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Senior Menu: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, lime pear Jell-O.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, milk and juice.
School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans, broccoli with dip, fruit.
Soccer: First Round Playoffs
8th Football: at Aberdeen Central, 4 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.
Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, chocolate cake, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: French toast, sausage links, fruit, milk and juice.
School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, romaine salad, fruit.
Emmanuel: Confirmation, 7 p.m.
United Methodist: Coffee fellowship, 9 a.m.
Lions Bar Bingo: 6:30 p.m. at the Groton Legion.
Christian & Missionary Alliance: 7 p.m.: Program for children up to sixth grade, youth group for 7th-12th grade, adult Bible Study.

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Senior Menu: Turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich, fruit, milk and juice.
School Lunch: Mac and cheese, peas, carrots with dip, tea bun, fruit.
Cross Country: at Sisseton, 4 p.m.
JH Football: hosts Roncalli, 7th grade at 4 p.m.; 8th grade at 5 p.m.
Volleyball: at Roncalli, 7th and 8th grade matches at 4:30 p.m., C and JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.
Youth Football: 6 p.m., Groton 5th/6th at Britton; 6 p.m.; Groton 3rd/4th at Britton.

Official Notices

- Brown County (updated 8-31)**
- Frederick Area School (updated 8-29)**
- Groton City (updated 8-29)**
- Groton Area School (updated 8-29)**
- Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)**
- Other Notices (updated 8-21)**
- Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)**
- Groton Area School (updated 8-7)**
- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
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The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

"The long unmeasured pulse of time moves everything. There is nothing hidden that it cannot bring to light, nothing once known that may not become unknown. Nothing is impossible."

-Sophocles

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Groton "Steve Grode Memorial" Invitational Cross Country Meet Results

Boy's Varsity

1. Trevor Sumption - Frederick Area 18:50.18
2. Isaac Smith - Groton 19:13.74
3. Hunter Halvorson - Tri-State 19:28.56
4. Cole Franck - Leola 19:28.74
5. Tye Swartz - Tri-State 19:41.34
6. Jadus Medicine Crow - Dakota Hills 20:10.01
7. Micah Poor - Groton 20:15.42
8. Isaac Sumption - Frederick Area 20:21.38
9. Noah Kujanson - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 20:21.58
10. Zach Frankki - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 20:44.76
11. Kaleb Norton - Roncalli 21:03.87
12. Brayden Jalenek - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 21:19.69
13. John Reynen - Roncalli 22:09.79
14. Emery Ceroll - Tri-State 22:10.72
15. Noah Poor - Groton 22:26.14
16. Kaden Campbel - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 22:35.15
17. Ben Frankki - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 23:35.78
18. Brian Holmstrom - Roncalli 23:40.92
19. Spencer Jacobs - Groton 25:44.16
20. Josh Quatier - Tri-State 26:14.83

Team Points

1. Tri-State - 15
2. Groton - 16
3. Sargent Central/Ledgerwood - 19
4. Roncalli - 30

Girl's Varsity

1. Dreah Frolek - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 19:27.29
2. Drew Frolek - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 19:58.77
3. Victoria Zirbel - Dakota Hills 20:24.09
4. Makayla Zirbel - Dakota Hills 21:15.49
5. Emily Thompson - Groton 21:31.82
6. Anna Schmidt - Roncalli 22:40.66
7. Lauren Dosch - Roncalli 22:48.52
8. Mary Gutenkauf - Roncalli 23:00.21
9. Allison Peterson - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 23:10.48
10. Hannah Lewandowski - Groton 23:23.54
11. Emma Greiner - Dakota Hills 23:57.41
12. Elizabeth Russell - Roncalli 24:17.68
13. Michaela Honl - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 24:22.41
14. Emily Hatlewick - Leola 25:00.23
15. Kylie Carlson - Britton-Hecla 25:44.69
16. AnnaMarie Smith - Groton 26:38.28

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17. Rylee Rosenau - Groton 26:40.90
18. Morgan Navratil - Roncalli 27:49.97
19. Maggie Kujanson - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 29:21.06

Team Points

1. Sargent Central/Ledgerwood - 12
2. Dakota Hills - 18
3. Roncalli - 21
4. Groton - 29

Boy's JV

1. Elijah Hanson - Tiospa Zina 11:48.57
2. Grayson Madsen - Tri-State 12:13.49
3. Zach Flute - Tiospa Zina 12:17.73
4. Kaden Jelinek - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 12:21.18
5. Jacob Olson - Roncalli - 12:32.76
6. William Schuller - Britton-Hecla 12:39.09
7. Zack Strong - Britton-Hecla 13:04.17
8. Samuel Block - Dakota Hills 13:27.51
9. Johnathan Bretsch - Frederick Area 13:28.53
10. Jesse Geranen - Frederick Area 13:29.91
11. Max Prehn - Roncalli 13:43.59
12. Owen Symens - Britton-Hecla 13:54.88
13. Riley Creole - Tri-State 14:07.85
14. Michael Garofallo - Roncalli 14:33.83
15. Tyler Berndt - Roncalli 15:10.92
16. Billy Guerue - Tiospa Zina 16:25.46
17. Kobias Simon - Tiospa Zina 16:26.64
18. Dylan Frankki - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 16:37.99
19. Aiden Lee - Britton-Hecla 17:08.15
20. Daniel Simon - Tiospa Zina 17:35.23
21. Evan Grenz - Sargent Central/Ledgerwood 18:18.68

Girl's JV

1. Rachel Krupp - Roncalli 14:08.75
2. Cambry Dinger - Britton-Hecla 14:45.05
3. Livia Tomac - Dakota Hills 15:11.29
4. Rose Gutenkauf - Roncalli 15:43.87

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Today in Weather History

September 26, 1965: A hard freeze hit most of Minnesota in the early morning causing the loss of millions of bushels of corn and soybeans. Some temperatures fell below 20 degrees far north in the state.

September 26, 1981: A tornado touched down in the early morning hours several times east of Vermillion. Two barns received extensive damage.

1936 - Denver, CO, was buried under 21.3 inches of snow, 19.4 inches of which fell in 24 hours. The heavy wet snow snapped trees and wires causing seven million dollars damage. (26th-27th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1950 - Residents of the northeastern U.S. observed a blue sun and a blue moon, caused by forest fires in British Columbia. (David Ludlum)

1955: On this date, the Atlantic reconnaissance aircraft, "Snowcloud Five" went down while investigating Hurricane Janet and was never heard from again. Lt. Comdr. Windham with a crew of 8 and two newspapermen reported that they were about to begin penetrating the main core of the hurricane. They were never heard from again.

1963 - San Diego, CA, reached an all-time record high of 111 degrees. Los Angeles hit 1509 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Santa Ana winds brought fires to Los Angeles County, and to points south and east. Half a million acres were consumed by the fires, as were 1000 structures. Twenty firemen were injured. (25th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1971: Project Stormfury was an attempt to weaken tropical cyclones by flying aircraft into them and seeding with silver iodide. The project was run by the United States Government from 1962 to 1983. Hurricane Ginger in 1971 was the last hurricane Project Stormfury seeded.

1979 - In the midst of a hot September for Death Valley, California, the afternoon high was 104 degrees for the second of three days, the coolest afternoon highs for the month. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Freezing temperatures were reported in the Northern and Central Appalachians, and the Upper Ohio Valley. The morning low of 27 degrees at Concord NH tied their record for the date. Temperatures soared into the 90s in South Dakota. Pierre SD reported an afternoon high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across Florida. Afternoon highs of 92 degrees at Apalachicola and 95 degrees at Fort Myers were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Rain spread from the southeastern states across New England overnight. Cape Hatteras NC reported measurable rainfall for the fourteenth straight day, with 15.51 inches of rain recorded during that two week period. Phoenix AZ reported a record high of 108 degrees, and a record 134 days of 100 degree weather for the year. Afternoon temperatures were only in the 40s over parts of northwest Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary)

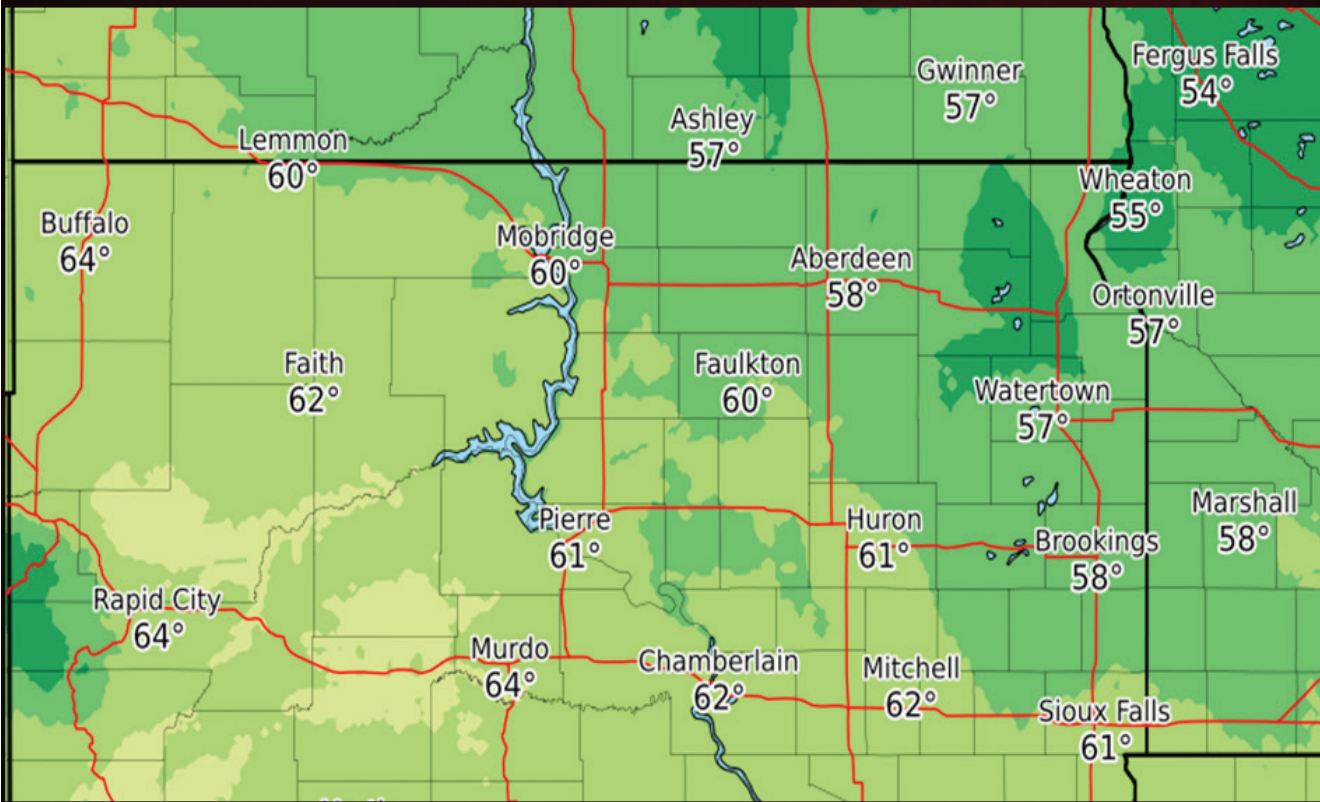
2004 - After making its infamous loop east of the Bahamas, Hurricane Jeanne made landfall the night of September 26th, 2004. Jeanne came ashore as a major category 3 hurricane just a few miles away from where Hurricane Frances made landfall a few weeks before. Jeanne produced extensive damage along the east central Florida coast from Volusia County south to Martin County. The highest wind gusts occurred over extreme Southern Brevard County as well as Indian River County with 110 - 120 mph estimates at the peak of the storm. (NWS, Melbourne, FL)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Chance Showers and Patchy Fog then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 58 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 68 °F

Showers Ending, Still Cool



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

NWSAberdeen

Created: 9/26/2017 5:30 AM

@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 09/26/2017 at 5:42AM

Showers ending today, but temperatures will remain on the cool side. Temperatures will climb back into the 60s and 70s on Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 54

Low Outside Temp: 48

High Gust: 15

Precip: 0.25

Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 1974

Record Low: 17° in 1939

Average High: 67°F

Average Low: 41°F

Average Precip in Sept: 1.83

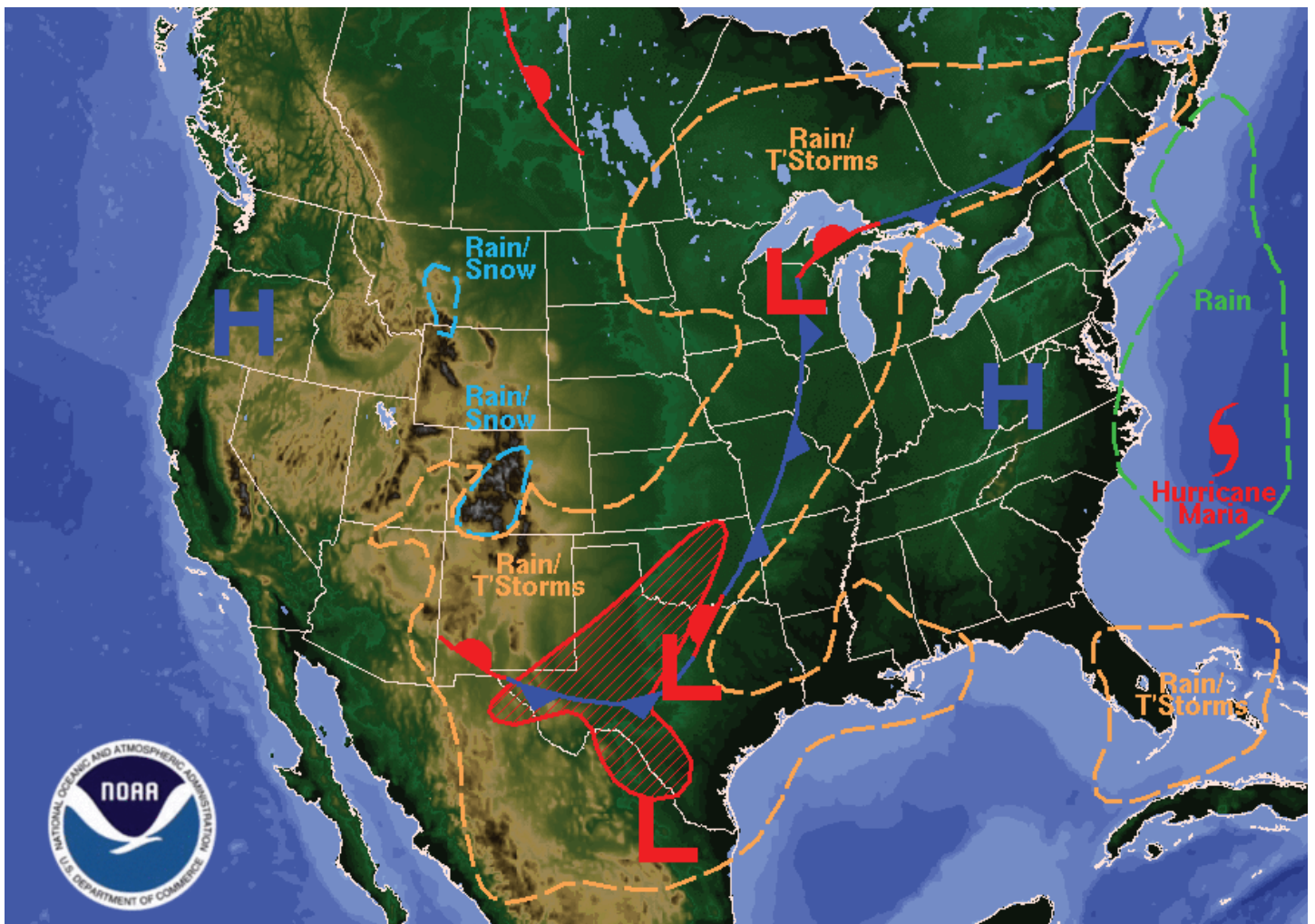
Precip to date in Sept: 3.57

Average Precip to date: 18.12

Precip Year to Date: 13.09

Sunset Tonight: 7:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:27 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Sep 26, 2017, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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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TAKING THE FIRST STEP

Addictions – whether alcohol, another kind of drug, food or sexual addiction – will lead to certain destruction and finally death unless the addict completely stops engaging in the self-destructing behavior. As simple as that sounds it is not easy to do. Why? Because addicts must take “the first step” – admit their addiction, its pervasive power over every aspect of their lives and finally recognize their inability to control or stop their self-destructing behavior and surrender that addiction to God.

David said it one way and Paul another way. David said, “I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only have I sinned.” And Paul said, “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.” Two powerful statements from two of God’s most honored servants that are different in words yet identical in meaning. Two men crying out to God in a moment of extreme desperation asking for God’s love, mercy, grace, salvation and healing. It describes their battle with sin, their inadequacies to be victorious over sin and their desire to please and honor God.

We can never underestimate the strong hold sin has in our lives. Nor do we recognize our powerlessness to overcome it in our own strength. Unfortunately, one of the most used talents Satan gives to us is denial. As long as we do not admit that there is sin in our lives we do not have to deal with or confront it. We too easily live with it, unaware that it is slowly destroying us.

Robert Burns said that it would be wonderful if someone could give us a gift that would enable us to see ourselves as others see us. God did exactly that in His Word and in the life of His Son. Now it is up to us to “admit what is” and call on Him for what can be.

Prayer: It is too easy, Lord, to deceive ourselves by denying the dominating power of sin in our lives. Convict us to confess it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Menno, 25-10, 24-26, 25-13, 25-20

Estelline def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 23-25, 25-23, 28-26, 25-23

Freeman def. Iroquois, 25-7, 25-13, 25-15

Howard def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-9, 25-16, 25-12

Irene-Wakonda def. Canton, 22-25, 26-24, 27-25, 25-14

Madison def. West Central, 22-25, 25-13, 23-25, 25-20, 15-13

Tri-State def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-21, 20-25, 25-23, 25-23

Warner def. Leola/Frederick, 25-11, 25-10, 25-14

Wilmot def. Britton-Hecla, 25-8, 25-17, 25-18

National Guard soldiers returning home from Middle East duty

HURON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers who have served nearly a year in the Middle East are coming home.

The 165 soldiers with the Huron-based 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company spent 10 months overseas. They returned to the U.S. on Sept. 17 and are going through the demobilization process at Fort Bliss in Texas.

A welcome-home ceremony for the 153rd is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Huron Arena.

A community recognition event for the Forward Support Company is slated for 4 p.m. at the high school auditorium in Parkston.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

Eds: Corrects Class A Dakota Valley win-loss record

By The Associated Press SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Media Prep Volleyball Poll for the week of Sept. 25, 2017. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(19);10-1;103;1

2. Mitchell;(1);12-1;84;2

3. R.C. Stevens;(1);15-3;64;3

4. S.F. O'Gorman;-;9-3;28;RV

5. Aberdeen Central;-;7-4;27;5

Others receiving votes: S.F. O'Gorman.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. S.F. Christian;(19);12-4;103;2

2. Dakota Valley;(2);15-2;84;1

3. Madison;-;13-3;61;3

4. Miller;-;14-2;40;4

5. Parker;-;15-5;17;5

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Others receiving votes: : West Central (8-7) 3, Lead-Deadwood (13-3) 2, Belle Fourche (9-0) 2, Sioux Valley (16-3) 2, Redfield-Doland (10-2) 1.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(21);18-1;105;1
2. Warner;-;17-3;79;2
3. Hanson;-;16-1;65;3
4. Chester Area;-;11-4;28;4
5. Phillip;-;15-1;27;5

Others receiving votes: Ethan (13-3) 6, Andes Central-Dakota Christian (13-2) 3, Herreid-Selby Area (14-1) 2.<

South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football poll for the week of Sept. 25 is listed below, ranking the top-five teams and listing the team's record, points received and ranking in the previous poll. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.<

Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Washington;(35);5-0;175;1
2. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;4-1;139;2
3. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;-;4-1;105;3
4. Brandon Valley;-;3-2;58;4
5. RC Stevens;-;3-2;44;5;

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central 3, Watertown 1.<

Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Mitchell;(22);4-1;162;1
2. Pierre;(13);4-0;153;2
3. Harrisburg;-;1-3;75;3
4. Douglas;-;2-3;66;5
5. Brookings;-;2-3;55;4

Others receiving votes: Yankton 10, Huron 3, Sturgis 1.<

Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Madison;(34);5-0;174;1
2. Tea Area;(1);5-0;141;2
3. Dakota Valley;-;5-0;102;3
4. Dell Rapids;-;4-1;68;RV
5. Tri-Valley;-;3-2;17;4

Others receiving votes: Milbank 10, Pine Ridge 6, St. Thomas More 6, Todd County 1.<

Class 11B

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Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Sioux Valley	(27);5-0;165;1
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(7);4-1;138;2
3. SF Christian	-;4-1;105;3
4. Winner	(1);4-1;68;4
5. McCook Cent.-Montrose	-;5-0;42;5

Others receiving votes: Canton 4, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 2, Stanley County 1.<
Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Gregory	(35);5-0;175;1
2. Hamlin	-;5-0;121;3
3. Bon Homme	-;5-1;116;2
4. Miller-Highmore-Harrold	-;4-1;51;4
5. North Border	-;5-0;45;5

Others receiving votes: Arlington-Lake Preston 7, Baltic 5, Irene-Wakonda 3, Webster Area 2.<
Class 9A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Corsica-Stickney;(34);5-0;173;1
2. Warner;-;5-1;123;2
3. Howard;-;4-1;109;4
4. Canistota-Freeman;-;4-1;68;5
5. Britton-Hecla;-;4-1;33;RV

Others receiving votes: Clark-Willow Lake 14, Avon 3, Timber Lake 2.<
Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Colman-Egan	(29);5-0;167;1
2. Colome	(6);5-0;144;2
3. Sully Buttes	-;5-0;104;3
4. Castlewood	-;5-0;60;4
5. Harding County	-;6-0;39;5

Others receiving votes: Wall 7, Faulkton Area 4.<

North Dakota's bill rises for oil pipeline protest costs

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota officials on Monday approved borrowing more cash from the state-owned bank to cover policing costs related to protests over the Dakota Access pipeline.

The North Dakota Emergency Commission, headed by Republican Gov. Doug Burgum, voted to borrow an additional \$5 million to cover law enforcement costs, bringing the total line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota to \$43 million, the bulk of which likely will have to be repaid by state taxpayers.

Maj. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, the leader of the state's National Guard, said some bills are still coming in from state agencies and 11 states that provided law enforcement help. But he said the current loan amount should cover all costs.

"We continue to work with agencies so we can settle this up and close this thing," Dohrmann told the commission.

North Dakota's costs resulted from about six months of protests against the \$3.8 billion pipeline built

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by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners to move North Dakota oil to Illinois. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of opponents camped in southern North Dakota, often clashing with police and National Guard soldiers. There were 761 arrests in the region between early August and late February.

Dohrmann said \$2.4 million of the updated loan amount will be used to cover court and attorney fees for "indigent defense," though those costs could decrease with many of the cases getting dismissed.

The pipeline began moving crude in June.

Also Monday, the commission formally accepted a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Justice Department to help pay some of the law enforcement bills. North Dakota officials, including the state's congressional delegation, have long pushed for federal reimbursement to cover all costs related to the protests.

State Rep. Al Carlson, the majority leader in North Dakota's House and a member of the commission, called the \$10 million grant "a nice start." But he said the federal government is obliged to pick up the entire tab because the protesters based themselves on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land without a permit, and federal officials wouldn't evict them due to free speech reasons.

"They owe us the rest of the money," Carlson said of the federal government. "This should not fall on the backs of North Dakotans."

Burgum asked President Donald Trump for a disaster declaration to cover the costs of the protest, but the request was denied.

Burgum also hasn't ruled out taking up Energy Transfer Partners' longstanding offer to pay the state costs.

"Everything is on the table," the Republican governor said. "I'm open to whatever source of money and where it may come from."

This story has been corrected to reflect that the total line of credit is \$43 million.

Black Hills residents oppose company's gold search

ROCHFORD, S.D. (AP) — Some private landowners are opposing a Canadian company's search for gold in a remote area of South Dakota's Black Hills National Forest.

Mineral Mountain Resources has submitted an operating plan to the forest for more than 20 drilling sites on federal land a couple miles south of Rochford. Another dozen sites will be drilled on nearby private land, where the company already has a permit from the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Landowners near the proposed sites are asking the U.S. Forest Service to reject the project. But the agency can only add conditions to the company's plan of operations, said Gary Haag, a geologist with the Forest Service.

"There isn't an option to turn it down," Haag said. "What they're doing is covered under the 1872 mining law."

The federal General Mining Act upholds the right of virtually everyone — including foreign companies with U.S. subsidiaries — to explore for minerals on federal public land. Mineral Mountain Resources meets the law's criteria because although its main office is in Canada, it also has a registered corporation in South Dakota.

Illinois resident Doug Rees said he owns a cabin near one of the proposed drilling sites. He wrote a letter to the Forest Service opposing the project for reasons including his desire to protect creek drainage areas from proposed withdrawals for the drilling rigs; his aversion to the project's potential noise and equipment traffic; and the project's likelihood of becoming an unsightly mine if the company finds gold.

Mineral Mountain CEO Nelson Baker said there's currently no permit issued for drilling on federal lands.

Haag said it'll take months for the Forest Service to fully analyze the company's operation plan and the public's comments.

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

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Driver injured, horses killed in interstate crash

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The driver of a pickup was injured and two horses were killed in a crash on Interstate 90 east of Sioux Falls.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the pickup approaching the interstate Sunday crossed the center line, hit the grass and launched onto the westbound lanes of the interstate. The truck went airborne and hit a trailer hauling the horses.

The pickup driver was seriously injured. The driver and passenger hauling the horses were not hurt.

State investigates officer-involved shooting in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is reviewing a shooting involving an officer in Minnehaha County.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday the shooting happened early Saturday in Sioux Falls. The sheriff's department responded to a residence about 1:30 a.m. The attorney general's office says an officer fired his weapon at a 46-year-old Sioux Falls man.

There are no further details on any injuries to the man or why the officer fired his gun.

Public invited to vote on Main Street preservation projects

By The Associated Press

A preservation group is inviting the public to vote on projects to improve Main Streets around the U.S. Twenty-five cities from Seattle to Miami are vying for funding to preserve or improve theaters, parks, landmarks and other venues in downtowns, historic neighborhoods and cultural districts.

One proposal would create a park for vintage neon signs in Casa Grande, Arizona. Another would preserve the Formosa Cafe on Route 66 in West Hollywood, California. Several cities seek funding to preserve historic theaters, like the Woodward Theater in Cincinnati and the Yale Theatre in Oklahoma City.

The program, called Partners in Preservation: Main Streets, is supported by American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Main Street America.

National Geographic is hosting the <http://VoteYourMainStreet.org> website, where the public may vote once a day for up to five projects through Oct. 31. Winners will be announced Nov. 2. The sites with the most votes will get grants of up to \$150,000 each, with as many projects funded as possible from a pool of \$1.5 million.

The 25 proposed projects are:

- Alabama Theatre marquee, Birmingham, Alabama
- Vintage Neon Sign Park, Casa Grande, Arizona
- Marquee, Market Street Mall, Richmond, California
- Stevens-Hartley Annex, San Diego
- Formosa Cafe, Route 66, West Hollywood, California
- Caboose, Creative District, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
- Manuel Artime Theater, Miami's Little Havana neighborhood
- Bryant Graves House, Sweet Auburn district, Atlanta
- 1893 cable car building, Hyde Park, Illinois
- Lyric Theater, West Des Moines, Iowa
- Old McCrory's Store, New Orleans
- Pierce Building and Streetcar Comfort Station, Boston's Dorchester Arts and Culture Innovation District
- The Treehouse, Detroit's northwest Livernois/6 Mile corridors
- Bandstand and park, Ivers Square, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- E. Romero Hose and Fire Building, Las Vegas, New Mexico
- Restoration Plaza, Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, Brooklyn, New York
- Carolina Theatre, Greensboro, North Carolina

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- Woodward Theater marquee, Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood
- Yale Theatre, Oklahoma City
- Trower Building, Parker Hall and other African-American landmarks in Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood
- Dr. McPhail Building, Franklin, Tennessee
- Collin County Courthouse exterior, McKinney, Texas
- Historic buildings, Granary District, Salt Lake City
- Fading signs on historic buildings in Seattle's Chinatown
- James Hughes Building, Washington, D.C.

Online: <http://VoteYourMainStreet.org>

Bombers deployed from Ellsworth used in show of force

ELLSWORTH, S.D. (AP) — Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers from the Ellsworth Air Force Base launched from Guam flew into international airspace over waters east of North Korea in a show of American military might.

The bombers and fighter escorts flew on Saturday to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea by any such American aircraft this century. The Pentagon said the mission in international airspace showed how seriously President Donald Trump takes North Korea's "reckless behavior."

Three-hundred-fifty airmen from the 28th Bomb Wing at the South Dakota base are among military personnel on Guam, the tiny Pacific island that's been the focus of recent global attention with escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea.

Ellsworth's 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron deployed to Guam in July.

Aberdeen mall flooded by water line break still closed

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Cleanup continues at an Aberdeen mall flooded by a water line break earlier this month.

Super City Plaza Manager George Casanova tells the American News that the entire building was damaged by water the night of Sept. 16.

About two dozen workers from several companies are working on cleanup and repairs. Mall tenants also are helping with the work.

Casanova says "there's no telling" when the mall will reopen. Several businesses have been forced to temporarily close or relocate, along with a child care center.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Mexico tallying the economic cost of big earthquake

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican government officials are tallying up the economic losses of the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that caused widespread damage in the capital, but for the manager of a downtown restaurant, the result is already all too clear.

Sitting in the entrance of his Guapa Papa restaurant Monday, surrounded by caution tape, Antonio Luna said: "This is a bust. It's already closed due to structural damage to the building."

He had to let go the three dozen employees at the 1950s-themed restaurant and is just trying to salvage whatever furniture and equipment wasn't damaged.

"In the end the company let everyone go because it couldn't continue having expenses," Luna said.

Moody's Investors Service said in a report Monday that the Sept. 19 earthquake that has killed at least 326 people in the capital and nearby states "has the potential to be one of Mexico's costliest natural ca-

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tastrophes.”

Alfredo Coutino, Latin America director for Moody’s Analytics, said they were still collecting data on losses, but a preliminary estimate was that the earthquake could knock 0.1 to 0.3 percentage point off growth in Mexico’s gross domestic product in the third and fourth quarters.

For the full year, the impact on gross domestic product should be about 0.1 percent. “The impact on the year’s growth will be small, particularly considering that the reconstruction work will compensate for some of the total loss in activity during the fourth quarter,” Coutino said.

Money is expected to pour into the economy as Mexico City and the federal government tap their disaster funds. As of June, the city’s disaster fund stood at 9.4 billion pesos (more than \$500 million), making it slightly larger than the national fund, according to a Moody’s Investors Services report.

Of course, the national fund also has to deal with recovery from the even stronger Sept. 7 quake that has been blamed for nearly 100 deaths, mostly in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

There will be months of work ahead from demolition to repairs and reconstruction.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said that 360 “red level” buildings would either have to be demolished or receive major structural reinforcement. An additional 1,136 are reparable, and 8,030 buildings inspected so far were found to be habitable.

At least 38 buildings, including apartments and office buildings, collapsed during the earthquake.

Mexico’s education ministry also has 1.8 million pesos to spend on school repairs. In Mexico City alone, only 676 of the city’s 9,000 schools had been inspected and cleared to resume classes, Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno said Monday.

AIR Worldwide, a Boston-based catastrophe modeling consultant, provided a wide range for industry-insured losses, but noted they would be only a small part of the total economic losses. It put the insured losses at between 13 billion pesos (\$725 million) and 36.7 billion pesos (\$2 billion).

A graceful traffic roundabout encircled by restaurants, cafes and shops is now a sprawling expanse of medical tents, piles of food and other relief supplies, and stacks of building materials. While relief work went on outside Monday, men were busily wrapping furniture in foam and plastic inside the Antiguo Arte Europeo store.

Stone panels on the building’s facade appeared cracked or were altogether missing. Saleswoman Luisa Zuniga said the owners were waiting for civil defense inspectors to certify there was no structural damage to the building before reopening to the public.

Meanwhile, they were moving furniture that could still be sold to their other branches.

“Then we’ll see how long it takes to fix everything,” she said. “It is important to get back to work.”

Edgar Novoa, a fitness trainer, went back to his job Monday after working as a volunteer following the earthquake. Around midday, he stopped his bicycle at a cleared foundation where a building of several stories had stood near his home.

He knelt and prayed while others left flowers and candles at the site.

Associated Press photographer Moises Castillo contributed to this report.

As senators defect, GOP concedes health bill’s fate bleak

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Susan Collins’ decision to oppose the GOP push to repeal President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul leaves the effort all but dead, with even party leaders conceding that their prospects are dismal.

“It’s going to be a heavy lift,” South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the No. 3 GOP Senate leader, said Monday, after Collins joined a small but pivotal cluster of Republicans saying they’re against the measure. He called the prospects “bleak.”

“We don’t have the support for it,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

The collapse marks a replay of the embarrassing loss President Donald Trump and party leaders suffered

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in July, when the Senate rejected three attempts to pass legislation erasing Obama's 2010 statute. The GOP has made promises to scrap the law a high-profile vow for years, and its failure to deliver despite controlling the White House and Congress has infuriated conservatives whose votes Republican candidates need.

To resuscitate their push, Republicans would need to change opposing senators' minds, which they've tried unsuccessfully to do for months. Collins told reporters that she made her decision despite a phone call from Trump, who's been futilely trying to press unhappy GOP senators to back the measure.

Barring a reversal, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., must decide whether to hold a roll call at all.

Three GOP "no" votes would doom the bill. GOP Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Texas' Ted Cruz have said they oppose the measure, though Cruz aides said he was seeking changes that would let him vote yes.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, remains undecided. Murkowski, who voted against the failed GOP bills in July, has said she's analyzing the measure's impact on her state, where medical costs are high.

This was the last week Republicans had any chance of prevailing with their narrow 52-48 Senate margin. Next Sunday, protections expire against a Democratic filibuster, bill-killing delays that Republicans lack the votes to overcome.

Republicans had pinned their last hopes on a measure by GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and South Carolina's Lindsey Graham. It would end Obama's Medicaid expansion and subsidies for consumers and ship the money — \$1.2 trillion through 2026 — to states to use on health services with few constraints.

Collins announced her decision shortly after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said "millions" of Americans would lose coverage under the bill and projected it would impose \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts through 2026.

The Maine moderate said in a statement that the legislation would make "devastating" cuts in the Medicaid program for poor and disabled people, drive up premiums for millions and weaken protections Obama's law gives people with pre-existing medical conditions. She said the legislation is "deeply flawed," despite eleventh-hour changes its sponsors have made in search of support.

Desperate to win over reluctant senators, GOP leaders revised the measure several times, adding money late Sunday for Alaska, Arizona, Maine, Kentucky and Texas in a clear pitch for Republican holdouts. They also gave states the ability — without federal permission — to permit insurers to charge people with serious illnesses higher premiums and to sell low-premium policies with big coverage gaps and high deductibles.

Loud protesters forced the Senate Finance Committee to briefly delay the chamber's first and only hearing on the charged issue. Police lugged some demonstrators out of the hearing room and trundled out others in wheelchairs as scores chanted, "No cuts to Medicaid, save our liberty."

On Monday, Trump took on McCain, who'd returned to the Senate after a brain cancer diagnosis in July to cast the key vote that wrecked this summer's effort. Trump called that "a tremendous slap in the face of the Republican Party" in a call to the "Rick & Bubba Show," an Alabama-based talk radio program.

Cassidy and Graham defended their bill before the Finance committee.

"I don't need a lecture from anybody about health care," Graham told the panel's Democrats. Referring to Obama's overhaul, he added, "What you have created isn't working."

Also testifying was Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, who learned earlier this year that she has kidney cancer.

She said colleagues and others have helped her battle the disease with compassion, saying, "Sadly, this is not in this bill."

Associated Press Washington bureau chief Julie Pace, and writers Andrew Taylor, Richard Lardner, Laurie Kellman, Ken Thomas and Erica Werner contributed to this report.

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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. WHY GOP HEALTH CARE BILL IS LIKELY TO FAIL

Even Republican leaders are conceding that the latest push to repeal "Obamacare" is all but dead after Sen. Susan Collins' decision to oppose the measure.

2. MILITARY EXPERTS DOWNPLAY PYONGYANG'S RESPONSE

They view a recent video simulating the shooting down of approaching U.S. warplanes as a tit-for-tat response by North Korea to Trump's fiery rhetoric.

3. CHINESE SUPPLY CHAINS OF IVANKA TRUMP'S BRAND NOT CLEAR

Which companies in China manufacture and export the multimillion-dollar line of the president's daughter and adviser is more secret than ever, an AP investigation finds.

4. PALESTINIAN KILLS 3 ISRAELIS IN SETTLEMENT NEAR JERUSALEM

The attack at the upscale community of Har Adar by a 37-year-old man hiding among day laborers is the deadliest in a two-year spate of violence.

5. IRAQI KURDISH VOTE LATEST IN SERIES OF DE FACTO BREAKS

These partitions, once rare in the region, are far more common now in the chaos that followed the 2011 Arab Spring.

6. SUPERMARKETS GRADUALLY RE-OPENING IN PUERTO RICO

But the situation is far from normal in the hurricane-ravaged U.S. territory and many customers are going home disappointed.

7. MEXICO TALLYING UP ECONOMIC LOSSES AFTER MASSIVE QUAKE

The magnitude 7.1 temblor could knock between 0.1 and 0.3 percentage points off the country's gross domestic product in the third and fourth quarters.

8. WHO WILL FACE TOUGH QUESTIONING BEFORE CONGRESS

Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton after the agency acknowledged that it also was a victim to a hack.

9. BALI VOLCANO FEARS SPARK EXODUS

Indonesia's disaster agency says more than 75,000 people have fled Mount Agung on the tourist island because of fears of an eruption.

10. COWBOYS TAKE A KNEE BEFORE ANTHEM

Led by owner Jerry Jones, players and coaches locked arms and kneeled before the anthem, then rose together and walked back to the sideline before Jordin Sparks sang the "Star Spangled Banner."

Trump looms large in Alabama Senate race

By KIM CHANDLER and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

FAIRHOPE, Ala. (AP) — Sen. Luther Strange and firebrand jurist Roy Moore face off in Alabama's U.S. Senate runoff Tuesday in a race that will reverberate through the Republican Party and has pitted President Donald Trump against his former strategist, Steve Bannon.

Trailing in the polls, Strange has looked to the White House to help make up ground against Moore, who is best known for defiant stands against gay marriage and for the public display of the Ten Commandments. Vice President Mike Pence campaigned for Strange in Birmingham, Alabama, while Bannon, speaking at a Moore rally, argued Moore is a better fit for Trump's "populist" movement.

"All of Washington is watching to see what Alabama does," Moore said at a south Alabama rally attended by Bannon, Brexit leader Nigel Farage, and "Duck Dynasty" star Phil Robertson.

Wearing a white cowboy hat and leather vest at a Monday night rally, Moore repeated the conservative Christian themes he has used his entire public career. He also lashed out at attack ads run against him in the race, including one suggesting he was weak on gun rights. "I believe in the Second Amendment,"

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Moore said as he pulled a handgun from his pocket.

A super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has pumped millions of dollars into the Alabama race on behalf of Strange. "Mitch McConnell needs to be replaced and your vote tomorrow may determine that," Moore said in a line that garnered some of his loudest applause of the night.

Bannon told the crowd that Alabama can show the world "that this populist, nationalist, conservative movement is on the rise."

Propelled by his support from evangelical voters, Moore led Strange by about 25,000 votes in the crowded August primary and runoff polls have shown him leading, or in a dead heat with, Strange.

Trump on Monday continued his push for Strange. Speaking to several hundred supporters at an airplane hangar in Birmingham, Pence said Strange had been a "real friend" to the Trump administration.

"I'm here tonight to say I stand with Luther. I stand with President Donald Trump — and I will always stand for our national anthem," Pence said in a nod to Trump's criticisms of athletes who kneel in protest during the national anthem.

Trump called into a popular Alabama radio show on Monday morning to urge Republicans to pick Strange.

"Luther Strange is going to be a great senator. He already has, and he has already helped me," Trump said on the "Rick & Bubba" radio show. Trump predicted that Moore, whom he mistakenly called "Ray," would have a "hard time" in the December election against Doug Jones. A Democrat, Jones is a lawyer and former U.S. attorney during the Clinton administration.

"Tomorrow, there's a lot on the line," Strange said, speaking in front of a large American flag in the rally with Pence. "For the vice president and the president of the United States to come here on my behalf means more than I can possibly say."

In addition to the national backdrop, a number of state factors are at play in the race to fill the remainder of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Senate term. Moore's loyal following is able to pack a greater punch in the low-turnout special election. Strange also has been dogged by criticisms for accepting the interim Senate appointment from a scandal-battered governor when Strange's office was in charge of public corruption investigations.

Walking into the humid hangar to hear Pence, 57-year-old Randy Beasley of Springville said he had been undecided in the race but was swayed to vote for Strange because of his backing from the National Rifle Association. Beasley said he also had concerns that the twice-ousted chief justice "might have more of a negative image for the state."

Although Trump has endorsed Strange, many in the crowd at the Moore rally wore Trump T-shirts or "Make America Great Again" hats.

Chu Green, 71, of Mobile said she arrived five hours early to snag a front row spot just feet from the speaker's microphone. She held up a sign reading: "Mr. President and Mr. V.P. I love you but you are wrong! America needs Judge Moore."

"It's how I feel in my heart," Green said. "I think (Trump) knows he made a mistake. He had an obligation to Strange."

SEC chairman faces questions from Congress after data breach

By KEN SWEET, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission is likely to face an especially tough hearing in front of Congress on Tuesday, after the agency acknowledged that it also was a victim to a hack.

News about the breach of an SEC network that delivers company news and data to investors follows the disclosure of the massive data breach from credit company Equifax that allowed hackers to access or steal the personal information of 143 million Americans.

Jay Clayton, who has been at the head of the SEC since May, is not likely to face calls for his removal since the breach happened a year ago, before he was sworn in. But he may be questioned about whether the SEC — the federal government's main arm for enforcing rules and regulations on Wall Street — is up

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to the task of keeping data secure.

WHAT QUESTIONS MAY CLAYTON FACE?

Two major issues in this SEC breach are the potential for insider trading and whether the SEC knew about the security breach for months and only recently decided to disclose it.

The SEC operates a system known as EDGAR, which allows publicly traded companies to upload digitally the documents they are required to share with investors. What appeared to happen is that hackers were able to get into the system in a way that allowed them to see companies filing their documents to the SEC but before those documents would be dispersed to the general public.

Clayton will likely have to answer how probable it is that insider trading took place and what the scope of it might be. He is also likely to be asked why the commission sat on the news of this breach until August when it happened a year ago. The hack occurred despite repeated warnings in recent years about weaknesses in the agency's data security controls. Members of the Senate Banking Committee may well want to know what the SEC has done to secure its systems.

On Monday the SEC said it had created a new cyber unit that will target market manipulation, hacking and dark web operatives.

The agency also revealed a new team tasked with protecting every day investors from unsafe offers like pump-and-dump schemes in which the value of an investment is driven artificially high before being sold aggressively.

WHY IS THIS A BIG DEAL?

The hack of the document system is especially worrisome because of how widely investors have used and trusted the system, which came online in the early 1990s. Companies use EDGAR to alert investors to important developments that could affect their share prices, like government investigations, executive shake-ups and approaches for a takeover. If hackers were able to see information before the rest of the investment community did, they would have a trading advantage.

The SEC's disclosure also follows one from Equifax, which said this month that information about millions of people was exposed. The SEC is currently investigating the Equifax breach, and news of the hack will raise questions about whether an agency that is tasked with sanctioning companies is unable to keep their own house in order.

WHO MAY BE INVOLVED

The SEC hasn't said which individuals or companies may have been affected or who might have carried out the breach. Experts say a hack by Chinese or Russian actors can't be ruled out.

While it discovered the breach last year, the agency says it only became aware last month that information obtained by the intruders may have been used for illegal trading profits.

Critics say the SEC isn't meeting the same security standards it demands of corporate America.

Experts: NKorea lacks ability, intent to attack US planes

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Military analysts say North Korea doesn't have either the capability or the intent to attack U.S. bombers and fighter jets, despite the country's top diplomat saying it has every right to do so.

They view the remark by North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and a recent propaganda video simulating such an attack as tit-for-tat responses to fiery rhetoric by U.S. President Donald Trump and his hardening stance against the North's nuclear weapons program.

By highlighting the possibility of a potential military clash on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea may be trying to create a distraction as it works behind the scenes to advance its nuclear weapons development, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Another possibility is that North Korea is trying to win space to save face as it contemplates whether to de-escalate its standoff with Washington, he said Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters before leaving a U.N. meeting in New York, Ri said Trump had "declared war" on

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his country by tweeting that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer." Ri said North Korea has "every right" to take countermeasures, including shooting down U.S. strategic bombers, even when they're not in North Korean airspace.

The U.S. frequently sends advanced warplanes to the Korean Peninsula for patrols or drills during times of animosity. Last weekend, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew in international airspace east of North Korea to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea that they have in this century, according to the Pentagon.

Hours after the flights Sunday, a North Korean government propaganda website posted a video portraying U.S. warplanes and an aircraft carrier being destroyed by attacks. The video on DPRK Today, which was patched together from photos and crude computer-generated animation, also included footage of North Korean solid-fuel missiles being fired from land mobile launchers and a submarine. The North was clearly trying to claim it has the ability to conduct retaliatory strikes against U.S. attacks, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

Moon Seong Mook, a former South Korean military official and current senior analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said it's highly unlikely North Korea has the real-world capability to match Ri's words. North Korea's aging MiG fighters won't stand a chance against much more powerful U.S. fighters escorting long-range bombers. And while North Korea touted in May that it's ready to deploy new surface-to-air missiles that analysts say could potentially hit targets as far as 150 kilometers (93 miles) away, it's questionable how much of a threat the unproven system could pose to U.S. aircraft operating far off the country's coast, Moon said.

It's also unclear whether North Korea would be able to even see the advanced U.S. warplanes when they come. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing on Tuesday that the North's inadequate radar systems failed to detect the B-1B bombers as they flew east of North Korea.

The last time North Korea fired on a U.S. aircraft was in 1994 when it shot down a U.S. Army helicopter around the heavily armed inter-Korean border, killing one of the pilots and capturing the other. The surviving pilot said after his release he was pressured by North Korean officials to confess that the helicopter had crossed into North Korea. In 1969, a North Korean fighter jet shot down an unarmed U.S. reconnaissance plane and killed all 31 crewmembers on board.

It's highly unlikely North Korea would attempt a similar attack now, experts say. Amid tension created by the North's nuclear weapons tests and threat to detonate a thermonuclear missile over the Pacific Ocean, such an attack would pretty much guarantee retaliation from the United States that could lead to war, Cha said.

"The most obvious reason Ri made those comments was because North Korea simply can't tolerate such high-profile insults to its supreme leadership," Cha said. It's also possible that the North is trying to fan concerns about a potential military clash in the region now so that it can win room to save face later when it tries to de-escalate, he said.

"If Kim Jong Un ever offers a moratorium on his missile tests or makes whatever other compromise, he could say made a big-picture decision to reduce military tension in the Korean Peninsula," Cha said. He said Ri's comments also allow China and Russia to restate their calls for a "dual suspension" of North Korean weapons tests and displays of military capability by the U.S. and South Korea.

The Trump administration's stance on North Korea has been hardening in recent months as the North has been stepping up the aggressiveness of its nuclear and missile tests. It conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3, which it said was a thermonuclear weapon built for intercontinental ballistic missiles. It tested two ICBMs in July, displaying their potential ability to reach deep into the continental United States. North Korea has also fired two powerful midrange missiles over Japan in recent weeks.

Trump in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly last week said the United States would "totally destroy" North Korea if provoked, which prompted Kim to pledge to take the "highest-level" action against the United States. Ri then said North Korea might conduct the "most powerful" atmospheric hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific Ocean, but added that no one knew what Kim would decide.

Palestinian kills 3 Israelis in settlement near Jerusalem

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian attacker opened fire early Tuesday at the entrance to a settlement outside Jerusalem, killing three Israeli security men and critically wounding a fourth, Israeli police and medical services said, in one of the deadliest attacks in a two-year spate of violence.

Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers praised the attack but stopped short of taking responsibility for it. Israeli officials said the attacker was a 37-year-old Palestinian father of four who appeared to have acted alone.

The attack comes at a tense period amid the Jewish high holidays and is likely to complicate the mediation efforts of U.S. peace envoy Jason Greenblatt who had just arrived in the region for meetings with Israeli and Palestinians leaders.

Speaking at his weekly Cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attack was partially a result of systematic Palestinian incitement and said he expected Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to "condemn this attack and not try to justify it."

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the attacker approached the back gate entrance of the Har Adar settlement, hiding among dozens of Palestinian day laborers who were being checked by security forces.

The man aroused police suspicions and was asked to stop, Samri said. At that point, he pulled out a weapon and began opening fire from a short distance. The attacker, who held a valid permit to work in Israel, was then shot dead by other forces at the scene.

The Magen David Adom medical service said that in addition to the three killed, a fourth Israeli man, 32, was evacuated to hospital in critical condition. The casualties were identified as Solomon Gavria, a 20-year-old policeman, and two private security guards.

Har Adar is an upscale community west of Jerusalem, straddling the seam line between the West Bank and Israel proper — and an unusual target in the wave of violence that Israel has been coping with over the past two years.

Shay Retter, the head of Har Adar's security committee, said that between 100 and 150 Palestinian laborers typically enter the community each day for work. Local residents said they knew the attacker from previous work he had carried out in the community and were shocked to hear what he had done. The military imposed a closure on the nearby Palestinian village of Beit Surik, the home of the attacker.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said he saw no difference between Palestinian terrorism and radical Islamic terrorism targeting sites in Europe and elsewhere.

"Before talking about any kind of negotiations, the world must demand of the Palestinian Authority to stop its incitement and encouragement of terror," he said, alluding to Greenblatt's visit and his goal of securing concessions for Palestinians.

Minister of Intelligence Israel Katz was even blunter.

"The attack is also a message to special U.S. envoy Greenblatt," he said. "Israel's security was and yet remains the supreme consideration in the government's policy, and is above any other consideration of improving and easing the lives of the Palestinians."

Netanyahu pledged that as a punitive measure, the attacker's home would be demolished and working permits of his extended family would be revoked.

However, Israel's internal Shin Bet security service downplayed ideology as a motive, saying the attacker was plagued with personal issues.

The attacker was identified as Nimr Mahmoud Ahmed Jamal and the Shin Bet said its preliminary investigation indicated there was significant violence in his family. His wife had recently fled to Jordan and left him with their four children, it said.

Since September 2015, Palestinians have killed 51 Israelis, two visiting Americans and a British tourist in stabbings, shooting and car-ramming attacks. Several of these attacks were carried out by individuals struggling with domestic and emotional issues whose acts were subsequently cloaked in nationalism.

During that same time, Israeli forces have killed over 255 Palestinians. Israel says most of them were attackers and others died in clashes with Israeli forces. Most of the attacks have been stabbings against

security forces, primarily in the West Bank.

Israel blames the violence on incitement by Palestinian religious and political leaders compounded on social media sites that glorify violence and encourage attacks. Palestinians say the attacks stem from anger and frustration at decades of Israeli rule in territories they claim for a state.

The frequency and intensity of attacks has lessened of late but such an incident, coming amid the Jewish high holiday, threatened to ignite them anew.

Gaza's Hamas rulers called Tuesday's assault a "heroic operation" that was a "natural response" to Israeli aggression against Palestinians and proved that the Palestinian uprising was still alive.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said "the cruel terror attack proves once again the daily front that our security forces face in the most important mission — protecting and defending the safety of the citizens of Israel."

In Ivanka Trump's China, business ties shrouded in secrecy

By ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — It is no secret that the bulk of Ivanka Trump's merchandise comes from China. But just which Chinese companies manufacture and export her handbags, shoes and clothes is more secret than ever, an Associated Press investigation has found.

In the months since she took her White House role, public information about the companies importing Ivanka Trump goods to the U.S. has become harder to find. Information that once routinely appeared in private trade tracking data has vanished, leaving the identities of companies involved in 90 percent of shipments unknown. Even less is known about her manufacturers. Trump's brand, which is still owned by the first daughter and presidential adviser, declined to disclose the information.

The deepening secrecy means it's unclear who Ivanka Trump's company is doing business with in China, even as she and her husband, Jared Kushner, have emerged as important conduits for top Chinese officials in Washington. The lack of disclosure makes it difficult to understand whether foreign governments could use business ties with her brand to try to influence the White House — and whether her company stands to profit from foreign government subsidies that can destroy American jobs. Such questions are especially pronounced in China, where state-owned and state-subsidized companies dominate large swaths of commercial activity.

"There should be more transparency, but right now we do not have the legal mechanism to enforce transparency unless Congress requests information through a subpoena," said Richard Painter, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer for George W. Bush, and is part of a lawsuit against President Donald Trump for alleged constitutional violations. "I don't know how much money she's making on this and why it's worth it. I think it's putting our trade policy in a very awkward situation."

An AP review of the records that are available about Ivanka Trump's supply chain found two potential red flags. In one case, a province in eastern China announced the award of export subsidies to a company that shipped thousands of Ivanka Trump handbags between March 2016 and February of this year, Chinese public records show — a possible violation by China of global fair trade rules, trade experts said.

The AP also found that tons of Ivanka Trump clothing were exported from 2013 to 2015 by a company owned by the Chinese government, according to public records and trade data. It is unclear whether the brand is still working with that company, or other state-owned entities. Her brand has pledged to avoid business with state-owned companies now that she's a White House adviser, but contends that its supply chains are not its direct responsibility.

Ivanka Trump's brand doesn't actually make its products directly. Instead, it contracts with licensees who oversee production of her merchandise. In exchange, those licensees pay the brand royalties. The AP asked Ivanka Trump's brand for a list of its suppliers. The company declined to disclose them. The clothing, footwear and handbag licensees contacted by AP also declined to reveal source factories.

Abigail Klem, president of IT Operations LLC, which manages Ivanka Trump's brand, said the company does not contract with foreign state-owned companies or benefit from Chinese government subsidies.

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However, she acknowledged that its licensees might.

"We license the rights to our brand name to licensing companies that have their own supply chains and distribution networks," Klem said in an email. "The brand receives royalties on sales to wholesalers and would not benefit if a licensee increased its profit margin by obtaining goods at a lower cost," she added.

But Michael Stone, chairman of Beanstalk, a global brand licensing agency, said lower production costs for licensees would ultimately benefit Ivanka Trump by freeing up money for marketing or lower retail prices, both of which drive sales.

"It gives her a competitive advantage and an indirect benefit to her financially," Stone said. "The more successful the licensee is the more successful Ivanka Trump is going to be."

The AP identified companies that sent Ivanka Trump products to the United States by looking at shipment data maintained by ImportGenius and Panjiva Inc., private companies that independently track global trade. Panjiva's records show that 85 percent of shipments of her goods to the U.S. this year originated in China and Hong Kong, but beyond that, it's becoming more difficult to map the brand's global footprint.

The companies that shipped Ivanka Trump merchandise to the U.S. are listed for just five of 57 shipments logged by Panjiva from the end of March, when she officially became a presidential adviser, through mid-September. Panjiva collects data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which did not immediately release the missing data to AP.

While in many cases the manufacturer ships goods directly, merchandise can also be made by one company and shipped by another trading or consolidation company.

There used to be more visibility. Last year, 27 percent of the companies that exported Ivanka Trump merchandise to the U.S. were identified in Panjiva's records, and back in 2014 a full 95 percent were named. For two of Ivanka Trump's licensees — G-III Apparel Group Ltd. and Marc Fisher Footwear — the number of shipments appears to plunge in 2015, likely because they "requested to hide" their shipment activity, according to Panjiva records. Neither company responded to AP's questions.

The brand declined to comment on the growing murkiness of its supply chain.

Chris Rogers, an analyst at Panjiva, said any company can ask customs authorities to redact its information for any reason. About a quarter of companies request anonymity, he said, but the majority don't mind disclosing who they're doing business with.

"A lot of companies have said, 'yes there might be a commercial disadvantage, but we want to be transparent about our supply chain,'" he explained. "Why would we want to cover up the fact that we're working with this particular company?"

While ethics lawyers may see disclosure as the best antidote to conflict of interest, many brands see it as a tool to keep supply chains scandal-free. Public outcry over sweatshop conditions and worker suicides prompted companies like Nike Inc. and Apple Inc. to disclose the names and addresses of their manufacturers, and a growing number, including Gap Inc., the H&M Group, New Balance Athletics Inc., Adidas AG and Levi Strauss & Co., publicly identify their suppliers.

Ivanka Trump should do the same, said Allen Adamson, founder and CEO of BrandSimple Consulting. "It's a missed opportunity to lead by example."

What shipping records do show is that a company called Zhejiang Tongxiang Foreign Trade Group Co. Ltd., a sprawling conglomerate once majority-owned by the Chinese state, sent at least 30 tons of Ivanka Trump handbags to the U.S. between March 2016 and February.

Zhejiang province's commerce department said in June 2014 that it would help lower export costs for that same company, along with nine other local enterprises, through a special three-year trade promotion program. Among the measures outlined were export insurance subsidies and funding for online trading platforms and international marketing, as well as special funds earmarked for foreign trade companies with large-scale, fast-growing exports.

The value of the subsidies is unclear, as are details about how the directives were implemented, but using subsidies to reduce the price of exports is considered so destructive to fair trade that the World Trade Organization generally bans the practice. Chinese government subsidies hurt American workers but can

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lower costs for U.S. companies that import made-in-China merchandise, potentially boosting their profits. President Donald Trump has called companies that benefit from foreign government subsidies "cheaters."

The AP spoke with four trade experts in the United States and China who said the Zhejiang measures appeared to violate World Trade Organization rules. "These are clearly export subsidies," said Gary Hufbauer, a trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Zhejiang province's Department of Commerce and the Zhejiang Tongxiang Foreign Trade Group declined comment.

The AP also found that from Oct. 2013 to Jan. 2015, Jiangsu High Hope International Group Corp., a conglomerate majority-owned by the Jiangsu provincial government, shipped 45 tons of Ivanka Trump clothing to the U.S., according to records from ImportGenius and Panjiva.

High Hope told AP it had "a small number of business dealings" with Ivanka Trump licensee G-III Apparel, but declined to answer questions about whether the relationship is ongoing.

G-III, which is based in New York City, declined to respond to specific questions but said in a statement that it is "committed to legal compliance and ethical business practices in all of our operations worldwide." Ivanka Trump licensee Mondani Handbags & Accessories Inc., also headquartered in New York, did not respond to requests for comment.

Ivanka Trump's brand said it was in the process of reviewing its supply chains with the help of "independent experts whose mission it is to advance human rights" and emphasized that all licensees, manufacturers, subcontractors and suppliers are required to abide by the law, as well as ethical practices set forth in a vendor code of conduct.

The AP asked to see the code of conduct, but the brand declined to share it.

Associated Press researchers Fu Ting in Shanghai and Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

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GOP, White House prepare to roll out tax cuts

By MARCY GORDON and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and congressional Republicans are finalizing a tax plan that would slash the corporate rate while likely reducing the levy for the wealthiest Americans, with President Donald Trump ready to roll out the policy proposal at midweek.

The grand plan to rewrite the nation's tax code would be the first major overhaul in three decades, delivering on a Trump campaign pledge and providing a sorely needed legislative achievement. It also is expected to eliminate or reduce some tax breaks and deductions.

The plan would likely cut the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans, now at 39.6 percent, to 35 percent, people familiar with the plan said Monday. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a formal announcement.

In addition, the top tax for corporations would be reduced to around 20 percent from the current 35 percent, they said. It will seek to simplify the tax system by reducing the number of income tax brackets from seven to three.

Trump has said he wanted to see a 15 percent rate for corporations, but House Speaker Paul Ryan has called that impractically low and has said it would risk adding to the soaring \$20 trillion national debt.

The White House and congressional leaders planned an all-out blitz later this week to build support for the plan, which is now Trump's top legislative priority as the GOP has struggled to repeal and replace Democrat Barack Obama's health care law. The political stakes are high for Trump, who has promised to bring 3 percent economic growth and expanded jobs through tax cuts.

Vice President Mike Pence was expected to hold events in Michigan and Wisconsin on Thursday to promote the tax plan with business leaders.

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The plan being assembled lays out "pro-growth tax reform," Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, head of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters on Capitol Hill. It will fix a tax code that is "so complex, so costly and so unfair," he said.

Brady predicted the plan "will deliver the lowest tax rates on businesses in modern history."

Details will be filled in later by the committee, and legislation will be put forward after the House and Senate enact their budget frameworks, Brady said.

Republicans are divided over the potential elimination of some of the deductions, underscoring the difficulty of overhauling the tax code even with GOP control of the House and Senate.

House Republicans planned to hold a Wednesday retreat at Fort McNair, Maryland, a few miles from the White House, to discuss the proposal, with briefings led by Brady and Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill.

Trump planned to address the plan in a speech the same day at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Cabinet members and other top administration officials were fanning out on Thursday to talk about the benefits of overhauling the tax system.

"The tax reform I think is very critical and he knows that," said Christopher Ruddy, the CEO of NewsMax and a longtime Trump friend. "And that's why he'll push really hard for it. But he's got something big going for him here. The Republicans need to run on something next year and it's tax cuts. So even if they don't want to be particularly helpful to him, I think they're going to give him this. If he has the tax cuts signed, I think it's going to be very helpful for him."

Touching with his conservative base, Trump planned to discuss the tax plan at dinner Monday night with representatives of several conservative, religious and anti-abortion groups.

Outside Republican groups and business interests are also planning a major push to advocate for the tax framework.

Corry Bliss, the executive director of the American Action Network, a conservative advocacy group, said it planned to spend \$12 million — atop the \$8 million it spent laying the groundwork for the tax overhaul — to help win passage of the plan.

"There's an understanding among outside groups, among members, among Republicans across the country that there is a desperate need to cut middle-class taxes," Bliss said, noting "excitement and relief" among outside groups that it was "finally time" to push the tax package in Congress.

Republicans control Congress but they are split on some core tax issues. They're in agreement on wanting to cut tax rates and simplify the byzantine tax system but they're divided over whether to add to the government's ballooning debt with tax cuts. The GOP also is at odds over eliminating the federal deduction for state and local taxes.

That deduction is prominently in the sights of the plan's architects. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says the administration wants to eliminate or reduce it because the federal government shouldn't be subsidizing states and wealthy households. Nearly 44 million people claimed the deduction for state and local taxes in 2014, according to the most recent IRS tally, especially in the high-tax, high-income states of California, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Politics figure heavily. There are a host of GOP lawmakers in those four Democratic-controlled "blue" states — including prominent members like House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California. A number of them are pushing back.

Regardless of what the administration and the House GOP come up with on taxes, Sen. Orrin Hatch, the Utah Republican who heads the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, has warned that his panel won't be "a rubber stamp" for the plan.

Republican senators on opposing sides of the deficit debate have tentatively agreed on a plan for \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts. That would add substantially to the debt and would enable deeper cuts to tax rates than would be allowed if Republicans followed through on earlier promises that their tax overhaul wouldn't add to the budget deficit. That would mark an about-face for top congressional Republicans like Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who had for months promised it wouldn't add to the deficit.

Cowboys kneel before national anthem against Arizona

By JOHN MARSHALL, AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has been a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, so the speculation was that he would not allow his players to kneel during the national anthem.

The Cowboys and their owner did kneel, though not during the anthem.

Following a weekend of kneeling and protesting across the NFL, the Cowboys and their owner displayed their own version of unity Monday night, kneeling on the field before rising as a group prior to the playing of the national anthem.

"I hope that I'm clear and I hope that our team is clear: We want to respect the flag. Make no mistake about that," Jones said.

"Nothing that we've done, nothing that we did tonight says anything other than that. We also want to as a complete team, as players and an organization, be able to, whenever we can, demonstrate that unity is important and equality is important.

"That's what I'm so proud of these guys for, they did both and did it in a way when people really stop and think about it, makes a lot of sense."

The Cowboys sat and watched the protests across the NFL on Sunday and spent most of Monday discussing the best way to show unity without denigrating the flag.

After warmups Monday night, they went into the locker room and returned to the field for the anthem, lining up between the sideline and the yard markers on the field.

Arm-in-arm, they dropped to a knee as a giant flag was carried onto the field, with Jones and his family in the middle near the 50-yard line.

Numerous boos rang out across University of Phoenix Stadium as the Cowboys kneeled and continued as the players rose, still arm-in-arm, and stepped back to the sideline as the flag was unfurled across the field. They remained connected as Jordin Sparks sang the national anthem.

"The objectives, as much as anything else, was to somehow, some way demonstrate unity and demonstrate equality, and do so without any way involving the American flag and the national anthem," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said.

The Arizona Cardinals had their own symbol of unity after a weekend of protests in the NFL, gathering along the goal line arm-in-arm during the national anthem. They were joined by owner Michael Bidwell, his family and general manager Steve Keim.

More than 200 NFL players kneeled, sat or prayed during the national anthem on Sunday after President Trump said any player who does not stand for the national anthem should be fired.

Three teams did not take the field for the national anthem and numerous NFL owners came out against Trump's statements.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL .

Water and some food scarce as Puerto Rico emerges from storm

By BEN FOX, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Supermarkets are gradually re-opening in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico but the situation is far from normal and many customers are going home disappointed.

Most food stores and restaurants remain closed. That is largely because power is out for most of the island and few have generators or enough diesel to power them. The shops that were open Monday had long lines outside and vast empty shelves where they once held milk, meat and other perishables. Drinking water was nowhere to be found.

Mercedes Caro shook her head in frustration as she emerged from the SuperMax in the Condado neighborhood of San Juan with a loaf of white bread, cheese and bananas.

"There is no water and practically no food," she said. "Not even spaghetti."

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Maria Perez waited outside a Pueblo supermarket in a nearby part of San Juan, hoping to buy some coffee, sugar and maybe a little meat to cook with a gas stove that has enough propane for about a week more. "We are in a crisis," she said. "Puerto Rico is destroyed."

The fact that some stores and restaurants have re-opened for the first time since Category 4 Hurricane Maria roared across the island Sept. 20 is welcome in a place where nearly everyone has no power and more than half the people don't have water.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello and other Puerto Rican officials said some ports have been cleared by the Coast Guard to resume accepting ships, which should allow businesses to restock. But the situation remains far from normal.

SuperMax opened on a reduced schedule for several stores in the San Juan area as well as in the hard-hit towns of Caguas and Dorado. Walgreens has reopened about half of its 120 locations in Puerto Rico on a limited basis. Walmart says it has a "handful" of its 48 stores and Sam's Clubs open but the process has been slowed by the power outages, port closures and the near total collapse of communications.

Two Medinia supermarkets opened in the coastal town of Loiza. But Manager David Guzman said he had to impose restrictions on cooking gas and other products that were running low and might not be restocked soon. "We are restricting so we can give something to everyone, to extend what we have left," he said.

Therese Casper was among several dozen people waiting for a Walmart in the Santurce section of San Juan to open its doors, but that didn't happen Monday. She and her husband were looking for something to get rid of all the moisture that had accumulated in the apartment they rented three weeks ago when they moved to Puerto Rico from Denver, Colorado. They have been getting by in their dark, sweltering apartment on instant oatmeal and anything else they can cook on a propane stove as they wait for a flight back home.

"I tell my husband it's like camping. It's 'Survivor' Puerto Rico," Casper said. "It's not what we bargained for."

Stores are still packed with dozens of brands of shampoo and other consumer products, but those aisles were largely empty as people rushed to buy the basics, using cash sparingly since that is also in short supply and credit card transactions aren't being processed at all places. Ruth Calderon, a retiree, filled her basket with processed sausages that she planned to cook up with rice and share with an older neighbor who can't leave her apartment. "I'm surviving," she said with resignation. "I have what I need."

Others also described helping neighbors and there are no signs of widespread hunger, at least not yet. "There is a tradition here of people helping each other especially during disasters," Doris Anglero said as she looked for what was available in an Old San Juan supermarket.

Some disappointed shoppers were also sharply aware that there are others on the island in a worse situation. Caro began to weep as she talked about her four grandchildren in Rincon, the western town that has been largely cut off from aid shipments as well as contact with the outside world. "Not knowing is so hard," she said, turning to walk off.

Associated Press writer Chris Gillette contributed to this report.

NBA players want change, and now must decide how to proceed

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — NBA teams are going to do something.

What, no one is exactly sure yet.

The first practice of the year awaits most NBA teams Tuesday — and as if the task of getting ready for a regular season that starts in three weeks wasn't daunting enough, coaches and players all over the league are trying to decide how to best use their platform and continue striving for what they hope is positive change in society.

President Donald Trump's recent comments on protests by NFL players, particularly those visible during the playing of the national anthem before games, as well as rescinding the Golden State Warriors' tradi-

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tional championship invitation to the White House, have struck a clear chord in the NBA.

"We will support our guys if they choose to decide to fight this in a coherent, connected way," Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But absolutely, we all feel discouraged just by the divisiveness right now. And we would all just love to see a lot more equality and inclusion."

League-wide media days on Monday were dominated by Trump talk — and while frustrations are clear, solutions are not.

"The only thing I can do is forgive him and love him throughout the process," Charlotte center Dwight Howard said. "And we all have to do that. That's the only way we're going to get better. I know a lot of things in history have caused certain groups and certain races to hate other races, but we have to find a way to put all of that aside."

He was kinder than most.

At their media days Monday, Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal said Trump is "a clown" and Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan called the president a "so-called leader." That comes on the heels of Cleveland star LeBron James tweeting over the weekend that Trump is a "bum," doing so after Trump said he was taking away Warriors star Stephen Curry's invite to visit the White House.

"We know where the power in the country is and we know the racism that exists," said San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and the next U.S. Olympic men's basketball coach. "But it's gone beyond that, to the point where I'm more worried about, and more confused by, the people around our president. These are intelligent people who know exactly what's going on, who are basically very negative about his actions, but now it seems that it's condoned."

Trump said NFL players who kneel for the national anthem should be fired, and his usage of the term "son of a bitch" to describe protesting players also angered many in the NBA.

There is a rule in the NBA saying players, coaches and trainers must stand for the national anthem in a dignified manner. But if the Memphis Grizzlies decide they want to see what happens should anyone defy that mandate, their coach will be right there with them.

"No gray area today," David Fizdale said. "I'll be on my knee."

It seems unlikely that NBA teams will kneel for anthems; many players said Monday that they wouldn't do so. Chicago guard Kris Dunn said the matter was of particular importance to him, since he has a close friend serving in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

"The power is in the hands of the players, the NFL players and the same for the NBA players, even though our NBA stars have a much better relationship with owners and with the league than the NFL," Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard said. "If NFL players decide 'We're not playing,' if each player gets behind each other and says 'We're not playing,' then what? When you truly make a stand, then what?"

Thunder forward Paul George said he hopes the NBA does something as a league to show unity in drawing attention to the issue of police and race.

"Everyone has to take a part into doing something," George said. "Hopefully, we do something as a league that gives us strength. I thought what the NFL is doing right now is beautiful. They're showing a lot of power, not only from the players, but the front office making statements that we're going to back up the players up whatever they do. So hopefully, we can approach it the same way the NFL's doing it."

AP Sports Writers Steve Reed, Anne M. Peterson, Teresa Walker, Stephen Whyno, Tom Withers, Cliff Brunt and Andrew Seligman contributed to this story.

More AP basketball: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

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Prescott, Cowboys pull away to beat Cardinals 28-17

By BOB BAUM, AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Dak Prescott kneeled with his teammates and team owner before the game, flipped head over heels for a touchdown in the first half and capped his night with a 37-yard TD pass that proved to be the game winner.

The Dallas Cowboys erased last week's ugly memory on Monday night, with their young quarterback leading the way.

"He just kept battling," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

"He kept making good decisions. Obviously he made some good plays, big-time throws, but as much as anything else he's got an amazing spirit and our players follow him."

The Cowboys (2-1), bouncing back from a 42-17 pummeling in Denver, began the game kneeling at midfield with owner Jerry Jones in a show of unity that followed widespread protests across the NFL of critical comments by President Donald Trump over the weekend.

After they kneeled, they stood and walked to the sideline and stood for the anthem.

"We planned and it was executed that we would go out and kneel," Jones said, "and basically make the statement regarding the need for unity and the need for equality."

Prescott, 13 of 18 for 183 yards, broke a 14-14 tie with a 37-yard scoring pass to Brice Butler with 11:52 to play.

"I immediately scrambled and when I scrambled Brice took the right angle and the right initiative going to the back of the end zone," Prescott said.

Arizona, with a spectacular catch by Larry Fitzgerald for 24 yards on a third-and-18 play, moved downfield but the drive stalled. Phil Dawson's 37-yard field goal cut the lead to 21-17 with 6:35 left.

Ezekiel Elliott, who gained 8 yards on nine carries against Denver and drew criticism for not hustling after a couple of late interceptions, was bottled up much of the game, but still gained 80 yards on 22 attempts, 30 on one play. He ran 8 yards for the final Cowboys touchdown.

The Cardinals (1-2), in their home opener, got a big game from Fitzgerald, who caught 13 passes for 149 yards, in the process moving ahead of Marvin Harrison into eighth in career receiving yards. The 13 receptions tied a career high.

"That's Fitz. It's Monday night," Arizona coach Bruce Arians said. "He's a money player. It was a great performance by him. It's a shame we couldn't play better around him."

Carson Palmer had a big first half, completed 15 of 18 for 145 yards and finished 29 of 48 for 325 yards and two scores. He was sacked six times, a career-high three by DeMarcus Lawrence.

The Cardinals dominated the first half statistically, but were deadlocked with the Cowboys at 7-7. Arizona had a 152-57 advantage in yards and dominated time of possession 19:34 to 9:41.

Arizona took the opening kickoff and went 82 yards in eight plays. Palmer was 5-for-5 on the drive, capped by a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jaron Brown.

Before Dallas even had a first down, Arizona mounted a nearly nine-minute drive but a touchdown pass to Brown was negated by a holding penalty and Phil Dawson's 36-yard field goal try was wide right. It was the third mid-range miss for the 41-year-old kicker this season.

And the miss left the door open for the Cowboys to get back in it.

Prescott scored on a 10-yard run, flipping head-first over the goal line to tie it at 7-7 with 3:33 left in the half.

TAKING A KNEE: Jones has been a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, so the speculation was that he would not allow his players to kneel during the national anthem.

Following a weekend of kneeling and protesting across the NFL, the Cowboys and their owner displayed their own version of unity Monday night, kneeling on the field before rising as a group and going to the sideline for the national anthem.

Numerous boos rang out across University of Phoenix Stadium as the Cowboys kneeled and continued as the players rose, still arm-in-arm, and stepped back to the sideline as the flag was unfurled across the

field. They remained connected as Jordin Sparks sang the national anthem.

The Cardinals had their own symbol of unity after a weekend of protests in the NFL, gathering along the goal line arm-in-arm during the national anthem. They were joined by team president Michael Bidwell, his family and general manager Steve Keim.

"It's just to show unity," Cardinals team captain Frostee Rucker said. "There's so much negativity going on. People are trying to pull us apart. We always want to stay together."

More than 200 NFL players kneeled, sat or prayed during the national anthem on Sunday after President Trump said any player who does not stand for the national anthem should be fired.

Sparks, whose father Phillippi played in the NFL, had "PROV 31:8-9" written on her hand while she sang the anthem.

The bible verse says: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Mexican women show resolve in earthquake's aftermath

By NATACHA PISARENKO, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — When a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck central Mexico, toppling buildings and leaving hundreds of people trapped, Mexicans quickly mobilized a mammoth rescue operation involving police, firefighters, soldiers and other professionals bolstered by an army of everyday civilians.

The volunteer workers have come from all walks of life, and they include large numbers of women, underlining social changes in recent years that have seen Mexican women move into roles traditionally restricted to men.

Women did participate in rescue work after the devastating 1985 quake that killed thousands in Mexico City, but only in relatively small numbers. Juana Huitron, the most famous of the female "topos," as Mexican volunteer searchers were known, has said she faced machismo back then.

Since then, even though women still make up a smaller percentage of the workforce than their male counterparts, they have become leaders in education, business and the arts.

And since the deadly Sept. 19 quake, women are working alongside men digging into rubble to search for possible survivors, leading campaigns to collect food and medicine for those left homeless and comforting relatives of the deceased.

Here are some of their stories:

KAREN PINA: doctor with the Red Cross

From the base of a crushed apartment building, Pina coordinated between searchers, doctors and ambulance teams to arrange medical care for those rescued from the debris pile.

"Not having anything to tell the families of those trapped made me feel helpless," she said. "I pulled out three people alive, which was worth every ounce of effort spent these days. I cried every time we found someone."

LIZABETH JAZMIN LOPEZ: volunteer

Wearing a hard hat and reflective vest, Lopez joined in the arduous hunt for survivors, shoveling through mounds of rubble the first day after the quake.

"I was 14 years old during the '85 earthquake. I was a Girl Scout. I volunteered at a donation center, but with fear. In 2017, I have a lot of strength and hope," Lopez said. "Tragedy makes you value life and as a society. Together we can lift up a country with love and hope."

FRIDA ISLAS: student

A 22-year-old, Islas was studying when the quake struck, knocking out power in her school's building.

She walked six hours to get home and started aiding the rescue immediately after.

"I help because people need support. I don't know them," she said. "I remove debris, bring supplies and give food to scared animals. It saddens me to see the city like this, but the union between Mexicans comforts me. I couldn't stay at home knowing how the city is right now."

VERONICA AGUILAR: computer sales

Aguilar was in a supermarket when the quake struck and rushed home to her 11-year-old daughter. At first, she stayed home, but then concluded she had to do something. She took her daughter to a collapsed office building to help, and show the girl the importance of helping however possible in the face of tragedy.

"The first days (after the quake) I didn't leave my house because of fear. But I decided to leave so that my daughter could see what is happening, to make her aware. So that she sees when you can help, you should," Aguilar said. "Among Mexicans, there is a lot of love. When something bad happens, we know that everyone chips in. "

MYRNA MOGUL: actress

After the quake, she went to work on a different stage: a collapsed apartment building. She put on a construction hat and began digging through debris helping look for anyone still trapped inside.

"Whether you are a man or woman, you must help as a human being," she said. "Find people alive or dead but find them so that people can continue with their lives. It doesn't have to do with gender, age, class or profession. It has to do with your ability as a human to help others."

Associated Press writer Christine Armario contributed to this report.

Iraq's Kurds vote on independence, raising regional fears

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi Kurds voted Monday in a landmark referendum on supporting independence, a move billed by the Kurdish leadership as an exercise in self-determination but viewed as a hostile act by Iraq's central government. Neighboring Turkey even threatened a military response.

To Baghdad, the vote threatens a redrawing Iraq's borders, taking a sizeable part of the country's oil wealth with it. For Turkey and Iran, leaders feared the move would embolden their own Kurdish populations.

The vote — likely to be a resounding "yes" when official results are revealed later this week — is not binding and will not immediately bring independence to the autonomous region. Nevertheless, it has raised tensions and fears of instability in Iraq and beyond.

Just hours after polls closed Monday night across the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, the Defense Ministry announced the launch of "large-scale" joint military exercises with Turkey.

Earlier in the day, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey threatened the Kurdish region with military intervention. Iran — which also opposed the vote — held military exercises along their border Sunday.

The Iraqi Kurdish push for independence has been made even more combustible because Kurdish forces captured extensive territory in fighting against the Islamic State group in the past year. Those areas run from northwestern Iraq to the Iranian border on the east — including the oil-rich city of Kirkuk. Baghdad claims those territories, but the Kurds say they are part of their zone and some residents there are participating in the referendum.

An escalation in rhetoric within Iraq set the stage for increased tensions as Iraqi Kurds lined up to vote.

The Kurdish region's president, Masoud Barzani, and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi both threatened to use force ahead of Monday's vote.

Barzani softened his tone before he voted. He told a news conference Sunday that he believed the vote would be peaceful but acknowledged the path to independence would be "risky."

"We are ready to pay any price for our independence," he said.

Al-Abadi had said on the eve of the referendum that the vote "threatens Iraq" and "is a danger to the

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region.”

“We will take measures to safeguard the nation’s unity and protect all Iraqis,” he warned in a televised address from Baghdad.

The United States and United Nations both opposed the vote, describing it as a unilateral and potentially destabilizing move.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. wouldn’t alter its “historic relationship” with Iraqi Kurds but the referendum would increase hardships for the Kurdish region of Iraq. She said the Islamic State group and other extremists are hoping to “exploit instability and discord.”

Statements from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed regret that the vote was held and said issues between Iraq’s federal government and Kurdish region should be resolved through dialogue.

The promise of an independent state has long been at the center of Iraqi Kurdish politics. When colonial powers drew the map of the Middle East after World War I, the Kurds were divided among Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq.

That dream was evident among some of the voters in the disputed city of Kirkuk.

“I feel so great and happy. I feel we’ll be free,” said Kurdish resident Suad Pirot after voting. “Nobody will rule us. We will be independent.”

The oil-rich city has large Kurdish, Arab, Turkmen and Christian communities, and it has seen some low-level clashes in the days leading up to the vote. A curfew was imposed Monday evening for fear of more violence.

Baghdad residents strongly criticized the referendum, saying it would raise sectarian tensions and create an “Israel in Iraq.”

“This is a division of Iraq,” said journalist Raad Mohammad. Another Baghdad resident, Ali al-Rubayah, described the vote as a “black day in the history of the Kurds.”

Lawyer Tariq al-Zubaydi said the referendum was inappropriate amid the “ongoing threat of terrorism and Islamic State” militants.

“The country is going through a difficult period. This requires a coming together of our efforts, he said. “A unified country is better for all.”

Speaking in Istanbul, Erdogan said Turkey doesn’t recognize the referendum and declared its results would be “null and void.”

Erdogan also suggested Turkey could halt the flow of oil from a pipeline from northern Iraq, a lifeline for the land-locked Kurdish region battling a severe economic crisis.

Turkey has urged the international community — and especially regional countries — not to recognize the vote and urged Iraq Kurdish leaders to abandon “utopic goals,” accusing them of endangering peace and stability for Iraq and the whole region.

“We could arrive suddenly one night,” Erdogan said, pointing to Turkish military exercises underway along Turkey’s border with the Iraqi Kurdish region.

“Our military is not (there) for nothing,” he added.

Associated Press writers Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad, Balint Szlanko and Ali Abdul-Hassan in Irbil, Iraq, Bram Janssen in Kirkuk, Iraq, and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

More buildings, perhaps lives at risk following Mexico quake

By MARIA VERZA and CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — As many as 360 buildings and homes are in danger of collapse or with major damage in Mexico City nearly a week after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake collapsed 38 structures.

The risk of delayed collapse is real: The cupola of Our Lady of Angels Church, damaged and cracked by the Sept. 19 quake, split in half and crashed to the ground Sunday evening. There were no injuries.

Nervous neighbors continued calling police Monday as apparently new cracks appeared in their apartment buildings or existing ones worsened, even as the city struggled to get back to normality.

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Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno said Monday that officials had cleared only 676 of Mexico City's nearly 9,000 schools to reopen Tuesday and said it could be two to three weeks before all are declared safe, leaving hundreds of thousands of children idle.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said at least seven schools were among the buildings thought to be at risk of tumbling.

The frustrations of families with loved ones missing boiled over Monday night at the largest remaining search site, a collapsed seven-story office building.

"What are they hiding from us," asked Javier Saucedo, father of 27-year-old Angel Javier Saucedo, who worked in the building. He complained that authorities have been removing bodies from the site without letting families know.

"Why does our own government toy with the pain of the families," he said. "What they are doing is not fair." He called for President Enrique Pena Nieto and the mayor to come to the site and clear things up for them.

At several points in the city, employees gathered on sidewalks in front of their workplaces Monday refusing to enter because they feared their buildings could collapse.

"We are afraid for our own safety," said Maribel Martinez Ramirez, an employee of a government development agency who, along with dozens of co-workers, refused to enter. "The building is leaning, there are cracks."

Mancera said 360 "red level" buildings would either have to be demolished or receive major structural reinforcement. An additional 1,136 are repairable, and 8,030 buildings inspected so far were found to be habitable.

Search teams were still digging through dangerous piles of rubble, hoping against the odds to find survivors. The city has accounted for 186 of the 326 dead nationwide.

The smell of rotting corpses increasingly hung over the largest remaining search site near the city's center.

Juan Carlos Penas, in charge of a Spanish rescue team working at the remains of what had been a seven-story office building, said Monday that the work was very slow because the rubble was so unstable. Rescuers managed to make a small entry between the second and third floors and insert a camera, but they did not immediately find anyone.

While no one has been found alive since last Wednesday, relatives of the trapped, anxious to cling to any hope of rescue, won injunctions against actions that could cause the ruins to collapse further.

The federal judiciary council said Sunday that court injunctions for seven points around the city prevent authorities from using backhoes or bulldozers to remove rubble, in order to allow "search and rescue operations to continue ... to preserve the life of people who may be among the remains of the structures."

Hugo Luna, whose cousin Erika Gabriela Albarran was believed trapped in the fallen office building, complained that officials had not immediately informed families when two bodies were removed Saturday night. "There is a lot of distrust of authorities," he said.

His aunt, who was also inside the building when the quake hit but escaped, is traumatized, he said.

"Nothing happened to her, but now she has panic attacks," Luna said. "You open the door, she hears a noise and she gets scared."

Mariana Castilla, a volunteer social psychologist, said rumors and a lack of information were difficult for families of the missing.

One by one, other searches have closed down in recent days, after sniffer dogs were sent in and didn't find life and thermal imaging devices turned up no body heat signatures. Heavy machinery moved in to begin removing the mountains of debris. Empty lots began to appear where just days ago a building stood.

At the site of a collapsed factory that held various businesses near the city center, the rubble had already been cleared, leaving behind the concrete foundation. People left flowers Monday in memory of those who perished there.

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson and Christopher Sherman contributed to this report.

Feds rush aid to Puerto Rico, while Trump tweets about debt

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. ramped up its response Monday to the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico, even as President Donald Trump brought up the island's struggles before Hurricane Maria struck — including "billions of dollars" in debt to "Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with."

The Trump administration has tried to blunt criticism that its response to Hurricane Maria has fallen short of its efforts in Texas and Florida after the recent hurricanes there.

Five days after the Category 4 storm slammed into Puerto Rico, many of the more than 3.4 million U.S. citizens in the territory were still without adequate food, water and fuel. Flights off the island were infrequent, communications were spotty and roads were clogged with debris. Officials said electrical power may not be fully restored for more than a month.

Trump himself pointed out some differences between the two states and the island in a series of tweets Monday night.

"Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble."

Trump also noted that the island's electrical grid was already "in terrible shape." Still, he promised, "Food, water and medical are top priorities - and doing well."

In Washington, officials said no armada of U.S. Navy ships was headed to the island because supplies could be carried in more efficiently by plane. The Trump administration ruled out temporarily setting aside federal restrictions on foreign ships' transportation of cargo, saying it wasn't needed. The government had waived those rules in Florida and Texas until last week.

Though the administration said the focus on aid was strong, when two Cabinet secretaries spoke at a conference on another subject — including Energy Secretary Rick Perry, whose agency is helping restore the island's power — neither made any mention of Puerto Rico or Hurricane Maria.

Democratic lawmakers with large Puerto Rican constituencies back on the mainland characterized the response so far as too little and too slow. The confirmed toll from Maria jumped to at least 49 on Monday, including 16 dead in Puerto Rico.

"Puerto Ricans are Americans," said Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., who traveled to Puerto Rico over the weekend to assess the damage. "We cannot and will not turn our backs on them."

Trump himself was expected at the end of last week to visit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, after they had been ravaged by Hurricane Irma. But the trip was delayed after Maria set its sights on the islands.

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, and White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert landed in San Juan on Monday, appearing with Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello at a brief news briefing. Though Rossello had urgently called for more emergency assistance over the weekend, he expressed his gratitude for the help so far.

The governor said the presence of Long and Bossert was "a clear indication that the administration is committed with Puerto Rico's recovery process."

Long said, "We've got a lot of work to do. We realize that."

Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made no mention of Puerto Rico or the hurricane during a joint appearance before the National Petroleum Council, a business-friendly federal advisory committee. News reporters were not allowed to ask questions.

Perry had traveled with Trump to Texas and Florida following hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Energy Department crews are working in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, coordinating with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, FEMA and a team from the New York Power Authority, among others. An eight-member team from the Western Area Power Authority, an Energy Department agency, assisted with initial damage assessments in Puerto Rico and has been redeployed to St. Thomas. A spokeswoman said additional responders would go to Puerto Rico as soon as transportation to the hurricane-ravaged island could be arranged.

Zinke's department oversees the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with other territories.

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The federal response to Maria faces obvious logistical challenges beyond those in Texas or Florida. Supplies must be delivered by air or sea, rather than with convoys of trucks.

FEMA said it had more than 700 staff on the ground in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They were helping coordinate a federal response that now includes more than 10,000 federal personnel spread across the two Caribbean archipelagos.

In Puerto Rico, federal workers supplied diesel to fuel generators at hospitals and delivered desperately needed food and water to hard-hit communities across the island. Cargo flights are bringing in additional supplies, and barges loaded with more goods are starting to arrive in the island's ports.

San Juan's international airport handled nearly 100 arrivals and departures on Sunday, including military and relief operations, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The Pentagon dispatched the Navy amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge, which provided helicopters and Marines to help with the relief effort onshore.

However, the Trump administration said Monday it would not waive federal restrictions on foreign ships' transportation of cargo as it had following Harvey and Irma. The administration said it will continue to enforce the Jones Act, which requires that goods transported between U.S. ports be carried on U.S.-flagged ships.

Department of Homeland Security spokesman David Lapan said the agency had concluded there were already enough US-flagged vessels available.

On Capitol Hill, congressional leaders were talking about how to pay for it all. Puerto Rico was already struggling from steep financial and economic challenges before Maria made landfall.

Last year, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi joined with President Barack Obama to help recession-ravaged Puerto Rico deal with its debt crisis. After the devastating storm, Puerto Ricans will now be eligible to benefit from the same pots of federal emergency disaster aid and rebuilding funds available to residents in Texas and Florida.

Lawmakers approved a \$15 billion hurricane relief packaged after Harvey hit Texas, but billions more will likely now be needed to respond to Maria.

Ryan said Monday that Congress will ensure the people of Puerto Rico "have what they need."

Associated Press reporters Ben Fox in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Jill Colvin, Robert Burns, Matthew Daly, Joan Lowy and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed.

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North Korean diplomat says tweet by Trump 'declared war'

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — North Korea's top diplomat said Monday that a weekend tweet by U.S. President Donald Trump was a "declaration of war" and North Korea has the right to retaliate by shooting down U.S. bombers, even in international airspace.

It was the latest escalation in a week of undiplomatic exchanges between North Korea and the U.S. during the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting.

Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told reporters that the United Nations and the international community have said in recent days that they didn't want "the war of words" to turn into "real action."

But he said that by tweeting that North Korea's leadership led by Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer," Trump "declared the war on our country."

Under the U.N. Charter, Ri said, North Korea has the right to self-defense and "every right" to take countermeasures, "including the right to shoot down the United States strategic bombers even when they're not yet inside the airspace border of our country."

Hours later, the White House pushed back on Ri's claim, saying: "We have not declared war on North Korea." The Trump administration, referring to the tweet, stressed that the U.S. is not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government.

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U.S. Cabinet officials, particularly Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have insisted that the U.S.-led campaign of diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea is focused on eliminating the pariah state's nuclear weapons program, not its totalitarian government.

But the more Trump muddies the picture, the tougher it may become to maintain cooperation with China and Russia, which seek a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis and not a new U.S. ally suddenly popping up on their borders. It also risks snuffing out hopes of persuading Kim's government to enter negotiations when its survival isn't assured.

Trump tweeted Saturday: "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump also used the derisive "Rocket Man" reference to Kim in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 19, but this time he added the word "little."

This was not the first time North Korea has spoken about a declaration of war between the two countries. In July 2016, Pyongyang said U.S. sanctions imposed on Kim were "a declaration of war" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — the country's official name — and it made a similar statement after a new round of U.N. sanctions in December. The North Korean leader used the words again Friday.

The foreign minister's brief statement to a throng of reporters outside his hotel before heading off in a motorcade, reportedly to return home, built on the escalating rhetoric between Kim and Trump.

"The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea," Trump told world leaders Sept. 19. "Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime."

Kim responded with the first-ever direct statement from a North Korean leader against a U.S. president, lobbing a string of insults at Trump.

"I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged U.S. dotard with fire," he said, choosing the rarely used word "dotard," which means an old person who is weak-minded.

"Now that Trump has denied the existence of and insulted me and my country in front of the eyes of the world and made the most ferocious declaration of a war in history that he would destroy the DPRK, we will consider with seriousness exercising of a corresponding, highest level of hardline countermeasure in history," Kim said.

On Monday, Ri escalated the threat by saying Trump's weekend claim that North Korea's leaders would soon be gone "is clearly a declaration of war."

All U.N. members and the world "should clearly remember that it was the U.S. who first declared war on our country," the foreign minister said, adding that North Korea now has the right to take countermeasures and retaliate against U.S. bombers.

Ri ended his brief remarks by saying: "The question of who won't be around much longer will be answered then."

Military maneuvers by the U.S. and its allies are adding to tensions along the two Koreas' heavily militarized border. In a show of might, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew Saturday to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea by any such American aircraft this century.

A Pentagon spokesman, Army Col. Rob Manning, said Monday that the operation was conducted in international airspace and legally permissible.

The U.S. has a "deep arsenal of military options to provide the president so that he can then decide how he wants to deal with North Korea," Manning told reporters. "We are prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from an attack and are prepared to use the full range of capabilities at our disposal against the threat from North Korea,"

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha called for careful management of the tensions to prevent a conflict that would devastate the region.

"It's very likely that North Korea will conduct further provocations," Kang said. "Under these circumstances it is imperative that we — Korea and the United States — manage the situation with astuteness and steadfastness in order to prevent further escalation of tensions or any kind of accidental military

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clashes in the region which can quickly spiral out of control.”

“There cannot be another war in the region,” Kang said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. “The consequences would be devastating not just for the Korean Peninsula but for Northeast Asia and indeed the whole international community.”

Kang said North Korea’s nuclear program seems to be at a “tipping point,” approaching the goal of having a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the continental United States.

She voiced South Korean support for the U.S.-led strategy of “maximum pressure” on North Korea as a tool to get Pyongyang to negotiate on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula — not at toppling the North Korean government.

“There is still room for diplomacy,” Kang said, but “time is running out.”

North Korea has repeatedly said it needs a nuclear deterrent because the U.S. intends to invade it.

Ri told the General Assembly on Saturday that North Korea’s recent “ICBM-mountable H-bomb test” was a key step to completing its nuclear force. He called it “a war deterrent for putting an end to nuclear threat of the U.S. and for preventing its military invasion.”

“Our ultimate goal is to establish the balance of power with the U.S.,” he minister said.

___ Associated Press writer Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

Asian stocks little changed after Wall Street tumble

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks were little changed Tuesday as investors watched U.S.-North Korean tensions after a decline in tech shares dragged down Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 lost 0.1 percent to 20,377.29 points while the Shanghai Composite Index was unchanged at 3,340.53. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng gained less than 0.1 percent to 27,514.44 and Seoul’s Kospi was down less than 0.1 percent at 2,379.60. Sydney’s S&P-ASX 200 gained less than 0.1 percent to 5,687.40. Benchmarks in Taiwan and New Zealand gained modestly while Singapore and Jakarta edged down.

WALL STREET: Losses for technology stocks overshadowed gains in other areas to send broad U.S. indexes lower. Tech stocks in the Standard & Poor’s index lost 1.4 percent — more than three times the loss of any of the other 10 sectors that make up the index. Facebook fell 4.5 percent, Nvidia lost 4.5 percent and video-game developer Electronic Arts lost 3.6 percent. The S&P dropped 0.2 percent to 2,496.66. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.2 percent to 22,296.09 and the Nasdaq composite dropped 0.9 percent to 6,370.59.

NORTH KOREA: Investors looked for safe havens for their money after North Korea’s top diplomat said a weekend tweet by U.S. President Donald Trump was a “declaration of war” and North Korea has the right to shoot down U.S. bombers. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho said by tweeting that North Korea’s leadership led by Kim Jong Un “won’t be around much longer,” Trump “declared the war on our country.” The White House pushed back on Ri’s claim, saying: “We have not declared war on North Korea.”

ANALYST’S TAKE: “If this goes the way of all other such spells of risk off, we will have a couple of days of this safe-haven seeking, and then all will go quiet, and markets will quickly return to normal,” said Rob Carnell of ING in a report.

FED WATCH: Investors looked ahead to a speech by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on inflation and monetary policy. Investors are also waiting to hear more details about Trump’s plans to cut taxes. In speeches this week, Vice Chairman William C. Dudley said the Fed still had a case for another interest rate hike, while board members Neel Kashkari and Charles Evans said it needed to give inflation more time.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 2 cents to \$52.24 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract soared \$1.56 on Monday to close at \$52.22. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 29 cents to \$58.72 in London. It jumped \$2.01 the previous session to \$58.43.

CURRENCY: The dollar advanced to 111.60 yen from Monday’s 111.69 yen. The euro gained to \$1.858 from \$1.847.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2017. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 26, 1892, John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, New Jersey.

On this date:

In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1789, Thomas Jefferson was confirmed by the Senate to be the first United States secretary of state; John Jay, the first chief justice; Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general.

In 1835, the opera "Lucia di Lammermoor" by Gaetano Donizetti was first performed at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Italy.

In 1907, New Zealand went from being a colony to a dominion within the British Empire.

In 1914, the Federal Trade Commission was established.

In 1937, the radio drama "The Shadow," starring Orson Welles, premiered on the Mutual Broadcasting System.

In 1957, the musical play "West Side Story" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the first-ever debate between presidential nominees took place as Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon faced off before a national TV audience from Chicago.

In 1977, Sir Freddie Laker began his cut-rate "Skytrain" service from London to New York. (However, the carrier went out of business in 1982.)

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Arizona, called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

In 1997, a Garuda Indonesia Airbus A-300 crashed while approaching Medan Airport in north Sumatra, killing all 234 people aboard.

Ten years ago: A judge in Los Angeles declared a mistrial in Phil Spector's murder trial after the jury deadlocked 10-2 in favor of convicting the music producer of killing actress Lana Clarkson. (Spector was convicted in a 2009 retrial.) Myanmar began a violent crackdown on protests, beating and dragging away dozens of monks.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney both campaigned in the battleground state of Ohio. Egypt's new President Mohammed Morsi, making his debut on the global stage at the United Nations, said he would not rest until the civil war in Syria was brought to an end.

One year ago: Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton participated in their first debate of the presidential campaign at Hofstra University in New York; Clinton emphatically denounced Trump for keeping his personal tax returns and business dealings secret from voters while Trump repeatedly cast Clinton as a "typical politician." Colombia's government and its largest rebel movement signed a historic peace accord in an emotional ceremony aimed at ending a half-century of combat.

Today's Birthdays: Retired baseball All-Star Bobby Shantz is 92. Actor Philip Bosco is 87. Actor Richard Herd is 85. South African nationalist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is 81. Country singer David Frizzell is 76. Actor Kent McCord is 75. Television host Anne Robinson is 73. Singer Bryan Ferry is 72. Actress Mary Beth Hurt is 71. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 69. Actor James Keane is 65. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 63. Country singer Carlene Carter is 62. Actress Linda Hamilton is 61. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cindy Herron (En Vogue) is 56. Actress Melissa Sue Anderson is 55. Actor Patrick Bristow is 55. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 55. Singer Tracey Thorn (Everything But The Girl) is 55. TV personality Jillian Barberie is 51. Contemporary Christian guitarist Jody Davis (Newsboys) is 50. Actor Jim Caviezel (kuh-VEE'-zuhl) is 49. Actress Tricia O'Kelley is 49. Actor Ben Shenkman is 49.

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Actress Melanie Paxon is 45. Singer Shawn Stockman (Boyz II Men) is 45. Music producer Dr. Luke is 44. Jazz musician Nicholas Payton is 44. Actor Mark Famiglietti (fah-mihl-YEH'-tee) is 38. Singer-actress Christina Milian (MIHL'-ee-ahn) is 36. Tennis player Serena Williams is 36.

Thought for Today: "Whatever you think, be sure it is what you think; whatever you want, be sure that is what you want; whatever you feel, be sure that is what you feel." — T.S. Eliot, American-Anglo poet (born on this date in 1888, died 1965).