

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

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

**JH v-ball match (8th grade only) with Hitchcock/Tulare on Tuesday, Oct 10th has been CANCELLED! H/T has a conflict with their JH playing that night.**

## 28

**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.

## 29

**Senior Menu:** Tuna noodle casserole, peas, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

**School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, fruit, yogurt, milk and juice.

**School Lunch:** Pancake on stick, tri taters, cauliflower with dip, fruit.

**Football:** at Milbank, 7 p.m.

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

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

## 30

**Heaven Bound Ministries:** Worship in Pierpont at 5:30 p.m.

**Catholic Parish:** Mass at SEAS in Groton, 4:30 p.m.; Mass at St. Anthony, Bristol, 6 p.m.

**Soccer:** Semifinals.



[www.harrmotors.com](http://www.harrmotors.com)

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

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*"The years teach  
much which the  
days never know."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



**Chicken Soup**  
for the Soul

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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Groton Area Tigers**

**VS**

**Roncalli Cavaliers**



Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017, 7:15 p.m.  
at Aberdeen Roncalli

[Click here for the program](#)

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Groton Area Tigers**

**VS**

**Milbank Bulldogs**



Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m.  
at Milbank

[Click here for the program](#)

## **Former Mayor Gerald Rix has died**

Services for Gerald "Jerry" Rix, 92, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial with Masonic Rites will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Jerry passed away September 27, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

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

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

## Help Wanted

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

## NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

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

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



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

## Hot Lotto sales coming to a close

After nearly 15 years in South Dakota, the Hot Lotto game will discontinue next month.

The decision to end the \$1 game was made by the Hot Lotto Game Group, and its final drawing will take place Oct. 28. With the game's conclusion coming soon, the Sept. 27 drawing marked the final 9-draw available to players.

South Dakota is one of 14 states participating in Hot Lotto. For more information on the game, visit <https://lottery.sd.gov/games/lotto/games/hotlotto/>.

## SDSU Extension Fall Climate Outlook 2017

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Warmer temperatures and less precipitation are predicted through the end of October according to the most recent Climate Outlook from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center.

"Fortunately, the climate outlook for the remainder of the fall season may allow for crops and soils to dry out," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension State Climatologist.

Edwards said that moving into the first week in October 2017, temperatures are going to rebound, becoming warmer than average across the region. "Computer models have been indicating a warmer than average pattern change to occur starting next week," Edwards said.

Along with the warmer temperatures, October is also more likely to be drier than average in the east and central regions of South Dakota.

"This does not mean that the area will not receive any rain, but rather that it is more likely to be less than average for this time of year," she said. "If the Climate Prediction Center outlooks hold true, this would be good news for our eastern South Dakota farmers who need a little more time to complete fall activities."

Edwards added that there has not been a widespread hard frost yet this season. This week is about the average first frost date for the central, south and eastern regions.

"It appears that farmers can look towards a longer growing season again this year," she said. "It is unclear yet if we will have as late of a frost as last year, where some southern areas did not measure subfreezing temperatures until November."

Unfortunately, Edwards added, most of the recent rains have not fallen on the most severe drought areas in western South Dakota.

"This region needs some fall moisture for winter wheat, forages and pastures and rangeland. These plants will store up the moisture for use early next spring," Edwards said. "This area will be closely watched, as they are closing out an extreme drought year and moisture will be critical for recovery in the 2018 season."

### A little behind schedule

Recent rainfall has slowed fall harvest in some areas of South Dakota.

"Recent rains have further slowed down fall harvest as the grain in the field and soils are now too wet for harvest activities," said Edwards, of the 1.5 to more than 4-inches which fell in areas from Gregory County northeast to Codington County.

Despite the slowdown in corn and soybean harvest, this moisture is welcome for the many winter wheat growers who have half of their acres planted as of September 25, 2017.

According to the National Agriculture Statistics Survey, as of September 25, 2017, 32 percent of corn was mature, compared to the five-year average of 57 percent. About 4 percent of soybeans were harvested, compared to the five-year average of 17 percent.

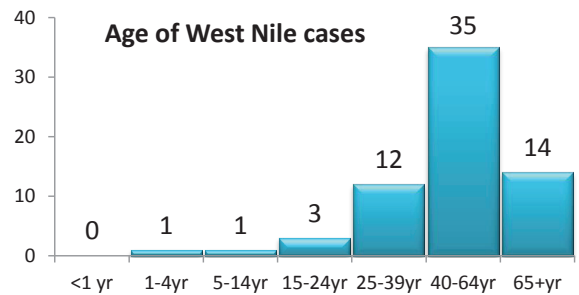
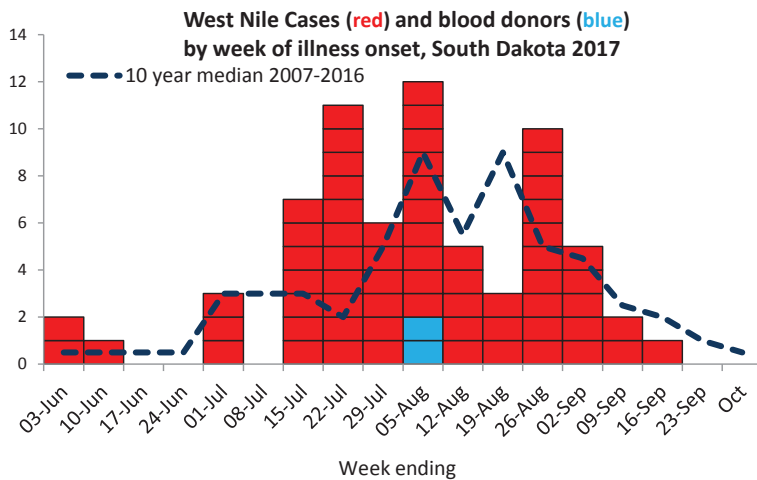
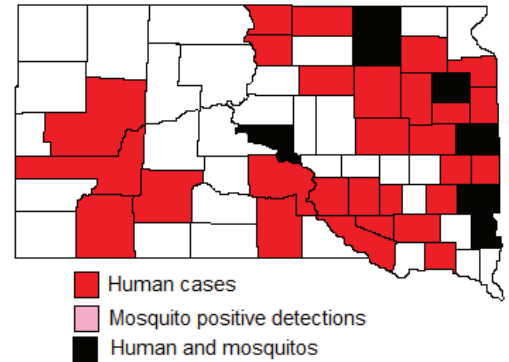
Edwards attributes slower maturity to two factors:

1. Fewer than average accumulated growing degree days and;
2. Planting dates behind schedule due to excess spring moisture.

"These two factors make for a lot of variation across the region," she said.

## West Nile update: South Dakota, 27 September 2017

- **66 human cases of West Nile virus disease have been reported to the SD Department of Health.** 35% of cases have neuroinvasive disease, 65% have West Nile Fever. 45% hospitalized.
- **Deaths:** 2, Hamlin and Pennington counties.
- **Age:** median age 53 years; range 4-85 years.
- **Race:** 88% White, 9% American Indian, 3% Other. **Sex:** 58% male, 42% female.
- **Counties with human WNV cases:** Aurora 1, Beadle 2, BonHomme 2, Brookings 5, Brown 4, Brule 1, Campbell 1, Charles Mix 1, Clark 1, Codington 4, Davison 3, Day 1, Deuel 1, Douglas 1, Faulk 2, Grant 1, Hamlin 1, Hughes 3, Hutchinson 3, Jackson 1, Kingsbury 1, Lake 1, Lincoln 3, Lyman 2, McCook 1, McPherson 1, Meade 1, Minnehaha 3, Moody 1, Oglala Lakota 1, Pennington 5, Tripp 1, Walworth 1, Yankton 5.
- **Viremic blood donors:** 2, both in Brown County.
- **WNV positive mosquito detections:** Brookings, Brown, Codington, Hughes, Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.
- **WNV positive horse:** Spink County.
- **WNV positive birds:** 2 Red-tailed hawk, Codington County.



SD Department of Health phone 800-592-1861  
 SD Department of Health: <http://westnile.sd.gov>  
 SDSU WNV risk assessment: <http://mosquito.sdstate.edu>  
 CDC West Nile: [www.cdc.gov/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile)

## Tax Help Available for Those Who Still Need to File for 2016

WASHINGTON -- The Internal Revenue Service wants taxpayers, especially those who received tax-filing extensions, to know they can still get the tax help they need to meet the Oct. 16 extension deadline.

Taxpayers can still file their returns electronically. The IRS strongly urges all taxpayers to choose the speed and convenience of e-filing. This is an ideal option as it is fast, accurate and secure. The IRS verifies the receipt of an e-filed return and, statistically, those who choose to file electronically make fewer mistakes. Of the 145.3 million returns received by the IRS so far this year, approximately 87.5 percent -- or 127.2 million -- have been e-filed.

Individuals who purchase their own tax software can e-file, and most paid tax preparers are now required to file their clients' returns electronically.

All taxpayers can use IRS Free File. This program offers two options: Brand-name software, offered by the IRS's commercial partners to individuals and families with incomes of \$64,000 or less; Or online fillable forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms available for any income level.

The fastest and easiest way to get a refund is to e-file and use direct deposit. More than eight out of ten taxpayers who receive refunds choose the speed and convenience of direct deposit. Individuals can choose to deposit their refunds into as many as three accounts. See Form 8888 for details.

Free face-to-face tax help is still available across the country. The IRS sponsors free tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program. Both programs provide IRS-certified volunteers to prepare federal and state tax returns electronically for people with low-to-moderate income, seniors, disabled individuals or people who speak English as a second language. More information on available locations, times and what to bring can be found by typing "free tax preparation" in the search box on IRS.gov.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to carefully check their tax return before they file. Individuals may overlook certain credits, deductions or allowable expenses they qualify for such as:

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a benefit for low- and moderate-income workers and families. The EITC Assistant on IRS.gov can help taxpayers determine if they're eligible;
- The Savers Credit for low- and moderate-income workers who contributed to a retirement plan, such as an IRA or 401(k). Individuals will need Form 8880 to claim the credit; and
- The American Opportunity Tax Credit, claimed on Form 8863 and other educational tax benefits for parents and college students.

Other taxpayers, such as members of the military and some other groups serving in a combat zone, are allowed more time to file. Typically, these individuals have until 180 days after they leave the combat zone to both file returns and pay any taxes due.

Also, those taxpayers who have a valid extension and are in or affected by a federal declared disaster area may be allowed more time to file. Currently, taxpayers in parts of Michigan, West Virginia and those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria qualify for this relief. See the disaster relief page on IRS.gov for details.

Taxpayers with extensions should file their tax returns by Oct. 16, if they owe, they should pay as much as possible to reduce interest and penalties. IRS Direct Pay allows individuals to securely pay from their checking or savings accounts.

Taxpayers can also pay by debit or credit card. While the IRS does not charge a fee for this service, the payment processor will. Other payment options include the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (enrollment is required) and Electronic Funds Withdrawal which is available when e-filing. Taxpayers can also pay what they owe using the IRS2Go, mobile app. At IRS.gov/payments taxpayers will find information about all IRS payment options.

Individual taxpayers can go to IRS.gov/account and login to view their balance, payment history, pay their taxes and access tax records through Get Transcript.



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## Today in Weather History

September 28, 1951: On this day in 1951 in the early morning hours, near record or record cold covered central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Temperatures across the area fell into the upper teens and 20s. Aberdeen recorded a record low of 18 degrees; Kennebec dropped to 20 degrees, Pierre fell to 21 degrees while Timber Lake had a record low of 23 degrees. The overnight low in Mobridge was 23 degrees, 24 degrees at Watertown, and 26 degrees at Sisseton.

1836 - The first of three early season snows brought four inches of snow to Hamilton, NY, and two inches to Ashby MA. (David Ludlum)

1837: The first recorded storm to rake the entire Texas coast was Racer's Storm, named for a British sloop of war which encountered the system in the extreme northwestern Caribbean on September 28th. It is remembered as one of the most destructive storms of the nineteenth century due to its extreme duration and 2000 mile path of destruction.

1893 - Albuquerque, NM, was soaked with 2.25 inches of rain, enough to establish a 24 hour record for that city. (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A hurricane hit Pensacola, FL. Winds gusted to 95 mph, and the barometric pressure dipped to 28.50 inches. Winds at Mobile AL gusted to 75 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell OK during the day causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of north central Oklahoma. Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas produced 3.07 inches of rain in six hours at McAllen. Thunderstorms produced up to six inches of rain in southeastern Texas later in the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)







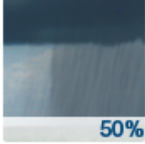
1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. produced severe weather from northern Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley during the late afternoon and evening hours. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Nolan TX, and wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at Lawrence KS. Thunderstorms drenched downtown Kansas City MO with up to four inches of rain, leaving some cars stranded in water six feet deep. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms over northeastern Florida drenched Jacksonville with 4.28 inches of rain between midnight and 6 AM EDT. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Binghamton NY with a reading of 30 degrees. Morning lows were in the 20s in northern New England. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S., with afternoon highs in the upper 70s and 80s. In Oregon, Astoria reported a record high of 83 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: On the morning of September 28th, Hurricane George made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi with maximum winds of 110 mph and a minimum pressure of 964 mb, making it a Category 2 hurricane. After landfall, Georges moved very slowly across southern Mississippi and weakened to a tropical depression by the morning of the 29th when the center was about 30 miles north-northeast of Mobile, Alabama. The storm dissipated near the northeast Florida/southeast Georgia coast by the morning of October 1, 1998.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers and Breezy
High: 75 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 68 °F

## Mild Today with Highs in the 70s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 9/28/2017 5:29 AM Central

Published on: 09/28/2017 at 5:31AM

Warm and dry conditions can be expected today. Looks like we can expect a windy Saturday and a showery Sunday to close out the week.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.2

Low Outside Temp: 36.9

High Gust: 14

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1911

Record Low: 18° in 1951

Average High: 67°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in Sept: 2.05

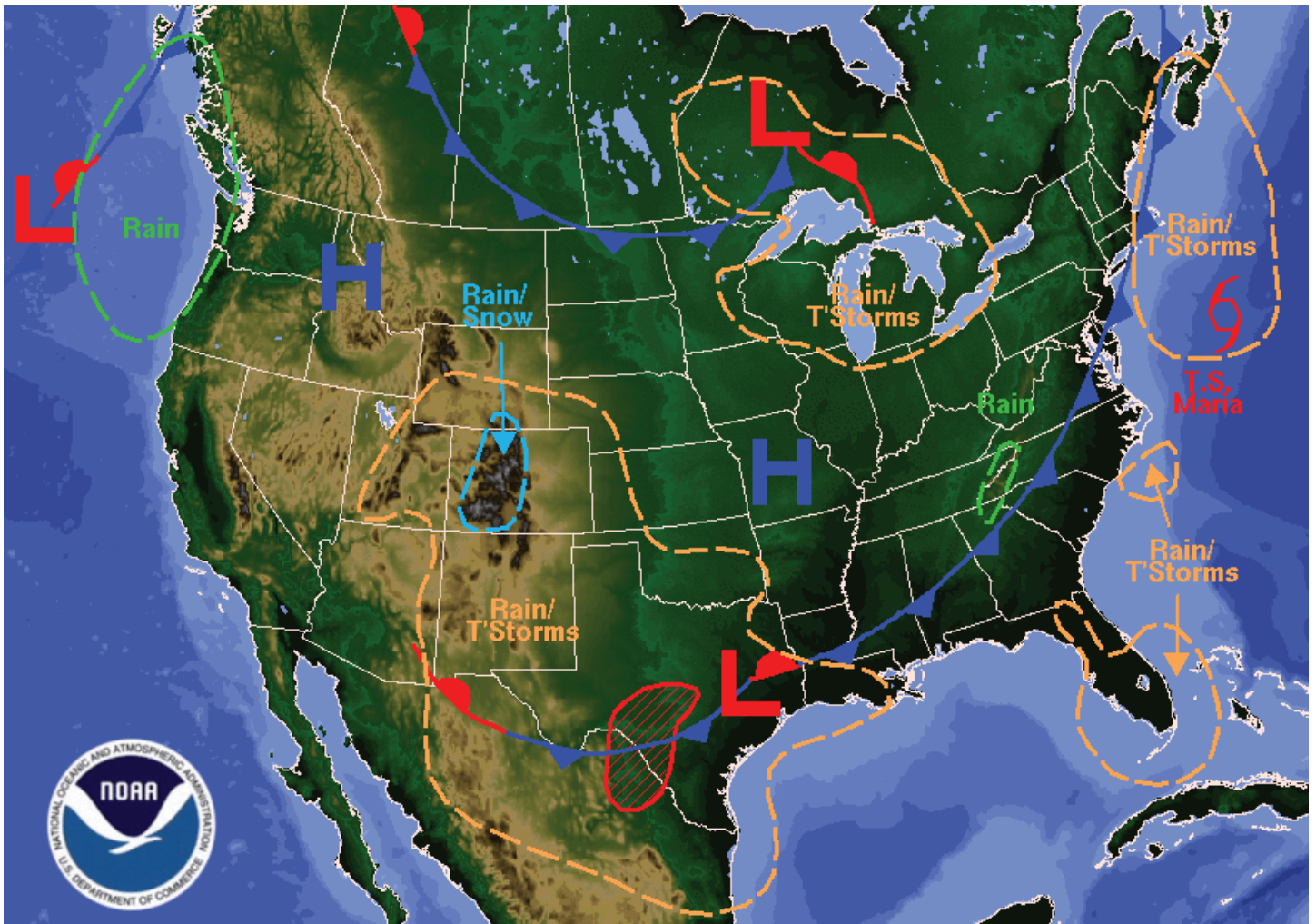
Precip to date in Sept: 3.57

Average Precip to date: 18.34

Precip Year to Date: 13.09

Sunset Tonight: 7:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Sep 28, 2017, issued 4:46 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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## NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH!

After a sermon on "Hospitality Evangelism" the Harts were convinced that they should invite their unsaved neighbors to dinner. Their pastor clearly and carefully explained a process to witness God's plan of salvation after the meal.

On the night of the dinner, the host and hostess were both anxious to begin and end the evening with real-life situations and Christian standards that presented "God at work in their household."

After sitting down for dinner, Mr. Hart said to five-year-old Bruce, "Would you please say grace?"

Shy and overcome by the drama of the situation he said, "I don't know what to say." Naturally, there was an awkward pause while they attempted to recover from this serious setback to their strategy to witness to their neighbors.

"Well, dear," said Mrs. Hart with a forced smile, "just say what Daddy said at breakfast this morning."

Obediently, Bruce folded his hands, bowed his head and said, "Oh, God, we've got those horrible neighbors coming to dinner tonight."

Truth came straight from Bruce's heart because he was filled with innocence and openness, trust and honesty. Bruce spoke the truth naturally because his heart was pure!

But what about the rest of us? Do we speak the truth?

Truth comes from our hearts when we least expect it. And it comes from what we put into our hearts. David explained it this way: "You desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place." Our God is a God of truth and wants His character to be within us and flow from us. If we fill our hearts with His Word, His truth will flow from us.

Prayer: Father, give us no rest until we fill the smallest space in our hearts with Your Word so we live and speak Your truth each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 51:6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

02-15-23-25-26

(two, fifteen, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-six)

Estimated jackpot: \$29,000

Hot Lotto

10-14-20-31-36, Hot Ball: 14

(ten, fourteen, twenty, thirty-one, thirty-six; Hot Ball: fourteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.97 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

08-10-21-23-25, Powerball: 22, Power Play: 3

(eight, ten, twenty-one, twenty-three, twenty-five; Powerball: twenty-two; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$66 million

### Longtime University of South Dakota president to retire

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Longtime University of South Dakota President Jim Abbott says he plans to retire next year.

The 69-year-old Abbott told students and faculty in a "State of the University" address Wednesday that he plans to end his 21-year run of leading the school in June 2018.

Abbott says he's proud of his alma mater "and all the progress we've made," but says it's time for new leadership to "take USD to the next level."

Abbott has been the president of USD since 1997. The Argus Leader reports he was the first alumnus to be named president of the school and is the second-longest serving president in university history.

### Northern State pursuing 8,000-seat football stadium

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Northern State University is pursuing an on-campus football stadium and soft-ball complex.

The Aberdeen school has been working with the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on a plan to enhance both campuses. The plan is to build a new School for the Blind where a dormitory now stands, and to build an 8,000-seat stadium on the School for the Blind land.

The new School for the Blind would cost \$13.7 million. The cost of the football stadium is unknown. Money would be raised privately.

The American News reports that Northern State plans to pitch the idea to the state Board of Regents next week.

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

## **Police: Woman killed man, boy before shooting herself**

LENNOX, S.D. (AP) — Police in a small town in southeastern South Dakota say a woman shot and killed a man and an 8-year-old boy before killing herself.

Lennox police say 35-year-old Stephanie Hoover shot the two with a handgun and then turned the gun on herself.

Police Chief Orville Jorgensen would not say how the victims were known to Hoover but says they were related. He confirms the boy was a student at Lennox Elementary.

The Argus Leader says the chief would not release a motive.

The three were found fatally shot at a home Tuesday morning. Authorities say a handgun was found at the scene.

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

## **Workers idled over what critics called 'pink slime' get help**

DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. (AP) — The family that owns a South Dakota meat producer said Wednesday it has set up a \$10 million fund for employees laid off when the company closed three plants in 2012 over reports of a beef product that critics dubbed "pink slime."

Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. announced the BPI Family Support Fund, aimed at helping the hundreds of laid-off employees and their communities.

The company laid off about 750 workers and closed plants in Amarillo, Texas, Garden City, Kansas, and Waterloo, Iowa, in 2012, saying ABC's coverage of the producer's lean, finely textured beef product misled consumers into believing the product is unsafe. ABC stood by its reporting.

BPI hopes to partner with organizations in affected communities to review applications for funds from former employees. The company plans to kick off the process next month, and criteria likely will include length of service, amount of potential unemployment and the impact of employment loss.

Only a Nebraska plant in South Sioux City remains open. Since three of the four plants are idle, the company's ability to rehire laid-off workers has been limited, but about 50 have been rehired so far, BPI spokesman Rich Jochum said.

BPI filed a \$1.9 billion defamation lawsuit against ABC and the parties settled during trial in June. Terms are confidential but an attorney for the meat producer has said the settlement exceeded \$177 million.

## **Black Hawk woman dies from injuries in motorcycle crash**

NEMO, S.D. (AP) — A Black Hawk woman has died from injuries she suffered in a motorcycle crash earlier this month.

The Highway Patrol says 48-year-old Diana Fast crashed her motorcycle on a Pennington County road 10 miles west of Rapid City the afternoon of Sept. 17.

She died at a Rapid City hospital on Friday.

## **Xcel Energy announces plans for new South Dakota wind farm**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Xcel Energy has announced plans to build and own a 300-megawatt wind farm in Grant and Codington counties of northeastern South Dakota.

Minneapolis-based Xcel says the Dakota Range I and II project puts the company on pace to be the first U.S. utility to surpass 10,000 megawatts of wind on its system, which it says would be more than enough energy to power every home in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Xcel is already the nation's top utility wind provider, a ranking it's held for more than a decade.

The Dakota Range project is expected to begin operating in 2021, pending regulatory approval. It says the project's cost is low enough to compete with other fuel sources, and it's expected to lower customer bills over the project's life.

## Authorities ID 2 victims of weekend crash in Edmunds County

IPSWICH, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified two people who died as a result of a fiery weekend crash in Edmunds County.

Authorities say 62-year-old Kenneth Schuh, of Bowdle, was driving a pickup truck that crossed the centerline of U.S. Highway 12 about midday Sunday and collided with a car driven by 24-year-old Zachary Nelson, of Aberdeen.

The car caught fire, and Nelson was declared dead at the scene west of Ipswich.

Schuh died of his injuries later in a Sioux Falls hospital.

## Unusual sentence for tax-evading prosecutor reconsidered

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge is reconsidering the unusual prison sentence he issued to a former South Dakota state's attorney convicted of tax evasion.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken now thinks the sentence might be illegal.

Viken on Aug. 30 sentenced 48-year-old Ken Orrock for evading businesses taxes. He ordered Orrock to complete 12 months in prison by serving the time on weekends over 3 1/2 years.

Viken at the time said his decision was influenced by Orrock's need to repay the government and the unique parenting needs of his son.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Viken has now stayed the execution of Orrock's sentence until it can be determined whether it violates Federal Bureau of Prisons rules.

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

## Man pleads not guilty to stealing from reservation program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has pleaded not guilty to stealing from a program that provides legal services to low-income people on American Indian reservations in the Dakotas.

Fifty-five-year-old Kevin Lewis is charged in U.S. District Court with theft from a program receiving federal funds. Authorities allege he took an unspecified amount of money while working as managing attorney for Dakota Plains Legal Services.

A trial date hasn't been set. Lewis faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted, along with restitution.

## More than 120,000 flee menacing Bali volcano

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — More than 120,000 people have fled the region around the Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing it will soon erupt, an official said Thursday.

The disaster mitigation agency's command post in Bali said the number of evacuees has swelled to about 122,500. The figure is more than double the estimated population within an immediate danger zone but people further away are leaving too.

Those who have fled are scattered in more than 500 locations across the island famed for its beaches, lush green interior and elegant Hindu culture, taking shelter in temporary camps, sports centers and other public buildings.

The volcano has been at its highest alert level since Friday, sparking the massive exodus of villagers. Thousands of cows left behind by rural communities are also being evacuated.

The exclusion zone around the mountain extends as far as 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the crater in places.

"I was very worried about the situation" said Nyoman Suarta, who was leaving a village a few kilometers outside the official no-go radius. "So I decided to get out to save myself with my stuff and my pet," he said, carrying a cage housing a bird.

Agung, which dominates the landscape in the northeast of the island, last erupted in 1963, killing more

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than 1,100 people. It remained active for about a year.

Volcanologists say the past week's dramatic escalation in tremors indicates an eruption is more likely than not, but they can't say with certainty when it will happen.

"I would definitely be following the advice to stay outside the exclusion zone," said Heather Handley, an assistant Earth sciences professor at Sydney's Macquarie University. The increase in tremors suggests an eruption is "imminent," she said.

Its eruptions in 1963 produced deadly clouds of searing hot ash, gases and rock fragments that traveled down its slopes at great speed. Lava spread for several kilometers (miles) and people were also killed by lahars — rivers of water and volcanic debris.

Officials this week installed warning sirens in several townships.

"If Mount Agung erupts, I'm in charge of pressing the alarm button," said Nyoman Kasna, a local official. "Sirens will sound and tell the community the mountain has erupted."

Agung, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) to the northeast of the tourist hotspot of Kuta, is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

Another volcano, Mount Sinabung on Sumatra, has been erupting sporadically since 2010, sometimes blasting volcanic ash several kilometers (miles) into the air and forcing more than 30,000 to evacuate their villages.

Indonesia, an archipelago of thousands of islands, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

## 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. HUGH HEFNER DEAD AT 91

The Playboy magazine founder revved up the sexual revolution in the 1950s and built a multimedia empire of clubs, mansions, movies and TV, but some saw him as a glorified pornographer who degraded and objectified women with impunity.

### 2. WHAT'S MURKY ABOUT TAX OVERHAUL

Trump and Republican leaders unveil a major revamp of the nation's tax code, including monumental tax cuts. But how those cuts would be paid for remains unclear.

### 3. WHOSE MONEY IS RUNNING OUT

Hurricane Maria has caused a near-total shutdown of Puerto Rico's economy and many people are running seriously low on cash.

### 4. WHERE PEOPLE CHEATED DEATH, TIME AND AGAIN

Amid the endless tragedies of last week's earthquake, there were incredible stories of survival in Mexico's capital.

### 5. KEY FIGURE SURFACES IN HOOPS PROBE

As an undercover operative, con man Louis Martin "Marty" Blazer III played a central role in a federal bribery investigation of basketball coaches at several top-tier U.S. colleges.

### 6. MORE THAN 120,000 FLEE BALI VOLCANO

They've scattered across an island famed for its beaches, lush green interior and elegant Hindu culture, taking shelter in temporary camps, sports centers and other public buildings.

### 7. WHY TWITTER HAS BEEN CALLED TO CAPITOL HILL

House and Senate committees are scrutinizing the spread of false news stories on social media as part of an inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

### 8. NO-SHOWS COULD SKEW VOTE

Those who don't believe Catalonia should secede from Spain say they don't intend to vote in a planned referendum.

### 9. FIRST LADY AIMS TO COMBAT DRUG SCOURGE



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Melania Trump is inviting experts and people affected by addiction to opioids to the White House for a discussion about the epidemic.

10. FROM WORST TO WILD CARD

The Minnesota Twins become the first team to lose at least 100 games and then make the postseason the following year.

## **Hugh Hefner, leader of the sexual revolution, dies at 91**

**By ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hugh Hefner turned silk pajamas into a work uniform, women into centerfolds and sexual desire into a worldwide multimedia empire that spanned several generations of American life.

With Playboy, he helped slip sex out of the confines of plain brown wrappers and into mainstream conversation.

In 1953, a time when states could legally ban contraceptives and the word "pregnant" was not allowed on "I Love Lucy," Hefner published the first issue of Playboy, featuring naked photos of Marilyn Monroe and an editorial promise of "humor, sophistication and spice."

The Great Depression and World War II were over and Playboy soon became forbidden fruit for teens and a bible for men with time and money, primed for the magazine's prescribed evenings of dimmed lights, hard drinks, soft jazz, deep thoughts and deeper desires. Within a year, circulation neared 200,000. Within five years, it had topped 1 million.

Hefner, the pipe-smoking embodiment of the lifestyle he touted, died at his home of natural causes on Wednesday night, Playboy said in a statement. He was 91.

Hefner and Playboy were brand names worldwide. Asked by The New York Times in 1992 of what he was proudest, Hefner responded: "That I changed attitudes toward sex. That nice people can live together now. That I decontaminated the notion of premarital sex. That gives me great satisfaction."

By the 1970s, Playboy magazine had more than 7 million readers and had inspired such raunchier imitations as Penthouse and Hustler. Competition and the internet reduced circulation to less than 3 million by the 21st century, and the number of issues published annually was cut from 12 to 11. In 2015, Playboy ceased publishing images of naked women, citing the proliferation of nudity on the internet but restored its traditional nudity earlier this year.

Hefner became the flamboyant symbol of the lifestyle he espoused. For decades he was the pipe-smoking, silk-pajama-wearing center of a constant party with celebrities and Playboy models. By his own account, Hefner had sex with more than a thousand women, including many of pictured in his magazine. One of rock n' roll's most decadent tours, the Rolling Stones shows of 1972, featured a stop at the Hefner mansion.

Throughout the 1960s, Hefner left Chicago only a few times. In the early 1970s, he bought the second mansion in Los Angeles, flying between his homes on a private DC-9 dubbed "The Big Bunny," which boasted a giant Playboy bunny emblazoned on the tail.

Hefner was host of a television show, "Playboy After Dark," and in 1960 opened a string of clubs around the world where waitresses wore revealing costumes with bunny ears and fluffy white bunny tails. In the 21st century, he was back on television in a cable reality show — "The Girls Next Door" — with three live-in girlfriends in the Los Angeles Playboy mansion. Network television briefly embraced Hefner's empire in 2011 with the NBC drama "The Playboy Club," which failed to lure viewers and was canceled after three episodes.

Censorship of the magazine was inevitable. Playboy has been banned in China, India, Saudi Arabia and Ireland. In the 1950s, Hefner successfully sued to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from denying him second-class mailing status. 7-Eleven stores for years did not sell the magazine. Stores that did offer Playboy made sure to stock it on a higher shelf.

He was a widely admired but far from universally beloved figure. Many feminist and religious leaders regarded him as nothing but a glorified pornographer who degraded and objectified women with impunity.

Women were warned from the first issue: "If you're somebody's sister, wife, or mother-in-law," the

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magazine declared, "and picked us up by mistake, please pass us along to the man in your life and get back to Ladies Home Companion."

Playboy proved a scourge, and a temptation. Drew Barrymore, Farrah Fawcett and Linda Evans are among those who have posed for the magazine. Several bunnies became celebrities, too, including singer Deborah Harry and model Lauren Hutton, both of whom had fond memories of their time with Playboy. Other bunnies had traumatic experiences, with several alleging they had been raped by Hefner's close friend Bill Cosby, who faced dozens of such allegations in recent years. Hefner issued a statement in late 2014 he "would never tolerate this behavior." But two years later, former bunny Chloe Goins sued Cosby and Hefner for sexual battery, gender violence and other charges over an alleged 2008 rape.

One bunny turned out to be a journalist: Feminist Gloria Steinem got hired in the early 1960s and turned her brief employment into an article for Show magazine that described the clubs as pleasure havens for men only. The bunnies, Steinem wrote, tended to be poorly educated, overworked and underpaid. Steinem regarded the magazine and clubs not as erotic, but "pornographic."

"I think Hefner himself wants to go down in history as a person of sophistication and glamour. But the last person I would want to go down in history as is Hugh Hefner," Steinem later said.

"Women are the major beneficiaries of getting rid of the hypocritical old notions about sex," Hefner responded. "Now some people are acting as if the sexual revolution was a male plot to get laid. One of the unintended by-products of the women's movement is the association of the erotic impulse with wanting to hurt somebody."

Hefner added that he was a strong advocate of First Amendment, civil and reproductive rights and that the magazine contained far more than centerfolds. Playboy serialized Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" and later published fiction by John Updike, Doris Lessing and Vladimir Nabokov. Playboy also specialized in long and candid interviews, from Fidel Castro and Frank Sinatra to Marlon Brando and then-presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, who confided that he had "committed adultery" in his heart. John Lennon spoke to Playboy in 1980, not long before he was murdered.

The line that people read Playboy for the prose, not the pictures, was only partly a joke.

Playboy's clubs also influenced the culture, giving early breaks to such entertainers as George Carlin, Rich Little, Mark Russell, Dick Gregory and Redd Foxx. The last of the clubs closed in 1988, when Hefner deemed them "passe" and "too tame for the times."

By then Hefner had built a \$200 million company by expanding Playboy to include international editions of the magazine, casinos, a cable network and a film production company. In 2006, he got back into the club business with his Playboy Club at the Palms Casino in Las Vegas. A new enterprise in London followed, along with fresh response from women's groups, who protested the opening with cries of "Eff off Hef!"

Hefner liked to say he was untroubled by criticism, but in 1985 he suffered a mild stroke that he blamed on the book "The Killing of the Unicorn: Dorothy Stratten 1960-1980," by filmmaker Peter Bogdanovich. Stratten was a Playmate killed by her husband, Paul Snider, who then killed himself. Bogdanovich, Stratten's boyfriend at the time, wrote that Hefner helped bring about her murder and was unable to deal with "what he and his magazine do to women."

After the stroke, Hefner handed control of his empire to his feminist daughter, Christie, although he owned 70 percent of Playboy stock and continued to choose every month's Playmate and cover shot. Christie Hefner continued as CEO until 2009.

He also stopped using recreational drugs and tried less to always be the life of the party. He tearfully noted in a 1992 New York Times interview: "I've spent so much of my life looking for love in all the wrong places."

Not surprisingly, Hefner's marriage life was also a bit of a show. In 1949, he married Mildred Williams, with whom he had two children. They divorced in 1958. In July 1989, Hefner married Kimberley Conrad, the 1989 Playmate of the Year, who was then 27. The couple also had two children.

On the eve of his marriage, Hefner was asked if he would have a bachelor party. "I've had a bachelor party for 30 years," he said. "Why do I need one now?"

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They separated in 1998 but she continued living next door to the Playboy mansion with their two sons. The couple divorced in 2010 and he proposed in 2011 to 24-year-old Crystal Harris, a former Playmate. Harris called off the wedding days before the ceremony, but later changed her mind and they married at the end of 2012.

"Maybe I should be single," he said a few months later. "But I do know that I need an ongoing romantic relationship. In other words, I am essentially a very romantic person, and all I really was looking for, quite frankly, with the notion of marriage was continuity and something to let the girl know that I really cared."

Hefner is survived by Crystal as well as his daughter, Christie; and his sons, David, Marston and Cooper. Playboy announced no immediate funeral plans, but Hefner owned a plot in a Los Angeles cemetery next to Marilyn Monroe.

He was born in Chicago on April 9, 1926, to devout Methodist parents who he said never showed "love in a physical or emotional way."

"At a very early age, I began questioning a lot of that religious foolishness about man's spirit and body being in conflict, with God primarily with the spirit of man and the devil dwelling in the flesh," Hefner said in a Playboy interview in 1974.

"Part of the reason that I am who I am is my Puritan roots run deep," he told the AP in 2011. "My folks are Puritan. My folks are prohibitionists. There was no drinking in my home. No discussion of sex. And I think I saw the hurtful and hypocritical side of that from very early on."

Hefner loved movies throughout his life, calling them "my other family." He screened classic films and new releases at the mansion every week. Every year on his April 9 birthday, he'd run his favorite film, "Casablanca," and invite guests to dress in the fashions of the 1940s.

He long hoped to be the subject of a biopic and was helping to develop a screenplay for such a film in 2011.

He was a playboy before Playboy, even during his first marriage, when he enjoyed stag films, strip poker and group sex. His bunny obsession began with the figures that decorated a childhood blanket. Years later, a real-life subspecies of rabbit on the endangered species list, in the Florida Keys, would be named for him: *Sylvilagus palustris hefneri*.

When Hefner was 9, he began publishing a neighborhood newspaper, which he sold for a penny a copy. He spent much of his time writing and drawing cartoons, and in middle school began reading Esquire, a magazine of sex and substance Hefner wanted Playboy to emulate.

He and Playboy co-founder Eldon Sellers launched their magazine from Hefner's kitchen in Chicago, although the first issue was undated because Hefner doubted there would be a second. The magazine was supposed to be called Stag Party, until an outdoor magazine named Stag threatened legal action.

Hefner recalled that he first reinvented himself in high school in Chicago at 16, when he was rejected by a girl he had a crush on. He began referring to himself as Hef instead of Hugh, learned the jitterbug and began drawing a comic book, "a kind of autobiography that put myself center stage in a life I created for myself," he said in a 2006 interview with the AP.

Those comics evolved into a detailed scrapbook that Hefner would keep throughout his life. It spanned more than 2,500 volumes in 2011 — a Guinness World Record for a personal scrapbook collection.

"It was probably just a way of creating a world of my own to share with my friends," Hefner said, seated amid the archives of his life during a 2011 interview. "And in retrospect, in thinking about it, it's not a whole lot different than creating the magazine."

He did it again in 1960, when he began hosting the TV show, bought a fancy car, started smoking a pipe and bought the first Playboy mansion.

"Well, if we hadn't had the Wright brothers, there would still be airplanes," Hefner said in 1974. "If there hadn't been an Edison, there would still be electric lights. And if there hadn't been a Hefner, we'd still have sex. But maybe we wouldn't be enjoying it as much. So the world would be a little poorer. Come to think of it, so would some of my relatives."

AP National Writer Hillel Italie and Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen contributed to this report.

## Japan's Abe faces new challenge as he calls snap election

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A surge of popularity for a freshly minted opposition party in Japan is making Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to call a snap election look riskier than initially thought.

Abe dissolved the lower house of parliament Thursday, setting the stage for an Oct. 22 vote.

The Party of Hope, launched earlier this week by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, may not dethrone Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party but analysts say it could put a dent in the LDP's majority. A major setback could derail Abe's presumed hope to extend his rule for three more years at a party leadership meeting next year.

Minutes after the lower house dissolution, Abe made a fiery speech to party members. He said he is seeking a public mandate on his tough diplomatic and defense policies to deal with escalating threats from North Korea, and that party members would have to relay his message to win voter support during the campaign.

"This election is about how we protect Japan, the people's lives and peaceful daily life," Abe said. "The election is about the future of our children."

Abe's decision to dissolve parliament is widely seen as an attempt to reconsolidate his hold on power within the LDP, after a series of scandals and missteps earlier this year. A big enough victory could help ensure his re-election as party leader in September 2018.

The move is not without risks, but analysts say the timing may be better now than later. The Democratic Party, the largest opposition group, is in disarray, and the sudden election gives the Party of Hope little time to organize candidates and a campaign strategy.

Media polls, though, show the new party off to a respectable start, though still trailing the LDP.

Jeff Kingston, a professor at Temple University's Japan Campus in Tokyo, called Koike's new party a game changer.

"I think it is really bad news for Abe," he said. "She doesn't actually have to win, but she has to inflict a bloody nose on Abe ... If her party does better than expected, expect the long knives to come out in the LDP, and Abe could be ushered to the exit."

Koike, at a news conference, denied speculation that she might run for parliament herself. "I will stay in the city and put my energy to lead Tokyo's preparations ahead of the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics," she said.

Still, a relatively good showing by her party could allow it to influence Abe on policies such as constitutional change, an issue both politicians have an interest in, said Stephen Nagy, a professor at International Christian University in Tokyo.

Working in Abe's favor, he said, are the LDP's nationwide electoral organization and his handling of North Korea, which has sent two missiles over Japan in recent tests. "Another missile test would likely put him in the limelight further, casting a shadow on the Party of Hope's policy credentials," Nagy said.

The Democratic Party, whose predecessor party held power in 2009-2012, is splintering, and many members have defected to Koike's party. Party leader Seiji Maehara said the Democrats would do whatever it takes to bring down the Abe government.

Lower house members all stood up and chanted "banzai" three times in a dissolution ritual, then rushed out of the assembly hall. The other chamber, the less-powerful upper house, will not be up for election but remain closed until parliament is reconvened after the vote.

AP journalist Richard Colombo contributed to this story.

## Now even money is running out in storm-hit Puerto Rico

By BEN FOX and DANICA COTO, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — First, Hurricane Maria knocked out power and water to Puerto Rico. Then diesel fuel, gas and water became scarce. Now, it's money.

The aftermath of the powerful storm has resulted in a near-total shutdown of the U.S. territory's economy that could last for weeks and has many people running seriously low on cash and worrying that it will become even harder to survive on this storm-ravaged island.

There are long lines at the banks that are open with reduced hours or the scattered ATMs that are operational amid an islandwide power outage and near total loss of telecommunications. Many people are unable to work or run their businesses because diesel to run generators is in short supply or they can't spend all day waiting for gas to fill their car.

Engineer Octavio Cortes predicts it will only get worse because so many of the problems are interconnected and cannot be easily resolved.

"I don't know how much worse it's going to get," Cortes said as he joined other motorists stopping on a bridge over a river in northern Puerto Rico to catch a faint cellphone signal. "Right now it's manageable, but I don't know about next week or after that."

The father of six typically works from home or travels around the world for his job, but neither approach is possible now because the power is still out for nearly all 3.4 million people in Puerto Rico and flights off the island are down to only a few each day.

While Cortes is OK for the moment, others don't have nearly the same resources.

Cruzita Mojica is an employee of the Puerto Rico Treasury Department in San Juan. While she, like many public sector workers, has been called back to work she can't go because she has to care for her elderly mother in the aftermath of the storm. She got up at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday and went to four ATM machines only to find each one empty.

"Of course I took out money before the hurricane, but it's gone already," she said. "We're without gasoline. Without money. Without food. This is a disaster."

Surgical technician Dilma Gonzalez said she had only \$40 left and her job hasn't called people back to work yet in the capital. "Until they let us know otherwise, I'm not supposed to go back," she said with a shrug as she pressure washed the street in front of her house, sending muddy debris flying.

All are struggling with the overwhelming devastation of Hurricane Maria, which began tearing across the island early in the morning of Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm with winds of 155 mph. It destroyed the entire electricity grid while grinding up homes, businesses, roads and farms. At least 16 people were killed. There still is no exact tally of the cost and full extent of the damage, but Gov. Ricardo Rossello says it will bring a complete halt to the economy for at least a month.

"This is the single biggest, major catastrophe in the history of Puerto Rico, bar none, and it is probably the biggest hurricane catastrophe in the United States," Rossello said Wednesday as he delivered aid to the southern town of Salinas, whose mayor says 100 percent of the agriculture there was wiped out when the wind tore up plantain, corn, vegetables and other crops.

Antonia Garcia, a retiree who lives in the city of Bayamon, said she was down to her last \$4. She spent a day using precious gas to look for an ATM that was in operation because she couldn't get into her credit union, which was taking only 200 customers a day. "This has become chaotic," she said.

Puerto Rico was already struggling before the storm. The island has been in a recession for more than a decade, the poverty rate was 45 percent and unemployment was around 10 percent, higher than any U.S. state. Manufacturers of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, which are the most important segment of the economy, have been shedding jobs for years. Now everything from multinational companies to small businesses and ranches are scrambling to get enough fuel to run generators while their employees struggle to even get to work.

Before the storm, the island's government was in the midst of bitter negotiations with creditors to restructure a portion of its \$73 billion in debt, which the previous governor declared unpayable. Rossello

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appeared to warn the bondholders that the storm had made things worse. "Puerto Rico practically will have no income for the next month," he told reporters.

Making matters worse for many consumers is the fact that those food stores that are open, typically on reduced hours, are unable to process credit or bank cards or the local system of welfare payments. The businesses are insisting on cash, even though that is technically illegal.

Still, as in any economic crisis, there are people who find the upside. Christian Mendoza said the car wash where he works hasn't re-opened so he has been selling bottled water, even without refrigeration. "The water hot and it still went like you wouldn't believe," he said.

Another relative success story is Elpidio Fernandez, a 78-year-old who sells coconut and passion fruit ice cream from a pushcart on the streets of San Juan and has a supplier with a generator. He has made up to \$500 on some days since the storm.

"Business has multiplied by a thousand," he said, but he quickly added: "Even though I'm doing well, I don't feel good because I know other people are suffering."

## Twitter to talk to House, Senate in Russia probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social media giant Twitter will visit Capitol Hill Thursday as part of the House and Senate investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 elections.

Twitter's closed-door meetings with staff follow similar briefings from Facebook earlier this month, and the House and Senate panels have invited both tech giants, along with Google, to appear at public hearings this fall. The committees are scrutinizing the spread of false news stories and propaganda on social media, to what extent Russia was involved and whether anyone in the United States helped target those stories.

Unlike Facebook, which has said phony accounts on its platform attempted to stir up divisiveness in the election, Twitter has remained mostly silent. The two social media companies have different types of platforms, as Twitter allows users to register anonymously and has more public accounts than Facebook. Many lawmakers have expressed concerns about the proliferation of anonymous "bots" on Twitter and their potential to spread misinformation.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, said Wednesday that he hopes Twitter will be forthcoming.

"They have obviously a different business model, and also they've never tried to prevent fake accounts, use of bots," Warner said, comparing the company to Facebook. "They don't deny they have allowed more anonymity. So they've got a different business model, we've got different questions for them."

Still, Warner said, the investigation is ultimately up to how people manipulated both of those platforms.

"People deserve to know," Warner said.

Twitter last week confirmed that officials would be meeting with the Senate panel and issued a statement pledging to improve defenses on its platform.

"Twitter deeply respects the integrity of the election process, a cornerstone of all democracies, and will continue to strengthen our platform against bots and other forms of manipulation that violate our Terms of Service," the company said in a statement.

Staff on both panels are likely to ask Twitter about the bots, and also about some of the potential vulnerabilities in terms of tracing potential foreign intrusions. There have been concerns among some lawmakers that the company doesn't move quickly enough to remove posts and isn't able to track the original postings that were spread and retweeted.

Twitter, Facebook and Google haven't yet said whether they will accept the invitations to testify publicly before both intelligence committees. The House intelligence committee is planning to hold a hearing in October and the Senate intelligence committee has invited witnesses to appear on Nov. 1.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, confirmed the House invitation in an interview with the AP, though he noted a date had not yet been set. The details of the invitation from the Senate intelligence committee were confirmed by two people familiar with the panel's

interactions with the companies. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private invitations.

The companies have some incentive to comply, as Warner and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar have said they are preparing legislation that would enhance transparency for online political ads and require social media companies to keep a public file of election ads and communications. The bill would also ask companies to "make reasonable efforts" to ensure that election ads are not purchased directly or indirectly by a foreign national.

Warner said it's his "hope and expectation" that the companies would work with him on the legislation, which he called "probably the lightest touch possible."

Congress so far has been reluctant to regulate social media companies. But Warner and Klobuchar started working on the legislation as Facebook acknowledged that the hundreds of phony Facebook accounts, likely run from Russia, spent about \$100,000 on ads aimed at stirring up divisive issues such as gun control and race relations during the 2016 campaign.

Facing pressure from lawmakers and the public after that original announcement, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said last week that the company will provide congressional investigators with the contents of 3,000 ads bought by a Russian agency, while also pledging to make political advertising on its platform more transparent.

"I don't want anyone to use our tools to undermine democracy," Zuckerberg said in a Facebook video and wrote in an accompanying post. "That's not what we stand for."

On Wednesday, a GOP member of the Senate intelligence panel said Russian internet trolls are exploiting the controversy over NFL players kneeling during the national anthem to stir up divisions in the United States.

Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma said paid social media users, or "trolls," were hash-tagging "take a knee" and "boycott NFL" to amplify the issue.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

## **In Mexico, survivors recount amazing escapes from quake**

**By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A tree branch saved a maintenance mechanic from the collapsing building where a dozen co-workers died when last week's earthquake rocked central Mexico. A slap across the face startled a dazed father back to his senses, spurring him to carry his critically injured daughter to safety. Neighbors, co-workers and passers-by pulled people from the jaws of death, while taxis, private cars and even buses rushed them to hospitals.

Amid the endless tragedies from the magnitude 7.1 quake that killed more than 300 people, there were incredible stories of survival.

Conrad Vazquez Martinez, a 67-year-old mechanic, was on the roof of the four-story laboratory building where he worked in Mexico City's Roma Norte neighborhood when the quake hit at midday Sept. 19.

"I wanted to run to get to people, but the building was collapsing behind me," Vazquez Martinez said Wednesday as he lay in a bed at the Magdalena de las Salinas hospital, recovering from a broken hip and leg. "I ran and ran, and with one jump I grabbed a branch that grew close to the building."

"Another employee and I had once talked about that branch. We said, 'If there's ever a problem here, we'll jump out here,'" he remembered. "Unfortunately it was old, and it broke."

But Vazquez Martinez never let go of the branch, and it proved a life saver. He fell through the lower branch and onto the sidewalk in front of a neighboring building, breaking his hip and leg. And then a second miracle: A metal balcony grill fell over him, partly shielding him from the direct impact of rubble that tumbled over him.

The tree branch, which he still gripped in one hand, poked out of the debris to give him a trickle of air.

"The metal grate had a screen, so the chunks of concrete didn't fall directly on me," he said. "When everything stopped falling, I tried to stretch myself out, but the concrete chunks felt heavier and heavier,

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they were pressing me, heavier all the time.”

His face, mouth and nose full of rubble, Vazquez Martinez noticed that a jug of water he had on the roof had fallen nearby. “God is so great, that even water was provided.”

He called and whistled, and eventually co-workers found him and dug him out.

“Losing my co-workers was what most hurts,” he said. “My hope was to get out and save people, but I couldn’t, I failed.”

“But I did one thing. I closed the valve on the gas tank,” Vazquez Martinez added, recalling his actions in the first moments when the earthquake started. “It was bomb there,” he said of the big heating gas tank on the roof. “It may have saved the whole neighborhood.”

Dr. Fryda Medina, director of the hospital where he is being treated, said that on the day of the quake, patients were delivered by volunteers in private cars and taxis. Two patients were brought aboard buses. The staff, and even retirees, all volunteered to work through the night and following days, when over 300 injured from the earthquake were brought in. Only one died, she said.

“It was in those moments that one feels the spirit we have in Mexico, the solidarity,” Medina said at the hospital, which is operated by Mexico’s Social Security Institute.

There were other incredible escapes from death. American photojournalist Wesley Bocxe and his wife, Elizabeth, made it to the roof of their 10-story apartment building when the quake started. His wife was killed when the floors underneath pancaked into a pile of rubble, but Bocxe somehow survived the plunge, though he was seriously injured.

Local media quoted one woman who said that she and two relatives took refuge in the bathroom of their upper floor apartment, and the room — apparently constructed more sturdily than the rest of the building — plunged intact to near street level. They were able to escape with the help of neighbors.

The quake was a nightmare for a family of four in the Iztapalapa neighborhood on Mexico City’s gritty east side.

The father and mother rushed out of their home with their 9-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son when the shaking started, only to have a six-foot (two-meter) perimeter wall fall on the children. The debris crushed the girl’s pelvis, damaged her liver and caused internal bleeding. A broken bone in the boy’s leg poked through his skin and blood spurted out.

The father, who asked that the family not be identified by name for privacy reasons, said he was shocked into a stupor by the sight but a quick slap from his wife brought him back to his senses.

“When I saw her in the rubble, her eyes glazed unconscious, I went into shock,” he said Wednesday at the Magdalena de la Salinas hospital. “I picked her up ... I thought she was dead. Her mother slapped me in the face because I was totally gone. I turned to her and she said, ‘We have to save her, she’s still alive!’”

The mother helped their son, who was crawling, to get to the street, and then she rushed into traffic to stop a car.

“I stood in front (of the car) and pounded on the hood, I said, ‘Please, I beg you, help us get to the hospital,’” she recalled. “The man stopped, opened his doors ... I don’t know how we got there, but I owe that man my children’s lives.”

Once they got to a hospital, police officers stationed outside saw the girl’s condition and quickly offered to summon a helicopter, which flew both children to the Magdalena de la Salinas.

The girl is wrapped in sheets on her hospital bed, her father holding her hand. She has talked to psychologists, and now can calmly recall the moments of terror.

“In my brain, I saw the earth cracking open. It was an illusion,” she said. “When I went through that scare, I thought I wasn’t going to live.”



## Giving the gift of green in the 'District of Cannabis'

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's hard to justify \$45 for an ordinary black cotton T-shirt, but the customer at a store in Washington D.C.'s Adams Morgan neighborhood does so without question. The clerk grabs a clear plastic box containing about one gram of marijuana and drops it into the bag, reciting a practiced line: "Thank you and here's a gift for you to have as a souvenir."

It's another satisfied customer in the so-called District of Cannabis, the unique legal and commercial space spawned by the District of Columbia's unusual approach to marijuana legalization.

A 2014 ballot initiative to legalize recreational use passed overwhelmingly. But unlike the eight states that have legalized recreational use, the Washington initiative also maintained it was still illegal to buy or sell the drug.

So instead of the straightforward marijuana storefronts common in Colorado or Nevada, Washington has developed a thriving "gift economy" marijuana industry. These businesses--many offering delivery--sell everything from coffee cups to artwork--all overpriced and all coming with a little something extra.

It's a curious legal and semantic tightrope, and one the District's politicians and police seem determined to keep walking.

"It's definitely unique," said Morgan Fox of the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project. "The DC city council and the city government don't want to be busting people for weed. They want this to work and work smoothly."

Washington's local government didn't choose to make the District a real-time sociology lab for alternative legalization. The roots of this strange legal middle ground lie in the District's tortured relationship with the federal government.

"We would have regular stores if we had the normal rights of a U.S. state," said Nikolas Schiller, co-founder of DCMJ, a pro-legalization group that helped draft the initiative's text.

All District laws are subject to review by a congressional committee, which can veto them or alter them by attaching riders to federal appropriations bills. After the initiative passed, Rep. Andy Harris, a Republican from neighboring Maryland, introduced a rider prohibiting the District government from spending any funds or resources on developing a regulatory or taxation system for marijuana sales.

Harris, an anesthesiologist and member of the conservative Freedom Caucus, remains a staunch opponent of recreational marijuana use and has no regrets about complicating the District's legalization model.

"I think the District of Columbia made a bad decision," Harris said in an interview. "I would hope the District comes to its senses and realizes the dangers."

According to marijuana merchants, the change has resulted in spiraling supply and demand. The relative ease of availability without risking arrest or having to maintain a relationship with a dealer has brought a wave of consumers of all ages and demographics. And that wave of demand has brought a wave of new suppliers.

In addition to the dozens of different businesses working through the gift loophole, there are now hundreds of marijuana-themed public events taking place across the city — most openly advertised on social media.

"Seven days a week, you can find an event going on," said Gregory Moorner, whose Laid Back Lords company offers marijuana gifts to accompany \$50 baseball caps and \$80 sweatshirts.

One such event, known as Cannemania, happens weekly at a closed Ethiopian restaurant. Inside isn't so much a stoner party as a fairly businesslike trade show. On a recent night, about 150 people crowded in to peruse about 25 different vendors' tables offering large jars of buds and a huge variety of edibles, from brownies to marijuana-infused gummi bears. There were also marijuana vape pens and "concentrates" — a substance that looks like candle wax and requires a waterpipe and a blowtorch to consume.

Vendors hawked their wares like THC sommeliers and offered free hits of concentrates. But there was, according to the rules, no smoking of marijuana buds. For the most part everyone kept to the necessary gift loophole script: your money technically bought you a raffle ticket, some expensive rolling paper or, in

one case, the baseball card of former Cleveland Indians shortstop Julio Franco.

Despite the ubiquity of the drug, it would be inaccurate to describe the District as some sort of marijuana free-for-all. Mayor Muriel Bowser's government has worked hard to establish clear lines on what is and is not permitted. It remains illegal to smoke in public. Arrests for public consumption have actually spiked since the legalization initiative came into effect. Bowser also personally lobbied the city council to defeat a proposal to permit pot smoking in bars or restaurants — fearing it would lead to private cannabis clubs.

The police have also pounced on entrepreneurs who push things too far. In late 2015 they arrested Nicholas "Kush God" Cunningham, who had deployed a fleet of cars covered in marijuana-leaf decals that would hand out pot edibles in exchange for "donations."

"I'm surprised they didn't bring him in sooner," said Fox of the Marijuana Policy Project. "He was clearly getting remuneration for a product and being very flashy about it."

Police maintain that the gift loophole isn't fooling anyone.

"In our estimation, that's still illegal," said Lt. Andrew Struhar of the Narcotics and Special Operations division of Washington's Metropolitan Police Department.

But Struhar also admitted that police aren't "actively out hunting" for marijuana violators as long as everything stays low-key and the neighbors don't complain.

"We serve the citizens and if they say there's a problem on this or that block, we're going to do something about it," he said. "If you're going to flaunt it and you're going to stick it in our face and force us to take action against it, then we're going to take action."

For now the model seems to be staggering along, but it's debatable how long this can continue. Legalization activists say that a quasi-legal grey area was never their goal.

Members of the District's government are even less enthusiastic; they complain about the intrusiveness of the congressional oversight and point to a study which estimated \$130 million in potential annual revenue from taxing marijuana sales.

"I don't think it's sustainable," said City Council Chairman Phil Mendelson. "We have legal marijuana but we can't regulate it. It's stupid, it's just stupid."

Follow Ashraf Khalil on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ashrafkhalil>

## Trump, unpredictable ally for GOP, tests influence on taxes

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Donald Trump announced plans to go to Indiana Wednesday to sell the GOP tax overhaul plan, party leaders cheered his engagement on the high-stakes issue. When the White House said one of Trump's traveling companions would be Indiana's Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly — a top target in next year's midterm elections — the hopes turned to head-smacking disbelief.

The episode underscores the extent to which Trump has been an uneven — or at best, unpredictable — ally for his party, both on policy and politics. Time and again, Trump has complained about his party as loudly as he vents about Democrats, or shifted his position as Republicans leaned on him for support. The dysfunctional dynamic now stands at the center of Republicans' last chance this year to prove they can pass major legislation — a sweeping, multitrillion-dollar tax cut that GOP officials believe is crucial to the party maintaining its congressional majority in the midterms.

"Literally, if they can't do this, they can't do anything," said Tim Pawlenty, the former Republican governor of Minnesota and head of the Financial Services Roundtable, a bank lobbying group. Trump is a constructive force in the effort, Pawlenty said, "if he can stay focused and stay on message."

The president this week repeatedly demonstrated his sometimes fickle friendship. As the party licked its wounds over the failure of its health care legislation, he floated working with Democrats on that issue, something he's already done on immigration and spending matters. While he agreed to requests from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to campaign for the establishment-backed candidate in Alabama's GOP primary, he undercut his impact by pondering aloud whether he'd made a mistake. Luther Strange,

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the candidate Trump backed, lost Tuesday to firebrand jurist Roy Moore by nine points.

Trump quickly endorsed Moore and his tweets backing Strange were deleted.

A former Democrat who is ideologically flexible, Trump has been an awkward partner for Republican leaders since the start of his political rise. But McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan have privately tried to rally their members during low points in the presidency by reminding them that Trump will sign legislation a Democratic occupant of the Oval Office would not — despite the fact that the GOP Congress hasn't had any major bills to send to Trump's desk.

The White House has promised GOP leaders that Trump will indeed travel the country selling the tax legislation. Trump advisers have told congressional lawmakers and aides that the president is more deeply engaged on taxes than on any other domestic policy push during his tenure, according to a Republican official who was one of six GOP aides and operatives who insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the president's standing with his party.

But Republicans have heard similar promises from the White House before. Trump ultimately invested little time and energy trying to rally public support behind two GOP bids to overhaul the nation's health care system. As the party scrambled to salvage last-ditch legislation this week, Trump seemed more focused on stirring up controversy about protests during the national anthem by NFL players. McConnell pulled the bill without holding a vote.

Sara Fagen, a Republican strategist who served as White House political director for President George W. Bush, said that for Trump to be a successful advocate for tax reform, he'll have to repeatedly rally Americans behind the effort and personalize the impact of the tax changes for the middle class.

"If he just sits in the upper floor of the White House after 7 p.m. and fires off tweets, that's not going to help," Fagen said.

Trump's event in Indiana Wednesday got the campaign off to a conventional start. Standing in front of a massive American flag, the president largely stuck to script and talked about the tax plan with specificity. He called on both parties to join forces on an overhaul, despite the fact that the blueprint he outlined was negotiated by Republicans alone.

"Tax reform has not historically been a partisan issue, and it does not have to be a partisan issue today," Trump said. "There is no reason that Democrats and Republicans in Congress should not come together to deliver this giant win for the American people."

GOP operatives working on the 2018 midterms were miffed by the president's decision to invite Donnelly, one of the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents, to fly on Air Force One. Donnelly is fighting to keep his seat in a state Trump won in November by nearly 20 points, and to win, he'll likely need to prove to voters that he doesn't simply toe the Democratic Party line.

It's the second time Trump has given a vulnerable Democrat an opportunity to highlight bipartisan credentials. Earlier this month, he traveled to North Dakota with home state Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, another at-risk Democrat in 2018. He invited Heitkamp to join him onstage and called her a "good woman."

On Wednesday, Trump thanked Donnelly for joining him in the rally, but left the senator with a less campaign advertisement-ready endorsement.

"If Senator Donnelly doesn't approve it, because you know he's on the other side, we will come here and we will campaign against him like you wouldn't believe," Trump said of Donnelly and the tax package.

Donnelly didn't appear to flinch under that threat. He released a statement following the event that said he didn't work for "President Trump or any political party" and criticized the tax blueprint for "missing many details that will be critical to determining whether working and middle-class families truly stand to benefit."

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## Iranian Americans in limbo, despair after new travel rules

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — U.S. Navy veteran Mohammed Jahanfar has traveled overseas four times in the last year to visit his Iranian fiancée, most recently hoping to complete government paperwork that would allow her to come live with him in the United States.

But the 39-year-old now fears they will be forever separated after President Donald Trump's administration rolled out new restrictions blocking most Iranians from traveling to America. The new restrictions covering citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen — and some Venezuelan government officials and their families — are to go into effect Oct. 18.

"It is devastating," said Jahanfar, who works as a salesman in Long Beach, California, and has lived in the United States for three decades. "There should be no reason why my fiancée, who is an educated person in Iran, who has a master's degree, why we cannot be with each other. I cannot wrap my head around it."

This is the Trump administration's third measure to limit travel following a broad ban that sparked chaos at U.S. airports in January and a temporary order issued months later that was challenged in the courts and expired last weekend.

Jahanfar is among 385,000 Iranian immigrants in the United States, according to the Census Bureau, more than any of the other countries covered by the travel restrictions issued last weekend.

The U.S. has a many-layered history with Iran, a Middle Eastern ally until the pro-American shah was overthrown by the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The shah came to the U.S. and so did tens of thousands of other Iranians.

Now, the U.S. and Iranian governments have no diplomatic relations. Even so, many Iranians and Iranian-Americans have been able to regularly travel back and forth and kept close family relations.

The new restrictions range from an indefinite ban on visas for citizens of Syria to more targeted limitations. Iranians will not be eligible for immigrant, tourism or business visas but remain eligible for student and cultural exchange visas if they undergo additional scrutiny.

The measures target countries that the Department of Homeland Security says fail to share sufficient information with the U.S. or haven't taken necessary security precautions.

Iranian-American advocates said they've been fielding phone calls from frantic community members who fear they will remain separated from family or their dreams. Already, many Iranian visa applicants find themselves caught up in lengthy security checks, delaying their travel plans.

"People don't know what to do," said Ally Bolour, an immigration attorney in Los Angeles. "If you are from one of these banned countries, there is just so much going on already. This just adds another layer and people are just petrified."

Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council, said the ban seems aimed at punishing mainly Muslim countries.

"This process does not start with, 'OK, where does the threat emanate from, and what can we do about it?'" Parsi said. "It started with, 'What are the countries we have bad relations with and what can we do there?'"

The new rules permit, but do not guarantee, case-by-case waivers for citizens of the affected countries who meet certain criteria. It's unclear, however, how difficult it will be to obtain a waiver and consular officers have broad discretion over these applications, said Diane Rish, associate director of government relations for the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The rules have also damped some Iranians' desire to be here. Hanieh, who did not want her last name used fearing reprisals from officials in the U.S. or Iran, said she is finishing her doctorate in the United States but seeking jobs in Canada due to uncertainty about whether she will be able to work here and what she sees as growing anti-Iranian sentiment.

She said her parents received word from U.S. consular officials this week they will not be able to travel for her graduation because of the ban.

Jahanfar, whose family left Iran after the country's revolution, said he doesn't know what he will do.

He proposed to his fiancée last year after the pair, who met as children in Iran, had reconnected. He applied for a fiancée visa in January and traveled to Abu Dhabi earlier this month for an interview with U.S. consular officials, but was told it would be delayed.

Now, he said their lives are in limbo.

"It is pointless," he said. "One person can decide something — they don't understand how many lives they'll affect with one decision they make."

## Obscure con man steals spotlight as informant in hoops probe

By **TOM HAYS** and **LARRY NEUMEISTER**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A once-obscure admitted con man named Louis Martin "Marty" Blazer III may have failed in his scheme to make low-budget movies with money swiped from pro athletes, but he's now succeeded in stealing part of the spotlight in a scandal that's shaken college basketball to its core.

Federal authorities revealed this week that Blazer was the wily informant — referred to in criminal complaints only as CW-1 "cooperating witness-1" — who played a central role in a federal bribery investigation of assistant coaches at four top-tier basketball schools.

"I'm aware of people who are willing to do this," federal prosecutors say Blazer told authorities in 2014 when he agreed to wear a wire and buddy up to coaches who took covert payments in exchange for encouraging top-flight NBA prospects to choose a particular school, agent or financial adviser.

Blazer, 46, posed as an experienced — and corrupt — financial adviser and business manager while helping the FBI make hundreds of recordings — a ruse resulting in a case charging 10 people, including coaches from Auburn, Southern California, Arizona and Oklahoma State.

The expanding ramifications of the probe were felt Wednesday when Louisville announced it was putting basketball coach Rick Pitino on unpaid leave in response to a related scheme alleging agents promised the family of a Louisville prospect it would get \$100,000 from Adidas if he signed with the Adidas-sponsored school.

Authorities have declined to discuss their arrangement with Blazer in detail. And there was no immediate response to messages left on Wednesday seeking comment from his lawyer.

But a guilty plea to securities fraud and other charges that could buy him leniency shows that his cooperation played off of a pattern of deception dating to 2000, when prosecutors say he began paying college athletes to get them to retain his company as a financial adviser or business manager.

In that case, Blazer expanded his fraudulent portfolio using a Pittsburgh-based firm, Blazer Capital, that he billed as a "concierge" financial advisory firm that catered to the needs of the professional athletes, entertainers and other rich people, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing. Instead of helping them, he repeatedly dipped into his client's accounts between October 2010 and January 2013 to fund movies and other ventures.

An SEC lawsuit accused Blazer of bilking five clients of \$2.35 million, in part to invest in two films: "Mafia the Movie" and "A Resurrection," a horror movie which was filmed in Pittsburgh and released in 2013. Authorities said Blazer took an interest in the movies after meeting an actor and producer in 2009.

When a former pro athlete client of Blazer refused to back his investments, Blazer took \$550,000 from the athlete's account and invested it in the movie projects, forging documents to make it appear the transfers were sanctioned, the SEC said.

The client found out and threatened to sue, causing Blazer to return the money by draining another client's account, the SEC said. He then took an extra \$100,000 from the second client — a current professional athlete — to fund a project by a country music management company, it said in its 2016 filing.

The Ponzi scheme unraveled in 2013 when the SEC contacted the athlete, who notified the agency that he had never authorized transfers from his accounts or an investment in the music venture. At the time, Blazer had moved the majority of clients he advised to a firm that had 21 clients and about \$15 million in assets under management, the SEC said.

Last month, the SEC announced a financial judgment requiring Blazer to disgorge \$1.8 million plus interest and pay a \$150,000 civil penalty, while agreeing never again to work in the industry.

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Blazer's reputation was further muddied through some legal skirmishes.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported in May 2016 that retired NFL running back Kevan Barlow filed a complaint against Blazer with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, in 2011, seeking \$4 million in compensatory and \$12 million in punitive damages. The case settled in 2012. A message left with Barlow's lawyer was not immediately returned. The Tribune-Review also reported that a New Jersey-based bank sued Blazer in 2013 and 2014 for a series of unpaid loans he had signed as a guarantee on behalf of a former college basketball player and two former NFL players.

After switching sides, Blazer's work as a cooperator in the basketball case included recording and videotaping a meeting with former NBA star and Auburn assistant Chuck Person and others in late 2016 at a restaurant near the university in which Person agreed to accept \$50,000 in bribes to steer college athletes to his firm, court papers said. The documents describe how a few weeks later, the pair exchanged chummy text messages about whether Person was being wired \$5,000 or \$10,000 as an installment.

"I thought it was 10. I guess 5 will do," Person said.

"Nah 5 + the 5 from yesterday right!" the cooperator reassured him. "No prob!"

As the payments from Blazer rolled in, Person bragged in a recorded exchange about how their illicit deal was a win-win, according to the papers.

"I got some great great, I mean great great ball players," the coach said. "I'd like to get these players to you and then, if I can supplement myself, that'll be good for both of us."

## Louisville places Rick Pitino, AD on administrative leave

By GARY B. GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rick Pitino couldn't survive another scandal, with interim Louisville president placing the coach and his boss on administrative leave amid a nationwide federal bribery investigation that has rocked college basketball.

President Greg Postel's decision came after the school acknowledged Tuesday that the program is part of a federal investigation into alleged bribery of recruits. The 65-year-old coach wasn't named in the indictment that resulted in the arrest of 10 people including four assistant coaches at other schools and an Adidas executive.

Postel didn't stop with Pitino; he also sidelined athletic director Tom Jurich, putting him on paid administrative leave. And though Pitino isn't officially out of a job — he was placed on unpaid leave — the coach's attorney, Steve Pence, told the Courier-Journal that Louisville has "effectively fired" Pitino.

"I'm more angry than embarrassed," Postel said Wednesday at a news conference, adding that an interim coach would be announced within 48 hours. "We will be looking for someone with integrity. ... There's no reason this team can't have a good season."

Pitino has a 416-143 record over 16 years at Louisville, including a 2013 NCAA championship. But there have been continuing off-the-court issues.

Jurich, who has been at the school for nearly 20 years, has always supported Pitino through many embarrassing transgressions.

But Postel said, "It is vital for this university to strictly adhere to the NCAA rules and of course federal law. Failure to do that would be a tacit endorsement of unethical and criminal behavior."

The recent federal investigation is the latest black eye for the Cardinals program, which is already reeling from a sex scandal. It is unclear where the marquee program goes from here.

Pitino and Louisville are in the middle of appealing NCAA sanctions handed out in June following a sex scandal that unfolded nearly two years ago — which could cost the school its 2013 national title.

In the latest investigation, federal prosecutors say at least three top high school recruits were promised payments of as much as \$150,000, using money supplied by Adidas, to attend two universities sponsored by the athletic shoe company. Court papers didn't name the schools but contained enough details to identify one of them as Louisville, the other was Miami.

Postel also said Wednesday that one student-athlete has been informed he will not practice or play for

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the university until the investigation is resolved. He did not name the athlete allegedly involved in the investigation, which federal documents list as a high school All-American.

The player's name also was not released by federal prosecutors, but details in the criminal complaint make it clear investigators were referring to 6-foot-7 Brian Bowen. The freshman has yet to play in a game with the Cardinals.

"This decision will protect the interests of both the student and the University of Louisville," Postel said.

Pitino's future meanwhile will be evaluated at a later date, Postel said, while his assistants' status will be examined by the interim AD. Jurich's future will be determined by the school's Board of Trustees.

Though Pitino is not named in the federal documents, the school acknowledged it is under investigation by the FBI.

Neither Pitino nor Jurich were at Wednesday's news conference, though the coach said Tuesday the allegations came as a "complete shock" to him. In the statement released through Pence, Pitino added he was "committed to taking whatever steps are needed to ensure those responsible are held accountable."

The nationwide federal investigation includes schools from California to Auburn.

The assistant coaches charged include Chuck Person of Auburn, Emanuel Richardson of Arizona, Tony Bland of Southern California and Lamont Evans of Oklahoma State. Person and Evans have been suspended, and Bland was placed on administrative leave.

But Pitino is the first head coach to be disciplined, and his previous NCAA troubles apparently played a role in him being placed on leave.

As part of the fallout from the sex scandal, Pitino's program had been ordered to vacate up to 123 victories in which ineligible players received improper benefits — a period that includes the 2013 title, Louisville's third national championship— along with the 2012 Final Four appearance. The NCAA also placed the school on four years' probation and ordered the return of money received through conference revenue sharing.

Pitino was ordered to miss five unspecified Atlantic Coast Conference games this season.

The NCAA noted that Cardinal players and recruits had received improper benefits and called the activities in the dorm "repugnant" in its decision.

Pitino is 770-271 over a 32-year coaching career with stops at Hawaii, Boston, Providence and Kentucky, where he won the 1996 NCAA title. He has also coached in the NBA with the Boston Celtics and New York Knicks.

But that success has been overshadowed by a recent series of embarrassing episodes that began nearly two years ago with escort Katina Powell's book allegations that former Cardinals staffer Andre McGee hired her and other dancers for sex parties with players and recruits in the team's dormitory.

Pitino denied knowledge of the activities described in Powell's book and criticized McGee for his actions. The NCAA's Committee on Infractions dismissed Pitino's contention that he was unaware of McGee's activities and imposed harsher penalties on the program and the coach.

Before the sex scandal case, Pitino had to testify in 2010 in a federal extortion trial for the wife of the school's equipment manager, when he acknowledged under oath to having an extramarital affair with her in a Louisville restaurant.

But like he did in the sex scandal case, when the federal investigation was announced Tuesday, the coach insisted he was unaware of the activities described in the documents.

However, it was apparently one scandal too many for Postel, who held both the Hall of Fame coach and the school's longtime athletic director accountable for the latest blow to Louisville's reputation.

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More AP college basketball: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Dark days for Senate Leader McConnell as losses cast doubt

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans reckoned Wednesday with an insurgent's win in Alabama that poses clear threats to their own grip on power and the leadership of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Nearly \$10 million spent by a McConnell-backed super PAC couldn't save incumbent GOP Sen. Luther Strange, who had been endorsed by President Donald Trump as well. It came the same day that McConnell, short of votes, pulled the plug on the latest and possibly final GOP effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare."

Coming together, the events raised questions about McConnell's leadership within the Senate and without, casting doubt on his reputation both as a seasoned political operator and a nearly unbeatable vote-counter on Capitol Hill.

"I'd hate to think about where we would be without Sen. McConnell's efforts. But I think we'll learn from it, and we'll adjust," McConnell's No. 2, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, said of the victory of rabble-rousing former jurist Roy Moore, known for hanging the Ten Commandments in his courtroom in defiance of federal court orders. "We're all listening and watching very closely and trying to understand the message that's being sent."

To some conservative campaign operatives, there was little question about that message.

"Alabama was a rejection of Mitch McConnell and the entire Republican establishment that he represents," said Andy Surabian, senior adviser to the pro-Trump group Great America Alliance, which spent more than \$150,000 on Moore's behalf.

"Everyone is going to be under the microscope. That doesn't mean everyone is going to have a serious primary challenger," he said. "But if you think you're going to be able to take a cheap shot at the president to score a few political points in the mainstream media, you have another thing coming."

McConnell allies strongly disputed claims that he was a drag on Strange, arguing that despite low approval ratings that come with being a party leader in Congress, there was scant real evidence that opposition to the Kentucky Republican was a motivating factor for voters in a race where local issues, including the former governor's corruption scandal, played a major role. But one Republican operative working on 2018 Senate races, who requested anonymity to discuss internal GOP dynamics, said the party is increasingly worried about the impact of McConnell's unpopularity among GOP voters on establishment primary candidates, particularly after another health care failure.

McConnell did get a vote of confidence, of sorts, from Trump, who told reporters asking whether he had confidence in the majority leader: "I do have confidence in him, yes. I do have confidence. But it's really not up to me, it's up to the Senate, but I do have confidence in him. I will say they used him in the race, and I was very honored by the way I was treated in the race, but they used him in the race."

Republican senators, too, worried about the political fallout from Strange's loss heading into an election cycle where they will be defending a slim 52-48 majority. Although few GOP incumbents are seen as truly vulnerable, others could attract troublesome primary challenges like those already looming for Republican Sens. Dean Heller of Nevada, Jeff Flake of Arizona and potentially Roger Wicker of Mississippi.

"This is going to be interpreted by the so-called anti-establishment forces as a victory they can build on and I suspect they'll be out recruiting candidates to try and primary many of our incumbent senators," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota.

Already this week, rounding out McConnell's woes, Tennessee GOP Sen. Bob Corker announced plans to retire rather than seek re-election next year in face of certain primary opposition.

Strange's loss in Alabama was the first for McConnell's well-funded and highly professional operation since he made the decision to get involved in Senate primaries five years ago, after a spate of oddball conservatives got into general elections in the 2010 and 2012 cycles and went on to lose to Democrats. The Senate Leadership Fund, led by former McConnell Chief of Staff Steve Law, invested heavily in the race to try to keep Strange in the Senate.

The group's failure could send hesitant GOP incumbents the message that for all his efforts, McConnell



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might not be able to save them from a roiled and angry electorate.

In a memo assessing the election, Law ticked off several conclusions that bode ill for the GOP in the election cycle ahead, including that “the Republican Congress has replaced President Obama as the bogeyman for conservative GOP primary voters” and “the Obamacare repeal fiasco is political poison.”

Also problematic for McConnell may be Moore’s arrival in the Senate, presuming he beats the Democrat in December’s general election. McConnell is already struggling to hold together his 52-vote majority, as the failure on health care shows, and will now have an additional squeaky wheel to deal with rather than the reliable vote Strange offered.

An aide to McConnell said the majority leader spoke with Moore on Wednesday.

Moore declared his opposition to McConnell throughout the campaign, but interviewed Wednesday on Fox News Channel he said he would support the majority leader when their goals align.

“As long as he stands for a conservative agenda and what we promised the people as Republicans, I’ll work with anyone,” Moore said.

That apparently doesn’t include health care, though. While Trump insisted repeatedly Wednesday that the latest GOP health care plan would eventually succeed, Moore decried it as “socialized medicine at best.”

Associated Press writer Tom Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

## ‘This is personal’: NY rushes to aid ravaged Puerto Rico

By JENNIFER PELTZ and DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York state, home to the U.S. mainland’s biggest Puerto Rican community, is sending a lot more than thoughts and prayers to the hurricane-ravaged island.

Between them, New York state and city have committed hundreds of workers and organized aid ranging from rescue helicopters to field rations. Gov. Andrew Cuomo took the first flight allowed to land after Hurricane Maria slammed Puerto Rico last week, and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito joined city workers this weekend to aid relief on the island where her own mother lives.

“She tells me every day not to worry about her, though the level of desperation is getting there,” Mark-Viverito said Wednesday, her voice breaking. Her mother had left her damaged home to stay with friends in a high-rise with no power and had stood in a five-hour line to get gasoline.

State Assemblyman Marcos Crespo is waiting to hear from his own mother and relatives even as he fields unceasing phone calls from constituents trying to reach theirs.

“The one thing that keeps me going is knowing how many people are willing to help,” said Crespo, a Democrat like Cuomo and Mark-Viverito.

For politicians and everyday New Yorkers, the storm is pulling at the ties between their state and Puerto Rico. The island is 1,600 miles (2,575 kilometers) away, but connections often feel much closer in a state with over 1 million people of Puerto Rican descent.

“This is personal,” Cuomo said Wednesday. “Anything this state can do, we will do.”

That includes committing hundreds of state troopers and other workers, plus organizing an aid package that reads like the shopping list for a small army: 34,000 bottles of water, 10,000 field rations, 1,400 cots, 500 flashlights, 10 electrical generators and four Black Hawk helicopters. One of New York’s biggest homegrown pop stars, Jennifer Lopez, donated \$1 million to relief efforts at a press conference with Cuomo on Sunday.

New York City has about 700,000 people of Puerto Rican descent — making up about 1 in every 12 city residents, and roughly twice the population of the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan. More than 140 New York City firefighters, police officers and other workers are in Puerto Rico to help, and Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio is preparing for an expected influx of thousands of Puerto Ricans fleeing the storm’s damage.

The federal government has sent thousands of employees to help the U.S. territory with needs from fueling hospital generators to trying to avert a dam collapse. Republican President Donald Trump plans to visit next week.

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Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello and Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez, the island's non-voting representative in Congress, have praised Trump's response. But the administration also has faced complaints that its efforts lagged responses to hurricanes that hit the mainland.

Maria tore through Puerto Rico last week, killing at least 16 people and leaving nearly all 3.4 million residents without power and most without water.

"It's being felt deeply here" in New York, says Edwin Melendez, director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at city-run Hunter College. The center's website has repeatedly crashed since it posted a list of ways to donate, he said.

New York's Puerto Rican population began growing significantly in the 1950s and '60s as people left the island in search of economic opportunity. While many families have now been in New York for generations, many identify strongly with their heritage. There's even a term, "Nuyorican," that some New Yorkers with Puerto Rican backgrounds use to span both cultures. The city's annual Puerto Rican Day sees one of New York's biggest parades of the year.

That's not lost on New York's politicians, many of whom make an annual trip to San Juan for a Latino issues conference called Somos El Futuro.

Puerto Ricans on the island cannot vote in federal elections, but as U.S. citizens, they can vote if they move to the mainland.

"That's what has galvanized the Puerto Rican community in the states — because we need to speak for citizens in Puerto Rico," said Arlene Davila, a Puerto Rico-born anthropology and American studies professor at New York University.

While political calculus may be part of New York officials' rush to respond to Maria's battering, Baruch College political scientist Douglas Muzzio believes there's "sincerity along with the self-interest" in helping a large, worried population.

"It affects more than Latinos," said Muzzio, whose Puerto Rican son-in-law hasn't been able to contact an aunt on the island.

Visiting a firehouse Saturday, de Blasio vowed New Yorkers would stand by Puerto Rico.

"When Puerto Rico asks, 'Where is New York City in our hour of need?'" he said, "We say simply say: 'Presente.'"

Klepper reported from Albany, New York. Associated Press writer Claudia Torrens contributed from New York.

## Migrant quest for Mexican dream cut short in quake

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The women working at ABC Toys on the second floor of a nondescript office building in Mexico City's working-class Obrera neighborhood drew so little attention to themselves that when the building collapsed in last week's powerful quake few living nearby could recall them.

In death, they remained nearly as anonymous: Government officials identified them in a list of foreigners killed during the 7.1-magnitude quake as simply "four Taiwanese women."

But Helen Chin, Amy Huang, Carolina Wang and Gina Lai did have names — and stories that came to a sudden end under the rubble of the building at 168 Bolivar Street.

The glass-and-concrete building housing an assortment of Taiwanese toy and technology businesses, along with a clothing company run by an Argentine-born Jewish immigrant, is where nearly all the foreigners killed in the quake died. Aside from the four Taiwanese women, they include Jaime Askenazi, whose friends affectionately called "Che," and Pepe Lin, a Taiwanese-born father of two who made his way to Mexico after first moving as a young boy from Paraguay.

"He came here, like many people," Margarita Cohen, a distant relative said of Askenazi's arrival from Argentina. "To search for more luck."

Their numbers were small but collectively their lives provide a snapshot into recent migration to Mexico.

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As trade ties between China, Taiwan and Mexico have tightened a new wave of immigrants has arrived to invest in factories and open import-export businesses. Larger numbers arrive from other Latin American nations, either hoping to make their way to the United States or improve their economic prospects in Mexico.

"He loved it here," Moises Lin, Pepe Lin's younger brother, said. "He found an opportunity to come so he took the chance."

The businesses at 168 Bolivar Street were located on four floors of offices inside the peeling red-painted concrete building with tinted floor-to-ceiling windows. Each business had no more than a half-dozen employees and there were likely no more than 50 people believed to be inside the building when the quake struck.

ABC Toys had a showroom and administrative office in the building, while Lin ran Dashcam System Mexico, a company providing security cameras for vehicles, from the fourth floor. On the same level Diesel Technic, a German-based auto parts company, operated an exhibition space.

Though the building appeared dated and ill-maintained, Moises Lin and other friends and relatives of those who worked there couldn't recall them ever complaining about feeling unsafe.

Rather, they saw the modest office in a neighborhood filled with warehouses and convenience stores as a beacon of opportunity.

Carlos Liao, the head of the Economic and Cultural Office of Taipei in Mexico, said the four Taiwanese women included a recent university graduate, a mother of a 3-year-old girl, and a mother and daughter who worked together. Interviews with friends and relatives provided more details about who they were.

Helen Chin left Taiwan with her husband and three children a decade ago. Her daughter, Amy Huang, worked with her at ABC Toys, a family business.

Chin did not speak Spanish, but her daughter seemed to adapt quickly to the family's new home. She picked up the language and had a tight-knit group of Mexican friends that she traveled with. Photos from their journeys showed Huang smiling during beach outings, a cruise and a birthday party. In one photo, she stands with friends in front of a giant balloon depicting a Mexican mariachi player.

Mercedes de la Fuente, who met Huang through a mutual friend while they were attending the same university, said the 23-year-old was overjoyed when she obtained her Mexican voter ID card, joking with friends in a heavy Asian accent that now she was Mexican.

Recently, she had taken the lead at her family's business after her father was diagnosed with cancer, de la Fuente said. The recent graduate seemed firmly committed to making ABC Toys a success.

"Her plans were with ABC Toys," de la Fuente said.

Lin, who worked two floors above the women, had also worked for ABC Toys at one point, according to his brother. Born in Taiwan, Lin moved with his family to Paraguay when he was a child. There his family ran a Taiwanese restaurant in the capital and Lin helped take care of his little brother.

Born Lin Chia Ching, he took the name Jose in Paraguay.

After moving to Mexico when he was about 30, friends began calling him Pepe, a nickname often used for Jose.

Askenazi had also arrived in Mexico as a young adult pursuing the winds of prosperity.

"Argentina was very bad and Mexico was developing very good," Cohen said.

In Mexico, his family grew to include seven daughters and one son. His clothing business employed a number of people in Mexico City's Jewish community, Cohen said, and as his company flourished he became known for his generosity.

Friends liked to call him Che, a popular word for "pal" in Argentina.

On Sept. 19, all five were at 168 Bolivar Street when the ground began to tremble. Witness video shows the building toppling in a matter of seconds, leaving a gray cloud of dust in its wake.

Word quickly spread in the tight-knit Taiwanese and Jewish communities that some of their own were trapped in the rubble. In Paraguay, Moises Lim called his brother's cell phone repeatedly and got no response. He didn't worry at first, but grew concerned when his sister-in-law called, saying she'd been trying to reach her husband all day and hadn't been able to reach him.

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The Lin family boarded a flight from Paraguay and arrived in Mexico City the next day. Even when he saw the mass of rubble that used to be 168 Bolivar Street, Moises Lin could not believe that his brother might be dead.

One ambulance came and left with a body from the rubble. Then another. Workers found women's clothes and toys among the debris.

"It can't be Pepe," the distraught family members whispered to one another.

Meanwhile, Huang's and Chin's families and friends launched a massive online effort to try to locate them, spreading photos and pleading for any information.

Late on the day after the quake struck, Moises Lin said the family got an unexpected call from Pepe Lin's cell phone. It wasn't his brother's voice on the line, but rather that of a rescuer. They had found a destroyed phone on a man's body and had managed to recover the SIM card with its phone numbers.

"Can you come and check if it's your brother?" the man asked.

"We went to the morgue," Moises Lin said. "And it was my brother."

The four Taiwanese women were all pulled from the wreckage lifeless within three days after the quake. Liao, who spent hours at the search site and accompanied the families, said the force of the collapse left the women nearly unrecognizable. One was identified through a birthmark, another by her jewelry. The last was identified with the help of her acupuncturist.

Two Buddhist monks were flown in from Los Angeles for a traditional ceremony that stretched through the weekend and into Monday, the seventh day of their deaths, when Liao said many Taiwanese believe the deceased passes from the world of the living into heaven.

In the days since, Moises Lin said he's wondered about the building where his brother was trying to forge his future. He wonders why the company didn't choose a space that was better maintained. But he considers such questions useless now and is trying not to anguish over them.

"A part of me is frustrated," he said in Spanish, before switching to English. "But I cannot feel that. Because if I feel that my brother won't rest in peace."

All of the women and Pepe Lin were cremated. Relatives recently began the journey of taking their remains home.

## Missouri murder rekindles debate over LGBT hate crime laws

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

Each year, for the past three years, LGBT advocacy groups have tallied the killings of more than 20 transgender people in the U.S. Yet state or federal hate crime laws are rarely used to prosecute the slayings.

Now many LGBT-rights groups are questioning the effectiveness of the laws, saying they sometimes focus too tightly on individual acts without addressing underlying bias or wider violence. The volatile issue was back in the spotlight this week as Missouri authorities investigated the killing of a transgender teen who was stabbed in the genitals and had her eyes gouged out.

Investigators insist — without specifying a motive — that Ally Lee Steinfeld's death was not the result of anti-transgender hate.

"You don't kill someone if you don't have hate in your heart," said James Sigman, the sheriff in Missouri's Texas County. "But no, it's not a hate crime."

Even if the case were deemed to fall under Missouri's hate crime law, it probably would not result in a heavier penalty, since first-degree murder is already punishable by execution or life imprisonment.

Missouri is one of 17 states with hate crime laws that cover offenses targeting people on the basis of their gender identity. But those provisions have led to few prosecutions.

Steph Perkins of the Missouri LGBT-rights group PROMO and Jason Lamb of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys said they could not recall any crimes against transgender people that were prosecuted as hate crimes in the state.

On Wednesday, PROMO and the Anti-Defamation League jointly urged prosecutors to examine the possibility that Steinfeld's murder was a hate crime.

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"Not taking those steps conveys a lack of awareness about the transgender community and the threats of violence we live with every day," Perkins said.

A 2009 federal law, inspired partly by the 1998 murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, included gender identity as a category to be covered by hate crime provisions, but only last May did those provisions lead to a conviction for the first time.

A Mississippi man, Joshua Vallum, received a 49-year prison sentence in the 2015 killing of Mercedes Williamson, a 17-year-old transgender woman who was shocked with a stun gun, stabbed and beaten to death to keep Vallum's fellow Latin Kings gang members from discovering the two were having sex.

A few weeks after Vallum's conviction, Attorney General Jeff Sessions publicly vowed to protect the rights of all transgender Americans and said he had directed the Justice Department's civil rights division to review some other cases in which transgender people were killed.

However, major LGBT and civil rights groups have been skeptical of Sessions' pledge, noting that the Trump administration has taken other steps to erode transgender people's rights, such as proposing to ban them from military service and rescinding guidelines that would allow transgender students to use the restrooms of their choice at school.

"The department's work in preventing, deterring and responding to hate violence cannot be seen in isolation from its recent counterproductive and discriminatory actions," more than 70 advocacy groups said earlier this month in an open letter to John Gore, the acting head of the civil rights division.

Transgender rights lawyer Dru Levasseur of Lambda Legal, one of the groups that signed the letter, said Lambda and its allies still believe that LGBT-inclusive hate crime laws are valuable.

"It does send a message that transgender people's lives matter," he said. "But we need to get at the root of these horrific murders. It's not just about adding on to the sentencing. It's about looking at the big picture of why is this happening."

Another group signing the letter was the American Civil Liberties Union. One of its transgender rights lawyers, Chase Strangio, said he no longer considered hate crime laws to be effective.

"I worry that what hate crime laws do is narrow our focus on certain types of individual violence while absolving the entire system that generates the violence," he said. "I don't see them as being a strategic use of our movement's resources."

According to LGBT-rights advocacy groups, 21 transgender people have been killed in the United States so far in 2017 — all people of color except for Steinfeld and one other woman.

There's no question that anti-transgender hatred has fueled many of the killings in recent years, yet activists and social-service professionals say there are multiple factors that make transgender women of color vulnerable. They have documented that numerous victims were killed by intimate partners, and some were murdered while engaging in prostitution.

In response to the killings, Rep. Keith Ellison, a Democrat from Minnesota, plans to introduce a resolution soon in Congress expressing support for transgender women of color and proposing initiatives to ease the discrimination and marginalization that many of them face.

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Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman in Washington; Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City, Missouri; and Summer Ballentine in Jefferson City, Missouri, contributed to this report.

## Asian stocks mixed as investors gauge impact of US tax plan

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian markets were mixed on Thursday as investors tried to gauge the impact from the sweeping tax reform plan unveiled by President Donald Trump while geopolitical tensions surrounding North Korea kept risk sentiment in check.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei rose 0.3 percent to 20,325.52 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.1 percent to 5,669.40. But in South Korean, Kospi fell 0.2 percent to 2,367.76. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 0.3 percent to 27,557.37 and China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.2 percent to 3,337.78. Stocks

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in Southeast Asia were mixed.

US POLITICS WATCH: Trump and congressional Republicans proposed a \$5 trillion tax plan on Wednesday as a much-needed relief for middle class and a boost for the economy. The proposal would deeply cut taxes for corporations from current 35 percent to 25 percent and simplify the tax system while nearly doubling the standard deduction used by most Americans. The plan was widely expected by investors but with negotiations ahead, the final picture of the tax plan is unclear.

THE QUOTE: "While the impact from the new framework on Asian markets remains debatable with repatriation of offshore earnings one to expect, investors will likely look to the improvement it may bring to U.S. companies and in turn stock market in the near term," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished higher on Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 10.20 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,507.04. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 56.39 points, or 0.3 percent, to 22,340.71. The Nasdaq composite leaped 73.10 points, or 1.1 percent, to 6,453.26. The Russell 2000 did even better and continued to set records. It gained 27.95 points, or 1.9 percent, to 1,484.81.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 18 cents to \$51.96 per barrel on New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 26 cents to close at \$52.14 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, lost 23 cents to \$57.34 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.90 yen from 112.82 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1735 from \$1.1750.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2017. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 28, 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie. (The game was called after the first half due to hazardous conditions caused by inadequate illumination; it also didn't help that a lighting pole was located in the middle of the field.)

On this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

In 1914, the First Battle of the Aisne during World War I ended inconclusively.

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

In 1958, voters in the African country of Guinea overwhelmingly favored independence from France.

In 1967, Walter E. Washington was sworn in as the first mayor-commissioner of the District of Columbia following his appointment by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

Ten years ago: The International Monetary Fund chose France's Dominique Strauss-Kahn as its new leader. (Strauss-Kahn resigned the post in 2011 following allegations he'd sexually assaulted a New York

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hotel employee; prosecutors ended up dropping all the charges.) Traveler Carol Gotbaum of New York died in a holding cell at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix; authorities say Gotbaum, 45, accidentally asphyxiated herself after being chained to a bench.

Five years ago: Citing national security risks, President Barack Obama blocked a Chinese company from owning four wind farm projects in northern Oregon near a Navy base where the U.S. military flew unmanned drones and electronic-warfare planes on training missions. Homer Bailey of the Cincinnati Reds threw the season's seventh no-hitter, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0.

One year ago: In a resounding rebuke, Democrats joined with Republicans to hand Barack Obama the first veto override of his presidency, voting overwhelmingly to allow families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia in U.S. courts for its alleged backing of the attackers. Israeli statesman Shimon Peres, 93, died of complications from a stroke. Agnes Nixon, 93 the creative force behind the popular soap operas "One Life to Live" and "All My Children," died in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brigitte Bardot is 83. Actor Joel Higgins is 74. Singer Helen Shapiro is 71. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 67. Rock musician George Lynch is 63. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 60. Actor Steve Hytner is 58. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN'guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 53. Country singer Matt King is 51. Actress Mira Sorvino is 50. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 50. Actress-model Carre Otis is 49. Actress Naomi Watts is 49. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 48. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 44. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 42. Rapper Young Jeezy is 40. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 40. Actor Peter Cambor is 39. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 38. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 36. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 36. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats ) is 36. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 35. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 31. Actress Hilary Duff is 30. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 25.

Thought for Today: "A great truth is a truth whose opposite is also a truth." — Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955).