has until Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, to determine how many refugees to admit under the Refugee Act of 1980. He is expected to consider the issue over the weekend, after he finishes up at the U.N. General Assembly in New York, one White House official said.

The U.S. welcomed 84,995 refugees in fiscal year 2016, and former President Barack Obama had wanted to raise that number to 110,000 in 2017.

Trump has made limiting immigration the centerpiece of his policy agenda. He temporarily banned visitors from a handful of Muslim-majority nations, has rescinded an Obama-era executive action protecting young immigrants from deportation and insists he'll build a wall along the southern border.

During his campaign, Trump pledged to "stop the massive inflow of refugees" and warned that terrorists were smuggling themselves into naive countries by posing as refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

"Thousands of refugees are being admitted with no way to screen them and are instantly made eligible for welfare and free health care, even as our own veterans, our great, great veterans, die while they're waiting online for medical care that they desperately need," Trump said last October.

Instead, Trump has advocated keeping refugees closer to their homes.

In a speech to the United Nations on Tuesday, Trump thanked Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon for taking in hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Syrian conflict, and described the United States as a "compassionate nation" that has spent "billions and billions of dollars in helping to support this effort."

"We seek an approach to refugee resettlement that is designed to help these horribly treated people, and which enables their eventual return to their home countries to be part of the rebuilding process," he said, arguing that for the cost of resettling one refugee in the United States, the U.S. can assist more than 10 migrants in their home regions.

Advocates say that misses the point.

"I think that these comments show a basic misunderstanding of the refugee crisis," said Jen Smyers, who helps run the immigration and refugee program at Church World Service, one of nine organizations that work to resettle refugees in the U.S. She said the safe re-integration of refugees into their home countries is always the preferred outcome, followed by integration in a nearby country that shares a refugee's language and culture. Resettlement is a last resort when those options are impossible.

Refugees already face an extensive backlog and waiting periods that can take years. Smyers said that after Trump's executive order, she had to tell refugees in the pipeline they'd be waiting even longer.

"It's devastating for refugees who are overseas," she said.

Stacie Blake, of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, said the proposed cutbacks were especially concerning given the migrant crises affecting so many parts of the world, including the Rohingya Muslim refugees fleeing Myanmar. She said Trump's move could prompt other nations to "back out" as well.

White House spokeswoman Kelly Love said in a statement that the administration's approach to refugee resettlement "is unwavering" and would be "guided by the safety and security of the American people, the protection of U.S. taxpayers, and the application of U.S. resources in a manner that stretches our dollars to help the most people."

DHS spokesman David Lapan said that in setting the admissions ceiling, the agency would take into account the "workload capacity of all program partners, including the vetting agencies" as well as national security interests.

Simon Henshaw, the top State Department official for refugees, said the decision was ultimately Trump's.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed from New York.

Bangladesh truck carrying Rohingya Muslim aid crashes; 9 die

By ESTHER HTUSAN and JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A truck filled with aid for Rohingya Muslim refugees in Bangladesh veered off a road and fell into a ditch Thursday morning, killing at least nine aid workers, hours after another aid

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shipment in the refugees' violence-wracked home state in Myanmar was attacked by a Buddhist mob.

Both shipments were from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Aid groups face different challenges on either side of the border: An influx of more than 420,000 refugees in less than a month in Bangladesh, and in Myanmar, government resistance and angry allegations from majority Buddhists that international organizations are favoring the long-persecuted Rohingya minority.

A Bangladeshi medical administrator, Aung Swi Prue, said six people died instantly in the truck crash near the border in southeastern Bandarban district. Three people died after reaching a hospital, and 10 others were injured and are receiving treatment.

ICRC spokeswoman Misada Saif said all of those killed were Bangladeshi workers hired to distribute food packages to 500 Rohingya families.

Saif said the truck belongs to the ICRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and was operated by a supplier who has been working for the two agencies for last couple of weeks. She said agency officials are "very shocked and sad."

"Our thoughts are with the families of the dead. They were there to help the people who desperately need help," she said.

The Rohingya exodus began Aug. 25, after Rohingya insurgent attacks on police set off a military crack-down.

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands of homes have been burned in what many Rohingya have described as a systematic effort by Myanmar's military to drive them out. The government has blamed the Rohingya, even saying they set fire to their own homes, but the U.N. and others accuse it of ethnic cleansing.

Most refugees have ended up in camps in the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar, which already had hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who had fled prior rounds of violence. Bandarban is a neighboring district where thousands of Rohingya also have fled.

The violence in Myanmar occurred just across the border in Rakhine state, where police said a Buddhist mob threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at officers Wednesday night as they tried to block Red Cross supplies from being loaded onto a boat. The vessel was headed to an area where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims have chased from their homes. No injuries were reported and police detained eight of the attackers.

Dozens of people arrived at a jetty in the Rakhine state capital, Sittwe, as a boat was being loaded bottled water, blankets, mosquito nets, food and other supplies. As the crowd swelled to 300, they started throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the officers, who responded by firing into the air, said police officer Phyo Wai Kyaw.

The government of the predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million said police and several monks showed up to try to defuse tensions. The shipment ultimately was loaded and sent to northern Rakhine state.

Though Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, told diplomats this week humanitarian assistance was being sent to those who remain in northern Rakhine, the government has blocked all U.N. assistance to the area, granting access to only the Red Cross.

Buddhists in Rakhine have accused international aid agencies of favoring Rohingya, a group who Myanmar and many of its people contend migrated illegally from Bangladesh.

"We are explaining to the community members who approached the boats about the activities of the Red Cross," said Maria Cecilia Goin, a communications officer at the ICRC in Yangon.

"It's important for them to understand that we are working in neutral and impartial way," she said, adding that the work is being done "with full transparency with the Myanmar authorities."

Suu Kyi's speech this week in Naypyitaw, the capital, defended her government's conduct in Rakhine state and avoided criticism of the military. The country's top general went a step further, traveling to northern Rakhine on Thursday to praise security forces for their "gallant" efforts to defend Myanmar.

At a meeting with military officials and their families in Buthiduang township, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Min Aung Hlaing said that more than a century ago when the area was a British colony,

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Rohingya — whom he referred to as “Bengalis” — were allowed to settle without restrictions.

“Later, the Bengali population exploded and the aliens tried to seize the land of local ethnics,” Min Aung Hlaing said, according to his office’s Facebook page. He described repeated army efforts since Myanmar independence in 1948 to “to crush the mujahedeen insurgents,” including in 2012 and last fall.

“Race cannot be swallowed by the ground, but only by another race,” he said. “All must be loyal to the state in serving their duties, so that such cases will never happen again.”

Esther Htusan contributed to this report from Yangon, Myanmar.

Manafort offered to brief wealthy Russian during campaign

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the middle of Donald Trump’s presidential run, then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort said he was willing to provide “private briefings” about the campaign to a Russian billionaire the U.S. government considers close to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Manafort’s offer was memorialized in an email exchange with a former employee of his political consulting firm in July 2016. It was first reported by The Washington Post, which said portions of Manafort’s emails were read to reporters.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni confirmed to The Associated Press that the email exchanges were legitimate but said no briefings ever occurred. The email involved an offer for Oleg Deripaska, a wealthy Russian who made his money in the aluminum business.

The July 7, 2016, email came a little over a week before the Republican National Convention, while Manafort was leading the Trump campaign’s day-to-day operations. It also occurred about a month after Manafort attended a meeting with a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower. That meeting was brokered by Donald Trump Jr., who was told in emails that the meeting was part of a Russian government effort to help his father’s campaign.

The Manafort email exchange regarding Deripaska is one of thousands of pages of material turned over to congressional committees by the Trump campaign. It is also in the possession of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating whether there was any coordination between Trump associates and Russians looking to interfere in the presidential campaign. Mueller is also probing Manafort’s taxes and his foreign banking as part of an investigation related to his consulting work in Ukraine.

Manafort has denied any wrongdoing, saying his work in Ukraine was open and appropriate. He has also denied any involvement in any efforts to undermine the U.S. election on behalf of Russia. Deripaska has denied any involvement with the Trump campaign and said he is willing to testify before congressional committees investigating Russian election interference to defend his reputation and his name.

According to the Post, Manafort wrote the email to a former employee, Konstantin Kilimnik, who had worked for years with him on political consulting in Ukraine. Manafort asked Kilimnik to pass the offer to Deripaska.

“If he needs private briefings we can accommodate,” Manafort wrote — referring to Deripaska — in the email, according to the Post.

In a statement, Maloni dismissed the correspondence as “innocuous.” He said the exchange was part of an effort on Manafort’s part to collect money from clients who owed him money. The Post reported that several email exchanges between Manafort and Kilimnik discussed money that Manafort said he was owed by former clients in Eastern Europe.

“It is no secret Mr. Manafort was owed money by past clients after his work ended in 2014,” Maloni said in the statement.

The email is the first to indicate that Manafort was attempting to reach Deripaska while he was working on the Trump campaign, but it’s unclear whether the offer ever reached Deripaska or his representatives. The Post reported that according to documents detailed to its reporters, there was no evidence Deripaska received the offer.

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Attorneys for Deripaska in New York and Washington did not respond to phone messages or emails Wednesday evening. Kilimnik did not immediately respond to an email Wednesday evening. A phone number previously used by him was not accepting calls.

The Post quoted Vera Kurochkina, a spokeswoman for one of Deripaska's companies, who said inquiries about the emails "veer into manufactured questions so grossly false and insinuating that I am concerned even responding to these fake connotations provides them the patina of reality." She also dismissed the email exchanges, the Post said, as scheming by "consultants in the notorious 'Beltway bandit' industry."

The Associated Press reported in March that before signing with Trump's campaign, Manafort secretly worked for Deripaska and proposed plans for political consulting work in Eastern Europe that he said could "greatly benefit the Putin Government."

In a 2005 memo to Deripaska, Manafort laid out the details of the proposal that were subsequently spelled out the following year as part of a \$10 million contract, according to interviews with people familiar with payments to Manafort and business records obtained by the AP. It's unclear how much of the work was carried out. The AP previously reported that Manafort and Deripaska maintained a business relationship until at least 2009. The two later had a falling-out laid bare in 2014 in a Cayman Islands court.

The AP cited U.S. diplomatic cables from 2006 describing Deripaska as "among the 2-3 oligarchs Putin turns to on a regular basis" and "a more-or-less permanent fixture on Putin's trips abroad." Deripaska has also sworn in a New York state court document that he has been granted "a diplomatic passport from Russia, and on occasion I have represented the government in countries outside Russia."

Deripaska sued the AP for defamation over the story in May in U.S. District Court in Washington, alleging the story was inaccurate and hurt his career by falsely accusing him of criminal activity. Deripaska's lawyers complained to the AP at the time that the article "suggests that Mr. Deripaska has been involved with Mr. Manafort more recently," and the lawsuit said, "Mr. Deripaska severed relations with Mr. Manafort many years ago." The AP has said it stands by the accuracy of its story, and has asked a federal judge to dismiss the lawsuit.

Manafort has previously said he worked for Deripaska to advance his business interests but denied his work was meant to advance Russia's interests.

The Post reported that Kilimnik and Manafort at times referred to Deripaska as "OVD" in the emails. That shorthand is consistent with how Manafort and other employees at his former consulting business referred to the billionaire in other documents obtained by the AP, including the 2005 proposal that referred to a plan to "greatly benefit the Putin Government."

According to other emails obtained by the AP that are in the hands of Mueller and congressional committees, Manafort had previously shut down efforts to have Trump meet with Russians during the campaign.

In mid-May 2016, a Trump campaign aide wrote to Manafort that "Russia has been eager to meet Mr. Trump for quite some time," noting that representatives from the country had been reaching out to him.

Manafort responded to his deputy, Rick Gates, that the meetings were a nonstarter. "We need someone to communicate that DT is not doing these trips," he wrote, referring to Trump. The two decided that the communication should come from a person in the campaign who responds to "all mail of non-importance" so as not to send a message.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Seoul to resume aid to N. Korea but doesn't set date

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea on Thursday decided to resume humanitarian aid to North Korea to help children and pregnant women, but didn't determine when to provide the \$8 million worth of assistance amid tensions created by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.

Still, the decision is ensured to trigger heated political debates as many South Koreans have expressed concerns that the aid resumption would distract from efforts to step up sanctions and pressure against the North over its rapidly expanding nuclear weapons program.

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South Korea suspended humanitarian aid to North Korea after the country conducted its fourth nuclear test in January 2016. The country's new liberal President Moon Jae-in, who took office in May, has maintained that the issue of providing humanitarian aid to North Korea should be handled independently from political circumstances.

After a meeting between ministries and civilian experts, the government decided to support programs by the United Nations Children's Fund and the U.N. World Food Program for providing food and medicines to North Korean children and pregnant women, the Unification Ministry said.

The ministry said the assistance doesn't include cash and there's "realistically no possibility" that the North could use it to support its military. The government will decide when to provide the aid considering the state of relations between the rival Koreas, the ministry said. The U.N. assesses that 18 million of the 25 million North Koreans are experiencing varying levels of food shortages and the country also suffers from high child and maternal mortality rates.

Son Kum-ju, a lawmaker and spokesman of the opposition People's Party, said the decision to resume aid was badly timed because it risks sending mixed signals to the international community that's trying to tighten the screws on Pyongyang.

"The international community is strengthening sanctions and pressure against North Korea and even Moon is in the United States to strengthen international coordination against the North Korean problem," said Son. "If our government contradicts itself and beats to a different beat, it won't be able to gain the approval of its own people, let alone other countries."

The last time South Korea provided humanitarian aid to North Korea through an international agency was in December 2015, when it gave \$800,000 to the U.N. Population Fund project to evaluate North Korean public health conditions.

Since its fourth nuclear test a month later, North Korea has conducted two more nuclear tests and flight-tested a slew of new missile systems, including developmental ICBMs that could potentially reach deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected. The North also flew two powerful new midrange missiles over Japan in recent weeks.

SEC reveals 2016 hack that breached its filing system

By AMIR BIBAWY, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday that a cyber breach of a filing system it uses may have provided the basis for some illegal trading in 2016.

In a statement posted on the SEC's website, Chairman Jay Clayton said a review of the agency's cybersecurity risk profile determined that the previously detected "incident" was caused by "a software vulnerability" in its EDGAR filing system.

The statement said the software was patched quickly after the hack was uncovered in 2016, although the possibility that some may have used it to make illegal profits was only discovered last month.

The SEC revelation comes as Americans continue to grapple with the repercussions of a massive, months-long hack of Equifax, a credit reporting agency, which exposed highly sensitive personal information of 143 million people.

The SEC chairman said this breach did not result in exposing personally identifiable information.

The SEC files financial market disclosure documents through its EDGAR system, which processes over 1.7 million electronic filings in any given year according to the agency's 4,000-word statement.

Clayton's statement also mentioned that a 2014 internal review was unable to locate some agency laptops that may have contained confidential information.

The agency also discovered instances in which its personnel used private, unsecured email accounts to transmit confidential information.

The SEC is continuing to investigate the breach and its possible consequences and coordinating with the "appropriate authorities," according to the statement.

Clayton ordered a review of the SEC's cybersecurity profile in May 2017, which led to the discovery of

the possible illegal trading. The statement did not explain why the hack itself was not revealed when it was discovered last year.

Iranian president: Trump's UN comments 'ignorant, absurd'

By JENNIFER PELTZ and EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's president warned Wednesday that his country will "respond decisively" to any violation of the agreement that reins in its nuclear program and called President Donald Trump's "ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric" about Iran unfit for the United Nations.

In remarks clearly directed at Trump's 8-month-old administration, Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani told the U.N. General Assembly: "It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by rogue newcomers to the world of politics."

"The world will have lost a great opportunity, but such unfortunate behavior will never impede Iran's course of progress and advancement," Rouhani said.

As he spoke to the assembly, other nations began signing the first treaty to ban nuclear weapons, a pact spurned by nuclear powers.

Fifty states put their names on the nuclear weapons pact by the end of the day. Guyana, the Vatican and Thailand also have already ratified the treaty, which would take effect if 50 nations take that step.

The U.N. Security Council, meanwhile, approved a resolution supporting efforts to reform the world body's far-flung peacekeeping operations. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence joined the discussion on a Trump administration priority, applauding the resolution and saying all peacekeeping missions should have an exit strategy.

"When a mission succeeds, we must not prolong it. When a mission underperforms, we should restructure it. And when a mission consistently fails to fulfill a mandate of this council, we should end it," he said.

While Iran dominated the second day of the assembly's annual ministerial meeting, plenty of other issues were on the agenda of world leaders.

British Prime Minister Theresa May called for stronger steps to rein in North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's nuclear weapons buildup, and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged international unity in pressuring Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas warned Israel not to turn the Middle East's decades-long conflict into a religious one. And Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko renewed calls for a U.N. peacekeeping mission to his country amid what he describes as "blatant" violations of its sovereignty by Russia.

Myanmar's Vice President Henry Van Thio, said his government is committed to long-term solutions to the tensions in Rakhine state, from which more than 420,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled a military crackdown to neighboring Bangladesh.

He spoke at the U.N. late Wednesday in the absence of Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Myanmar's civilian government who has been criticized for failing to protect the minority group.

The crackdown has been described by the U.N. and others — including Rouhani — as ethnic cleansing. Van Thio said "deep mistrust developed over decades has to be slowly chiseled away."

Rouhani's speech came a day after Trump, in his own address to the assembly, called the U.N.-backed Iran nuclear deal "an embarrassment" to the United States. He also called the Iranian government "a corrupt dictatorship" and "a murderous regime" that funds terrorists.

Rouhani retorted that "the ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric, filled with ridiculously baseless allegations, that was uttered before this august body yesterday" didn't befit an organization established to promote peace and respect among nations.

In a later tweet, he made clear that the comments were directed at Trump.

Trump hinted that his administration, which has accused Tehran of aiding terrorism in the Middle East, could soon declare Iran out of compliance with the deal. That could unravel it.

Ministers from the seven parties to the agreement met at U.N. headquarters late Wednesday and agreed that all sides are fully implementing the deal, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said.

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She said the deal's preservation is important at a critical time in the world.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Iran is in "technical compliance" with the deal, but he said it's failing to live up to the expectation that the agreement would remove a "serious threat" to the region.

Tillerson said it's a political discussion now about whether to remain in the deal.

Rouhani said his country would not be the first to breach the nuclear agreement, "but it will respond decisively to its violation by any party."

He told a news conference later that if the U.S. decides to break the agreement, "any choice and any option" are open for Iran — but he dismissed Trump's "baseless accusation" that the nuclear deal may be providing cover for Iran's eventual construction of nuclear weapons.

"The options that we say we have at our disposal ... will never be going towards nuclear weapons," Rouhani said. "Iran has never sought nuclear weapons, will never seek nuclear weapons, is not now seeking nuclear weapons."

Rouhani repeatedly invoked moderation as Iran's goal and said its missiles — which have been strongly criticized by the Trump administration — "are solely defensive deterrents."

Associated Press writer Alexandra Olson contributed to this report.

Jake LaMotta, boxer who inspired 'Raging Bull,' dies at 95

By TIM DAHLBERG, AP Boxing Writer

Jake LaMotta, an iron-fisted battler who brawled his way to a middleweight title and was later memorialized by Robert De Niro in the film "Raging Bull," has died. He was 95.

The former middleweight champion died Tuesday at a Miami-area hospital from complications of pneumonia, according to his longtime fiancée, Denise Baker.

LaMotta handed Sugar Ray Robinson his first defeat and reigned for nearly two years as middleweight champion during a time boxing was one of America's biggest sports. He was a fan favorite who fought with fury, though he admitted to once intentionally losing a fight to get in line for a title bout.

LaMotta gained fame with a new generation because of the 1980 film based loosely on his autobiography from a decade earlier. De Niro won an Academy Award playing the troubled boxer - violent both inside and outside the ring - in a Martin Scorsese film that several critics have ranked as among the top 100 movies ever made.

"Rest in Peace, Champ," De Niro said in a statement.

"Jake LaMotta was a champ," said Scorsese. "He was, as they say, larger than life. He lived a tough life, with a lot to over come, but that's exactly what he did. I'm glad to have had the chance to know him."

The Bronx Bull, as he was known in his fighting days, compiled an 83-19-4 record with 30 knockouts, in a career that began in 1941 and ended in 1954. But it was the movie that unflinchingly portrayed him as a violent and abusive husband - he was married six times - that is remembered even more.

"I'm no angel," he said in a 2005 interview with The Associated Press.

LaMotta fought the great Sugar Ray Robinson six times, handing Robinson the first defeat of his career in 1943 and losing the middleweight title to him in a storied match on Feb. 14, 1951, at Chicago Stadium.

Robinson stopped a bloodied LaMotta in the 13th round of their scheduled 15-round bout in a fight that became known as the second St. Valentine's Day Massacre. It was a reference to the infamous 1929 mob killings of the same name.

LaMotta took a beating in the later rounds of the fight, but he refused to go down until the referee stepped in to save him from further punishment. LaMotta finished 1-5 in six fights against Robinson, who many in boxing think was the greatest fighter ever.

"I fought Sugar Ray Robinson so many times it's a wonder I don't have diabetes," LaMotta was fond of saying.

In the fight before he lost the title, LaMotta saved the championship in movie-script fashion against

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Laurent Dauthuille. Trailing badly on all three scorecards, LaMotta knocked out the challenger with 13 seconds left in the fight.

LaMotta threw a fight against Billy Fox, which he admitted in testimony before the Kefauver Committee, a U.S. Senate committee investigating organized crime in 1960.

"I purposely lost a fight to Billy Fox because they promised me that I would get a shot to fight for the title if I did," LaMotta said in 1970 interview printed in Peter Heller's 1973 book "In This Corner: 40 World Champions Tell Their Stories."

LaMotta was "stopped" by Fox in the fourth round on Nov. 14, 1947, in Madison Square Garden. He didn't get a title shot until 10 fights later.

On June 16, 1949, in Detroit, he became middleweight champion when the Frenchman Marcel Cerdan couldn't continue after the 10th round.

Of the claim that Cerdan had to quit because of a shoulder injury, LaMotta said in 1970: "Something's bound to happen to you in a tough fight, cut eye, broken nose or broken hand or something like that. So you could make excuses out of anything, you know, but you got to keep on going if you're a champ or you're a contender."

Renowned for his strong chin, and the punishment he could take, and dish out, LaMotta was knocked down only once - in a 1952 loss to light-heavyweight Danny Nardico - in his 106 fights.

LaMotta's first defense was supposed to be a rematch with Cerdan, but the Frenchman was killed when a plane en route to the United States crashed in the Azores in 1949.

So in his first defense, LaMotta outpointed Tiberio Mitri on July 12, 1950, in New York, then on Sept. 13, he rallied to knock out Dauthuille at Detroit.

LaMotta's title reign ended when Robinson stopped him in the 13th round in Chicago, and he fought only sparingly before retiring a few years later.

In their second match, on Feb. 5, 1943, in New York, LaMotta won a 10-round decision, giving Robinson his first defeat in the 41st fight of his illustrious career.

LaMotta was born July 10, 1922, on New York City's Lower East Side but was raised in the Bronx. After retiring from boxing in 1954, he owned a nightclub for a time in Miami, then dabbled in show business and commercials. He also made personal appearances and for a while in the 1970s he was a host at a topless nightclub in New York.

The 1980 film "Raging Bull," based on LaMotta's memoir written 10 years earlier, was nominated for eight Academy Awards. Though director Scorsese was passed over, De Niro, who gained 50 pounds to portray the older, heavier LaMotta, won the best actor award.

In 1998, LaMotta, who had four daughters, lost both of his sons. Jake LaMotta Jr., 51, died from cancer in February. Joe LaMotta, 49, was killed in plane crash off Nova Scotia in September.

A funeral in Miami and a memorial service in New York City are being planned, Baker said.

This story has been corrected to show that LaMotta was born in 1922, not 1921.

Trump: GOP health bill short of votes before deadline

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday the Republicans' last-resort "Obamacare" repeal effort remains two or three votes short, forecasting days of furious lobbying ahead with a crucial deadline looming next week.

The legislation by Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina would repeal major pillars of former President Barack Obama's health law, replacing them with block grants to states to design their own health care programs. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is trying to round up 50 votes to pass the legislation before Sept. 30, when special rules preventing a Democratic filibuster will expire.

"We think this has a very good chance, Obamacare is only getting worse," Trump told reporters covering the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. "At some point the Senate is going to be forced to

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make a deal."

By his reckoning, "we're at 47 or 48 already, senators, and a lot of others are looking at it very positively."

Trump's comments came several hours after McConnell's office announced that the majority leader's "intention" is to bring the legislation to the Senate floor next week, a question McConnell was noncommittal on a day earlier. After the embarrassing defeat of an earlier repeal bill in July, some Republicans believe McConnell would bring a bill to the floor only with the votes in hand.

In a Senate split 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, McConnell has little room for error. GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky has already announced his opposition, saying the bill doesn't do enough to repeal "Obamacare," while moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is also seen as a likely "no" vote.

With Democrats unanimously opposed, McConnell cannot afford to lose even one more Republican senator. The focus is on Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, both of whom opposed earlier versions of repeal legislation. This time may be McCain because his closest friend in the Senate, Graham, is a co-author of the bill.

One leading Republican, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, voiced pessimism Wednesday in a phone interview with home-state reporters, saying glumly: "I think we're one or two votes short and I don't see those other votes coming and I hope I'm wrong."

Trump touched on one of the most contentious aspects of the bill in a tweet Wednesday night, asserting: "I would not sign Graham-Cassidy if it did not include coverage of pre-existing conditions. It does! A great Bill. Repeal & Replace."

Whether it truly does protect people with pre-existing health problems is fiercely under debate.

Later Wednesday, Trump tweeted, "Senator (Doctor) Bill Cassidy is a class act who really cares about people and their Health(care), he doesn't lie - just wants to help people!"

Cassidy defended the health care bill against criticism from late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel, who jumped into the debate after his son was born with a congenital heart defect in April.

"I am sorry he does not understand," Cassidy said of Kimmel on CNN, arguing that his bill would in fact protect people with pre-existing conditions, a claim that leading health advocacy groups dispute. "I think the price will actually be lower."

"This guy Bill Cassidy just lied right to my face," Kimmel said on his ABC show Tuesday night, referring to Cassidy's promises to Kimmel and others that his health bill would pass the "Jimmy Kimmel test." Cassidy coined the phrase to mean that people with pre-existing conditions would have protections and not face lifetime caps on coverage from insurers.

"We can't let 'em do this, to our children and our senior citizens and our veterans, or to any of us," said Kimmel.

Under Cassidy's legislation states would have wide latitude in creating their own health systems and requirements, and would be able to seek waivers from certain mandates including those related to coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. The bill does say that coverage must remain "adequate and affordable" for those with pre-existing conditions. But because those terms are not defined, critics fear that insurers could jack up prices beyond many people's ability to pay.

The AARP and the American Medical Association are among those arguing against the bill, along with a bipartisan group of governors, including Alaska's Bill Walker, an independent. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Trump ally during the campaign, said Wednesday he opposes the bill.

In its letter of opposition, the AMA wrote that the bill "does not take steps toward coverage and access for all Americans, and while insurers are still required to offer coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions, allowing states to get waivers to vary premiums based on health status would allow insurers to charge unaffordable premiums based on those pre-existing conditions."

Cassidy disputed such analyses, saying they come from "those who wish to preserve Obamacare, and they are doing everything they can to discredit the alternative."

If the bill does pass, Speaker Paul Ryan will try to move it through the House as-is, and straight to the president's desk. Yet success would hold uncertain political consequences as the legislation's unpredictable ramifications, certain to be harmful for some, unfurl over the years.

Democrats made their opposition clear.

"This is really a stinkeroo, this bill," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi told reporters Wednesday.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Matthew Daly in Washington and Scott McFetridge in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Review: iTunes video upgrade makes the new Apple TV worth it

By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It might seem odd to review the new Apple TV streaming device — one specifically designed to display super-sharp video known as 4K — without actually owning a 4K TV.

But in a way, that's the point.

Most people still don't have 4K TVs, so the new Apple TV model doesn't offer them much. But if you're an Apple fan and already have 4K, the choice is clear. The new Apple TV 4K is out Friday starting at \$179, or \$30 more than the regular model. It's a small difference compared with the price of your TV.

It's worth noting that alternatives to Apple TV are cheaper and equally capable at a basic level. All of the devices connect to a TV so you can stream most major video services on a big screen. Roku and Amazon have 4K models for less than \$100 and non-4K versions for even less. Both are even ahead of Apple TV in being able to stream Amazon video now; it's coming soon to Apple TV.

But none of the rivals will play movies or shows purchased from Apple's iTunes, at least without clunky workarounds. To watch those on a big screen directly, you need an Apple TV. And Apple has just sweetened the deal on that front.

THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED

Apple's embrace of 4K is significant, despite the fact that Roku, Amazon and other rivals beat Apple to that milestone. Apple often waits until there's broad enough appeal for new technologies. That time is now, given growth in sales of 4K TV and more movies and TV shows released in 4K formats.

Parallel to that is the rise of high-dynamic range technology in television sets. HDR increases color range and produces brighter whites and darker blacks. Better contrast means details in bright scenes aren't washed out. Apple TV 4K supports HDR, too.

PATH TO UPGRADES

4K is coming, just as high definition earlier replaced standard definition. The consulting company Futuresource says a third of TVs sold worldwide this year will be 4K capable, up from 25 percent last year. But people tend to keep TVs for many years, unlike high-turnover phones.

In demos with tech companies and visits to Best Buy, I find superior picture quality in 4K. Your couch needs to close enough to the screen to see the difference. My next TV will likely have 4K, but my 4-year-old Vizio HD TV still works fine (though I'm sure I just jinxed it).

ITUNES UPGRADES ITS VIDEO ... AND YOURS

Many Hollywood blockbusters now have 4K versions of home video releases. Netflix and Amazon are also trying to make their original shows available in 4K. But many indie and older titles remain in HD; even older shows like "The Wonder Years" are still stuck in standard definition.

Fortunately, Apple isn't making you choose now. If you buy something in HD through iTunes, you'll automatically get the 4K version when it's out. And if a 4K version is available now, it will cost the same as its HD counterpart. It's never been clear why HD video is more expensive than SD when actors, directors and others behind the movies were paid the same.

Lots of people were peeved at how the music industry tried to get them to repurchase the same songs on cassette tapes, CDs and then digital files. I have a collection of DVDs and don't feel like paying again for higher-quality Blu-ray or digital versions.

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So Apple's decision to treat 4K and HD the same is a good one. That only applies to iTunes, though. Netflix is charging extra for a plan that includes 4K, even when viewed on Apple TVs.

A word of caution: While the new iPhone 8 and iPad Pros unveiled this past June will support HDR, they won't display 4K. Even the upcoming iPhone X falls short in that respect.

BEYOND VIDEO

The new Apple TV gets a faster processor, which should make high-end games better to play. A new remote offers more precise motion control and a raised menu button to make it easier to orient yourself without looking. These features alone aren't enough to justify an Apple TV 4K unless you're a gamer. The non-4K version is getting the new remote, too. Picture quality is the same for both versions on regular HD sets like mine.

In any case, Apple TV — with or without 4K — will be most useful if you're already tied into Apple's system with iDevices and iTunes. Given that rival devices are cheaper, what you're buying isn't the device, but an experience — integration and syncing with all your other Apple gadgets. For instance, 4K video taken on an iPhone will play easily on an Apple TV 4K.

If you're in that camp and are thinking of buying a new TV in the next few years, there's a good chance it will be 4K, so you might as well choose the 4K version of Apple TV now. But if it's longer, a better Apple TV will likely be out by then. The non-4K version will do just fine for now.

In Alaska town packed with cabs, bootleggers give you a ride

By RACHEL D'ORO, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A far-flung Alaska town is known for having streets that are among the most taxi-congested in the U.S. in proportion to the small number of people who call it home.

For years, locals knew the cabdrivers as a source for illegal booze in Bethel, which has 58 taxis for its population of 6,200 — one for every 107 residents. State police heard the rumors and launched a two-year investigation that recently led to charges against 18 drivers accusing of selling alcohol out of their cabs without a license.

At play is a mix of strict liquor laws and cars being unable to reach the commercial hub for dozens of tiny villages on the tundra 400 miles west of Anchorage. Bethel voters lifted a decadeslong ban on alcohol sales several years ago, but the town's first liquor store in more than four decades opened just last year and closes by 7 p.m.

Taxi drivers, mostly from South Korea and Eastern Europe, have flocked to Bethel, situated in a vast region dotted with thousands of ponds where cars have to be flown in or sent by barge on a river. They shuttle tourists and people from 56 largely Eskimo villages who come to shop, see doctors or do other errands.

The proportion of cabs is far greater than in New York City, where traditional taxis number one for every 625 people. But New York also is stacked with liveries and limousines, as well as ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft, which are not players in Bethel. Taking those into account, there's one vehicle for hire for every 68 New Yorkers, close to Bethel's proportion.

In the Alaska town, it was known that people wanting alcohol could simply call one of several cab companies and ask for a "charter" ride, City Council member and longtime resident Mark Springer said.

But more people illegally sell alcohol than just the cabdrivers charged, according to Springer, who said others in the community have also seen it as a way to earn a livelihood or supplement their income.

"We use the term, 'subsistence bootlegging,'" he said.

There are plenty of reasons that illegal alcohol sales can still be a lucrative business in Bethel, Springer said, citing the lone liquor store that closes early and locals who don't want to wait to drink. Other likely customers are minors, out-of-towners or residents of surrounding villages, some of which ban alcohol.

Alaska State Troopers made about 50 undercover buys from people without an alcohol license. Prosecutors say that in most of the transactions, cabdrivers sold undercover officers cheap hard liquor for \$50 to \$60 a bottle. Besides the 18 cabdrivers, several others accused of working with them and one individual

with no connection to taxi companies were charged.

Most of the defendants were arraigned Wednesday on misdemeanor counts of selling alcohol without a license. They pleaded not guilty and have not been jailed. One local cab company also faces the same charges.

"The general concept is, we think it's important to have a license because alcohol causes a lot of problems in communities all over the state," Alaska Assistant Attorney General John Haley said.

Rural communities have long struggled with the effects of alcohol abuse. It has been particularly brutal for Alaska Natives, who have a high rate of suicide and premature death, with alcohol long considered a major factor. Many rural communities have passed laws banning or restricting the liquor sales.

Local attorney Myron Angstman represents four of the cabdrivers who have been charged. He said they are all from South Korea and that the language barrier has been a challenge.

Angstman said he had some help talking to his clients in an initial meeting but doesn't know enough about their cases to comment. He expects to bring in a professional translator.

Follow Rachel D'Oro at <https://twitter.com/rdoro> .

Japanese video gaming adapting new tech for familiar titles

By SHERRY ZHENG and YURI KAGEYAMA, Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — The Japanese video game industry is finding its way out of the doldrums by adapting new technology for decades-old titles. And that energy was evident at the annual Tokyo Game Show, which opened to media Thursday before opening to the public over the weekend.

"Our old fans used to play Japanese games, and those people are excited those games are coming back and they recognize them as Japanese-style games," game creator Koji Igarashi told The Associated Press at the show in Makuhari Messe hall in Chiba, a Tokyo suburb.

"Truly game-like games" is the way Igarashi described the genres enjoying revival, including his side-scrolling role-playing games. His latest version will come with a 3-D movie section.

Although smartphones hammered the video-games market for some years, from about 2010, the companies have adjusted. After the dust settled, some of the games that stood the test of time turned out to be Japanese, such as "Monster Hunter" and "Resident Evil," known as "Biohazard" in Japan, both from Capcom Co., the "Super Mario" series from Nintendo and "Gran Turismo" from Sony, to name a few.

Also helping are new consoles from the Japanese makers, such as the PlayStation 4 from Sony Corp. and the Nintendo Switch. More than 60 million PlayStation 4, or PS4, consoles have been sold since they went on sale last year. Switch sales already total some 4.7 million globally. Switch went on sale in March.

Kyoto-based Nintendo Co. initially scoffed at the threat from smartphones but did an about-face and began offering smartphone versions of their flagship games like "Super Mario" since 2015. "Pokemon Go," featuring Nintendo's Pokemon characters and played on smartphones, became a global hit.

Games are also taking on more features, such as massive online communities, as well as immersive virtual reality, not only leading to new kinds of games but also helping revive interest in old-style genres.

Igarashi compared that to the way Japanese movie-making has endured along with Hollywood films.

"We are just offering what we find as fun," he said, noting that what he called his "Japanese idea of fun" can cross borders. "And we must never lose sight of that — what makes us truly us."

In his latest game, "Bloodstained: Ritual of the Night," the player becomes Miriam, an orphan who awakens from a coma and battles demons as she tries to end a curse that is turning her skin to crystal.

Igarashi, known as "Iga" among game fans, produced the classic "Castlevania" vampire-action game series, which started in 1997, while at major Japanese game software maker Konami until he left three years ago to be on his own.

He has raised \$5.5 million in pledged funding, mostly from the U.S., on Kickstarter for his Gothic-horror "Bloodstained: Ritual of the Night." It is set to be playable on the Switch, PC, Xbox One, PS4 and Vita, when it launches in the first half of next year in seven languages, including Chinese and Italian.

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Atsushi Morita, president of Sony Interactive Entertainment Japan, Sony's game division, said Japanese culture is at the root of visual story-telling that began with manga comic books, went on to animation and films and now allows for an interactive element in games.

Many people used to play games, Morita added, but they have stopped as they got older. But with new technology like the virtual reality headset that Sony has developed and an array of software products coming out, the time may be finally ripe for the Japanese game industry to reap the rewards, he said.

"We want people to once again remember and rediscover the fun of games," said Morita. "We want people to re-experience that joy, that emotion."

Square Enix Holdings Co. President Yosuke Matsuda said his company is putting out the 15th game of the longtime hit "Final Fantasy" series. Long lines were forming at its giant booth at the Tokyo Game Show for a chance to try it out.

"Japanese games are loved by the world," he said.

Kageyama can be reached at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Asian shares weaken, dollar up after Fed's latest statement

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower and the dollar strengthened Thursday after the Fed said it would start trimming its bond holdings and planned one more interest rate increase this year.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.7 percent to 20,453.68 as the yen weakened against the dollar, benefiting shares of exporters. But other indexes in the region fell, with South Korea's Kospi slipping 0.2 percent to 2,407.39. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 0.1 percent to 28,072.92 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China dipped 0.1 percent to 3,361.72. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.7 percent to 5,668.90.

FED IN FOCUS: At their latest meeting, Federal Reserve policymakers kept short-term interest rates unchanged but said they still expect one more increase this year and three in 2018, if persistently low inflation rebounds. Since December 2015, the Fed has modestly raised the rate four times. Rates had previously been cut to a record low after the 2008 financial crisis, helping to fuel a multiyear global stock boom. Officials also said they plan to start unwinding the at the U.S. central bank's \$4.5 trillion balance sheet next month by reducing its bond holdings, which will gradually increase long-term borrowing rates. The plans were mostly in line with economist expectations.

INVESTOR INSIGHT: "The Fed's seemingly hawkish views on sustained lift-off in U.S. interest rates may be seen as a form of pressure for regional equities and could dampen prices today," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore. "Early movers in the region have so far been seen with mixed movements, mostly in red."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks finished mostly higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index inched up 0.1 percent to 2,508.24 and the Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.2 percent to 22,412.59. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.1 percent to 6,456.04.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rallied against its peers after the Fed statement, rising to a nearly two-month high of 112.53 yen from 112.23 yen on Wednesday. The euro weakened to \$1.1873 from \$1.1892.

ENERGY: Oil futures snapped their rally. Benchmark U.S. crude dipped 3 cents to \$50.66 a barrel added in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 93 cents, or 1.9 percent, to settle at \$50.41 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 14 cents to \$56.15 a barrel in London.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2017. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 21, 1897, responding to a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, the New York Sun ran its famous editorial by Francis P. Church that declared, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

On this date:

In 1792, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In 1925, the Rudolf Friml operetta "The Vagabond King" opened on Broadway.

In 1937, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. of London.

In 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming some 700 lives.

In 1948, Milton Berle made his debut as permanent host of "The Texaco Star Theater" on NBC-TV.

In 1957, Norway's King Haakon VII died in Oslo at age 85. The legal mystery-drama "Perry Mason," starring Raymond Burr, premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1964, Malta gained independence from Britain.

In 1970, "NFL Monday Night Football" made its debut on ABC-TV as the Cleveland Browns defeated the visiting New York Jets, 31-21.

In 1977, after weeks of controversy over past business and banking practices, President Jimmy Carter's embattled budget director, Bert Lance, resigned.

In 1987, NFL players called a strike, mainly over the issue of free agency. (The 24-day walkout prompted football owners to hire replacement players.)

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina (the storm was blamed for 56 deaths in the Caribbean and 29 in the United States). Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a soft-drink delivery truck, careened into a water-filled pit.

In 1996, John F. Kennedy Jr. married Carolyn Bessette in a secret ceremony on Cumberland Island, Georgia. The board of all-male Virginia Military Institute voted to admit women.

Ten years ago: One student was mortally wounded, another injured, at Delaware State University. (A suspected gunman was indicted for second-degree murder, but the case was dismissed by a judge because prosecutors withheld evidence.) The Rev. Rex Humbard, whose televangelism ministry once spanned the globe, died in Atlantis, Florida, at age 88. Tony Award-winning actress Alice Ghostley died in Los Angeles at age 83.

Five years ago: A plane carrying Ann Romney from Omaha, Nebraska, to Los Angeles made an emergency landing in Denver after smoke filled the cabin; there were no injuries. A man was bitten multiple times after leaping from a monorail into a tiger exhibit at the Bronx Zoo. People lined up to buy Apple's iPhone5 as it went on sale in the United States and several other countries.

One year ago: Outraged Republican and Democratic lawmakers grilled Heather Bresch, the CEO of pharmaceutical company Mylan, about the significant cost increase of its life-saving EpiPens; defending her company's business practices, Bresch told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee she wished the company had "better anticipated the magnitude and acceleration" of the rising prices for some families.

Today's Birthdays: Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 76. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is 74. Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is 73. Musician Don Felder is 70. Author Stephen King is 70. Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore is 68. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 67. Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Delahoussaye is 66. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is 60. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 60. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 58. Actor David James Elliott is 57. Actress Serena Scott-Thomas is 56. Actress Nancy Travis is

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56. Actor Rob Morrow is 55. Actor Angus Macfadyen is 54. Retired MLB All-Star Cecil Fielder is 54. Actress Cheryl Hines is 52. Country singer Faith Hill is 50. Rock musician Tyler Stewart (Barenaked Ladies) is 50. Country singer Ronna Reeves is 49. Actress-talk show host Ricki Lake is 49. Rapper Dave (De La Soul) is 49. Actor Rob Benedict is 47. Actor James Lesure is 46. Actor Alfonso Ribeiro is 46. Actor Luke Wilson is 46. Actor Paulo Costanzo is 39. Actor Bradford Anderson is 38. Actress Autumn Reeser is 37. TV personality Nicole Richie is 36. Actress Maggie Grace is 34. Actor Joseph Mazzello is 34. Actress Ahna O'Reilly is 33. Rapper Wale (WAH'-lay) is 33. Actor Ryan Guzman is 30. Actors Lorenzo and Nikolas Brino are 19.

Thought for Today: "I found more joy in sorrow / Than you could find in joy." — Sara Teasdale, American author and poet (1884-1933).