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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.

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.

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**

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

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Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*

"Happiness is not the
absence of problems,
but the ability to
deal with them."

-Charles de Montesquieu



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Help Wanted

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

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

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

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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

Groton Area Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Business Manager. Job description and application materials can be found under the employment tab at www.grotonarea.com. Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-297-2351.

Legends grant, scholarship applications open

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Hy-Vee/Sanford Legends is now accepting applications for its grant and scholarship programs.

The Legends for Kids Youth Foundation Grant Program targets youth sports organizations that feature volunteer involvement and demonstrate the Legends goals of quality, integrity and character. The Legends for Youth Foundation grants can be utilized for capital expenditures only. Grant applications must be received by Oct. 20.

The Legends for Kids Scholarship program honors college-bound high school seniors who have demonstrated leadership and commitment in athletics, their community and academics. Eight \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to seniors in the class of 2018 based on nominations from a school official. Nominations must be submitted by Nov. 17.

The scholarship program was created by Hy-Vee, Sanford and First PREMIER with support from Argus Leader Media and KELOLAND Television.

Hy-Vee/Sanford Legends provides learning opportunity for young student-athletes to grow and be inspired in the world of sports by providing different sporting clinics and camps. Each year, celebrity athletes who represent the Legends goals are brought to Sioux Falls.

For more information, visit legendsforkids.com.

Milbank Area stops Groton's drives



Andy Rintala looks downfield for an opening after making the catch. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Area was deep in Milbank Area's territory several times, but the Tigers were unable to cross the goal line as Milbank shut out the Tigers in the Bulldogs' homecoming game, 27-0.

Milbank scored on its first drive of the game, going 72 yards in seven plays as Jacob Karges scored on a six yard run. Carlos Padilla kicked the PAT and with 10:42 left in the first period, Milbank held a 7-0 lead.

The Bulldogs would score on its first drive in the second half on a drive that went four plays, three first-downs and 64 yards culminating with a 12 yard run by Jake Karges. Padilla kicked the PAT and it was 14-0.

Milbank's third touchdown was a 90 yard drive that went 11 plays and had six first downs as Cole Dockter scored on an 18 yard run. Padilla's kick was no good and it was 20-0.

Milbank's final touchdown came in



Brandon Keith makes the catch and then is brought down quickly by the Bulldog defense. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Marshall Lane tries to gain a few yards by dodging the Bulldog defense. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

the fourth quarter on a 61 yard drive that went 10 plays and four first downs as Dockter scored on a nine-yard run. Padilla kicked the PAT and the final score ended at 27-0.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam and Construction, Erickson Insurance Agency, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen, Hanlon Brothers of Groton and Verdon, John Sieh Agency, Northern Plains Psychological Associates with Dr. Franne Sippel, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Groton Ford, Blocker Construction, Grain Solutions with Jesse Zak, Allied Climatic Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Olson Development, Doug Abeln Seed Company and the touchdown sponsor was Cheri's on Main.

Groton Area, now 4-3 on the season, has next week off. Milbank Area, now 4-2 (still undefeated in the Northeast Conference at 3-0) will travel to Dell Rapids on Friday. Groton's final regular season game will be Friday, Oct. 13 at Redfield.

First Downs: Groton 10, Milbank 20

Rushing: Groton 32-119 (Lucas Hinman 13-76,

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Lucas Hinman and Milbank's Riley Gauer eye each other as Hinman tries to get past Gauer on the play. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Jackson Oliver tries to gain a few yards before being brought down by Milbank's Nate Bohn.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Marshall Lane 16-29, Andy Rintalla 1-2, Jackson Oliver 1-12, Seric Shabazz 1-0). Milbank 35-176 (Jacob Karges 17-76, 2 touchdowns; Cole Dockter 9-51, 2 touchdowns).

Passing: Marshall Lane was five of 16 for 70 yards with three interceptions. Milbank was 13 of 24 for 195 yards with one interception.

Pass Receiving: Groton: Seric Shabazz 2 for 44 yards, Andy Rintala 2 for 18 yards, Jackson Oliver 1 for 8 yards). Milbank: Cole Dockter was 5 for 69 yards, Max McCulloch was 3 for 64 yards and James Weber was 2 for 72 yards.

Fumbles: Groton had none, Milbank had none.

Penalties: Groton had 5 of 55 yards. Milbank had 7 for 50 yards.

Defense: Groton: Seric Shabazz 18 tackles, Andy Rintala 7 tackles and 1 interception, Lucas Hinman 6 tackles, Jonathan Doeden 6 tackles. Milbank: Cole Dockter 8 tackles, James Weber 7 tackles.

- Paul Kosel

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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")**

Service Notice: William Lovell

Memorial services for William Lovell, 88, of Andover will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 3rd at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Chris Strohm will officiate. Inurnment with military honors will follow in Andover City Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Bill passed away September 28, 2017 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

October 2, 2017 – 7:00pm

Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Department Reports – Herron, Zerr, Lambertz, Mayou, Kosel
4. Server-Cloud cost and security concerns
5. 215 N Main special assessment forgiveness
6. Sign for BB playground equipment
7. Surplus 12 wooden chairs from City Hall
8. Flood Map – FEMA Mtg. – Paul Kosel
9. Flag Relay
10. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)

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This culvert work on each side of the railroad tracks has caused daytime traffic on SD37 to be detoured around to Aspen Avenue. By closing off the road, Webster Scale was able to get this work down in two days instead of four. SD37 from US12 to Fifth Avenue has all of the asphalt work done. There is curb and gutter, intersections and sidewalks that needs to be done in the south part of the project. The asphalt work needs to be done by October 15th.

(Photos by Paul Kosel)

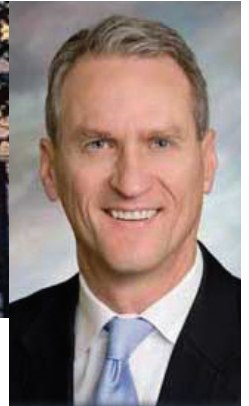


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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



The Man Who Labored To Preserve South Dakota's Beauty

I couldn't help but think of Gov. Peter Norbeck while I was in Custer State Park for the Buffalo Roundup this past week. I spent time at the Game Lodge, the historic hotel President Calvin Coolidge made into his summer White House. I went to Mt. Rushmore for a breakfast with business prospects. I drove Needles Highway and looked out at Sylvan Lake.

I wouldn't have been doing any of those things if it hadn't been for Gov. Norbeck. And neither would thousands of South Dakotans and visitors who gathered to watch hundreds of buffalo stampede across the prairie.

South Dakota's visitor industry really began with Peter Norbeck. Norbeck brought Gutzon Borglum to South Dakota to construct his stone masterpiece, he convinced President Coolidge to spend a summer in the Black Hills and he was the father of Custer State Park.

Prior to his gubernatorial tenure, Norbeck had already envisioned the creation of a state park for wildlife on the edge of extinction and native vegetation to be maintained. He was a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist who wanted to preserve and share nature.

As a state senator, Norbeck was instrumental in passing legislation that repurposed land acquired by the federal government for a game preserve. Under the Norbeck Administration, South Dakota combined those game preserve lands with acres purchased around Sylvan Lake, the Needles, and what was known then as Harney Peak to create Custer State Park. Gov. Norbeck then served as the chairman of the park's board.

His work on Custer State Park did not end with his gubernatorial term. As a U.S. senator, Norbeck continued to serve on the Custer State Park Board. In his new capacity, he helped the park obtain more lands – making it the largest state park in the country at the time – and assisted with the development of roads throughout the park and the Black Hills.

I arrived early to Custer State Park for this year's Buffalo Roundup to celebrate the re-opening of an outdoor center named after Norbeck. The Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center is housed in the facility which previously served as the park's visitor center, and has been renovated to enhance the Custer State Park experience for visitors, particularly kids.

The new exhibits include outdoor classrooms with building, art, and digging areas, and a mine. The revamped facility also contains indoor exhibits: a life-size oak tree, a prairie dog town with its own burrow to crawl through and a cave to explore. It's a place where kids are encouraged to dig in the dirt, build things with sticks and play in the water.

The Norbeck Center will be a good addition to South Dakota's most visited state park. It is a place where kids can be kids and visitors will surely want to visit. It's a fitting tribute to the man who, as a marker placed in the park says, "found a wilderness for [his beloved people] and labored to preserve its beauty unspoiled for them and for their children's children."

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April Abeln at City Hall has been working very hard in trying to secure 2018 dates to be published in an upcoming tourism magazine. These are the dates that have been set. If you have any additions or corrections, please let April know at City Hall at library@grotonsd.net. We are planning to have this as an recurring page in the GDI so the information will be available.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meal- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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Today in Weather History

September 30, 2006: Severe to exceptional drought conditions improved dramatically by the end of the month across central and north central South Dakota as above normal rainfall was recorded for the month of September.

1896: A hurricane formed on September 22 and lasted until September 30. It formed directly over the Lesser Antilles and hit Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Its maximum sustained winds were at 130 mph. The heaviest rainfall deposited in association with the storm was 19.96 inches at Glennville, Georgia. This hurricane was responsible for an estimated 130 deaths and \$1.5 million in damage (1896 dollars).

1959 - Three tornadoes spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Gracie killed 12 persons at Ivy VA. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A nineteen month drought in southern California came to a climax. The drought, which made brush and buildings tinder dry, set up the worst fire conditions in California history as hot Santa Anna winds sent the temperature soaring to 105 degrees at Los Angeles, and to 97 degrees at San Diego. During that last week of September whole communities of interior San Diego County were consumed by fire. Half a million acres were burned, and the fires caused fifty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1977 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 108 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms, which had inundated northern sections of Oklahoma with heavy rain, temporarily shifted southward producing 4 to 8 inches rains from Shawnee to Stilwell. Baseball size hail and 80 mph winds ripped through parts of southeast Oklahoma City, and thunderstorm winds caused more than half a million dollars damage at Shawnee. (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms in Michigan produced hail an inch in diameter at Pinckney, and wind gusts to 68 mph at Wyandotte. A thunderstorm in northern Indiana produced wet snow at South Bend. Seven cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 101 degrees at downtown Sacramento CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



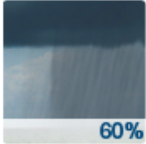
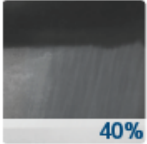

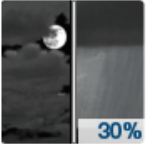

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over Florida, and in the western U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Fort Myers FL was their tenth record high for the month. Highs of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 99 degrees at Fresno CA were records for the date, and the temperature at Borrego Springs CA soared to 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the upper 80s and 90s from the Northern and Central High Plains Region to Minnesota. Bismarck ND reported a record high of 95 degrees, and the temperature reached 97 degrees at Broadus MT. Afternoon thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Wendover UT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: The past month was the coldest September ever recorded in interior Alaska. Fairbanks averaged a frigid 31.7° which was 13.2° below normal and the first below freezing September ever. Beginning on the 9th and on every day for the rest of the month, a new record low was set for either low minimums or low maximums, or both. On this date, the city plunged to 3° to set a new all-time record low for September. Snowfall for the month totaled 24.4 inches which was more than three times the previous record for September.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
30%	20%	60%	40%		30%	
Scattered Showers and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Slight Chance Showers	Showers Likely and Breezy	Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Partly Sunny
High: 70 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 59 °F



Windy Today!

Highs in the Mid 60s to the Upper 70s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 9/30/2017 5:30 AM

Published on: 09/30/2017 at 5:36AM

Gusty southerly winds can be expected today. The winds will usher in warmer temperatures, along with isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms. Eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota will have the best potential of seeing precipitation today.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 67.2

Low Outside Temp: 39.4

High Gust: 15

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1989

Record Low: 39° in 1939

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in Sept: 2.19

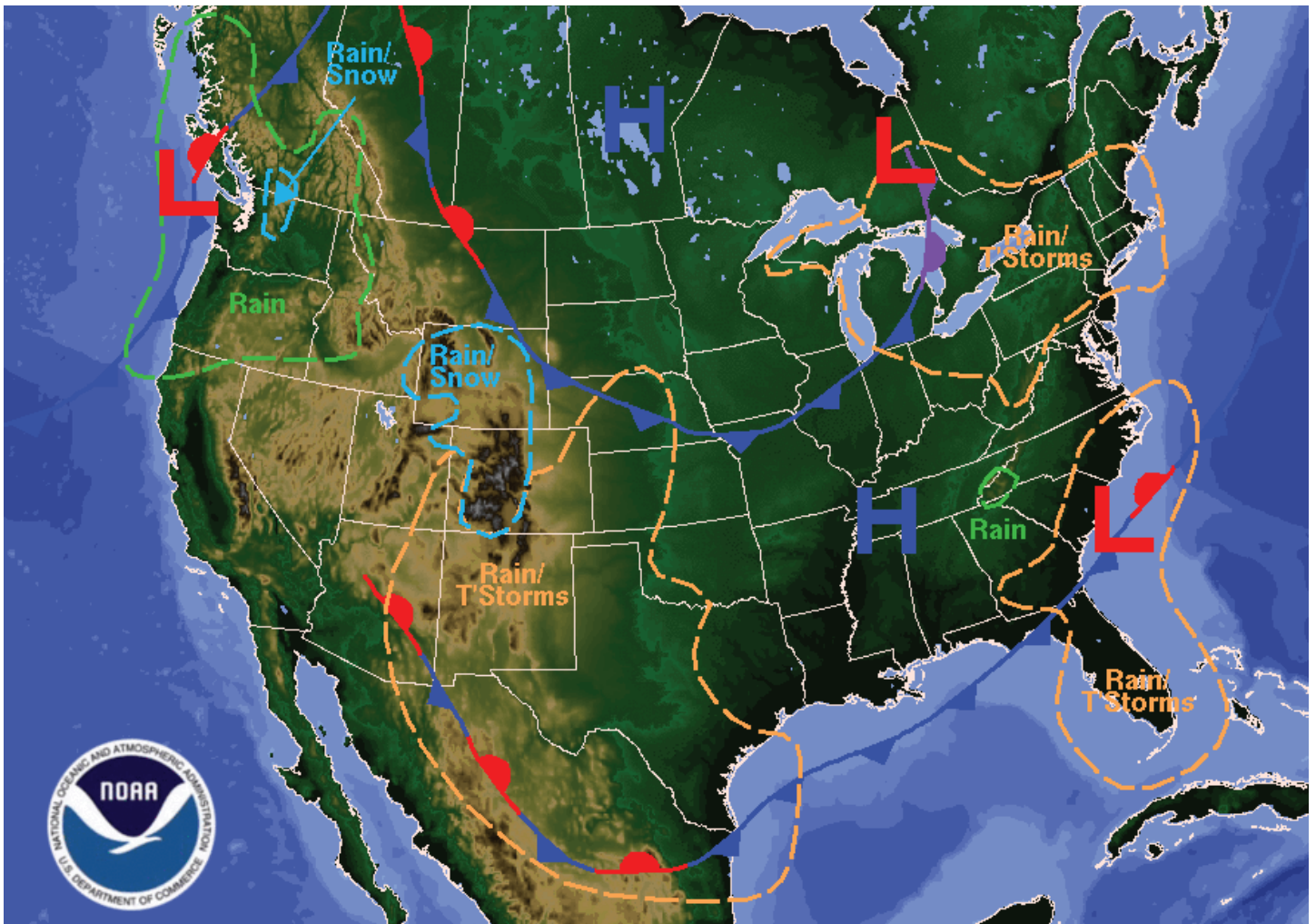
Precip to date in Sept: 3.57

Average Precip to date: 18.48

Precip Year to Date: 13.09

Sunset Tonight: 7:15 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Sep 29, 2017, issued 4:44 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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READY OR NOT

"I don't want to die. Please don't let me die," he whispered in desperation. He was a world leader – loved by many, dreaded by some, questioned by others. He was a prominent figure on the world's stage having great power and prestige, wealth and control that could not be denied. But in his final moments everything that he had or had accomplished could not extend the life of Hugo Chavez one moment nor release him from his fear of dying. David wrote of a life that could end this way. "Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold."

Another man came to the end of his life who was also a world leader. His résumé describes him as a ruler with great power and authority, vast wealth and owner of beautiful buildings, a soldier, a poet, one who cared deeply for others and was "a man after God's own heart." When he faced death he said, "When I walk through the dark valley of death I will not be afraid."

Two different men, two different destinies because of two different choices. One lived his life with no fear of God. He sought fame and the favor of man. The other lived his life in fear of God and sought His favor, often His forgiveness but always His approval.

All of us have these same choices. We can live for ourselves, as Hugo Chavez did, seeking recognition and power and die in fear as he did. Or, we can choose to live for God as David did, serve Him faithfully with great love and passion and die as he did in peace.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the hope we have in You, Your love and salvation and the gift of eternal life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 52:7 "Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!"

News from the Associated Press

Inmate who escaped from Sioux Falls jail arrested

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A sheriff in South Dakota says deputies arrested an inmate who escaped two weeks ago from Sioux Falls' Minnehaha County Corrections Center.

Turner County Sheriff Byron Nogelmeier says deputies arrested Kai Conrad Hansen Saturday morning in Marion. KELO-TV reports that a SWAT team and other law enforcement agencies helped apprehend Hansen.

Authorities say they suspect Hansen stole a truck in Brookings and broke into video lottery machines in Volga during the two weeks he was on the run.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

For GOP women in politics, a needle that's not moving

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**, AP National Writer

The president of Emily's List rose to the podium at a recent New York fundraiser to make a proud announcement: More than 18,000 women had contacted the group since Election Day, looking to explore running for office — "an explosion," she called it.

Of course, they're all Democrats. On the Republican side, there's been no such explosion. While a tide of anti-Trump activism has led thousands of Democratic women to consider runs for office, their Republican counterparts are where they were before the 2016 election — with little chance of improving their representation.

"Republican women look very much the same now as they did pre-Trump," says Jennifer Lawless, professor at American University and co-author of a recent report that examined the persistent gender gap in political ambition, on both sides of the aisle. "They're generally not interested in running for office, the overwhelming majority has not been recruited to run, they don't think they're qualified to run, and their levels of political activity and enthusiasm are the same as they have always been."

Lawless' report, called "The Trump Effect," also throws some cold water on the expectation that Democrats will see a seismic shift in numbers of women running; re-energized political activism doesn't necessarily translate into candidacies. But the new enthusiasm has been almost entirely on the left side of the spectrum, and some groups are trying to address that.

Erin Loos Cutraro, CEO of She Should Run, a nonpartisan group, says while the overall pace of adding women to elected office is too slow — women, after all, comprise just under 20 percent of Congress — it's clearly happening faster for Democrats.

Part of the problem: uneven institutional resources and support. "Feeling that you're not going at it alone makes a big difference," Cutraro says, "and it can feel really isolating for Republican women. They don't have the same networks, just in sheer numbers ... or the same level of institutional support. If you're a Democratic pro-choice woman, and you have Emily's List there to support you, that can be incredibly powerful. Republican women don't have anything that plays at the same level."

While a group like Emily's List lends concrete support to get a candidate over the finish line, She Should Run serves women seeking that first step. "I don't even know where to start" is something we hear over and over," says Cutraro.

Rebecca Love is one of those women. A longtime Republican — she was even president of the Republican club in high school — Love, 38, woke up at home in San Diego the morning after Election Day wanting to get involved, somehow.

"I felt that my values as a Republican woman were not represented by the candidate who was elected," says Love, who has a young daughter and works in health care consulting. "I felt Republicans were better than this. It was a wakeup call."

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So Love began Googling programs for women interested in politics. Most, she found, were for Democrats — and her experience had been that even groups calling themselves nonpartisan were populated mostly by Democrats, some not eager to engage with Republicans. Finally, Love, who identifies as a pro-abortion rights, moderate Republican, started working with She Should Run. She's learning the political landscape of her community, and expects to pursue a city council seat or something similar.

By now, Love says, she feels confident enough that she doesn't need to be "asked" to run. But she meets women who do: "I say to them, 'You should think about running,' and they say, 'Me?'"

Virtually any advocate working to get women into politics will say the same thing: Much more than men, women — of any party — need to be asked to run.

Julie Conway of VIEW PAC, which works to get Republican women elected to federal office, puts it this way: "You have to tell women, 'Hey, you'd be great,' and not only that, but you'd be the best, and now I'm going to have 10 other people tell you you're the best. Guys just say, 'Hey, I could do this.'"

It's a bipartisan issue, Conway notes. "Women — Democratic or Republican — need to be convinced that they know everything about everything," she says. "Because they don't want to fake it. Guys, you ask them about a question about a specific tax issue, and they say, 'Oh, we believe in lower taxes.' A woman will say, 'I need the exact details of how that works.'"

Adds Stephanie Schriock, president of Emily's List: "For years we've sat at kitchen tables, we've said, 'You can do this, you don't need five years of training — that dude has no training!'"

For Jinyoung Englund, getting asked — by a former boss — was a turning point. A daughter of Korean immigrants in Washington state, Englund got the bug for public service early, working on a congressional campaign and then on Capitol Hill while she was still in her 20s.

She hadn't planned to run herself, and her first response, she says, was that it sounded "kinda crazy. ... Women, like myself, are often, 'Hey, who am I to think I could run?'"

But she is now the Republican candidate in a much-watched special legislative election; Republican control of the state Senate hangs in the balance. At 33, she'd be the body's youngest woman.

Not every woman, of course, needs to be asked. Shantel Krebs, the South Dakota secretary of state and candidate for Congress, served 10 years in the state legislature — she was 30 when first elected in 2004, and had begun her legislative career at 17, as a page. Krebs says she hasn't encountered the obstacles some other women describe, perhaps because South Dakota has a long history of women in positions of political power. The incumbent in the seat she's seeking, Republican Kristie Noem, is running for governor.

"I think South Dakotans expect another woman in that position," says Krebs, 44. "They know that women compromise and they listen."

Like Republican male candidates, GOP women must consider where they stand on President Donald Trump, their party's polarizing leader. Depending on the district, it's not always easy.

"Some candidates find themselves in a no-win situation and it's not a great place to be," says VIEW PAC's Conway. "I'm not seeing a lot of candidates come through saying Trump's the greatest thing since sliced bread. But I also haven't met a lot of people running who are overly willing to speak against him either."

Asked about potential concerns among women voters about Trump's attitudes toward women, Krebs, of South Dakota, says her constituents aren't troubled by that. "I haven't heard from any of my constituents that they're concerned. The concern here is bigger issues. They want government to be accountable, to control spending."

Englund, in Washington state, says she wrote in a candidate for president. "I know part of the Democratic strategy across the country is to try to tie new candidates to the president," she says, "but in our district, and I think nationally, people looked at last year's election and thought, 'Wow, neither candidate really represents my values or my vision for America.'"

In Austin, Texas, Jenifer Sarver is already preparing for the "Trump question," even though she's not yet running for office.

"Certainly people have told me that saying you didn't vote for the president isn't a good thing," says Sarver, 41, who runs a communications consulting business and has been mentioned in the local media as a potential candidate to replace Rep. Michael McCaul — who in turn has been mentioned as a potential

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Trump Cabinet member. "There are going to be people who won't vote for me. But I believe I can attract people in the middle ... those who want to see that there are people of integrity and character running, who aren't afraid to stand up to the system."

Though a conservative Republican and an opponent of abortion, Sarver voted for Hillary Clinton, "in large part because of (Trump's) history with misogyny," she says. While she's always felt welcome in the Republican Party, Sarver has felt stymied by the lack of an infrastructure to recruit female candidates: "Either there's not the desire there, which I don't think is true, or there's not the support and infrastructure."

This election cycle, there's an additional concern for Republican women in Congress. Several aren't running for re-election, either because they're running for office elsewhere, or retiring. That could bring numbers of Republican women in Congress "down to numbers like we have not seen," says Lawless. "It's going to be very difficult for them to even maintain the numbers that they have."

And that means a setback for women across the board — if you care about overall female representation in Congress. Because even with all the energy on the left, Lawless says, "the Democrats will have to have a hell of a banner year in order to compensate."

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Central 16, Rapid City Central 6
Aberdeen Roncalli 14, Sisseton 0
Alcester-Hudson 72, Gayville-Volin 19
Avon 42, Burke/South Central 22
Baltic 42, Canistota 28
Brandon Valley 30, Rapid City Stevens 14
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 34, Canton 7
Britton-Hecla 58, Florence/Henry 8
Castlewood 34, Arlington/Lake Preston 30
Clark/Willow Lake 28, Webster 12
Colman-Egan 63, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 0
Colome 20, Scotland 14
Corsica/Stickney 51, Centerville 0
Crow Creek 58, St. Francis Indian 6
Dakota Hills 38, Great Plains Lutheran 0
Dakota Valley 43, Vermillion 16
Dell Rapids 21, Tea Area 6
Deubrook 28, Dell Rapids St. Mary 0
Edgemont 50, Crazy Horse 0
Elk Point-Jefferson 30, Beresford 14
Elkton-Lake Benton 28, DeSmet 14
Faulkton 50, Iroquois 12
Garretson 49, Chester 6
Gregory 60, Platte-Geddes 7
Hamlin 41, Waverly-South Shore 0
Harding County 70, Dupree 18
Harrisburg 31, Watertown 17
Herreid/Selby Area 28, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 14
Kimball/White Lake 62, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 16

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Langford 52, Hitchcock-Tulare 14
Lead-Deadwood 35, McLaughlin 0
Lemmon/McIntosh 62, Newell 12
Madison 51, Lennox 21
Milbank Area 27, Groton Area 0
Mitchell 33, Huron 12
Mobridge-Pollock 47, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0
Northwestern 43, Sunshine Bible Academy 14
Philip 30, Hill City 18
Pine Ridge 26, Custer 7
Placeholder 64, Tiospa Zina Tribal 0
Potter County 36, Timber Lake 28
Rapid City Christian 34, Kadoka Area 14
Red Cloud 32, Bennett County 6
Sioux Falls Christian 44, Flandreau 0
Sioux Falls Lincoln 16, Yankton 10
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 29, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 24
Sioux Falls Washington 51, Brookings 0
Sioux Valley 34, McCook Central/Montrose 7
Spearfish 14, Hot Springs 6
St. Thomas More 24, Douglas 13
Todd County 60, Standing Rock, N.D. 0
Tri-Valley 10, West Central 7
Wagner 28, Redfield/Doland 23
Wall 61, Jones County/White River 34
Warner 18, Bon Homme 12
Winner 36, Chamberlain 13
Wolsey-Wessington 38, Parkston 32
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 42, Stanley County 14

Some scores provided by Scorestream.com, <http://scorestream.com/>

Keywords: South Dakota, Boys, Football, Prep Scores, High School

Volleyball

Lakota Nation Invitational

Pool Play

Pool A

Custer def. Little Wound, 25-19, 25-18

Custer def. McLaughlin, 25-12, 25-19

Custer def. Red Cloud, 25-17, 22-25, 25-23

Custer def. St. Francis Indian, 25-14, 25-7

Custer def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-20, 25-17

Little Wound def. Red Cloud, 26-24, 24-26, 25-23

Little Wound def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 22-25, 25-20, 25-17

Little Wound def. Standing Rock, N.D., 25-15, 25-19

McLaughlin def. St. Francis Indian, 25-18, 23-25, 25-19

Oelrichs def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-23, 25-18

Oelrichs def. McLaughlin, 25-23, 24-26, 25-23

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Red Cloud def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-23, 25-19
Red Cloud def. Oelrichs, 25-17, 25-18
St. Francis Indian def. Oelrichs, 18-25, 25-19, 25-21
Standing Rock, N.D. def. McLaughlin, 23-25, 25-15, 26-24
Standing Rock, N.D. def. Oelrichs, 25-22, 25-14
Standing Rock, N.D. def. St. Francis Indian, 25-14, 25-14
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. St. Francis Indian, 25-16, 25-22
Pool B
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crazy Horse, 25-13, 26-24
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crow Creek, 25-16, 25-14
Crow Creek def. Lower Brule, 25-23, 25-19
Crow Creek def. Crazy Horse, 25-10, 25-13
Hill City def. Crow Creek, 25-21, 25-17
Hill City def. White River, 22-25, 25-11, 26-24
Hill City def. Todd County, 25-10, 25-21
Hill City def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-19, 25-20
Lower Brule def. Crazy Horse, 25-14, 25-15
Lower Brule def. Todd County, 25-16, 25-22
Pine Ridge def. Lower Brule, 25-19, 25-13
Pine Ridge def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-8, 25-9
Pine Ridge def. Hill City, 16-25, 25-22, 25-19
Pine Ridge def. White River, 25-23, 25-12
Todd County def. Crazy Horse, 25-13, 25-15
Todd County def. Crow Creek, 25-24, 25-22
White River def. Todd County, 23-25, 25-12, 25-19
White River def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-21, 16-25, 25-19
Twin Cities Tournament
Pool Play
Black Pool
Rapid City Stevens def. Lexington, Neb., 25-13, 25-12
Rapid City Stevens def. Cheyenne Central, Wyo., 25-18, 26-24
Rapid City Stevens def. Alliance, Neb., 25-19, 18-25, 25-21

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

25-51-62-73-74, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 5

(twenty-five, fifty-one, sixty-two, seventy-three, seventy-four; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Nebraska court ends beer sales near South Dakota reservation

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Four Nebraska beer stores criticized for selling millions of cans each year next to an American Indian reservation where alcohol is banned will remain closed after the state Supreme Court on Friday rejected their appeal.

The court thwarted the last-ditch effort to resume beer sales in Whiteclay, Nebraska, a tiny village on the border of South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The ruling upholds an April decision by state regulators not to renew the stores' licenses amid criticism that the area lacks adequate law enforcement.

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is plagued by a litany of alcohol-related problems, including high rates of fetal alcohol syndrome, and activists complain that Whiteclay fuels those issues. The four stores — in a village with just nine residents — had sold the equivalent of about 3.5 million cans of beer annually.

Whiteclay has also served for decades as a remote hangout for people to panhandle, loiter, fight and pass out on sidewalks. Its residents rely on a county sheriff's office 23 miles (37 kilometers) away for law enforcement.

"Today's Nebraska Supreme Court decision means that the shame of Whiteclay is over," said Dave Domina, an Omaha attorney for local residents who protested the liquor licenses. "It also means huge rocks have been removed from the road to recovery for many of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Nation and the Pine Ridge Reservation."

The court rejected the retailers' appeal on a technicality, arguing that they failed to include all "parties of record" when they asked a district court to review the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's decision. The justices ruled that they couldn't review the case because the district court didn't have proper jurisdiction.

"Our decision today does not address the merits of the parties' respective positions, but rests solely on jurisdictional grounds," the court said in its opinion.

An attorney for the four stores did not immediately return phone messages Friday. A phone call to the Oglala Lakota Nation's main government office rang unanswered.

Bob Batt, the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's chairman, said commissioners won't likely approve any new liquor licenses in the area anytime soon.

"I'd say the chances of that are zip," he said.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson, whose office defended the liquor control commission, said the ruling "affords an opportunity to write a hopeful chapter in the story of Whiteclay."

Some residents in rural Sheridan County, which includes Whiteclay, said they were concerned that closing the stores could lead to an influx of drunken drivers on Nebraska roads. Authorities have reported a slight uptick in alcohol-related crashes but said it's too early to call it a trend or to blame the closure of the stores.

"Yes, the Whiteclay stores are closed now, but there's still drinking that's happening," said Rushville Mayor Chris Heiser, who opposed the decision to shutter the retailers. "I just can't believe that in America these days, the government can come in and shut you down like that."

John Maisch, a former Oklahoma alcohol regulator who produced a documentary on Whiteclay and fought to close the stores, said he was "elated" with the court's ruling on Friday but noted that many adults and children will continue to suffer for decades with the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome. With the stores closed, he said he would turn his attention to working with local Pine Ridge residents on treatment centers for fetal alcohol syndrome and substance abuse.

"There's still a lot of work that needs to be done," Maisch said.

Sonny Skyhawk, a Rosebud Sioux tribe member and actor who lobbied Nebraska lawmakers to close the stores, said the ruling would help curb the "liquid genocide" that has taken place for more than a century.

Whiteclay was originally part of a 10-mile-wide, 5-mile-deep buffer zone created in 1889 to protect the reservation from whiskey peddlers. President Theodore Roosevelt returned all but one square mile of the land to the public domain in 1904, and alcohol merchants flocked to the area.

"We'll never be able to undo and replace the suffering of people who have encountered alcoholism due to Whiteclay," Skyhawk said. "It devastated families from time immemorial. In fact, to this day, you can

still feel the repercussions of alcohol on Pine Ridge.”

Associated Press writer Felicia Fonseca contributed from Flagstaff, Arizona.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

South Dakota teen kills mountain lion that attacked animals

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota teenager has shot and killed a mountain lion that attacked several animals on his family’s property in the southwest part of the state.

The mountain lion killed a goat, duck, cat and chicken Sept. 20 in Custer, in the southwest part of the state, The Rapid City Journal reported .

“We can see the goats right off the back porch, and we saw one lying on the ground back there,” said Lila Streff, the teen’s mother. “We went right out and looked, and it was dead. We also saw a trail of destruction from the chicken coop with a dead cat, a dead duck and a bunch of chicken feathers.”

Lila Streff owns Black Hills Goat Dairy and has been milking goats for about a decade. This was the first time she’d lost an animal to a mountain lion. She reported the incident to the state Game, Fish & Parks Department.

“It’s unnerving because I really have a smorgasbord of animals here,” she said. “If you don’t stop it, you’ll be at the mercy of the lions. I also have grandchildren out back occasionally, and I was worried.”

Her 14-year-old son, Dalton Streff, took shelter in a children’s playhouse in the backyard, armed with a rifle in anticipation of the 70-pound animal’s return.

“When I saw the mountain lion, I grabbed my gun quietly so I didn’t scare it off, quietly loaded one round, looked through the scope and shot it,” Dalton Streff said. “When I shot it, it jumped about 20 feet and then did a face plant.”

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

Production of small grains down significantly in dry Dakotas

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Production of small grains crops in the Dakotas this year has been dramatically impacted by drought.

Summaries released by the federal Agriculture Department show that spring wheat production is down 23 percent in North Dakota and down 56 percent in South Dakota from a year ago.

Production of winter wheat and durum wheat is down by 50 percent or more in both states. Oat and barley production also is down significantly.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 59 percent of South Dakota and 63 percent of North Dakota still in some stage of drought.

Members of 2 large ag co-ops in the Dakotas vote to merge

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Members of two agriculture co-ops in the Dakotas have decided to merge.

Fifty-eight percent of North Central Farmers Elevator voters and 63 percent of Wheat Growers voters approved the merger. More than 4,100 people voted.

The new cooperative is expected to begin operations next February. A new name wasn’t immediately chosen.

North Central has about 2,400 members in South Dakota and North Dakota, while Wheat Growers has 5,100 members in the two states.

Two years ago, a merger was rebuffed when North Central members voted 51 percent against the plan.

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Judge rejects plea deal in Roslyn slaying; trial set Monday

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — A judge has rejected a plea agreement in the case of a man accused of fatally shooting another man in his Roslyn home two years ago.

Forty-six-year-old Jason Lewandowski earlier pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to murder and other charges in the death of 33-year-old Jeremy Hendrickson in late 2015.

The American News reports that an attorney for Lewandowski said his client was prepared to plead guilty to manslaughter. Judge Jon Flemmer declined to accept the deal due to uncertainty over whether it was acceptable to Hendrickson's family.

Jury selection in Lewandowski's trial is scheduled to begin Monday in Webster. The trial is scheduled to run through Oct. 27.

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

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

Former Sioux Falls day care provider sentenced for abuse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Sioux Falls day care provider accused of child abuse and assault has been sentenced to serve three months in jail and three months on electronic monitoring on a reduced charge.

The Argus Leader reports that the accusations against Karen Leraas involved a 4-month-old boy in her care in 2014. Doctors said the boy had abusive head trauma, known as shaken baby syndrome.

Authorities say the child now has numerous disabilities.

Leraas reached a plea deal approved by the child's family and pleaded guilty in August to a misdemeanor charge of contribution to abuse, neglect or delinquency of a minor. She was sentenced Thursday.

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

Capitol flags at half-staff for late Rapid City lawmaker

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags at the state Capitol to be flown at half-staff in memory of former state Senate Majority Leader Homer Kandaras.

The Rapid City Democrat died Monday. He was 88. His funeral is Friday.

Kandaras served in the Senate from 1971-76.

Trump lashes out at San Juan mayor who begged for more help

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BRANCHBURG, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday lashed out at the mayor of San Juan and other officials in storm-ravaged Puerto Rico, contemptuous of their claims of a laggard U.S. response to the natural disaster that has imperiled the island's future.

"Such poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help," Trump said in a series of tweets a day after the capital city's mayor appealed for help "to save us from dying."

"They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort," Trump wrote from his New Jersey golf club.

The tweets amounted to a biting response to San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, who had accused the Trump administration of "killing us with the inefficiency" after Hurricane Maria. She implored the president, who is set to visit the U.S. territory on Tuesday, to "make sure somebody is in charge that is up to the task of saving lives."

"We are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency," Cruz said at a news conference, her voice breaking with rage. "I am begging, begging anyone that can hear us, to save us from dying."

Trump has pledged to spare no effort to help Puerto Rico recover from Maria's ruinous aftermath, and tweeted that military personnel and first responders have done "an amazing job," despite having "no electric, roads, phones etc."

Puerto Rico, he said, "was totally destroyed," and "10,000 Federal workers now on the island are doing a fantastic job."

Natural disasters often bring the country together. But Trump used Twitter to accuse Cruz of partisan politics.

"The Mayor of San Juan, who was very complimentary only a few days ago, has now been told by the Democrats that you must be nasty to Trump," the president charged, without substantiation.

Critics have accused Trump of showing more concern for the people of Texas and Florida, whose lives were also upended by major hurricanes this season. Trump repeatedly praised those citizens as strong and resilient, declaring at one point that Texas could "handle anything."

Thousands more Puerto Ricans have received water and rationed food as an aid bottleneck has begun to ease. Telecommunications are back for about 30 percent of the island, nearly half of the supermarkets have reopened at least for reduced hours and about 60 percent of the gas stations are pumping. But many remain desperate for necessities, most urgently water, long after the Sept. 20 hurricane.

Trump is scheduled to spend an hour Saturday checking in by phone with FEMA Administrator Brock Long, Puerto Rico's governor, Ricardo Rosselló, and other local officials. He'll also speak with the governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which have received less attention, but were also ravaged by the storms.

Trump's Saturday tweets are the latest example of his insistence on "punching back," even against those with far less power. After a deadly terror attack in London in June, Trump singled out London Mayor Sadiq Khan, suggesting he wasn't taking the attacks seriously enough in a tweet that misconstrued Khan's words.

During his campaign, Trump also picked fights with a Gold Star family and a former beauty queen who publicly supported his Democratic rival.

Cruz declined to engage in the tit-for-tat, instead calling for a united focus on the people who need help. "The goal is one: saving lives. This is the time to show our 'true colors.' We cannot be distracted by anything else," she tweeted, along with photos of herself meeting with residents and rescue workers, wading hip-deep through a flooded street and comforting an elderly woman.

Trump said Friday that Puerto Rico is "totally unable" to handle the catastrophe on its own. "They are working so hard, but there's nothing left," he said. "It's been wiped out." He said the government is "fully engaged in the disaster and the response and recovery effort."

Yet even in voicing solidarity and sympathy with Puerto Rico, he drew attention again to the island's debt burden and infrastructure woes, leaving doubt about how far Washington will go to make the U.S.

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territory whole.

"Ultimately the government of Puerto Rico will have to work with us to determine how this massive rebuilding effort — it will end up being one of the biggest ever — will be funded and organized, and what we will do with the tremendous amount of existing debt already on the island," he said. "We will not rest, however, until the people of Puerto Rico are safe."

During this season's trio of monster hurricanes — Harvey, Irma, Maria — Trump and his administration have drifted into the perilous territory of premature self-congratulation in the face of unfolding catastrophe, seemingly unmindful of the "Brownie moment" that scarred George W. Bush's presidency.

Bush famously told his emergency management director, Michael Brown, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job" during what proved to be a tragically inept federal response to deadly Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Trump has repeatedly boasted about the positive reviews he said his administration was getting from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands for its relief effort, even as people in remote towns struggle to find food, water and other basics. Then Trump's acting homeland security secretary, Elaine Duke, called the federal relief effort a "good-news story" because of "our ability to reach people and the limited number of deaths."

"Let me clarify," she said Friday upon her arrival in Puerto Rico to survey the damage. She said she meant "it was good news that people of Puerto Rico and many public servants of the United States are working together."

Cruz responded, "This is a people-are-dying story."

Associated Press writers Luis Alonso Lugo in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Spain, Catalonia head for showdown over independence vote

By ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Montserrat Aguilera wasn't intending to vote for the Catalonia region to secede from the rest of Spain.

But the 52-year-old laboratory worker changed her mind amid an unprecedented crackdown by Spain's government as it tries to prevent Sunday's independence referendum from going ahead.

Spain and its most powerful and prosperous region are headed for a showdown, with police trying to shut down polling stations to stop the referendum and activists, students and parents occupying schools designated voting places to keep them open.

Much remains unclear, including whether police will forcibly remove people who are still in the polling stations at a 6 a.m. Sunday deadline and how many of Catalonia's voters will be able to cast ballots amid the central government's crackdown.

Also unknown is what happens next if regional leaders declare any vote legitimate and Catalonia declares independence. The referendum was suspended under constitutional rules weeks ago so a court could consider its legality.

Turnout will be key, and if people like Aguilera are any indication, it could be high. She wanted a referendum to be held under constitutional rules so she could vote "no" and try to keep Spain and Catalonia united. Now, she wants Madrid to feel the pinch of the region's disgust.

"I don't agree with the way the vote has been convoked by the Catalan government. It should have been a legal one," Aguilera said. "But this is going to be a demonstration of democratic force to show (Prime Minister Mariano) Rajoy that we deserve respect and that he needs to listen to Catalonia."

Catalan authorities have pledged to make the voting possible even if police, acting on judges' orders, manage to close polling stations and seal off ballot boxes. Some 5.3 million people are eligible to vote in the region, one of 17 in Spain.

The latest surge for independence essentially started in 2010, when Spain's Constitutional Court struck down key parts of a groundbreaking charter that would have granted Catalonia greater autonomy and

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recognized it as a nation within Spain.

The rejection stung, and Spain's 2008-2013 financial crisis and the harsh austerity measures that followed generated more support for secession, with many Catalans feeling they could do better on their own. Catalonia contributes a fifth of the country's 1.1 trillion-euro economy (\$1.32 trillion.)

While the vast majority of Catalans favor holding a referendum, they have long been almost evenly split over independence.

If "yes" wins, Catalan authorities have promised to declare independence within 48 hours. No minimum participation rate has been set, but regional President Carles Puigdemont has acknowledged that a significant turnout will be needed to declare the results legitimate.

In a mock referendum in 2014, only about 35 percent of Catalans voted. Eighty percent favored independence.

Officials say the Spanish crackdown could make the difference this time. Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras said six out of 10 Catalans were expected to vote, according to the regional government's polling.

Nou Barris, where Aguilera lives, showed the least support among Barcelona's neighborhoods for separatist parties in regional elections two years ago. In balconies and windows, there are few of the pro-independence flags ubiquitous in other central and wealthier areas of Barcelona.

Still, Aguilera says many in her neighborhood, including her son, have decided to show for Sunday's disputed vote.

"Vote yes, vote no, vote null or an empty ballot, but vote to be free and be heard," she said. "These two governments need to sit down and talk, and this is how we'll make them understand that."

The Spanish government says the vote, which has been ordered suspended by the Constitutional Court, will not take place. It has called in thousands of police reinforcements that are being housed in ferries in Barcelona's port, raising tensions in one of Europe's most popular tourist destinations.

The government has also initiated a barrage of legal challenges, including placing 700 pro-independence mayors under investigation and briefly arresting a dozen or so government officials.

"These are not easy days, for sure, but we feel strong," Puigdemont said recently. "While Spain acts like a regime where the authority of power grows inversely to its moral strength, we feel increasingly supported by the Catalan people's greatest asset: its people."

But it's hard to see how a vote will take place when millions of ballot papers were seized and police have been ordered to make sure no polling center stays open. There is no electoral board to monitor the election, but Catalan authorities say votes will be counted.

"Voting is not guaranteed," Andrew Dowling, a Catalonia specialist at Cardiff University in Wales, said. "We don't know what will happen but there won't be a referendum in any meaningful sense."

There has also been little or no campaigning by those opposed to independence.

"The 'no' side don't feel they have to turn out on Sunday because they don't think independence is going to happen," Dowling said.

No country or international body has expressed an appetite for Catalan independence either. The European Union backs Spain and says an independent Catalonia would have to reapply for EU membership, something Spain could block.

"On a legal level, Madrid is right," European Parliament President Antonio Tajani said Friday. "I think it's important to talk on a political level after Monday and to respect laws — Catalan laws and Spanish laws."

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Spain should stay united, branding the secession move as "foolish."

Rajoy, the prime minister, has warned Catalonia to drop the referendum bid, which he called a "totalitarian act."

Talks between the two sides have been virtually nonexistent and both accuse each other of acting illegally and undemocratically.

The issue has so far had almost no economic fallout, although the S&P credit rating agency warned that growth prospects may weaken if tensions in Catalonia escalate.

"If you have got financial interests in Madrid or internationally you do not think that Catalan independence is imminent and I think that feeling is true for lots of Spanish people and lots of Catalans," Dowling said.

Giles contributed from Madrid.

Find complete AP coverage of the Catalonia referendum here.

Tillerson calls for calming of situation on Korean Peninsula

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called Saturday for a calming of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, but said it was incumbent on North Korea to halt its missile launches.

Following meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials in Beijing, Tillerson said he believes China has become deeply concerned about the North's missile and nuclear programs and is working hard to convince Pyongyang to re-enter talks, but did not say specifically what form those talks should take.

"I think the most immediate action that we need is to calm things down," Tillerson told reporters. "They're a little overheated right now. And I think we need to calm them down first."

Asked whether that should apply to recent pointed remarks from President Donald Trump, Tillerson replied: "I think the whole situation is a bit overheated right now. I think everyone would like for it to calm down."

"Obviously it would help if North Korea would stop firing off missiles. That would calm things down a lot," Tillerson said.

Ties between Beijing and Washington are considered more crucial than ever with the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles entering a new, more dangerous phase as its leader, Kim Jong Un, and Trump exchange personal insults and threats of war with no sign of a diplomatic solution.

Trump has been pressing for tougher measures on Pyongyang from China, the North's chief trading partner and source of aid and diplomatic support. Although adamantly opposed to steps that could bring down Kim's regime, Beijing appears increasingly willing to tighten the screws on Pyongyang, and agreed to tough new United Nations sanctions that would substantially cut foreign revenue for the isolated North.

Tillerson reiterated Saturday that the U.S. would not recognize North Korea as a nuclear power, but said it also had no intention of overthrowing Kim's regime.

In opening remarks at his meeting with Xi, Tillerson said relations between the sides continue to "grow and mature on the strength of the relationship between yourself and President Trump."

"And we look forward to advancing that relationship at the upcoming summit," Tillerson said, referring to Trump's first state visit to Beijing expected in November.

Saying he had "a good working relationship and personal friendship" with Trump, Xi said the president's upcoming visit offered "an important opportunity for the further development of China-U.S. relations." The exchange, he said, would be a "special, wonderful and successful one."

Earlier, Tillerson told top Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi that a strong relationship between Trump and Xi bode well for dealing with political and economic differences between the two countries.

"Our two presidents have developed a very regular and close working relationship," Tillerson said.

Trump's visit, Tillerson said, also provided an opportunity to assess progress made between the sides since Xi and Trump met in April at the U.S. president's estate in Florida.

There they agreed to a 100-day plan for trade talks. After visiting China this week, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said there's been some progress, including a deal to let U.S. beef into China, but they need to tackle "bigger things and more difficult things." The U.S. priorities are better market access, less protectionism and protecting intellectual property rights.

Tillerson is making his second visit as secretary of state to the world's No. 2 economy and chief American rival for influence in Asia, and increasingly, the world. Along with Xi and Yang, he met with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who told Tillerson that China-U.S. relations "overall have a positive momentum and have

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arrived at an important opportunity to progress further.”

On Thursday, Beijing ordered North Korean-owned businesses and ventures with Chinese partners to close by early January, days after it said it would cut off gas and limit shipments of refined petroleum products, effective Jan. 1. It made no mention of crude oil, which makes up the bulk of Chinese energy supplies to North Korea and is not covered by the U.N. sanctions.

China has also banned imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ore, and seafood since early September.

Still, Washington hopes China will exert even greater pressure, even while Beijing says the impasse can't be solved by sanctions alone and calls on Washington to cool its rhetoric and open dialogue with Pyongyang.

Other than North Korea, the U.S. and China have other security concerns to address. They remain at odds over Beijing's military buildup and assertive claims to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Tillerson is also expected to restate concerns about China's massive trade surplus with the U.S. — \$347 billion last year — and what American companies say are unfair barriers to investment, including pressure to hand over their technology.

Washington wants Beijing to make good on its promise to let market forces have a bigger role in its economy, give equal treatment to foreign and Chinese companies and roll back state industry's dominance.

Trump's planned visit to China in November will come just weeks after Xi is expected to receive a new five-year term as leader of the ruling Communist Party.

Despite his tough criticism of China's trade practices, Trump has forged a personal connection with Xi over phone calls and while hosting him in Florida, during which they agreed on four high-level dialogues to cover various aspects of relations.

The November meeting of the two leaders will be grander and more choreographed than the informal talks in Florida that were most memorable for Trump's ordering a missile strike on Syria and then informing Xi about it afterward as they ate chocolate cake.

Tillerson, facing criticism at home for his muted impact as the top U.S. diplomat, may also be seeking to put his own stamp on the relationship. He surprised some observers during his first official visit to China in March when he employed China's own words to characterize relations between the sides — language the Obama administration had largely rejected as an attempt by Beijing to establish a type of moral parity between the sides.

Associated Press writers Joe McDonald in Beijing and Mathew Pennington in Washington contributed to this story.

Trump seeks new health chief after Price resignation

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is seeking a new health secretary to take the place of Tom Price, ousted after an outcry over flying on costly private charters for official travel.

The Health and Human Services chief oversees a \$1 trillion department, with 80,000 employees and jurisdiction over major insurance programs, advanced medical research, drug and food safety, public health, and disease prevention.

The administration will also have to contend with renewed scrutiny of Cabinet members' travel. Following news reports about Price, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee launched a governmentwide investigation of travel by top political appointees.

Trump has named Don J. Wright, a deputy assistant secretary of health, to serve as acting secretary.

Mentioned as a possible permanent successor to Price is Seema Verma, a protege of Vice President Mike Pence. She now leads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, an HHS division that runs health insurance programs covering more than 130 million Americans.

Verma's immediate challenge is to manage the 2018 open enrollment season under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, which Trump and the GOP-led Congress have been unable to repeal.

Another possible HHS candidate is FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who won some bipartisan support

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in his confirmation and is well known in policy, government and industry circles.

Price, 62, a former GOP congressman from the Atlanta suburbs, resigned Friday afternoon. His pattern of costly trips triggered investigations that overshadowed the administration's agenda and angered his boss. Price's regrets and a partial repayment couldn't save his job.

Price became the first member of Trump's Cabinet to be pushed out in a turbulent young administration that has seen several high-ranking White House aides ousted. He served less than eight months.

On Friday Trump called Price a "very fine person," but added, "I certainly don't like the optics" around his travels.

Price said in his resignation letter that he regretted that "recent events have created a distraction."

Privately, Trump had been telling associates in recent days that Price was overshadowing his tax overhaul agenda and undermining his campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of corruption, according to three people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Price's repayment of \$51,887.31 for his own travel costs did not placate the White House. The total travel cost, including the secretary's entourage, could amount to several hundred thousand dollars.

An orthopedic surgeon turned politician, Price rose to Budget Committee chairman in the House, where he was known as a fiscal conservative. When Price joined the administration, Trump touted him as a conservative policy expert who could write a new health care bill to replace the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.

But Price became more of a supporting player in the GOP's futile health care campaign, while Vice President Mike Pence took the lead, particularly with the Senate. The perception of Price jetting around while GOP lawmakers labored to repeal the Obama health law — including a three-nation trip in May to Africa and Europe— raised eyebrows on Capitol Hill. Price flew on military aircraft overseas.

But House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Friday that Price had worked hard to help that chamber pass its plan before the GOP effort reached an impasse in the Senate. "I will always be grateful for Tom's service to this country," he said.

Democrats were glad to see Price go. Some urged Trump to appoint an HHS secretary who would reach out to them.

"I hope President Trump learns from this mistake, and looks to appoint someone who can work in a bipartisan way to strengthen health care for all Americans," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J.

Price used private charter flights on 10 trips with multiple segments, when in many cases cheaper commercial flights were available. His charter travel was first reported by the news site Politico.

The controversy over Price was a catalyst for Congress launching a bipartisan probe of travel by political appointees across the administration. The House oversight committee has requested travel records from the White House and 24 federal departments and agencies.

Initially, Price's office said the secretary's busy schedule forced him to use charters from time to time. But later Price's response changed, and he said he'd heard the criticism and concern, and taken it to heart.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

Being called a 'good man' by Trump is sometimes an omen

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BRANCHBURG, N.J. (AP) — Sometimes it's better not to be a nice guy.

President Donald Trump has dismissed and accepted the resignations of a growing list of administration officials, including Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

Trump said before the news broke that he was disappointed with Price for reportedly taking numerous, expensive charter flights, when cheaper commercial options were available. But he also offered compliments.

"He's a very, very fine man," Trump repeated as he departed the White House en route to his golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey.

"I felt very badly because Secretary Price is a good man," Trump said, adding later: "I think it's a shame because as a human being, Tom Price is very good man."

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It's not the first time Trump has offered praise just before or after showing someone the door. As Trump was preparing to part ways with his former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, he was asked about Bannon's fate at a news conference in New York.

"I like Mr. Bannon. He's a friend of mine," said Trump, before trying to distance himself from his former general election CEO by pointing out that he'd won the primaries before Bannon came on board.

"I like him. He's a good man. He is not a racist, I can tell you that," Trump said, adding: "He's a good person and I think the press treats him, frankly, very unfairly."

Days later, Bannon was out.

It was a similar case for Trump's chief of staff, Reince Priebus. Trump announced he was replacing Priebus via tweet from aboard Air Force One last July. Not long after, Trump spoke with reporters on a rainy tarmac, where he repeated his "good man" kiss of death.

"Reince is a good man. John Kelly will do a fantastic job. Gen. Kelly has been a star, done an incredible job thus far. Respected by everybody. A great, great American."

As for Priebus? "Reince Priebus, a good man," Trump repeated, sounding like a tombstone engraving.

Trump also had kind words for his national security adviser, Michael Flynn, whose dismissal he has seemed to most regret.

The day after Flynn's forced resignation, Trump called Flynn "a wonderful man" at a White House news conference and again blamed the news media for treating him "very, very unfairly."

He also defended taking so long to dismiss Flynn after being warned of potential issues.

"This man has served for many years," Trump said in an interview with NBC News. "He's a general, he's a — in my opinion — a very good person."

Pullman Party: No. 16 Washington State beats No. 5 USC 30-27

By TIM BOOTH, AP Sports Writer

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Mike Leach and his team were engulfed in a sea of crimson on the turf of Martin Stadium, reveling in a rare occurrence for Washington State football.

An upset victory 25 years in the making was worth celebrating in grand fashion. And, it proved that these Cougars are true contenders for a Pac-12 title.

"It's exciting. I'll enjoy it tonight. I'll probably enjoy it a little in the offseason," Leach said.

Luke Falk threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns, Erik Powell kicked a 32-yard field goal with 1:40 left and No. 16 Washington State beat No. 5 Southern California 30-27 on a wild Friday night.

With the national stage to themselves, the Cougars showed they were legitimate, stopping USC star quarterback Sam Darnold and pulling off their first regular-season win over a top-five opponent in a quarter-century. The last time a top five team was handed a loss by Washington State was 1992 when the Drew Bledsoe-led Cougars rolled rival Washington in a driving snowstorm.

Washington State (5-0, 2-0) had lost 15 consecutive home games against ranked opponents. This was its first win over the Trojans since 2002 — that game also finished in a 30-27 Cougars victory.

"We just showed that we were the better team tonight," Washington State defensive lineman Hercules Mata'afa said.

Falk was excellent against the pressure from Southern California (4-1, 2-1) most of the time, but it was a key 35-yard run from Jamal Morrow that set up Powell's winning field goal.

Falk finished 34-of-51 passing, while Morrow added 91 yards rushing on six carries. The duo combined to give the Cougars the lead early in the fourth quarter, with Falk finding Morrow for a 23-yard TD on a shovel pass and run. The drive included a key third-and-6 conversion early in the possession and a fourth-and-3 on Falk's pass to Kyle Sweet for 12 yards.

"I think it's just a stepping stone. We expect to win games like this," Falk said. "Hopefully from here on out going forward guys will continue the tradition of competing in games like these. Right now it's a stepping stone."

Darnold struggled through a miserable night. Darnold was 15-of-29 passing for 164 yards and an intercep-

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tion. He has thrown eight interceptions in five games after throwing nine interceptions all of last season.

Darnold ran for a pair of touchdowns, including a 2-yarder with 5:01 remaining that tied it at 27. But he couldn't pull off a final rally, fumbling when he was sacked deep in Washington State territory with 1:27 left. Falk took two kneel downs and the party erupted.

"We knew what they were going to run, it was just a matter of executing it," Darnold said. "They made more plays than we did."

Darnold had one drive in the fourth quarter that showed why he's coveted by the NFL. He stayed in a collapsing pocket on fourth-and-13 and Tyler Vaughns made a leaping catch across the middle in traffic for 15 yards to the Washington State 27. Darnold hit Vaughns for 26 yards on the next snap and two plays later Darnold ran for a score.

Playing without three of his starting offensive linemen, Darnold was flustered and at times appeared rattled by the pressure from Washington State's defensive line. He was sacked only twice but was forced to move in the pocket regularly, disrupting the timing of the pass game.

USC was already without starting left tackle Toa Lobendahn before starting right tackle Chuma Edoga limped off late in the first quarter after a wayward flea flicker that ended up being an intentional grounding penalty and a 14-yard loss.

It got worse for the Trojans when Viane Talamaivao was shaken up early in the second quarter and also did not return.

"Got a bunch of hurt kids right now in that locker room," USC coach Clay Helton said.

Southern California's Ronald Jones had 128 yards rushing and an 86-yard touchdown, but was mostly a non-factor outside of the long run.

THE TAKEAWAY

USC: The Trojans could not overcome injuries to a number of their starters. Along with being down three offensive linemen for most of the game, the Trojans played without starting outside linebacker Porter Gustin and starting wide receiver Steven Mitchell due to injuries. While USC has supreme talent, its depth is being tested.

Washington State: The Cougars benefited from a solid defensive performance. They entered the week 18th in the country in yards per play. Take away Jones' 86-yard run and the Cougars held the Trojans to under 250 yards total offense.

TURNING POINT

The biggest plays may have come from Washington State's defense. Late in the first half after Falk was intercepted at his own 3-yard line, the Cougars defense held USC out of the end zone and forced a short field goal to take a 17-10 lead. The Cougars were able to pull even at halftime on Morrow's 1-yard run with 13 seconds left in the half.

RECORD WATCH

Falk added to his list of Pac-12 records, passing Sean Mannion for the conference lead in pass completions. He also moved into a tie with Marcus Mariota for second in career touchdown passes with 105.

UP NEXT

USC: The Trojans return home for two straight games beginning with Oregon State next Saturday.

Washington State: The Cougars don't get much of a break, traveling to Oregon next Saturday.

Iraqi military preparing to take control of Kurdish borders

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's military prepared Saturday to take control of the international borders of the northern Kurdish region.

The move is part of the central government's stepped-up efforts to isolate the Kurds following their vote on independence earlier this week.

On Friday evening, Iraq instituted a flight ban that halted all international flights from servicing the territory's airports.

Iraqi troops now in Turkey and Iran are expected to start enforcing control over the border crossings in

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and out of the Kurdish region, but are not expected to move into Kurdish territory.

Abdul-Wahab Barzani, director of intelligence at the crossing point from the Kurdish region into Turkey, said Iraqi troops are in position on the Turkish side of the border.

"So far they have not contacted us," he told The Associated Press. He said he heard they plan to set up a customs point some 15 meters (16 yards) away on the Turkish side and traffic is expected to continue to be allowed to pass the crossing normally.

The escalation feeds worries in the United States, a close ally of both the Kurds and Baghdad, that the referendum vote could lead to violence, setting off an unpredictable chain of events.

The nonbinding referendum, in which the Kurds voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from Iraq, will not immediately result in an independent state.

But the vote has set off alarm bells in Baghdad, where the government has said it is determined to prevent a break-up of the country, and in Iraq's neighbors, Iran and Turkey, which fear the vote will fuel similar ambitions among their own significant Kurdish populations.

US calls mysterious health ailments in Cuba 'attacks'

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is now calling those mysterious health ailments in Cuba "attacks" rather than merely incidents.

The State Department is warning Americans to stay away from Cuba as it orders home more than half its diplomatic corps.

Who is behind the attacks remains unknown to U.S. officials.

At least 21 diplomats and family members have been affected. The department says symptoms include hearing loss, dizziness, headache, fatigue, cognitive issues and difficulty sleeping.

Officials say that the U.S. Embassy in Cuba will stop processing visas for prospective Cuban travelers to the United States indefinitely.

Initially some futuristic "sonic attack" was suspected, but the picture remains muddy. The FBI and other agencies that searched homes and hotels where incidents occurred found no devices.

Myanmar refugee exodus tops 500,000 as more Rohingya flee

By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press

TEKNAF, Bangladesh (AP) — He trekked to Bangladesh as part of an exodus of a half million people from Myanmar, the largest refugee crisis to hit Asia in decades. But after climbing out of a boat on a creek on Friday, Mohamed Rafiq could go no further.

He collapsed onto a muddy spit of land cradling his wife in his lap — a limp figure so exhausted and so hungry she could no longer walk or even raise her wrists.

The couple had no food, no money, no idea what to do next. Their two traumatized children huddled close beside them, unsure what to make of the country they had arrived in just hours earlier, in the middle of the night.

Rafiq said their third child, an 8-month-old boy, had been left behind. Buddhist mobs in Myanmar burned the child to death, he said, after setting their village ablaze while security forces stood idly by — part of a systematic purge of ethnic Rohingya Muslims from Buddhist-majority Myanmar that the United Nations has condemned as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Five weeks after the mass exodus began on Aug. 25, the U.N. says the total number of arrivals in Bangladesh has now topped 501,000.

And still, they keep coming.

"We don't ever want to go back," a stunned Rafiq said, describing his family's ordeal as Bangladeshi volunteers stuffed a small wad of cash into his hand and gave their children biscuits. Another man offered a bottle of water, and Rafiq poured some into his wife's mouth as she lay in his arms, staring blankly at the sky.

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"This is not our home. It is not our country," Rafiq said. "But at least, we feel safe here."

Not all those who have fled over the last few desperate weeks have survived. The International Organization for Migration said more than 60 refugees were confirmed dead or missing and presumed dead after one vessel capsized on rough seas in the area Thursday.

The crisis began when a Rohingya insurgent group launched attacks with rifles and machetes on a series of security posts in Myanmar on Aug. 25, prompting the military to launch a brutal round of "clearance operations" in response. Those fleeing have described indiscriminate attacks by security forces and Buddhist mobs, including monks, as well as killings and rapes.

While the international community has condemned the violence and called on Myanmar to protect the Rohingya, Sufi Ullah, a police officer in Teknaf, said nothing has changed.

"We're seeing them come across whenever they get the chance," Ullah said. "They're hiding themselves in the forests and hills (inside Myanmar) in the daytime. And when they get the chance, they run. The Myanmar army is putting pressure on them. These people are afraid."

Ullah said several thousand new refugees arrived by boat in Bangladesh on Friday, and authorities were not expecting the flow to let up any time soon.

On Friday, dramatic scenes played out over and over as hordes of Rohingya who had crossed into Bangladesh overnight tried to make their way further inland. They trudged out of boats and through mud that in some places was knee deep. Men carried babies and old women on their backs. Everyone was exhausted.

Sonabanu Chemmon was among those too weak to walk. Her son-in-law had carried her to one of Bangladesh's inland creeks, near Shah Porir Dip. But he then abandoned her along with several of her adult daughters.

Asked why, Chemmon covered her eyes as tears fell down her cheeks.

"He said he had carried me far enough, that he couldn't carry me anymore," she said. "He told me, 'You can make it from here. I have to look after my own children.'"

Chemmon was finally helped by several Bangladeshis who are among a small army of local citizenry collecting donations, food and clothing, and handing it out to desperate new arrivals.

"Some of these people haven't eaten or slept in days. They're so weak, they can't even walk," said Mohamed Ismail, a Bangladeshi volunteer who traveled here from the city of Chittagong.

"I've never seen anything like it. They have nothing. It's painful to watch," he said, turning away, overcome with emotion. "Bangladesh is not rich, but we have to help."

Karim Elguindi, who heads the U.N. World Food Program office in Cox's Bazar, described the scene Friday as "distressing."

"There's more and more people coming and there's not enough space in the existing camps" to accommodate them, said Elguindi, who was touring the area after hearing a new influx was underway. "I don't know how many Rohingya are left in Myanmar ... but there's more on the way."

Elguindi said many of the refugees had been traveling for five days or more, and many were not carrying food during the journey. "These people are very vulnerable, very hungry ... they need shelter, they need water."

Myanmar's government, led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, and its still powerful military do not allow independent media free access to northern Rakhine state, from where the Rohingya are fleeing. While fires are no longer visible from the Bangladeshi border, some refugees told The Associated Press that their homes had been burned as recently as two days ago.

Rafiq said he and his wife, Noor Khatum, fled their home in the Maungdaw village in Khai Dar Para in the first week of September, after police and soldiers moved in and Buddhist mobs, including monks, set fire to homes there in the middle of the night.

Rafiq managed to get his 5-year-old daughter out, while his wife carried their 2-year-old son. But their house, made of wood and sticks, burned quickly, collapsing on their baby boy before they could save him.

After fleeing, they took shelter with relatives in another village, but several days later that village, too, was torched by Buddhist mobs. Rafiq and his family then hid with others in an abandoned house near the border for two weeks, but had no money to pay boatmen to take them across the Naf River to Bangladesh.

So for two days, Rafiq helped other families escape, carrying them and their goods in exchange for amounts of cash. On Friday at 3 a.m., his own family finally made it out.

Now, in Bangladesh, a far more uncertain chapter of their lives has begun.

"We don't know where we will go," Rafiq said forlornly, as a long line of families trudged single file toward the town of Teknaf, where authorities were assessing the new arrivals and trucking them to camps further north. "We have nothing. We don't know what we will do."

Aid flows to Puerto Rico but many still lack water and food

By **BEN FOX and DANICA COTO, Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Thousands of Puerto Ricans were finally getting water and food rations Friday as an aid bottleneck began to ease, but many remained cut off from the basic necessities of life and were desperate for power, communications and other trappings of normality in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

There were many people across the island, especially outside the capital, unable to get water, gas or generator fuel. That was despite the fact that military trucks laden with water bottles and other supplies began to reach even some remote parts of Puerto Rico and U.S. federal officials pointed to progress in the recovery effort, insisting that more gains would come soon.

In some cases, aid that was being distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency was simply not enough to meet demand on an island of 3.4 million people where nearly everyone was still without power, half were without running water in their homes and the economy was still crippled from the effects of the storm that swept across the U.S. territory as a fierce Category 4 hurricane on Sept. 20.

"I haven't seen any help and we're running out of water," said Pedro Gonzalez, who was clearing debris to earn some money in the northern coastal town of Rio Grande. Increasingly desperate and with a daughter with Down syndrome to support, he had already decided to move to Louisiana to stay with relatives. "We're getting out of here."

FEMA sent Rio Grande officials shipments of food and water for the past three days and arrived Thursday to help distribute meal packets, water and snacks in one community. But people in nearby neighborhoods complained that they weren't told about the aid.

"This has been a complete disaster," said 64-year-old retiree Jenny Cordero as she filled plastic trash cans with water at the home of a neighbor who was among the lucky ones to have service restored.

Those who made it, however, were grateful. "This will help somewhat, so we don't starve," said Anthony Jerena, a 33-year-old father of two teenagers who managed to get two boxes of water, each containing 24 bottles and, three packages of meals-ready-to-eat.

Yolanda Lebron, a spokeswoman for the Rio Grande mayor, said they used a car with a loudspeaker to announce that FEMA would be registering people for aid, but did not mention there would be food and water given out. "We didn't dare," she said. "We didn't know if we were going to have enough."

Gov. Ricard Rossello and other officials said they were aware of people's deepening frustration and of the difficulty, and danger, of living on a sweltering tropical island with no air conditioning and little to no water. He blamed some of the delay on the logistical challenge of getting aid shipments out of the seaports and airports, which were knocked out of commission in the storm, and then distributing the supplies on debris-strewn streets.

Rossello said Friday that the government would seize all food still sitting in containers at the port that private business owners had not yet claimed and would distribute it to people for free. He said the government would use FEMA funds to repay the owners.

He said operations were also ramping up at the airport and that the government had requested drivers and other workers from various federal agencies to help distribute aid, which he expected to begin flowing within the next several days. "We know we have to do more," he said. "We're still not getting at the optimal point. But it has been a limitation on logistics and as soon as we get those assets we are going to put them on the ground."

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The governor also said he would shorten the nightly curfew by three hours, requiring people to be off the streets by 9 p.m. instead of 7 p.m., and would end a ban on alcohol sales that was in place since before the storm.

He spoke after touring the island with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, who drew criticism from the San Juan mayor and others for describing the recovery effort as a "good-news story." She sought to clarify the statement, saying she intended to praise the cooperation among the federal and local authorities in responding to a crisis.

"Clearly the situation here in Puerto Rico after the devastating hurricane is not satisfactory, but together we are getting there and the progress today is very, very strong," she said.

There were signs that the island was slowly emerging from the disaster.

Telecommunications were back for about 30 percent of the island, giving some people the critical ability to call relatives and others for help. Nearly half of the supermarkets had opened, at least on reduced hours, and about 60 percent of the gas stations, though it could take hours to buy a rationed amount. In San Juan, the news that a laundromat had reopened cheered some, as did the news that some buses and the rideshare service Uber would be back online in San Juan.

Meanwhile, FEMA officials said the agency had distributed 2.5 million liters of water and 2 million meals at 11 distribution centers including the nearby islands of Culebra and Vieques. Nearly 1,700 Department of Defense personnel were on the island and 3,000 more were expected in upcoming days.

Despite the easing of the aid distribution bottleneck, water was the greatest need cited by nearly everyone. Those lucky enough to have had service restored to their homes said it was sporadic so that authorities could ration it around the country.

In the southern coastal town of Santa Isabel, 60-year-old Lebron Eduardo said he came each day to a pumping station at the water agency for supplies. "It's not reaching the neighborhood," he said.

Nearby, 25-year-old Jorge Ortiz was taking a shower on the side of the road using well water. "People come to get water for their families. The children are bathing and neighbors are cooking," he said. "Apart from the bad experience of the hurricane, is something that is uniting us."

___ Carlos Rivera Giusti contributed from Santa Isabel.

Trump's health secretary resigns in travel flap

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's health secretary resigned Friday, after his costly travel triggered investigations that overshadowed the administration's agenda and angered his boss. Tom Price's regrets and partial repayment couldn't save his job.

The Health and Human Services secretary became the first member of the president's Cabinet to be pushed out in a turbulent young administration that has seen several high-ranking White House aides ousted. A former GOP congressman from the Atlanta suburbs, Price served less than eight months.

Publicly, Trump had said he was "not happy" with Price for repeatedly using private charter aircraft for official trips on the taxpayer's dime, when cheaper commercial flights would have done in many cases.

Privately, Trump has been telling associates in recent days that his health chief had become a distraction. Trump felt that Price was overshadowing his tax overhaul agenda and undermining his campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of corruption, according to three people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

On Friday the president called Price a "very fine person," but added, "I certainly don't like the optics." Price said in his resignation letter that he regretted that "recent events have created a distraction."

The flap prompted scrutiny of other Cabinet members' travel, as the House Oversight and Government Reform committee launched a governmentwide investigation of top political appointees. Other department heads have been scrambling to explain their own travel.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faced scrutiny over three charter flights while in office, including a \$12,375

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late-night trip from Las Vegas to his home state of Montana in June. On Friday, he dismissed the controversy over charter flights as "a little BS over travel," but he said taxpayers do have the right to know official travel costs.

Price's repayment of \$51,887.31 for his own travel costs did not placate the White House. The total travel cost, including the secretary's entourage, was unclear. It could amount to several hundred thousand dollars.

Following Price's resignation, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney informed Cabinet secretaries and agency heads in a memo that approval from chief of staff John Kelly will be required for any travel on government-owned, rented, leased or chartered aircraft.

An orthopedic surgeon turned politician, Price rose to Budget Committee chairman in the House, where he was known as a fiscal conservative. When Price joined the administration, Trump touted him as a conservative policy expert who could write a new health care bill to replace the Obama-era Affordable Care Act.

But Price became more of a supporting player in the GOP's futile health care campaign, while Vice President Mike Pence took the lead, particularly with the Senate. The perception of Price jetting around while GOP lawmakers labored to repeal "Obamacare" —including a three-nation trip in May to Africa and Europe— raised eyebrows on Capitol Hill. Price flew on military aircraft overseas.

Although much of Trump's ire over the health care failure has been aimed at the Republican-controlled Congress, associates of the president said he also assigns some blame to Price, who he believes did not do a good job of selling the GOP plan.

But House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Friday that Price had worked hard to help that chamber pass its plan before the GOP effort reached an impasse in the Senate. "I will always be grateful for Tom's service to this country," he said.

Democrats were glad to see Price go. Some urged Trump to appoint an HHS secretary who would reach out to them.

"I hope President Trump learns from this mistake, and looks to appoint someone who can work in a bipartisan way to strengthen health care for all Americans," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J.

A Pence protege, Seema Verma, has been mentioned as a possible successor to Price. Verma already leads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs health insurance programs that cover more than 130 million Americans.

Another possible HHS candidate: FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who won some bipartisan support in his confirmation and is well known in policy, government and industry circles.

Trump named Don J. Wright, a deputy assistant secretary of health, to serve as acting secretary.

Price, 62, was seen in Congress as a foe of wasteful spending. As HHS secretary, he led a \$1 trillion department whose future is the key to managing mounting federal budgetary deficits. As secretary, Price criticized the Medicaid health program for low-income people, saying it doesn't deliver results commensurate with the hundreds of billions of dollars taxpayers spend on it. As a congressman, he favored Medicare privatization.

But Price's image as a budget hawk took a hit when reports of his official travel started bubbling up. Price used private charter flights on 10 trips with multiple segments, when in many cases cheaper commercial flights were available. His charter travel was first reported by the news site Politico.

On a trip in June to Nashville, Tennessee, Price also had lunch with his son, who lives in that city, according to Politico. Another trip was from Dulles International Airport in the Washington suburbs to Philadelphia International Airport, a distance of 135 miles.

The reports triggered a review by the HHS inspector general's office, which is looking into whether Price's travel violated federal travel regulations. Those rules generally require officials to minimize costs.

The controversy over Price was a catalyst for Congress launching a bipartisan probe of travel by political appointees across the administration. The House oversight committee has requested travel records from the White House and 24 federal departments and agencies.

Initially, Price's office said the secretary's busy schedule forced him to use charters from time to time. But later Price's response changed, and he said he'd heard the criticism and concern, and taken it to heart.

___ Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

APNewsBreak: No increased danger after Yosemite rocks fall

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — A geological analysis Friday found there was no more danger than usual of another giant rock fall after two huge slides, including one involving a slab of granite the size of a 36-story building, occurred this week on the famed El Capitan rock formation in Yosemite National Park.

One person was killed and two injured in the successive rock falls on Wednesday and Thursday at the climbing mecca.

"If we felt any area was unsafe we wouldn't be allowing people in there," Yosemite geologist Greg Stock said Friday.

He and a U.S. Geological Service geologist were studying the mountain after the rock falls that awed but did not deter people in the close-knit climbing community.

"It's kind of an inherently dangerous sport," Hayden Jamieson, 24, of Mammoth Lakes, California, said as he prepared to head up El Capitan early Saturday.

The park typically sees about 80 rock falls a year.

Elite climbers who make their way up the sheer rock faces with ropes and their fingertips understand the risk but also know it's rare to get hit and killed by rocks.

In addition, Stock said it's impossible to predict when and where a rock fall will strike. Detecting shifts in rocks could be a sign that one will break loose days or maybe years later, he said.

Geologists don't think climbers who pound stakes into the granite wall or hang from ropes during their treks have much effect on the stability of the mountainside.

"I am a scientist, so I won't rule it out entirely," Stock said. "We don't see a strong link between climbing and rock falls."

He also said climbers are relatively minuscule compared to the massive granite rocks they scale.

The slide on Wednesday featuring the building-sized boulder killed Andrew Foster, 32, of Wales, who was hiking with his wife at the bottom of El Capitan and preparing to ascend El Capitan far from trails used by most Yosemite visitors.

The massive slab of granite that fell Thursday weighed 30,500 tons (27,669 metric tonnes), geologists estimate.

That fall injured Jim Evans, who was driving out of the national park when rubble broke through the sunroof of his SUV, hitting the resident of Naples, Florida, in the head, said his wife.

Rachel Evans, told KSEE-TV of Fresno (<http://bit.ly/2x1EnIU>) that the family had just finished a three-day visit to Yosemite.

"We didn't know what had happened, but it shattered (the glass) and the dust just poured in," Evans said. "We were trying to outrun it; it was like 'Go! Let's go!' and at the same time my husband reached up and he was like 'Oh, my head, my head' because it was bleeding profusely and hurting."

Climber Ryan Sheridan, of Buffalo, New York, had been scaling the route for days with a partner when the granite slab fell Wednesday below them.

He said he and his partner, Peter Zabrok, had slept on the wall in the fall zone a couple of nights before the slab came crumbling down.

Sheridan, 25, said he was spooked after hammering a pin into the wall that didn't sound right.

"The entire wall seemed to be making hollow noises. When you hit the wall, you could hear echo all around you," he said.

Some climbers were stressed Friday as they weighed whether to take one of about 100 routes up El Capitan or do another big climb in the park, said Josh Edwards, 21, of Bend, Oregon.

"It's kind of scary thinking that an entire cliff side can come off," Edwards said. "The general feeling is everybody's a little scared. At least I am."

Ian Mort, 60, of Los Angeles could smell the dust from the rock fall Thursday while he sat in jammed traffic and headed into the park for his first trip, but he said he wasn't concerned.

"Mother Earth changes every day, and we just have to get used to it, I guess," he said.

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Foster's former colleagues at the Up and Under outdoor gear store in Cardiff, Wales, recalled him in a statement as a man whose passion for the outdoors, "and mountains in particular, was enormous and infectious."

His wife, Lucy, was seriously injured.

The last time a climber was killed by falling rock at Yosemite was in 2013, when a Montana climber fell after a rock dislodged and sliced his climbing rope. It was preceded by a 1999 rock fall that crushed a climber from Colorado. Park officials say rock falls overall have killed 16 people since 1857 and injured more than 100.

Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez and Juliet Williams in San Francisco contributed to this story.

US to Americans: Stay away from Cuba after health 'attacks'

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States delivered an ominous warning to Americans on Friday to stay away from Cuba and ordered home more than half the U.S. diplomatic corps, acknowledging neither the Cubans nor America's FBI can figure out who or what is responsible for months of mysterious health ailments.

No longer tiptoeing around the issue, the Trump administration shifted to calling the episodes "attacks" rather than "incidents."

The U.S. actions are sure to rattle already delicate ties between the longtime adversaries who only recently began putting their hostility behind them. The U.S. Embassy in Cuba will lose roughly 60 percent of its American staff and will stop processing visas for prospective Cuban travelers to the United States indefinitely, officials said. Roughly 50 Americans had been working at the embassy.

President Donald Trump said that in Cuba "they did some very bad things" that harmed U.S. diplomats, but he didn't say who he might mean by "they."

Though officials initially suspected some futuristic "sonic attack," the picture is muddy. The FBI and other agencies that searched homes and hotels where incidents occurred found no devices.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who reviewed options for a response with Trump, said, "Until the government of Cuba can ensure the safety of our diplomats in Cuba, our embassy will be reduced to emergency personnel in order to minimize the number of diplomats at risk of exposure to harm."

In Friday's travel warning, the State Department confirmed earlier reporting by The Associated Press that U.S. personnel first encountered unexplained physical effects in Cuban hotels. While American tourists aren't known to have been hurt, the agency said they could be exposed if they travel to the island — a pronouncement that could hit a critical component of Cuba's economy that has expanded in recent years as the U.S. has relaxed restrictions.

At least 21 diplomats and family members have been affected. The department said symptoms include hearing loss, dizziness, headache, fatigue, cognitive issues and difficulty sleeping. Until Friday, the U.S. had generally referred to "incidents." Tillerson's statement ended that practice, mentioning "attacks" seven times; the travel alert used the word five times.

Still, the administration has pointedly not blamed Cuba for perpetrating the attacks, and officials have spent weeks weighing how to minimize the risk for Americans in Cuba without unnecessarily harming relations or falling into an adversary's trap.

If the attacks have been committed by an outside power such as Russia or Venezuela to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Cuba, as some investigators have theorized, a U.S. pullout would end up rewarding the aggressor. On the other hand, officials have struggled with the moral dimensions of keeping diplomats in a place where the U.S. government cannot guarantee their safety.

The administration considered expelling Cuban diplomats from the U.S., officials said, but for now no such action has been ordered. That incensed several lawmakers who had urged the administration to kick out all of Cuban's envoys.

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"It's an insult," said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a vocal critic of Cuba's government, in an interview. "The Cuban regime succeeded in forcing Americans to downscale a number of personnel in Cuba, yet it appears they're going to basically keep all the people they want in America to travel freely and spread misinformation."

The U.S. travel warning said, "Because our personnel's safety is at risk, and we are unable to identify the source of the attacks, we believe U.S. citizens may also be at risk and warn them not to travel to Cuba."

Canada, which also has reported diplomats with unexplained health problems, said it had no plans to change its diplomatic posture in Cuba.

The U.S. moves deliver a significant setback to the delicate reconciliation between America and Cuba, countries that endured a half-century estrangement despite only 90 miles of separation. In 2015, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro restored diplomatic ties, embassies were re-opened and travel and commerce restrictions were eased. Trump has reversed some changes but has broadly left the rapprochement in place.

After considering options that ranged all the way to a full embassy shutdown, Tillerson made the decision to reduce all nonessential personnel and all family members. Also included in the recall is Scott Hamilton, currently the highest-ranked diplomat at the mission. Staffing at the embassy in Havana was already lower than usual due to recent hurricanes that whipped through Cuba.

Cubans seeking visas to enter the U.S. may be able to apply through embassies in nearby countries, officials said. The U.S. will stop sending official delegations to Cuba, though diplomatic discussions will continue in Washington.

The United States notified Cuba early Friday via its embassy in Washington.

Cuba blasted the American move as "hasty" and lamented that it was being taken without conclusive investigation results. Still, Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, said her government was willing to continue cooperation with Washington "to fully clarify these incidents." Her government took the rare step of the inviting the FBI to the island after being presented with the allegations earlier this year.

To medical investigators' dismay, symptoms have varied widely. In addition to hearing loss and concussions, some people have experienced nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. The Associated Press has reported some now suffer from problems with concentration and common word recall.

Some U.S. diplomats reported hearing loud noises or feeling vibrations when the incidents occurred, but others heard and felt nothing yet reported symptoms later. In some cases, the effects were narrowly confined, with victims able to walk "in" and "out" of blaring noises audible in only certain rooms or parts of rooms, the AP has reported

Though the incidents stopped for a time, they recurred as recently as late August.

Michael Weissenstein in Havana, Bradley Klapper in Washington and Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> and Matthew Lee at <http://twitter.com/APDiploWriter>

Trump praises Puerto Rico aid, mayor says it's 'killing us'

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **LUIS ALONSO LUGO**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump pledged to spare no effort to help Puerto Ricans recover from Maria's ruinous aftermath Friday even as San Juan's mayor, her voice breaking with rage, accused his administration of "killing us with the inefficiency."

Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz implored Trump from afar to "make sure somebody is in charge that is up to the task of saving lives," while the president asserted that U.S. officials and emergency personnel are working all-out against daunting odds, with "incredible" results.

Trump's acting homeland security secretary, Elaine Duke, visited the island Friday, surveying the ravaged landscape by helicopter in an hourlong tour, driving past still-flooded streets, twisted billboards and roofs with gaping holes, and offering encouragement to some of the 10,000 emergency personnel she says the

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U.S. government has on the ground.

Duke tried, too, to move on from the remarks she made a day earlier in which she called the federal relief effort a "good-news story." But on that front, she ran into winds as fierce as Maria.

"We are dying, and you are killing us with the inefficiency," Cruz said in a news conference. "I am begging, begging anyone that can hear us, to save us from dying."

Thousands more Puerto Ricans got water and rationed food Friday as an aid bottleneck began to ease. By now, telecommunications are back for about 30 percent of the island, nearly half of the supermarkets have reopened at least for reduced hours and about 60 percent of the gas stations are pumping. But many remain desperate for necessities, most urgently water, long after the Sept. 20 hurricane.

Trump said Puerto Rico is "totally unable" to handle the catastrophe on its own. "They are working so hard, but there's nothing left," he said. "It's been wiped out." He said the government is "fully engaged in the disaster and the response and recovery effort."

Trump said he was not aware of Duke's "good-news" remark.

"I haven't heard what she said," he told reporters. "I can tell you this: We have done an incredible job considering there's absolutely nothing to work with."

Yet even in voicing solidarity and sympathy with Puerto Rico, he drew attention again to the island's pre-hurricane debt burden and infrastructure woes, leaving doubt how far Washington will go to make the U.S. territory whole.

"Ultimately the government of Puerto Rico will have to work with us to determine how this massive rebuilding effort — it will end up being one of the biggest ever — will be funded and organized, and what we will do with the tremendous amount of existing debt already on the island," he said. "We will not rest, however, until the people of Puerto Rico are safe."

Earlier he tweeted: "The fact is that Puerto Rico has been destroyed by two hurricanes. Big decisions will have to be made as to the cost of its rebuilding!"

Speaking to the press, and taking no questions, Duke said neither she nor Trump will rest until displaced Puerto Ricans are back home, schools, hospitals and clean water are back and the island's economy is moving again. Duke said she is aware people are suffering and "clearly the situation in Puerto Rico after the devastating hurricane is not satisfactory."

Trump weighed in on his way to New Jersey for the weekend.

He praised his emergency management director, Brock Long, for doing a "fantastic job," pointed out that Duke is serving in an acting capacity and said "she's working very hard."

During this season's trio of monster hurricanes — Harvey, Irma, Maria — Trump and his administration have drifted into the perilous territory of premature self-congratulation in the face of unfolding catastrophe, seemingly unmindful of the "Brownie moment" that scarred George W. Bush's presidency.

Bush famously told his emergency management director, Michael Brown, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job" during what proved to be a tragically inept federal response to deadly Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Trump has repeatedly boasted about the positive reviews he said his administration is getting from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands for its relief effort, even as people in remote towns struggle to find food, water and other basics. Then Duke said before leaving Washington that the federal relief effort was a "good-news story" because of "our ability to reach people and the limited number of deaths."

"Let me clarify," she said Friday upon her arrival in San Juan. She said she meant "it was good news that people of Puerto Rico and many public servants of the United States are working together."

Cruz responded, "This is a people-are-dying story."

Trump is expected to survey the damage Tuesday.

Lugo reported from San Juan.

SpaceX: Rocket for moon, Mars and NY-to-Shanghai in 39 mins

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX chief Elon Musk's elaborate plan for a mega-rocket to carry astronauts to Mars may have some down-to-Earth applications.

At a conference in Australia on Friday, Musk said if you build a ship capable of going to the moon and Mars, why not use it for high-speed transport here at home. He proposes using his still-in-the-design phase rocket for launching passengers from New York to Shanghai in 39 minutes flat.

Los Angeles to New York, or Los Angeles to Honolulu in 25 minutes. London to Dubai in 29 minutes.

"Most of what people consider to be long-distance trips would be completed in less than half an hour," Musk said to applause and cheers at the International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide.

A seat should cost about the same as a full-fare economy plane ticket, he noted later via Instagram.

Friday's address was a follow-up to one he gave to the group last September in Mexico, where he unveiled his grand scheme for colonizing Mars. He described a slightly scaled-down 348-foot-tall (106-meter-tall) rocket and announced that the private space company aims to launch two cargo missions to Mars in 2022.

"That's not a typo," he said, pausing, as charts appeared on a large screen. "Although it is aspirational."

Two more cargo missions would follow in 2024 to provide more construction materials, along with two crewed flights. The window for launching to Mars occurs every two years.

For the approximately six-month, one-way trips to Mars, the SpaceX ships would have 40 cabins, ideally with two to three people per cabin for a grand total of about 100 passengers. Musk foresees this Mars city growing, and over time "making it really a nice place to be."

Scott Hubbard, an adjunct professor at Stanford University and a former director of NASA's Ames Research Center, calls it "a bold transportation architecture with aspirational dates." A demonstration of some sort in the 2020s will add to its credibility, he said in an email. And while more details are needed for life-support systems, "Kudos to Elon and SpaceX for keeping the focus on humans to Mars!"

Former NASA chief technologist Bobby Braun, now dean of the college of engineering and applied science at the University of Colorado at Boulder, also sees Musk's plan as a step in the right direction, building on technologies SpaceX already has demonstrated, like reusable rockets.

"While the timeline and capabilities are certainly ambitious, I'm bullish on U.S. industry's ability to carry out challenging and far-reaching goals," Braun wrote in an email. "It's great to see the private sector lead in this way, and I hope we see more of it."

NASA is charting its own path to what it calls the "Deep Space Gateway," beginning with expeditions in the vicinity of the moon in the 2020s and eventually culminating at Mars. The space agency has handed much of its Earth-orbiting work to private industry, including SpaceX, Orbital ATK and Boeing.

Earlier Friday in Adelaide, Lockheed Martin presented its vision for a "Mars Base Camp" in partnership with NASA. Astronauts could be on their way in about a decade, the company said. This first mission would orbit the red planet, rather than land.

Musk intends to finance his \$10 billion Mars endeavor by using a rocket that's smaller than the one outlined last year. Fewer engines would be needed: 31 versus the originally envisioned 42. Its lift capability would be 150 tons, more than NASA's old moon rocket, the Saturn V.

He wants one type of booster and spaceship that can replace the company's current Falcon 9 rocket, the soon-to-fly Falcon Heavy rocket designed for heavier satellites, and the Dragon capsule presently used to deliver cargo to the International Space Station, and, as soon as next year, station astronauts.

That way SpaceX can put all its resources toward this new system, Musk said. Revenue from launching satellites, and sending supplies and crews to the space station, could pay for the new rocket, he said.

Musk said the same spaceship for moon and Mars trips — long and cylindrical with small shuttle-like wings — could fly to the space station. He said the mega-rocket could be used to establish a lunar settlement, with spaceships being refueled in Earth orbit versus creating a vital fuel depot at Mars.

The mega-rocket doesn't have a name but for now is called BFR. The B is for big; the R for rocket. As for the F, well, you get the idea. ___ Online: SpaceX: <http://www.spacex.com/>

Air Force Academy leader delivers powerful speech on race

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — The leader of the Air Force Academy delivered a poignant and stern message on race relations in a speech to thousands of cadets after someone wrote racial slurs on message boards outside the dorm rooms of five black students.

Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria warned students that he would not tolerate racism at the academy and invoked some of the racial tensions that have been gripping the country. At one point, he insisted that everyone in the audience take out their phones and record him so his message was clearly heard.

"If you can't treat someone with dignity and respect, get out," he said Thursday as audience members looked on with rapt attention.

Air Force security personnel are investigating the incident after the slurs were discovered Tuesday. Racial slurs are illegal in the military and can bring charges of violating orders and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Officials have said they cannot provide any more information about what happened because of the ongoing investigation. No additional details were released Friday.

Silveria said he called the families of the five prep school students who were the objects of the slurs.

His speech quickly became a widely viewed video online, coming in the aftermath of racial violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the debate about NFL players kneeling for the national anthem.

"We would also be tone deaf not to think about the backdrop of what is going on in our country. Things like Charlottesville, Ferguson, the protests in the NFL," he said.

Silveria, a veteran fighter pilot who directed the air war in the Middle East, took command at the school in August. The academy has struggled with sexual misconduct problems several times in recent years, and the 1985 academy graduate and son of an Air Force master sergeant has repeatedly told cadets and staff that his highest priority is ensuring a climate of dignity and respect.

When Silveria took over as the school's leader, he told *The Gazette*: "My red line is cadets who can't treat each other with respect and dignity."

Silveria enrolled in the academy a year after it graduated its first female cadets. His class was 7 percent black compared with 8 percent in 2015. About 29 percent of the academy's cadets were minorities in 2015, according to the school's website. Ten percent were Hispanic, 10 percent Asian and Pacific islander and 1 percent Native American.

The preparatory school has a 10-month program for potential cadets who applied for the four-year academic and military program at the academy but were not accepted. The goal is to help them meet academy requirements.

The prep school usually accepts about 240 students. The academy itself has about 4,000 students.

Silveria has flown combat missions in Iraq and the Balkans and formerly served as the vice commander at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Wisconsin girl reaches plea deal in Slender Man case

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP) — The second of two Wisconsin girls charged with repeatedly stabbing a classmate to impress horror character Slender Man will plead guilty in a deal that will send her to a state mental hospital and bring an end a case that shocked people in part because the attackers were only 12.

The deal, announced in court Friday, means both girls will avoid prison time for the attack on Payton Leutner, who was also 12. Morgan Geysler, now 15, will be treated indefinitely at a mental hospital. Her co-defendant, Anissa Weier, faces at least three years in a mental hospital.

"It's been a tragic experience for everyone," Geysler's attorney, Donna Kuchler, said after a brief court hearing Friday. "Our hearts go out to the victim and her family. And we're very grateful that the district attorney's office gave this case the considering it deserves."

Weier and Geysler lured Payton Leutner, who was also 12, into the woods at a park in Waukesha, a Mil-

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waukee suburb. Geysler stabbed Leutner 19 times while Weier urged her on, according to investigators. Leutner survived after she crawled out of the woods to a path where a passing bicyclist found her.

Both Weier and Geysler told detectives they felt they had to kill Leutner to become Slender Man's "proxies," or servants, and protect their families from him.

Geysler had been scheduled to go on trial Oct. 16. The plea deal comes after a jury this month determined that Weier was mentally ill at the time of the attack on Leutner.

Geysler was at Friday's hearing but didn't speak. Afterward, the judge allowed her to spend three hours with her family before returning her to a mental hospital where she has been receiving treatment.

The Leutner family issued a statement saying they had no comment about Friday's hearing but will issue a statement at a plea hearing Thursday when Geysler's deal will be formalized.

Geysler and Weier were charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide, which carries a possible sentence of up to 65 years in prison. Weier pleaded guilty to a reduced charge last month, and a jury then determined the sentence.

Unlike Weier, Geysler will plead guilty to the original charge from prosecutors. But Geysler won't face a sentencing phase where attorneys would argue that she was mentally ill when the crime occurred and shouldn't face prison time.

"It's just fair. It saves everybody a trial. It saves the victim, her family," Kuchler said.

The deal calls for doctors to evaluate Geysler and report to a judge to determine how long she should remain in a state mental hospital.

During a hearing in August, Weier said that she didn't want to harm Leutner and that the stabbing plot was Geysler's idea. She said she participated because she was afraid of what would happen if she didn't.

"I believed that if I didn't go through with it, Slender Man would come and attack and kill myself, my friends and my family. Those I cared about the most," she said.

Slender Man started with an online post in 2009, as a mysterious specter whose image people edit into everyday scenes of children at play. He is typically depicted as a spidery figure in a black suit with a featureless white face. He was regarded by his devotees as alternately a sinister force and an avenging angel.

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Moscow police keep opposition chief Navalny away from rally

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in Moscow detained Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny for most of the day Friday in an apparent bid to prevent him from joining a rally that he organized in another city, where several people were also detained.

Navalny had planned to travel to the Volga River city of Nizhny Novgorod where he was to lead a rally, the latest in a series of demonstrations he has organized across Russia, when he was detained early Friday. He was kept at a Moscow police station until late evening.

After he announced his presidential bid last year, Navalny, a top Kremlin foe and arguably Russia's most popular opposition politician, inspired a grassroots campaign in Russian regions to support his nomination. The crackdown comes after he held rallies in six Russian cities, from Murmansk in the northwest to Khabarovsk on the border with China.

Navalny posted a video on his Instagram account early Friday of what he said were officers outside his home asking him to come to a police station. He said he was held there without charges or any explanation why he had been detained.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement Friday that Navalny was detained because of his calls for unsanctioned rallies.

The rally in Nizhny Novgorod, however, had received City Hall approval. When several hundred people

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gathered for the rally Friday evening, police ordered them to disperse and detained several demonstrators.

After his release, Navalny tweeted that the authorities' efforts to derail opposition rallies will fail.

"A plan to block regional rallies won't work," Navalny said, adding that other demonstrations are set to be held in Orenburg in the Urals and Arkhangelsk in northwest.

Navalny has been summoned to attend a court hearing Monday on charges of violating the rules of organizing a rally.

His campaign chief, Leonid Volkov, was kept in police custody in Nizhny Novgorod for most of the day Friday until being released and ordered to attend Monday's court hearing on the same charges.

"The Kremlin views my meetings with voters as a huge threat and even an insult," Navalny tweeted. "They were saying for so long that opposition has no support in the regions, and it now pains them to even look at our rallies."

The Kremlin has dismissed Navalny, who has faced repeated jailings and criminal cases, as an urbanite out of touch with people living in Russia's 11 time zones where President Vladimir Putin draws his support from.

That began to change earlier this year when Navalny opened campaign offices in 80 cities and towns, most of which had not seen a political life for decades, attracting thousands of supporters.

In Germany, Ulrike Demmer, a spokeswoman for Chancellor Angela Merkel, told reporters Friday that the German government "views the arrests of activists including Navalny ... with incomprehension and great concern."

Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

Immigrants line up to renew work permits as program ends

By AMY TAXIN and ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The line stretches down the block before the sun rises in Los Angeles, made up of immigrants seeking help to renew their work permits under a program that has shielded them from deportation but is now nearing its end.

Ivan Vizueta, a 25-year-old from Long Beach, California, brought a folding chair and music to pass the time while waiting to renew his papers and get a new two-year permit that lets him work for a plumbing company and earn nearly double the amount he made at his old job. The lines have been a regular occurrence in recent days, with some people camping out as early as 3 a.m.

"I have to do this so I have another two years of safety," said Vizueta, who was brought to the country nearly two decades ago from Mexico and hopes to run his own plumbing business someday.

For immigrants like Vizueta, it's a race against the clock as they rush to renew their permits ahead of a looming Oct. 5 deadline set by the Trump administration. After that date, no one else can renew under a program that has let nearly 800,000 immigrants brought to the United States as children work even though they lack legal papers.

The work permits have been a lifeline for many young immigrants who have been educated in American schools and know no other home than the United States. The program created by President Barack Obama in 2012 also protected these immigrants, many of them in their 20s, from being deported to countries they hardly remember. Critics call it an illegal amnesty program that is taking jobs from U.S. citizens.

When President Donald Trump rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program this month, he gave Congress six months to draft a more lasting fix. Democratic leaders and Trump said they have reached a deal to protect the immigrants, but Congress has since turned its focus to overhauling the tax code. Democratic congressional leaders say they are waiting on the White House to craft a legislative proposal.

Meanwhile, immigrant advocates around the country have been urging the Trump administration to extend the Oct. 5 deadline and holding legal clinics and donating money to help immigrants cover the \$500 renewal fee.

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Jesus Perez of Phoenix says he's not sure he would have been able to come up with the cash in time to renew were it not for the financial help of an advocacy group that is among several giving financial aid and helping people fill out their paperwork in time. The 30-year-old father of three, with one on the way, was just approved to buy a home but can't complete the purchase until his renewal comes through.

"You're in limbo," said Perez, who works at a car wash and hopes to open his own business soon.

In Las Vegas, fewer than 30 people have asked for a service provided by the Immigration Clinic at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, causing alarm among organizers who are fearful immigrants are staying in the shadows or waiting too close to the deadline. The government must receive the renewal paperwork by Oct. 5, meaning it needs to be sent in most cases by this weekend.

"If you are not at the post office with an express mail envelope in your hand on the morning of Oct. 2, you are too late," said Michael Kagan, director of the Las Vegas clinic.

Only immigrants whose permits are expiring before March 5, 2018, are eligible to apply for renewals. Those whose permits expire starting on March 6 will not be able to renew. The government estimates there are about 154,000 recipients whose permits expire between Sept. 5, 2017, when the Trump administration announced the end of the program, and March 5.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services said Friday that it had received 39,400 renewal applications since Sept. 5. The agency said it aims to have a 120-day turnaround to complete the applications.

At the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles, advocates have helped about 40 immigrants a day renew their permits for free. Immigrants began lining up outside before dawn to ensure they were seen quickly, as some have had to wait until the afternoon or the next day for assistance due to the demand, said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a spokesman for the organization.

Maria Moreno, 23, lined up at 3 a.m. outside the group's offices on a recent morning to renew under the program, which has made it easier for her to work as a cashier and attend college to eventually become a special education teacher. She said her parents brought her to this country from Mexico when she was 10 months old.

"I've been here all my life," said Moreno, who lives in Los Angeles. "I've never been back there, and I'm hoping not to go."

Oscar Gaytan, a 22-year-old history and Chicano Studies student at University of California, Los Angeles, was also among those waiting in line. He said his permit under the program is valid until the end of next year but was stolen from his gym locker, forcing him to refile paperwork.

Gaytan said he hopes to go on to become a professor or immigration lawyer after graduation but knows he'll need a work permit to do so.

"When Trump rescinded DACA, I was pretty upset," said Gaytan, who was brought here from Mexico when he was 4. "But I feel like everything happens for a reason — so hopefully Congress acts."

Associated Press Writer Regina Garcia Cano contributed to this report from Las Vegas. Galvan reported in Phoenix.

Stalemate over Catalan vote keeps Spain in suspense

By **BARRY HATTON** and **ARITZ PARRA**, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Scores of Catalan farmers on tractors rumbled into downtown Barcelona on Friday, driving down the city's broad boulevards in a show of support for a potentially explosive vote on whether the prosperous region should break away from the rest of Spain and become Europe's newest country.

The Spanish government and secession-minded authorities in the northeastern Catalonia region were on a collision course, with the independence referendum still slated for Sunday despite efforts by the courts and police to stop it.

The tractors carried the Catalan pro-independence flag, called the "estelada," to the office of the national

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government's representative in Barcelona. Similar tractor protests were being held across Catalonia. The region's biggest farmers' union said the demonstrations were part of their fight for "democracy and liberty."

With weeks of antagonism and tension coming to a head, neither side was showing signs of backing down from a confrontation that has pitched Spain into a political and constitutional crisis.

The Madrid-based Spanish government has maintained the ballot cannot and will not happen because it contravenes the constitution, which refers to "the indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation." Any vote on Catalan secession would have to be held across all of Spain, the government says.

"This secessionist process has been illegal from the start," government spokesman Inigo Mendez de Vigo said Friday. "Since the referendum ... won't have any political consequence, pursuing it won't do anything but extend the damage, the harm and the disintegration that it is already doing."

Acting on court orders, police have confiscated about 10 million ballot papers and some 1.3 million posters advertising the referendum, and have blocked the distribution of ballot boxes. On Friday, the Catalan police were ordered to clear out all 2,315 polling stations, most of them in schools, by 6 a.m. Sunday to prevent the referendum from taking place.

In an internal memo, the regional police chief, Maj. Josep Lluís Traperó, said patrols would be sent to confiscate ballot boxes and electoral papers.

Separatist groups had already been calling on parents to organize activities with students at the schools to prevent police from closing them before the vote.

David Martínez, a 46-year-old father of three, said he was bringing his children to a weekend-long activity at their school in Barcelona's Eixample district.

"Given the recent events, the school community has decided to stand up and defend the democratic values that our kids need to learn," he said. "Values that are important, like freedom, dialogue, participation."

The Catalan regional government and local civic groups insist they are entitled to exercise their democratic rights and intend to do so regardless of the obstacles. Their grievances include what they say is Madrid's ignoring of the region's long-standing demands for a greater degree of autonomy and fiscal powers. With Barcelona as its regional capital, Catalonia contributes a fifth of Spain's 1.1 trillion euro (\$1.32 trillion) economy.

On Friday, the Catalan government unveiled white plastic containers it said would be used as ballot boxes. More than 2,300 polling stations would be set up for 5.3 million voters, Catalan government spokesman Jordi Turull said.

"Everyone can stay calm, because we'll be able to vote," Turull said.

The government in Madrid ridiculed the preparations, saying there had been no formal campaign period and no electoral roll.

Barcelona has witnessed large street demonstrations in favor of the ballot for weeks. Jordi Martí, a 63-year-old Barcelona taxi driver, has plastered his vehicle with stickers supporting the vote, saying the central government has kept Catalonia in a chokehold for too long.

"And now we have said, 'Game over,'" he told The Associated Press. "It's over because we have been negotiating with the Spanish government for 40 years ... and it hasn't been worthwhile."

The noisy demonstrations have largely drowned out opponents of independence, with hardly any counter-demonstrations in favor of remaining part of Spain. While opinion polls have indicated the vast majority of Catalans favor holding a referendum, they are almost evenly split over independence itself.

Catalan leaders, including regional President Carles Puigdemont, told the AP on Thursday that senior European Union officials should step in and broker a political solution to the stalemate.

But European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans appeared to scotch that idea, saying Friday that the constitution must be respected.

"That is the rule of law — you abide by the law and the constitution even if you don't like it," he said.

Hatton reported from Lisbon, Portugal. Lorne Cook contributed from Brussels. Follow AP's coverage of the Catalonia referendum [here](#).

Iraqi forces to take control of Kurdish regional borders

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's military was preparing to take control of the international borders of the northern Kurdish region as a flight ban halted all international flights from servicing the territory's airports on Friday as the central government in Baghdad stepped up moves to isolate the Kurds following their vote on independence earlier this week.

Iraqi troops now in Turkey and Iran would start on Saturday morning to enforce control over the border crossings out of the Kurdish region, Iraqi officials told The Associated Press. They will not enter the Kurdish region, but instead Iraqi customs administrators backed by the troops will set up control points just outside the Kurdish border stations, the officials said.

The step will be the first movement of troops — outside of joint military exercises held by Turkey, Iran and Iraq — in response to this week's referendum in which Kurds voted by more than 90 percent to back independence from Iraq for their self-rule zone and other areas they have captured the past year.

The escalation feeds worries in the United States, a close ally of both the Kurds and Baghdad, that the referendum vote could lead to violence, setting off an unpredictable chain of events.

Two U.S. officials said Washington was concerned about possible operations involving Iraqi, Iranian or Turkish forces, or a combination thereof. Behind the scenes, the United States has strongly been advising against any military incursion into the Kurdish region, and believes none of the players will do so, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The nonbinding referendum — in which the Kurds voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from Iraq — will not immediately result in independence. But Kurdish leaders have said they will use it to press for negotiations on eventually forming their own state.

That has set off alarm bells in Baghdad, where the government has said it is determined to prevent a break-up of the country, and in Iraq's neighbors, Iran and Turkey, which fear the vote will fuel similar ambitions among their own significant Kurdish populations.

So they have moved to isolate the region. Iran on Friday announced a ban on oil imports and exports with the Iraqi Kurdish region, the state news agency announced.

At Irbil International airport, hundreds of passengers lined up for flights out of the Kurdish region in the hours before the central government's flight ban took effect Friday evening. Baghdad had demanded the region hand over the airport to its authority or else face a ban.

Talar Saleh, the general director of Irbil International Airport, says Kurdish authorities had attempted to meet with officials from the central government to comply with the demand. But "so far, up to this moment, there is no reply from Baghdad," she said at a press conference held at the airport.

While Baghdad controls the airspace over the Kurdish region, immigration and security inside the airports are controlled by local Kurdish region officials and security forces.

Many of the hundreds of people traveling Friday afternoon were foreigners ordered to leave the region by the companies they work for.

"Of course we don't want to leave," said Joao Gabriel Villar, a Brazilian doctor working for a non-governmental organization that helps people displaced by the conflict with the Islamic State group.

"We had only just arrived," he said. "We could have helped many more people if we stayed."

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the flight ban was not intended to hold the Kurdish region captive.

"Central government control of air and land ports in the Kurdistan region is not meant to starve, besiege and prevent (the delivery of) supplies to the citizens in the region as alleged by some Kurdistan region officials," he said in a statement from his office.

Similarly, Baghdad's move to control the borders did not so far mean closing them. At crossings into Turkey and Iran, Iraqi border officials backed by Iraqi troops would set up stations facing the Kurdish-run border stations inside the self-rule territory — presumably either in no-man's-land or in Turkish and Iranian territory.

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That way all traffic passing back and forth would have to go through them. The officials could also collect customs duties and taxes from those crossing. Doing so avoids direct confrontation with Kurdish forces over control while making a demonstration of central government authority.

Plans for the border move were confirmed by three Iraqi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about the plans.

U.S.-led coalition spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday the Kurdish independence vote has diminished the military's focus on fighting IS.

"The focus, which used to be like a laser beam on (IS), is now not 100 percent there. So there has been an effect on the overall mission to defeat (IS) in Iraq as a result of the referendum."

The loss of focus, Dillon said, is "across the board," including Iraqi security forces, Kurdish fighters, known as the peshmerga, and U.S. military planners and advisers.

U.S. military planners have had to spend time to "play out the what-ifs" resulting from assessing the political and military implications of the referendum, he said.

At Friday prayers from the holy city of Karbala, Iraq's top Shiite cleric issued his first comments following the referendum, warning the Kurdish vote will lead to internal and external reactions, in comments read by cleric Ahmad al-Safi.

The fallout will have consequences on our "dear Kurdish citizens and could have more dangerous repercussions," Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said.

One U.S. official said the Kurdish referendum is likely to severely set back hopes for Kurdish independence. Perhaps, indefinitely.

The prevailing international understanding was Kurdish independence was only a matter of time, said the official. Now, the Kurds face potentially hostile actors on their borders and nations around the world determined to prevent a declaration of Kurdish independence — and the larger crisis that would risk triggering.

Abdul-Zahra reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writers Bradley Klapper and Robert Burns in Washington D.C. contributed to this report.

Trump promotes 'giant, beautiful, massive' tax plan

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that the centerpiece of his plan to help American businesses and workers "thrive, compete and grow" is a "giant, beautiful, massive, the biggest ever in our country, tax cut."

Trump and congressional Republicans unveiled the broad outlines of the tax plan earlier this week.

"My administration is working every day to lift the burden on companies and workers so you can thrive, compete and grow," Trump said in a speech to the National Association of Manufacturers. He said the tax cut plan was a core element.

The nearly \$6 trillion plan sketched out this week by Trump and other officials would deeply reduce taxes for corporations, simplify tax brackets and nearly double the standard deduction used by most tax filers. But many details remain to be fleshed out.

In the remarks, Trump highlighted a provision of the plan that would allow businesses for the next five years to write off the full cost of new equipment in the year it's purchased. Trump said that proposal alone will encourage companies to invest and create jobs.

Under the broader proposal, corporations would see their top tax rate cut from 35 percent to 20 percent. Seven personal tax brackets would be reduced to three: 12 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent. But the information released didn't include the income levels applied to the rates, making it difficult to know how a typical family's tax bill may be affected.

Trump said a 20 percent corporate tax rate will be the lowest top marginal income tax rate for small- and medium-sized businesses in more than 80 years. "It will be rocket fuel for our economy," he said.

The Republican tax plan also recommends a surcharge for the very wealthy. The standard deduction

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would nearly double to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for families, basically increasing the amount of personal income that would not be taxed. Deductions for mortgage interest and charitable giving would remain, but the plan seeks to end most other itemized deductions.

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans unveiled a budget plan Friday that lays the groundwork for overhauling the tax code. The House and Senate must pass the blueprint before lawmakers can tackle the still-developing tax bill.

The Senate Budget Committee release comes before a committee vote next week. A companion House measure is headed for a floor vote next week, too.

In the address, Trump also reviewed policy changes since he took office in January that he said are intended to improve the business climate, including lifting restrictions on energy production, reversing environmental rules and rolling back regulations.

He also highlighted economic gains of the past eight months.

Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the association, said Trump is a leader "who has made manufacturing the engine of our country."

Trump wants to sign tax legislation into law by the end of the year.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

EU moves ahead faster on new future than on Brexit talks

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Twenty-seven European Union nations, excluding Britain, will be coming up with clear options on a more tightly knit future for themselves even before they will allow divorce negotiations with the U.K. to move toward brokering a new relationship.

EU Council President Donald Tusk said Friday he would be presenting "a political agenda in two weeks' time," after EU vision statements in recent weeks from French President Emmanuel Macron, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and others on how to reform the bloc.

That will be just days before the next EU summit, which is expected to reject for now British demands to start negotiating on the country's future links with the bloc alongside the current talks on how to make the cleanest Brexit possible.

Officials said Tusk will be given the job of reconciling Macron's vision of how the EU should embrace a joint budget, a shared military and harmonized taxes to stay globally relevant with those ideas of EU nations that might not want to grow too close too quickly.

Tusk said he would seek "real solutions to real problems" and stressed the need to make progress "step-by-step, issue-by-issue."

Macron said the EU had to seize the moment of having an improved economy and increased confidence in the bloc to push through reforms before European elections in 2019.

"2018 is a year of opportunity for Europeans," he said. "In 5 or 10 years, it will be too late."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte warned, however, not to set the bar too high, since changes in the bloc of half a billion people have always been tough to achieve.

"Under-promise and over-deliver," Rutte said. "Don't promise an elephant and see a mouse show up."

The collegial atmosphere was bolstered by a non-confrontational dinner Thursday night for EU leaders, where few of the usual east-west or north-south fissures spoiled the mood, officials said.

The goodwill has not extended to the issue of Brexit over the past months.

EU leaders at their Oct. 19-20 summit have to say whether "sufficient progress" has been achieved on divorce issues with Britain — citizens' rights, the Irish border and a financial settlement — to grant the U.K. its wish to start talking about a new trade deal with the EU.

Juncker said it will take "a miracle" for there to be sufficient progress by then, despite a round of negotiations in Brussels this week that ended with some progress.

Other EU leaders sounded a similar tone. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said despite "a better vibe

and a better mood coming out of the negotiations” he questioned whether the time was right to move on to trade issues with Britain.

“It’s still very evident that there’s more work to be done,” he said.

For the past week, though, British Prime Minister Theresa May has sounded more conciliatory. In Estonia, she guaranteed her country’s commitment to security even though the nation is leaving the bloc.

May visited troops in Estonia close to the Russian border on Friday and said “the United Kingdom is unconditionally committed to maintaining Europe’s security.”

“We will continue to offer aid and assistance to EU member states that are the victims of armed aggression, terrorism and natural or man-made disasters,” she vowed.

She also proposed a “new security partnership” to weather the divorce when her country leaves the bloc in March 2019.

Yellow wristbands, segregation for Florida homeless in Irma

By JASON DEAREN and KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — Shelby Hoogendyk says that when she, her husband and her 17-month-old son arrived at an emergency shelter as Hurricane Irma closed in, they were separated from others by yellow wristbands and told to stay in an area with other people like them — the homeless.

Sheriff’s deputies, she says, told them the wristbands were prompted by problems that arose among homeless people at the shelter during Hurricane Matthew a year earlier.

“We were treated like we were guilty criminals,” Hoogendyk says.

In the storm’s wake, homeless people and their advocates are complaining that some of them were turned away, segregated from the others, denied cots and food, deprived of medication refills and doctors’ visits, or otherwise ill-treated during the evacuation.

Many of the complaints have been blamed on misunderstandings, the sheer magnitude of the disaster, the crush of people needing shelter immediately, or inadequate state and local emergency planning.

All told, a record 72,000 Floridians sought refuge from the hurricane in early September at nearly 400 shelters. The response varied widely by county.

In Miami, over 700 homeless were picked up and taken to shelters. In Collier County, the sheriff sent officers into homeless encampments in the woods to bring people to a shelter. But in Polk County, Sheriff Grady Judd warned that any evacuees with warrants against them and all sex offenders seeking shelter would be taken to jail. And in Volusia County, some officials were accused of turning homeless evacuees away from shelters without explanation.

“Communities were all dealing with the fallout of not having very comprehensive planning in place to deal with this population,” said Kirsten Anderson, litigation director at Southern Legal Counsel, a nonprofit public interest law firm in Florida.

She said if a shelter discriminated against people based on their economic status, it could be a violation of federal law that protects people in federal disaster zones.

In Hoogendyk’s case, St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar and school officials who ran the shelter at Pedro Menendez High vigorously denied segregating the homeless, saying the yellow wristbands were simply used to identify people with “special needs” — substance abuse problems, mental illness or other “frailties” — who needed to be closer to the bathrooms.

But Hoogendyk said neither she nor her husband claimed any special needs when they checked in. Other homeless people said they, too, were automatically issued the yellow wristbands, while others around them got blue or other colors denoting them as part of the “general population.”

Gary Usry, a 57-year-old homeless man who arrived at the same St. Augustine shelter, said the first night was rough.

“We were left on concrete floor overnight. No blanket, no nothing,” he said. Usry said a few cots were provided to people with wristbands of other colors, but not to any of the homeless in his yellow-band section. Usry said he felt “insulted, demeaned.”

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While insisting homeless people were not singled out, the sheriff also said that the homeless population has "a disproportionate representation of those with mental illness, substance abuse problems and, quite frankly, those with criminal backgrounds."

Sheriff's spokesman Cmdr. Chuck Mulligan said that last year, during Hurricane Matthew, there were numerous arguments, fights and instances of drunkenness among homeless people at the shelter.

Elsewhere around Florida, Robin Williams said she and about 60 others from the homeless-assistance group where she works, the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, spent their first night as evacuees sleeping on a cold, hard gymnasium floor with no cots, blankets or food. The glaring lights stayed on all night, she said.

Over the next few days, the 30 or so special-needs evacuees among them were shuffled to various locations.

Just down the road, hundreds of other evacuees from the Keys rested comfortably with cots, hot meals, free toiletries and showers, Williams said.

"What these people have been through borders on criminal," she said.

The group's interim executive director, Stephanie Kaple, said three of her medically fragile clients ended up in the hospital after bouncing from place to place, wondering where they would sleep or if they would be fed. One case was a direct result of the stress, she said.

Kaple said that when she asked why some of her special-needs evacuees were sleeping on the floor, she was told that many of the cots were still being used in Houston, which was ravaged by Hurricane Harvey.

"I think there were places that the ball just got dropped," she said.

In the county's defense, Sheryl Graham, a senior director with Monroe County Social Services, said officials got barraged with last-minute requests from hundreds of people asking to be added to the special-needs registry, and it took precious manpower to contact and screen each one to make sure they were assigned to the correct shelter.

Special-needs evacuees are those who require assistance beyond what is provided at an ordinary shelter. Some might use an oxygen tank or wheelchair, for example. Medical assistance, which can include doctors' visits and medication, must be made available at such shelters. That's why special-needs evacuees must register beforehand.

But execution seemed to break down during Irma. Kaple said it was not until four days after the storm that her medically needy clients started getting doctors' visits, medications, showers and regular meals.

Lawanda Tobler, a bus driver for Volusia County who took part in the evacuation efforts, said a shelter at New Smyrna Beach High School refused to take a homeless person when they arrived, offering no other explanation than that he was homeless.

Tobler was then sent to a Salvation Army shelter where they "wouldn't even open the door and there were over a dozen homeless people at the site looking for shelter," she said.

Emails and a call to the Salvation Army were not immediately returned.

The Rev. Jeffrey Dove said that after the storm, he headed to New Smyrna Beach's community center with about 30 homeless evacuees, only to be told by the city manager "we were not welcome."

When one of the homeless evacuees asked the city manager why they couldn't eat and shower there, "she looked at him in a very condescending way and stated that he did not pay taxes," Dove said.

New Smyrna Beach City Manager Pam Brangaccio said Dove's people were turned away because they included three "unknown homeless men" and because children were there and city maintenance employees were being fed at the time.

She said she and Dove have since apologized to each other after their heated conversation and are now working together to hold a summit on homelessness.

Volusia County spokeswoman Joanne Magley said all those who needed a place were provided with shelter. She said everyone had to produce identification to get in, and those who had no ID or were homeless were sent to separate shelters for the homeless.

"If you don't have an ID and we can't do a background check, how do you know if someone is a sex offender?" she said. "You can't just let anyone into a general population shelter."

___ Kennedy reported from Miami.

Farmers say Maria wrecked bright spot of Puerto Rico economy

By DAVID PITT, Associated Press

For 21 years Hector Alejandro Santiago spread joy throughout Puerto Rico with the poinsettias, orchids and other ornamental plants he raised and sold to major retailers including Costco, Walmart and Home Depot. In a matter of hours Hurricane Maria wiped it away.

The greenhouses and other buildings on the 40 acres where he grew the plants and prepared them for customers lie in tatters, ripped to shreds by 155 mph (244 kph) winds and driving rain. Trees are flattened.

"I will need to begin from zero," said Santiago, 43, whose Cali Nurseries is located in Barranquitas, a small mountain city 34 miles (55 kilometers) southwest of San Juan. He's determined to rebuild and get back into business despite the losses he estimates at \$1.5 million.

Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm, the strongest to hit the island in a century. At least 16 people died and nearly all 3.4 million people on the island were left without power and most without water.

The hurricane devastated agriculture, a small bright spot of economic growth in a U.S. territory mired in a decade-long recession and crushing debt.

While most of the island's food is imported, statistics from the governor as of late 2016 show about 7,000 people working in agriculture, farm income growing and acres under cultivation up 50 percent over the past four years.

Agricultural income is divided nearly equally between crop and livestock production, according to the most recent Census of Agriculture compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Puerto Rico in 2012.

Crop sales generate about \$271 million a year led by production of plantains, vegetables and melons, nursery and greenhouse crops, fruits and coffee. Livestock sales are about \$276 million led by milk production, poultry and cattle, the report said.

Noel Lopez, 40, operates 10 dairy farms with his father and brother. Before the storm they were milking 12,000 cows, producing 22,000 gallons (85,000 liters) of milk a day. Maria destroyed 90 percent of the barns and as many as 700 cows are missing or dead, each one valued at \$2,500.

Without electricity, Lopez spent days after the storm focusing on finding enough diesel fuel to keep generators running so the cows could be milked and the milk could be kept cool. Failure to milk the cows could lead to an infection that could kill them and the milk can spoil within days without refrigeration.

Lopez said he has managed to get back into operation.

"A lot of people will never be able to get back to business," he said. "The ones that will be able to get back into business will never be as they were."

Jayson Harper, a professor of agricultural economics at Penn State University, spent three months in Puerto Rico in 2014 and said the hurricane has destroyed the high value crops that farmers produce, some which take years to replace.

The losses are different from crops in the Midwest, where a tornado could take out a field of corn. It's a major loss but the farmer can replant the next year. Coffee trees, when destroyed by wind, take several years to mature enough to produce beans again.

"It's a very large investment and it's just a different kind of situation," Harper said.

The coffee industry was hit at the worst time, just before the beans are picked, said Eva Legner, who with her husband Kurt operates Hacienda Pomarrosa in Ponce, a city on the island's southern coast where they have 8 acres of coffee plants.

The couple operates a small specialty coffee growing operation and a cottage where guests can stay on the coffee farm, tour the field and experience production. It is part of the island's growing agri-tourism industry.

She said the storm cut right through the island's mountainous coffee-growing area. The specialty beans their farm produces grow on bushes that are planted beneath taller trees to protect them from direct sun.

"We've lost many trees which fell on the bushes and broke them," Legner said. "My husband tells me we lost a complete harvest."

Santiago, the ornamental plants farmer, said he was unable to get to his farm for five days after Maria. When he arrived he found his employees had been working since the first day.

"I just started crying, I choked up, when I saw them working like nothing had happened," Santiago said. "They give me the strength to not give up and to do whatever I have to do to continue with my business."

Stampede on crowded Indian pedestrian bridge leaves 22 dead

By **RAFIQ MAQBOOL** and **MANISH MEHTA**, Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — A stampede broke out on a crowded pedestrian bridge connecting two railway stations in Mumbai during the Friday morning rush, killing at least 22 people and injuring 32 others, Indian officials said.

Police were investigating what caused the stampede on the bridge, which led some commuters to leap over the railing. Others were crushed or fell underfoot and were trampled.

"There were too many people on the bridge, and the people were in hurry and wanted to move out," said Brijesh Upadhyay, one of the many caught in the crowd. "There was nobody helping, it was very suffocating, and we just wanted to get out of there — and fell on each other."

One rescuer told Indian broadcaster NDTV that the stampede trapped dozens in the narrow passage, forcing rescuers to break the railing to pull people out.

Mumbai police official Gansham Patel said some falling concrete had hit part of the bridge railing, leading people to surge forward out of panic at the thought that the bridge was collapsing.

Commuters also often complain about hawkers selling their wares on the narrow overpass, which connects two commuter railway stations, Elphinstone and Parel.

Heavy rains meant the bridge was even more crowded than usual, as some sought shelter from the downpour under the canopy covering the bridge, said lawmaker Shaina Nana Chudasama of the governing Bhartiya Janata Party.

Hospitals were treating 32 injured people, including 19 women and 13 men.

As Mumbai police appealed to citizens to donate blood to help the injured, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to the families of those killed.

"Prayers with those who are injured," Modi tweeted.

Kishore Thakkar, another witness, said the bridge became overcrowded as people stopped, waiting for the rain to ease. "But then came a heavy push by people, causing some people to fall down and get crushed by the surge of passengers."

He complained that government rescuers did not respond quickly to alerts sent by phone. "Local people had pulled out most of the victims by the time the police and government rescuers arrived," Thakkar told TV news channel ABP.

Tabrez Mukadam, a relative of a day worker who died in the stampede, said such accidents happen too often in India.

"These were all common people, laborers, day workers. There has been talk about this bridge for a long time now as it is crowded during non-peak times also. All this time the government ignored it, and today we see this accident."

Separately in the southern city of Bangalore, two people were killed in another stampede by hundreds of people jostling to obtain coupons for free food offered by a local philanthropist, police said. The philanthropist has been detained for questioning.

Deadly stampedes are fairly common in densely populated India, where many cities are unequipped to deal with large crowds gathering in small areas, with few safety or crowd control measures.

In October 2013, a stampede in Madhya Pradesh state in central India killed more than 110 people, mostly women and children.

Dozens of LGBT people detained in Azerbaijan capital

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Lawyers and activists say dozens of gay and transgender people in Azerbaijan have been swept up in raids in the ca Major League Baseball to top 40,000 strikeouts for 1st time

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is set to smash through a previously untouched barrier Sunday: Some batter likely will walk back to his dugout after becoming the 40,000th strikeout of the season.

There were 30,801 strikeouts in 2005. At the current rate, this year's total will be about 40,060.

"It kills me. I can't watch the game. It's not baseball," Hall of Fame pitcher Goose Gossage said Thursday. "The only thing that's the same in the game is the bases are 90 feet and the mound is 60 feet, 6 inches. That's it."

The strikeout record has been broken for 10 consecutive seasons, and this year's total will be well above the 38,982 who whiffed in 2016. There were 39,334 through Thursday, with three full days remaining.

More batters are swinging for the fences, part of the computer revolution that transformed nearly every aspect of the game, from defensive shifts to shorter outings by starting pitchers, to more relief pitchers on each team's roster. The season home run record of 5,694, which had stood since 2000 at the height of the Steroids Era, was shattered with nearly two weeks left. Cleveland's Roberto Perez hit No. 6,000 on Thursday as the total rose to 6,022.

"If you're striking out, you're not hitting into a lot of double plays. It was like 10 years ago when I think the analytical people started saying that strikeouts aren't really that bad," Kansas City Royals manager Ned Yost said. "They would much rather have one out than the chance for two."

Boston's Chris Sale has 308 strikeouts, the most by a big league pitcher since Arizona's Randy Johnson had 334 in 2002 and Diamondbacks teammate Curt Schilling fanned 316. Indians pitchers have reached double digits in strikeouts 90 times, the most since at least 1913.

In earlier eras, strikeouts were a smear on a slugger's baseball card. Babe Ruth never struck out more than 93 times in a season. Joe DiMaggio fanned 369 times in his career, to go along with 361 home runs.

The Yankees' Aaron Judge may have set a big league rookie record for home runs with 51 through Thursday, but he's also fanned 205 times. Oakland's Khris Davis was at 194 and Texas' Joey Gallo at 193.

"They have determined the importance of hitting the ball in the air, the importance of hitting home runs, and I think players have bought into it," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I think you can be extremely productive striking out 150 times a year. If you can drive 100 and you can score 100, there's a lot of things that you can do. So I think the game has shifted gears a little bit."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred and his staff are concerned about the decrease in action, especially in an era that had professional sports competing with screen time for the attention of youth.

Teams averaged 3 strikeouts per game when the Yankees' Murderer's Row ruled baseball in 1927. The average didn't top 4 until 1952, 5 until 1959 and 6 until 1994. It passed 7 in 2010 and 8 last year.

"Everybody digs the long ball. If you struck out that many times back in the day, your (butt) would be back in the minor leagues," said Gossage, who advocates small ball as a way of defeating both power pitchers and infield shifts. "I think these computers got these kids — they're all like robots. You're telling me that a guy, a professional hitter, can't hit a ball the whole left or right side of an infield that's gone? How about laying down five or six or 10 bunts, like Boog Powell would have done?"

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Trump to travel to 5 countries in Asia in November

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House announced Friday that President Donald Trump will take a five-nation trip to the Asia Pacific region in November as the U.S. seeks to curb North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

The White House said Trump will travel to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines from

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Nov. 3-14, a trip that will also include a stop in Hawaii. It will be Trump's first visit to the region as president, and it comes as North Korea moves closer to its goal of having a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the U.S.

The White House said Trump's visit would "strengthen the international resolve to confront the North Korean threat and ensure the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Trump has offered fiery rhetoric and a tough stance against the North's nuclear weapons program, declaring in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly last week that the U.S. would "totally destroy" North Korea if provoked. North Korea responded with pledges to take the "highest-level" action against the United States and warned that it might conduct the "most powerful" atmospheric hydrogen bomb test in the Pacific Ocean.

Trump is also expected to discuss trade and economic ties to the region and will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in the Philippines.

Even as Washington and Beijing grapple with that security crisis in North Korea, Trump has pressed China for more balanced trade with America.

Trump has been openly critical of China's large trade surpluses with the United States and last month ordered an investigation into whether Beijing improperly pressures companies to hand over their technology in exchange for market access.

His trip to China will come weeks after Chinese leader Xi Jinping is expected to receive a second five-year term as the leader of China's communist party. Trump has sought to forge a personal relationship with Xi, hosting the Chinese president at his Mar-a-Lago resort in April.

In a prelude to Trump's trip to China, Trump met Thursday with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong, who was attending the inaugural dialogue on people-to-people ties in Washington.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

Technology firms and small companies lead US stocks higher

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Large technology and health care companies and smaller U.S.-focused firms rose again Friday as stocks finished the third quarter at record highs.

Stocks were mixed at the start of trading, as they had been the day before. But chipmakers and big-name technology companies pulled stocks higher, as they have done all year. Health care companies also did better than the rest of the market. Tyson Foods climbed after it gave strong profit forecasts, and investors cheered strong quarterly results from homebuilder KB Home.

The market ended the quarter on a four-day winning streak that began after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the central bank plans to continue to raising interest rates.

"It's all about the confidence they have that despite low inflation, it still makes sense to raise interest rates," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "She's confident in the economy and the economic backdrop is very solid."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.30 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,519.36. The Dow Jones industrial average turned higher to finish with a gain of 23.89 points, or 0.1 percent, at 22,405.09. The Nasdaq composite jumped 42.51 points, or 0.7 percent, to 6,495.96. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq both closed at all-time highs.

The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks added 2.08 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,490.86. It's also at record highs after a big rally this month. It climbed 6 percent in September as investors felt positive about the U.S. economy and hoped Congress and President Donald Trump's administration will reduce taxes.

Tyson Foods jumped after the food company raised its annual guidance and said profits for its beef business were better than expected. Thanks in part to cost cuts, Tyson also forecast a bigger profit than analysts expected for next year.

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Tyson climbed \$5, or 7.6 percent, to \$70.45. The stock gained more ground Friday than it had for the rest of this year put together. Rival Hormel Foods, whose brands include Skippy, rose 43 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$32.14. Those companies and their competitors have struggled in recent years as Americans look for fresher food options.

Technology companies rose further and were the best-performing S&P 500 sector in the third quarter. They also held that distinction in the first quarter. The S&P 500 technology index has climbed 26 percent in 2017, while the S&P 500 is up 12.5 percent.

Facebook added \$2.14, or 1.3 percent, to \$170.87 and chip equipment maker Applied Materials rose \$1.47, or 2.9 percent, to \$52.09. Chipmaker Nvidia advanced \$3.09, or 1.8 percent, to \$178.77.

The recent gains for tech companies have come in spite of a slump for Apple, the world's most valuable publicly-traded company. While Apple has soared this year, it's down 4 percent since it announced its new line of iPhones and other products Sept. 12.

KB Home advanced after its third-quarter profit and sales beat estimates. The stock rose \$1.90, or 8.6 percent, to \$24.12. Other homebuilders also rose. Meritage Homes picked up 85 cents, or 2 percent, to \$44.40 and D.R. Horton advanced 95 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$39.93.

Oil prices recovered and turned higher just before the close of trading. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 11 cents to \$51.67 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 13 cents to \$57.54 a barrel in London.

U.S. crude oil rose 12 percent in the third quarter, which helped energy companies do better than the rest of the market. But on Friday those companies gave back some of their recent gains.

Stocks have risen for eight quarters in a row, and Frederick, of the Schwab Center, said he expects that to continue in the fourth quarter as the global economy is likely to keep growing and interest rates in the U.S. should rise more, which will help profits for banks. However Frederick said it's possible that concerns about domestic politics, including the federal debt limit, or international concerns such as tensions with North Korea will weigh on stocks again, as they did at times in the third quarter.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline slid 3 cents to \$1.61 a gallon. Heating oil declined 2 cents to \$1.81 a gallon. Natural gas gave up 1 cent to \$3.01 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Bond prices turned lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.33 percent from 2.31 percent. Gold lost \$3.90 to \$1,284.80 an ounce. Silver slid 17 cents to \$16.68 an ounce. Copper fell 3 cents to \$2.96 a pound.

The dollar rose to 112.51 yen from 112.39 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1816 from \$1.1791. Germany's DAX added 1 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain and CAC 40 in France both gained 0.7 percent. In Japan, the benchmark Nikkei 225 inched down less than 0.1 percent. South Korea's Kospi jumped 0.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.5 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2017. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 30, 1947, the World Series was broadcast on television for the first time; the New York Yankees defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers 5-3 in game 1 (the Yankees went on to win the Series four games to three).

On this date:

In 1777, the Continental Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pennsylvania.

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In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1917, legendary jazz drummer and bandleader Bernard "Buddy" Rich was born in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1927, Babe Ruth of the Yankees hit his 60th homer of the season to break his own major-league record during a 4-2 victory over the Washington Senators.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our time."

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

In 1952, the motion picture "This Is Cinerama," which introduced the triple-camera, triple-projector Cinerama widescreen process, premiered at the Broadway Theatre in New York.

In 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, California.

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives.

In 1972, Roberto Clemente hit a double against Jon Matlack of the New York Mets during Pittsburgh's 5-0 victory at Three Rivers Stadium; the hit was the 3,000th and last for the Pirates star.

In 1982, the situation comedy "Cheers" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1997, France's Roman Catholic Church apologized for its silence during the systematic persecution and deportation of Jews by the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

Ten years ago: A U.N. envoy failed to meet with Myanmar's top two junta leaders in his effort to persuade them to ease a violent crackdown on anti-government protesters, but was allowed a highly orchestrated session with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee). Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan hanged a teenager found to have U.S. money in his pocket as a warning to others not to use dollars. The United States won the Presidents Cup in Montreal, 19 1/2-14 1/2, giving them a victory on foreign soil in cup competition for the first time since 1993. Germany defeated Brazil 2-0 in the final of the Women's World Cup held in Shanghai, China.

Five years ago: Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, writing in The Wall Street Journal, said President Barack Obama had "misunderstood" American values in his policies toward other countries. Looking to lower expectations in advance of his first debate against Romney, Obama described himself as just an "OK" debater. Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels became the first rookie in Major League history to hit 30 home runs and steal 40 bases in a season as the Angels defeated the Texas Rangers 5-4. Europe won the Ryder Cup with an historic comeback from a 4-point deficit to beat the United States, 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2 points.

One year ago: Alabama's Court of the Judiciary permanently suspended state Chief Justice Roy Moore for defying federal court rulings on gay marriage, saying he had violated judicial ethics. Scottish boxer Mike Towell, 25, died after suffering severe bleeding and swelling to his brain during a televised fight against Dale Evans in Glasgow.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angie Dickinson is 86. Singer Cissy Houston is 84. Singer Johnny Mathis is 82. Actor Len Cariou is 78. Singer Marilyn McCoo is 74. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is 72. Pop singer Sylvia Peterson (The Chiffons) is 71. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall is 67. Actress Victoria Tennant is 67. Actor John Finn is 65. Rock musician John Lombardo is 65. Singer Deborah Allen is 64. Actor Calvin Levels is 63. Actor Barry Williams is 63. Singer Patrice Rushen is 63. Actress Fran Drescher is 60. Country singer Marty Stuart is 59. Actress Debrah Farentino is 58. Rock musician Bill Rieflin (R.E.M.) is 57. Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., is 57. Actress Crystal Bernard is 56. Actor Eric Stoltz is 56. Rapper-producer Marley Marl is 55. Country singer Eddie Montgomery (Montgomery-Gentry) is 54. Rock singer Trey Anastasio is 53. Actress Monica Bellucci is 53. Rock musician Robby Takac (TAY'-kak) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 53. Actress Lisa Thornhill is 51. Actress Andrea Roth is 50. Actress Amy Landecker is 48. Actor Silas Weir Mitchell is 48. Actor Tony Hale is 47. Actress Jenna Elfman is 46. Actor Ashley Hamilton is 43. Actress Marion Cotillard (koh-tee-YAHR') is 42. Actor Christopher Jackson is 42. Actor Stark Sands is 39. Actor Mike Damus is 38. Tennis player Martina Hingis is 37. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Moceanu (moh-chee-AH'-noo)

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is 36. Actress Lacey Chabert (shuh-BEHR') is 35. Actor Kieran Culkin is 35. Singer-rapper T-Pain is 33.

Thought for Today: "We relish news of our heroes, forgetting that we are extraordinary to somebody too." — Helen Hayes, American actress

pital of Baku this month and some were sentenced to up to 30 days in jail.

Homosexuality was decriminalized in majority-Muslim Azerbaijan in 2000, but animosity toward LGBT people remains strong.

Gulnara Mehtiyeva of the Minority Azerbaijan organization told The Associated Press the arrests that started on Sept. 18 "are the most extensive raids against representatives of sexual minorities in our country."

An attorney helping to coordinate legal representation for those arrested, Samed Rahimli, says at least 46 people have been sentenced to between 10 to 30 days in jail for resisting police.

Interior Ministry spokesman Ehsan Zahidov said the arrests were sparked by citizen complaints of "disrespect."

"Of the detained sexual minorities, 16 showed AIDS or syphilis. They are giving sexual services with two or three people a day, spreading the infection," Zahidov said.

But the Nefes LGBT Azerbaijan Alliance on Friday posted a statement from one of those detained who denied being a sex worker. The man, identified only as Hasan, said on the group's Facebook page that police beat him, claimed he was a sex worker and demanded information about his alleged clients.