

# Groton Daily Independent

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## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

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

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Thursday

Volleyball at Clark

## 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 **Closed**



“Timing

in life

is

everything.”

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

-Leonard Maltin

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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")**

## 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](http://www.grotonarea.com). Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-297-2351.

## Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,  
Full or Part Time. Cooks/Dietary Aid.

## NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

Contact Brynn Pickrel 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**

0913.1005

## City gets 2 Automated External Defibrillators

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, "An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

"SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs.

"SCA usually causes death if it's not treated within minutes. In fact, each minute of SCA leads to a 10 percent reduction in survival. Using an AED on a person who is having SCA may save the person's life.

"Ninety-five percent of people who have SCA die from it—most within minutes. Rapid treatment of SCA with an AED can be lifesaving."

The American Red Cross supports the position that improved training and access to AEDs could save 50,000 lives each year. The Red Cross believes that all Americans should be within four minutes of an AED and someone trained to use it.

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. Over 350,000 people will suffer from sudden cardiac arrest this year. It can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere and at any age. An AED is the only effective treatment for restoring a regular heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest and is an easy to operate tool for someone with no medical background.



**Dick Kolker (left) and Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou are holding the AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) donated by the Groton Community Fund. The AED that the police department had was at least 15 years. Mayor requested the funds through the Groton Community Fund and they donated two units. City Finance Officer Hope Block said, "What an awesome community!!!!"**

## Erickson, Sims receive Governor Awards

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels presented the 2017 Governor's Awards today to South Dakota businesses and workers who have made significant contributions to the employment of people with disabilities.



**Meri Erickson of Groton has assisted over 100 students with disabilities to transition from high school to the adult world in her 31 years of working at Groton High School. For that reason, Erickson has been selected as the recipient of the Outstanding Transition Services Award.**

The 2017 Governor's Awards ceremony was co-sponsored by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the South Dakota Department of Human Services.



**Koni Sims of Sioux Falls is legally blind due to a rare eye disease called Aniridia. After acquiring her degree, Sims began work with Sanford University of South Dakota Medical Center where she developed the current hospital massage program. Outside of work, Sims is the current president of the Siouxland Chapter of the South Dakota Association of the Blind. For these achievements, Sims was awarded the Outstanding Citizen with a Disability Award.**

**Sims is a GHS graduate and is the daughter of Chuck and LaVonne Raap of Groton.**

## Today in Weather History

October 5, 1982: Strong thunderstorms developed across central South Dakota and raced into portions of southwest Minnesota. The storms were prolific lightning producers in South Dakota setting several structures on fire. An electrical substation was damaged near Salem, an elementary school was set ablaze in Aberdeen, and several homes in Sioux Falls were struck as well. One home in Sioux Falls had a hole knocked in a wall by a lightning strike.

Numerous fires were also started in southern Minnesota by the same line of storms. Strong thunderstorm winds leveled several buildings, damaged a house, and moved a hog shed off its foundation on three separate farms near Worthington. The winds also turned over railroad cars near Pipestone. Worthington narrowly escaped damage as a small tornado touched down two miles southwest of town and moved southeast. Fortunately, the tornado's damage was confined to trees and crops.



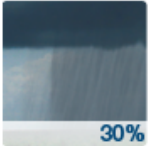




October 5, 2013: A historic blizzard pounded western South Dakota with record-setting snowfall and high winds for almost 48 hours from the evening of October 3 through the afternoon of October 5. One to two feet of snow was reported over the plains of western South Dakota, with three to five feet of snow falling over the northern and central Black Hills. Wind gusts to 70 mph across the plains produced significant blowing and drifting snow, with visibilities near zero for much of the day on October 4. The heavy wet snow and strong winds downed trees and power lines, causing prolonged outages and impassable highways. The roofs of several businesses, a middle school, and community center collapsed from the heavy snow. Thousands of livestock were killed from hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board received reports of over 21,000 cattle; over 1300 sheep; 400 horses; and 40 bison deaths from the storm. Tree and debris removal costs were several million dollars. An unyielding low-pressure area moving across the region brought an early fall blizzard to most of the counties west of Missouri River on October 4th and 5th. The snowfall and blizzard conditions occurred mainly along the western parts of the counties. The snowfall amounts varied broadly from 1 to 2 inches to as much as 22 inches in far western Corson County. Very strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph brought blizzard conditions and significant travel problems. Interstate-90 was closed from Murdo to the Wyoming border from 7 pm on October 4th to the evening of the October 8th. No travel was advised on all roads west of the Missouri River. Many cattle were also lost in western Corson County due to the storm. The heavy snow along with strong winds resulted in some power outages along with some downed tree branches. The snowfall began in the late morning hours of the 4th and ended in the early afternoon hours of the 5th. Some snowfall amounts that occurred were 1 inch at Murdo; 2 inches at Timber Lake and 5 miles west of Hayes; 4 inches at McIntosh; 16 inches southeast of Morrystown; and 22 inches southwest of Keldron.

1864: A tropical cyclone hit India near Calcutta, devastating the city and killing about 60,000 people in the region.

1972: Tropical Storm Joanne, earlier a hurricane, moves across the Baja California peninsula and came ashore in western Mexico south of Ajo. The storm brought heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. This storm is the first documented tropical storm to reach Arizona with its cyclonic circulation intact. Over 5.00 inches of rain, was reported on the Mogollon rim southeast of Flagstaff. Additional rainfall amounts included 4.44 at Flagstaff, 3.80 at Prescott, 2.21 at Yuma, 1.95 at Phoenix, 1.63 at Nogales, and 1.63 at Tucson.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Isolated T-storms then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers	Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 63 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 58 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 63 °F



## Light Showers Today

Maybe A Rumble Of Thunder

Highs Around 60 Degrees

Not Much For Moisture Though

Warm & Windy Saturday

More Widespread & Substantial Rain Friday

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 10/5/2017 6:02 AM Central

Published on: 10/05/2017 at 6:04AM

Expect a few light showers to move across the area today, with maybe a rumble of thunder, however generally we don't expect to see much for rainfall. A second system passes overhead Friday and that may generate more widespread rainfall mainly for southeast South Dakota.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61.1

Low Outside Temp: 31.3

High Gust: 17

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 96° in 1963

Record Low: 19° in 1935

Average High: 63°F

Average Low: 37°F

Average Precip in Oct: 0.40

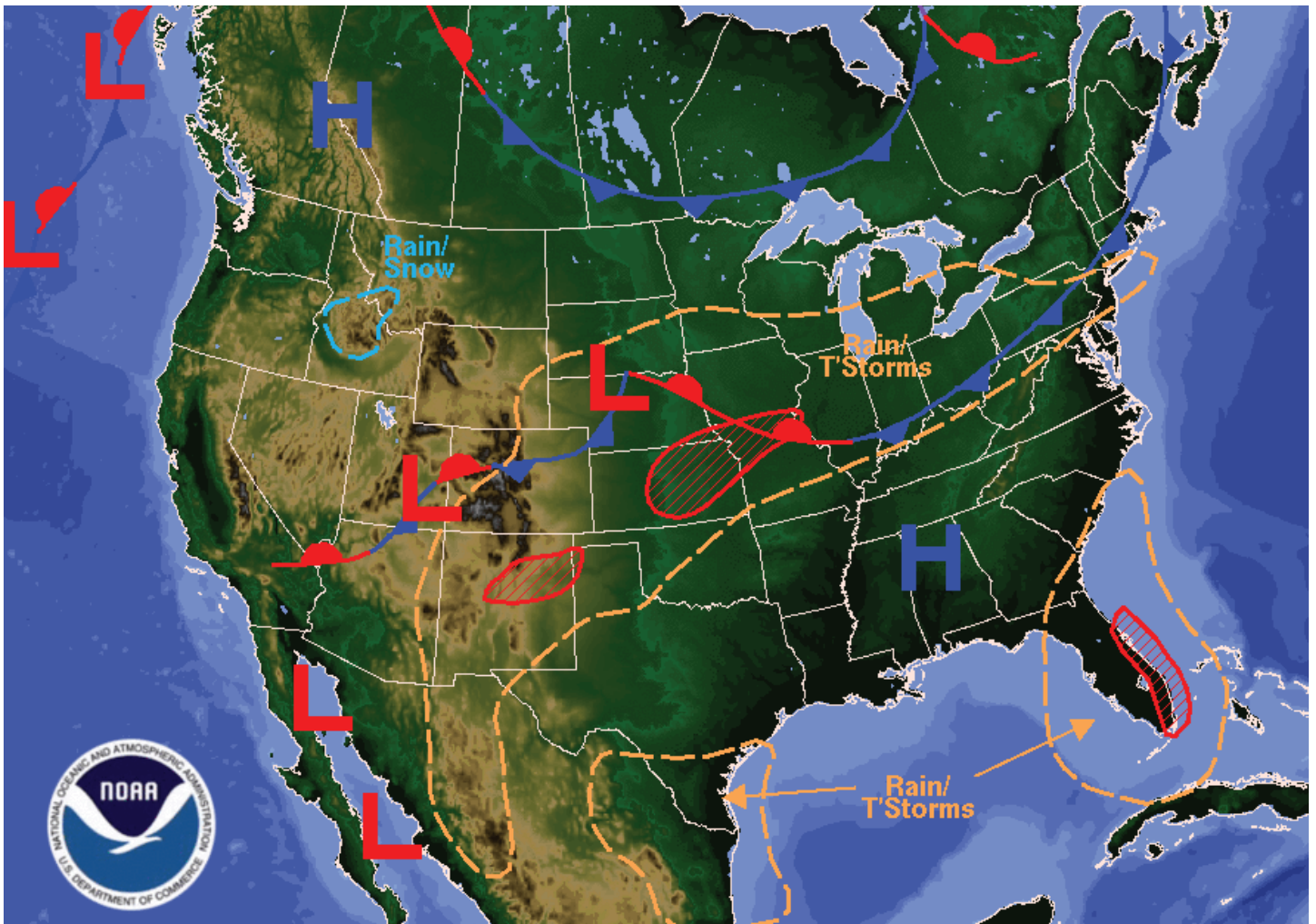
Precip to date in Oct: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 18.88

Precip Year to Date: 13.28

Sunset Tonight: 7:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Oct 05, 2017, issued 5:09 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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## THE SOURCE OF PRAISE

Someone recently reminded me that my heart beats 72 times a minute, 100,000 times a day, 3,600,000 times a year. And, if I live what would be considered a "normal life span," it will beat 2.5 billion times. It only weighs about 11 ounces yet will pump about 2,000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels each day. Rather amazing, to say the least.

Yet I rarely stop to consider those facts. It's God at work in my body taking care of me, watching over me, providing life for me and within me.

Often in life we seek God's presence and power to protect us and provide for our needs. But are we aware of the magnitude of His grace, gifts and goodness? Are we sincerely thankful for His constant care, concern and compassion?

Do we ever pause to think of the work our heart does without our having to do anything to make it "work?" Do we realize that God is alive and involved in our lives without our even mentioning His name?

God gives us life without asking for it and help when we call upon Him when we are having difficult times.

David often needed God's help. He knew that in God's "name" there was help and hope. He experienced it in the past and knew it was available in the present.

And when God helped him, the first thing he did was to "praise His name." Praise is what we are to "do" when we recognize God at work in our lives.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to be aware of all that You do in our lives and to praise You for each gift – big or little. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 54:6 I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

## 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)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 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

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

03-04-07-11-32

(three, four, seven, eleven, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$39,000

Hot Lotto

02-06-08-31-46, Hot Ball: 15

(two, six, eight, thirty-one, forty-six; Hot Ball: fifteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$11.23 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$30 million

Powerball

22-23-62-63-66, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2

(twenty-two, twenty-three, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-six; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

### Sioux Falls won't disclose report of flawed venue paneling

STYX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls won't publicly release a forensic report that concluded flawed paneling on the city's \$117 million stadium wasn't worth replacing.

The decision came after City Hall made public last month a once-secret settlement with several contractors over construction defects at the Denny Sanford Premier Center, the Argus Leader reported .

The forensic report was never made public or disclosed to City Council. City Attorney David Pfeifle said there's no obligation to publicly release the report because it's in draft form.

"We will not be providing that draft report for public inspection because it was never completed," he said.

The stadium's flawed paneling was never replaced because a forensic consultant hired by the city said the deficiency was cosmetic and not structural, according to Mark Cotter, Sioux Falls' public works director. Cotter, who testified before City Council on Tuesday, also said the decision saved taxpayers \$1 million.

The city's reluctance to share information about the decision-making process is causing public distrust, said Christine Erickson, a councilwoman. She said allowing people to see the report so they can verify the stadium is structurally sound would help give the public confidence that the city made the right decision.

"What assurance can you give the taxpayer that the siding is adequately protecting the event center?" Erickson asked Mayor Mike Huether. "At the end of the day, that will help people move on."

Several council members said there will likely be more meetings on the settlement.

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

### GOP urges voters to study measures before signing petitions

STYX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Republican Party is urging state residents to research ballot measures first before signing petitions to put initiatives on the 2018 ballot.

The party wants voters to understand what they're signing, Chairman Dan Lederman said Wednesday. Ballot measure supporters are out collecting thousands of signatures ahead of the Nov. 6, 2017, deadline for petitions to be submitted to the secretary of state's office.

The state's dominant political party is advising people approached by a petition carrier to hold off on

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signing until they study the measure and verify the circulator has South Dakota identification. The GOP wrote on its "Don't Sign on the Line" Facebook page that the educational initiative comes because South Dakota's ballot is "continually being used as a mad scientist's laboratory."

"The system was set up so that real South Dakotans could address real problems, and that's not what's happening," Lederman said.

The 2016 election season featured 10 ballot questions and more than \$10 million from out-of-state sources. Republican officials have frequently complained about out-of-state interests experimenting with South Dakota's laws and constitution and have discussed changes to the state's ballot question system.

More than 10 initiatives proposed for 2018 have been approved to circulate. Initiated measures need nearly 14,000 valid signatures, while constitutional amendments require almost 28,000 names.

## Baby found abandoned near Sioux Falls church

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say they've found the parents of a newborn left outside a church in Sioux Falls overnight.

Officers found the 2-month-old child in a car seat about 8:45 a.m. Tuesday. Investigators believe the child was left there overnight because he was wet and cold. The National Weather Service says temperatures reached a low of 46 overnight with nearly 3 inches of rain.

The child was placed in protective custody. Police say the parents are a 38-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman from Sioux Falls.

## Pine Ridge man sentenced to 18 years for reservation slaying

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge man who pleaded guilty in the shooting death of another man on the reservation has been sentenced to 18 years in federal prison.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 27-year-old Thomas Brewer said he made a "bad choice" while under the influence of drugs and alcohol and didn't intend to kill Shawn Stevens. Brewer's lawyer, John Dorsey, asked for a sentence of 10 years for discharging a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence and one day for voluntary manslaughter.

Brewer pleaded guilty in May in a deal to dismiss his original second-degree murder charge. Brewer admitted to shooting Stevens with a pistol in the early morning hours of Nov. 30, 2016, during an argument in Pine Ridge. Stevens later died from his injuries.

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

## Ex-SD police chief asking court to vacate murder conviction

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota police chief found guilty in the 2009 death of his pregnant fiancée is asking the state Supreme Court to vacate his first-degree murder conviction.

Arguments in Russell Bertram's case are set for Wednesday. The one-time Harrisburg police chief was sentenced last year to life in prison without parole for fatally shooting 26-year-old Leonila Stickney.

Bertram was accused of shooting Stickney out of jealousy and to collect more than \$900,000 in insurance benefits. Defense attorneys argued it was accidental.

The defense says the conviction should be vacated because of constitutional violations and evidentiary deficiencies. Bertram's attorneys argue the trial court abused its discretion by allowing evidence of Bertram's sexual encounters with other women during his engagement to Stickney.

They say that evidence wasn't relevant to first-degree murder.

Children playing with phone lead to drug bust in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Children playing with a phone led Pierre police officers to a drug bust.

The Capital Journal reports that officers who responded to several 911 hang-up calls on Sunday morning

smelled marijuana and initiated a welfare check on the children.

Officers say they found marijuana and paraphernalia inside the residence, and a 25-year-old man became combative with officers. He was arrested on several charges.

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

## **Trial beginning in fatal shooting in Roslyn 2 years ago**

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — Trial is beginning for a man accused of fatally shooting another man in his Roslyn home two years ago.

The American News reports that a jury is being selected to hear the case of 46-year-old Jason Lewandowski.

He has 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 trial comes after a judge last month declined to accept a plea deal in which Lewandowski would have pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

As many as 210 prospective jurors could be called this week. Fourteen jurors will be selected for the trial, which is scheduled to run through Oct. 20.

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

## **Trial delayed for Yankton man shot by state trooper**

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Trial has been delayed for a Yankton man who was shot by a state trooper last December.

Curt Adams Sr. is charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault of a police officer and aggravated eluding in the incident that involved a police chase. He also faces drug counts.

Adams' trial was to begin Oct. 16. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that it's been delayed to provide more time for results to be procured from a court-ordered competency evaluation of Adams. A status hearing will be held Nov. 6.

An investigation concluded the trooper was justified in the shooting.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## **Giant house dispute before the South Dakota Supreme Court**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court is hearing a dispute between neighbors over the size of a newly constructed house in Sioux Falls.

The lawyer for Josh and Sarah Sapienza says the couple got the necessary permits to build their home, which towers over their neighbors in a federal historic district. The Argus Leader says the Sapienzas are appealing a circuit court decision which said the home violates historic building standards. Neighbors Pierce and Barbara McDowell sued the Sapienzas after they were told by the city they could no longer use their wood burning fireplace because it was too close to the new home.

The McDowells' attorney, Ron Parsons, says the Sapienzas were told to stop construction as soon as the McDowells were told they could no longer use their fireplace, but they did not.

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

## Ishiguro wins Nobel for 'uncovering the abyss'

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Kazuo Ishiguro, the Japanese-born British novelist best known for "The Remains of the Day," has won the Nobel Literature Prize.

The announcement Thursday marked a return to traditional literature following two years of unconventional choices by the Swedish Academy for the 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize.

The academy said the 62-year-old Ishiguro's eight novels were works of emotional force that uncover "the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world."

Last year's literature prize went to American songwriter Bob Dylan and the previous year's to Belarusian journalist Svetlana Alexievich.

## Clues few and elusive for motive of Las Vegas gunman

By **KEN RITTER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Those seeking to know the motive of Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock have had little more to chase than hints and shadows.

Paddock led such a low-key, private life that no one seemed to know him well, and those who did had no sense he was capable of the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

Where other mass killers have left behind a trail of plain-sight clues that help investigators quickly understand what drove them to violence, Paddock, 64, had nearly no close friends, social media presence or other clear connections to the broader world.

Even the No. 2 official in the FBI said Wednesday he was surprised investigators have not uncovered more about why a man with no obvious criminal record would cause so much bloodshed.

"There's all kinds of things that surprise us in each one of these events. That's the one in this one, and we are not there yet," FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said. "We have a lot of work to do."

Working with what little they know, investigators have zeroed in on a weapon-buying binge Paddock went on one year before he gunned down 58 people Sunday at a country music festival from a 32nd-floor room at the Mandalay Bay casino resort before killing himself.

They wonder if he had some sort of mental break at the time that drove him to start making plans for mass murder.

They also know he rented an apartment in a Las Vegas high-rise over another music festival the weekend before the massacre, though not why.

They know he was a major gambler and are looking at related records, though even in very public casinos he played the very private game of video poker.

They know he had a plan to survive the shooting and try to escape, though would not say how.

"This individual and this attack didn't leave the sort of immediately accessible thumbprints that you find on some mass casualty attacks," McCabe said. "Putting aside the somewhat dubious claims of responsibility that we see in each one of these instances, we look for actual indicators of affiliation, of motive, of intent, and so far we're not there. We don't have those sort of indicators."

Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said at a news conference Wednesday night that Paddock must have had some help along the way given his huge arsenal the explosive materials found in his car, and his meticulous plan, but they don't know who that might be.

Some who thought they knew him intimately could provide no help.

"He never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen," Marilou Danley, 62, said in a statement read by her lawyer outside FBI headquarters in Los Angeles.

Danley returned Tuesday from the Philippines, where Paddock had sent her before the attack, and was being interviewed by the FBI.

Analyzing Paddock's computer, cellphone and other electronic devices, Investigators have found no obvious ideological motive, no clear connection to extremists or activist groups or outward display of mental illness.

Paddock wired \$100,000 to the Philippines days before the shooting, said a U.S. official who was not

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authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation. Investigators are trying to trace that money.

Danley, who was overseas for more than two weeks, said she was initially pleased when she was wired money from Paddock to buy a house for her family in the Philippines. But she later feared it was a way to break up with her.

She said she loved Paddock as a "kind, caring, quiet man" and hoped they would have a future together. She said she was devastated by the carnage and would cooperate with authorities as they struggle to get inside Paddock's mind.

The previous weekend, Paddock had rented a high-rise condo in a building that overlooked the Life is Beautiful alternative music festival featuring Chance the Rapper, Muse, Lorde and Blink-182, said Lombardo, who offered no other details about what led Paddock there.

On Sept. 28, the 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and real estate investor checked into Mandalay Bay and specifically requested an upper-floor room with a view of the Route 91 Harvest music festival, according to a person who has seen hotel records turned over to investigators.

Paddock wasn't able to move into the room until Saturday, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly and disclosed the information to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The room, which goes for \$590 a night, was given to Paddock for free because he was a good customer who wagered tens of thousands of dollars each time he visited the casino, the person said.

Authorities are looking for hints in those details of the kind of life he lived, and the kind of victims and venue he targeted, said David Gomez, a former FBI national security and criminal profiler.

"We may never know to 100 percent certainty," he said. "But they will find out."

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Gurman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Brian Melley and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles, Regina Garcia Cano and Michelle Price in Las Vegas; Jim Gomez and Teresa Cerrojano in Manila, Philippines; and Richard Lardner, Eric Tucker and Tami Abdollah in Washington contributed to this report.

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For complete coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>.

## Vegas shooter's gambling draws new attention to video poker

By GENE JOHNSON, KEN RITTER and REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Authorities trying to piece together the final days before Stephen Paddock unleashed his arsenal of powerful firearms on country music fans on the Las Vegas Strip have at least one potential trove of information: his gambling habits.

Nevada gambling regulators say they're sorting through documents for clues about him and his girlfriend, Marilou Danley. Those can include suspicious transaction or currency reports, as well as information from a player's rewards card, which the casinos use to track their gambling and offer perks.

Paddock's brother has described the gunman as a high-stakes video poker player who was routinely comped rooms, meals and drinks at casinos.

"He was a substantial gambler. It was a job to him," Eric Paddock said.

A person who has seen Mandalay Bay hotel records that have been turned over to investigators said Wednesday they show Paddock was given his room on the 32nd floor for free because he was a good customer who wagered tens of thousands of dollars each time he visited. The individual was not authorized to speak publicly and disclosed the information to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The massacre has brought new attention to the world of high-limit video poker and casino comps where high-rollers are given all sorts of free items to keep them gambling. The biggest gamblers — often known as whales — can get such perks as chartered planes, butlers and free lodging at a \$35,000-a-night villa.

Paddock's brother said he was not at that level, but he gambled enough that he got free rooms, poolside cabanas and high-end sushi meals exceeding \$1,000.

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"He won cars and \$250,000 checks and all this stuff from the hotel," Eric Paddock said.

Video poker machines are a mainstay at casinos around Nevada, with most of the machines placed in bars where gamblers can play poker from their bar stools for 25 cents a hand. They look similar to slot machines.

Paddock favored the high-dollar variety version of the game, whose machines are separate from the main video poker and slot areas. Players like Paddock use strategies that can minimize the house winnings and in some cases gain a minuscule mathematical advantage.

Michael Shackelford, who runs a gambling strategy website called The Wizard of Odds, said based on what is known of Paddock's life, the gunman seems to have been what the casinos refer to as a "premium mass" player — one who bets in higher amounts, with a better understanding of the game than the typical player.

Premium mass players pay close attention to the odds in the game they're playing and the payout, and they typically need access to a lot of money because they may have long dry spells where they lose exorbitant amounts.

Eventually, Shackelford said, if players stay true to a perfect strategy — one designed to maximize their performance over the long haul, such as by getting rid of potentially decent cards like low pairs to increase chances of a big-payout royal flush — their luck will turn, based on statistics, and they'll break even or come close to it. When you add in the freebies from the casino, the player can come out ahead.

"Vegas is full of people that are basically just gambling for free," Shackelford said. "I think the shooter was one of these people who was basically milking the system, getting free vacations."

Why do the casinos have games where the players can come out ahead?

"It's because there are so many bad players," Shackelford said. "For every skilled player, there are probably 100 lousy players. They subsidize the skilled players."

The stress of having so much on the line isn't for everyone, he said.

"In any form of gambling, you need a strong stomach and you need to have a very cool head about the ups and down," he said. "If this guy was a millionaire, it's quite possible he was not bothered by the ups and down. He probably had steel nerves and was a difficult person to move emotionally."

It's unknown how much he wagered, but he apparently had been wagering more than \$10,000 a day in some cases.

A.G. Burnett, the head of Nevada's Gaming Control Board, said investigators are looking for enforcement actions, for any disputes Paddock may have had as a casino patron and at any federally required currency reports of transactions he made greater than \$10,000.

Authorities have said Paddock used Danley's loyalty rewards card with MGM Resorts International. The tiered program allows players to accumulate credits and get perks such as bonuses on points earned playing slots, priority hotel check-in and — for those who belong to the highest and by-invitation-only level — limousine service to and from the airport.

"(The casinos) know whether he lost money because he never would have gambled for a second without putting the card in," Eric Paddock said.

Johnson reported from Seattle.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. VEGAS GUNMAN'S MOTIVE STILL A MYSTERY

Stephen Paddock led such a low-key, private life that no one seemed to know him well, and those who did had no clue he was capable of killing 58 people and injuring hundreds more.

### 2. WITNESS LINKS NERVE AGENT TO ACCUSED KILLERS

A chemist says he found evidence of VX nerve agent on the clothing of two women on trial for the



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murder of the half brother of North Korea's leader.

## 3. WHO WON NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

Novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his book "The Remains of the Day," was cited for "novels of great emotional force."

## 4. WHERE GOP LAWMAKERS' PRIORITIES LIE

Republicans are focused on cutting taxes instead of deficits as they look to power a \$4.1 billion budget plan through the House.

## 5. THREE GREEN BERETS KILLED IN NIGER

The commandos, part of a U.S. force helping the Nigerien Armed Forces counter violent extremists, were likely attacked by militants tied to al-Qaida.

## 6. WHO'S FUMING ABOUT ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT

The court, widely seen as a guardian of the country's founding democratic principles, is facing fierce pressure from political hard-liners who are challenging what they see as the court's overreach and liberal slant.

## 7. IN BOSTON, AN OPEN-AIR DRUG MARKET

U.S. cities are wrestling with chronically drug-infested areas that have expanded during the heroin crisis, including Boston's "Methadone Mile."

## 8. STARTLING DISPARITY IN LOAN REPAYMENT

A U.S. government study shows that students who attended for-profit colleges were twice as likely — or more — to default on their loans than students who attended public schools.

## 9. WHAT'S DISTRACTING TOO MANY DRIVERS

A study says the infotainment technology that automakers are cramming into new vehicles is making drivers take their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel.

## 10. ARIZONA TOPS COLORADO IN WILD-CARD THRILLER

With an 11-8 win, the Diamondbacks move on to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Dodgers.

## Iraq says it has retaken northern town from Islamic State

By ANGELA CHARLTON and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Iraq's prime minister said Thursday that troops have retaken the northern town of Hawija from the Islamic State group, driving the extremists from one of their last strongholds in the country.

Haider al-Abadi declared victory during a press conference in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron, who offered to help mediate between Iraq's government and the autonomous Kurdish region, which voted for independence last week in a move that was rejected by Baghdad and neighboring Turkey and Iran.

"I want to announce the liberation of the city of Hawija today," al-Abadi said, calling it a "victory not just for Iraq but for the whole world."

Iraqi forces have driven IS from nearly all the cities and towns it seized in the summer of 2014, including the country's second largest city, Mosul, which was liberated in July. The extremists are now mainly concentrated in a region straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border, and still control a cluster of towns in the far west of Iraq's sprawling Anbar province.

Iraqi officials often declare victory before the fighting has completely ended, and the troops in and around Hawija were likely still clearing mines and booby traps, and flushing out remaining militants. Iraqi forces had launched the operation to retake the town, which lies 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Baghdad, late last month.

Even as it drives the extremists from their last remaining pockets of territory, Iraq faces a new challenge in the form of a growing Kurdish push for independence. More than 90 percent of Kurds voted in favor of independence in a referendum last month that was rejected as illegal by the Baghdad government as well as Iraq's neighbors.

Iraq has responded to the vote by imposing a flight ban on the northern region, while Turkey and Iran

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have sent troops to the land-locked region's borders to signal their opposition to any redrawing of the map.

Macron said France and others are concerned about the escalating dispute. He said France supports the territorial integrity of Iraq and called for "national reconciliation and inclusive governance," noting France's close ties to the Kurds.

He said dialogue "is the only path" out of the crisis, and said France is ready "to contribute actively to mediation."

France frequently offers to use its diplomatic weight to mediate in world crises. The offer to mediate between the Iraqi government and Kurds had reportedly run into resistance from the Iraqi government ahead of al-Abadi's visit because of Macron's insistence on Kurdish rights.

Al-Abadi insisted that Iraq "is for all Iraqis" and said the constitution guarantees the rights of all its citizens. "We are not looking for any confrontations, we don't want animosity," he said. "But the authority of the federal state should impose its will and no one should attack the federal authority."

The central government and the Kurds have long bickered over the sharing of oil wealth and the fate of disputed territories that are controlled by Kurdish forces but lie outside their autonomous region.

Iraq's parliament, which is dominated by Shiite Arabs, has called for harsh measures in response to the Sept. 25 referendum, including sending federal troops to retake the contested, oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which is held by Kurdish forces but claimed by Baghdad. Al-Abadi has ruled out any military response to the Kurdish vote but has said Iraqi forces will respond to any violence.

Al-Abadi and Macron also discussed efforts to promote investment and reconstruction in Iraq, where entire neighborhoods in several cities have been reduced to rubble by the fight against IS, and where more than 3 million people have been displaced.

France confirmed a 30 million euro loan for Iraqi reconstruction, and appears eager to play a big economic role in Iraq's future. French oil company Total has long been a player in the region and other companies are meeting with Abadi's delegation in Paris later Thursday.

Mroue reported from Beirut.

## Chemist says VX traces found on both suspects in Kim murder

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP) — A government chemist testified Thursday he found traces of the banned VX nerve agent on two women being tried in Malaysia on charges of murdering the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader.

The testimony was the first evidence linking VX to Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam, who are accused of smearing the nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a brazen assassination inside a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13.

Raja Subramaniam, who heads the government's Center of Chemical Weapon Analysis, said he found VX in its pure form and VX precursors on Huong's white jumper and found a degraded product of VX on Huong's fingernails.

Huong was seen on airport surveillance videos wearing a white jumper emblazoned with the big black letters "LOL," the acronym for "laughing out loud."

The chemist, who is the only Malaysian with a doctorate in chemical weapons analysis, said laboratory tests also detected VX acid, a degraded product of the nerve agent, on Aisyah's sleeveless T-shirt.

He said VX will degrade once it is exposed to the atmosphere, and even faster when it is in contact with water, leaving degraded products of VX.

"The presence of VX precursors and VX degradation products confirms the presence of VX itself," he told the court.

Raja also confirmed that he found VX on Kim's face, eyes, clothing and in his blood and urine.

Aisyah and Huong have pleaded not guilty to the murder charge, which could bring a death penalty if they are convicted. They have not testified but their defense has said the women were duped by suspected

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North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera TV show.

Raja earlier described VX as the "deadliest nerve agent created" and literature showed that 10 milligrams could be fatal. He said VX is oily and difficult to detect because it is colorless and odorless, and can be easily transported in a water bottle. He said Malaysia's airports do not have the special equipment needed to detect VX.

Raja also said rubbing VX on the eyes and neck would be the fastest way to kill a person, compared to splashing or spraying the chemical. He said VX doesn't evaporate quickly, making it a strategic choice because a person could be targeted without affecting the surroundings. It takes six days for a drop of VX to evaporate, he said.

He agreed with the prosecutors' assertion that Kim didn't inhale VX because no nerve agent was detected on a nasal swab.

The trial is to resume Monday, with the judge, lawyers and the two suspects visiting Raja's laboratory to see VX-tainted samples from the two women before they are formally submitted as evidence. This came after Raja told the court it would be safer to view the samples in the lab because the VX may still be active.

Gooi Soon Seong, lawyer for Siti, told reporters that detection of VX on the women was not enough to convict them.

"If I have the knife, it doesn't mean I killed the person. They must have other stronger evidence," he said.

He also said Raja was inconsistent and shouldn't be afraid to open the VX-tainted samples since he testified VX could easily be washed off and doesn't evaporate quickly.

Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, Huong's lawyer, said the defense has another explanation of why VX was present on the Vietnamese and would reveal this later.

The VX-tainted evidence from Kim's body and clothing was presented in court Wednesday in sealed plastic bags, and the lawyers and court officials wore surgical masks and gloves as they viewed it.

Earlier witnesses have testified Kim quickly suffered symptoms of chemical poisoning and died from acute VX poisoning within two hours of the attack.

VX is banned by an international treaty as a weapon of mass destruction but is believed to be part of North Korea's chemical weapons arsenal. Kim was the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's dynastic rulers but was believed to have been cast out by his father and had lived abroad for years. He reportedly never met current leader Kim Jong Un, who is widely believed to have perceived his older sibling as a threat and targeted him for assassination.

The trial is being closely watched by the Indonesian and Vietnamese governments, which hired the defense lawyers for both women.

## House GOP eyes budget passage that is key to tax debate

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are focused on cutting taxes instead of deficits as they look to power a \$4.1 billion budget plan through the House on Thursday.

The 2018 House GOP budget promises deep cuts to social programs and Cabinet agency budgets but its chief purpose is to set the stage for action later this year on a comprehensive Republican overhaul of the U.S. tax code. The tax overhaul is the party's top political priority as well as a longtime policy dream of key leaders like Speaker Paul Ryan.

The plan calls for more than \$5 trillion in spending cuts over the coming decade, including a plan to turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for future retirees, slash Medicaid by about \$1 trillion over the coming decade, and repeal the "Obamacare" health law.

But Republicans are not actually planning to impose any of those cuts with follow-up legislation that would be required under Washington's byzantine budget rules. Instead, those GOP proposals for spending cuts are limited to nonbinding promises, and even a token 10-year, \$200 billion spending cut package demanded by tea party House Republicans appears likely to be scrapped in upcoming talks with the Senate.

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Instead, the motivating force behind the budget measures is the Republicans' party-defining drive to cut corporate and individual tax rates and rid the tax code of loopholes. They promise this tax "reform" measure will put the economy in overdrive, driving economic growth to the 3 percent range, and adding a surge of new tax revenues that would help bring the budget toward balance.

Passing the measure through the House and Senate would provide key procedural help for the tax measure because it sets the stage for follow-on legislation that can't be filibustered by Senate Democrats. Republicans used this so-called reconciliation procedure in their failed attempt to kill "Obamacare," including its tax surcharges on wealthy people.

"Through reconciliation, our budget specifically paves the way for pro-growth tax reform that will reduce taxes for middle class Americans and free up American businesses to grow and hire," said House Budget Committee Chairman Diane Black, R-Tenn.

The House vote comes as the Senate Budget Committee is considering a companion plan that differs in key details and is set for a vote Thursday afternoon.

Both the House and Senate plans rely on rosy estimates of economic growth and illusory spending cuts to promise to wrestle the federal budget back into surplus within a decade.

The House measure also assumes that the upcoming tax bill won't add to the deficit; the Senate version, however, would permit the measure to add \$1.5 trillion to the \$20 trillion-plus national debt over the coming 10 years. The final version is likely to stick closely to the Senate measure.

The real-world trajectory of Washington, however, is for higher deficits as Republicans focus on tax cuts, a huge hike in the defense budget, and a growing disaster aid tally that is about to hit \$45 billion.

"The train's left the station, and if you're a budget hawk you were left at the station," said Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C.

Democrats blasted the sweeping spending cuts proposed by Republicans — \$5.4 trillion over 10 years in the House plan and somewhat less in the Senate GOP measure — as an assault on middle-class families and the poor.

"This is, like Yogi Berra said, 'deja vu all over again.' Republicans used their Trumpcare bill to sneak in tax cuts for the rich," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "Now they're using their tax cut plan ... and they're sneaking in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. But it's the same playbook."

## Some in GOP open to banning gun accessory used in Vegas

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior congressional Republicans say they are open to considering legislation banning "bump stocks" like the shooter in Las Vegas apparently used to make semi-automatic rifles perform more like fully automatic weapons.

The comments from lawmakers including the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, marked a surprising departure from GOP lawmakers' general antipathy to gun regulations of any kind. But they were far from a guarantee of a path forward for the new legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., especially with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan making clear their priorities are elsewhere.

"If somebody can essentially convert a semi-automatic weapon by buying one of these and utilizing it and cause the kind of mayhem and mass casualties that we saw in Las Vegas, that's something of obvious concern that we ought to explore," Cornyn told reporters.

"I own a lot of guns and as a hunter and sportsman I think that's our right as Americans, but I don't understand the use of this bump stock and that's another reason to have a hearing."

Cornyn later said he'd spoken with Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, and that Grassley was interested in convening a hearing.

The devices, known as "bump stocks" among other names, are legal and originally were intended to help people with limited hand mobility fire a semi-automatic without the individual trigger pulls required. They can fit over the rear shoulder-stock assembly on a semi-automatic rifle and with applied pressure

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cause the weapon to fire continuously, increasing the rate from between 45 and 60 rounds per minute to between 400 and 800 rounds per minute, according to Feinstein's office.

The government gave its seal of approval to selling the devices in 2010 after concluding that they did not violate federal law.

Feinstein has a career-long history on the issue of guns after becoming mayor in San Francisco after her predecessor was gunned down. She authored an assault weapons ban that was in place for a decade before expiring in 2004, and said she had been considering trying to reintroduce that more sweeping legislation, as she's done unsuccessfully after past mass shootings, including the one at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urged her to go with a narrower bill that might be likelier to draw support.

Feinstein pleaded with the public to pressure Congress to consider her legislation after the horrific violence earlier this week when a gunman killed 58 people and injured hundreds at an outdoor concert that she said her own daughter had considered attending.

"Mr. and Mrs. America, you have to stand up, you have to say 'enough is enough,'" Feinstein said. "Why can't we keep a weapon from becoming a military-grade weapon?"

The National Rifle Association, which has played a major role in exerting political pressure against gun curbs, did not respond to inquiries about its stance on Feinstein's bill.

At least one Republican senator, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, said outright he was prepared to vote to ban "bump stocks." "I have no problem in banning those," he said.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 3 Republican senator, said, "I'm interested in finding out more about bump stocks and I've got my staff looking into that and I know there are other members interested in finding out more about it as well."

Even so, asked Tuesday about "bump stocks" and whether they should be legal, McConnell, R-Ky., said it was not an appropriate time to be discussing legislation.

Ryan, R-Wis., made similar comments Wednesday in a radio interview on WISN in Milwaukee.

"What I don't think you want your government to do is to lurch toward reactions before even having all the facts," Ryan said. "Bad people are going to do bad things."

In the House, meanwhile, Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., introduced a bill to ban the manufacture, possession, transfer, sale or importation of bump stocks. Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., whose district includes the site of Sunday night's rampage, said: "The victims and families in Las Vegas don't need an explanation about the difference between machine guns and firearms with bump stocks. They need action."

Congress' recent history gives little cause to think Republicans would take any action on guns. Even after the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting where schoolchildren were slaughtered, Feinstein's reintroduced assault weapons ban went nowhere, and bipartisan background check legislation by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania fell short on the Senate floor.

Last year, after the mass shooting at a dance club in Orlando, Florida, Democrats commandeered the House floor to protest GOP inaction on guns, but while garnering headlines the tactic did not yield results. Shooting incidents involving lawmakers themselves, like at a baseball practice earlier this year where Majority Whip Steve Scalise was critically injured, have not changed the calculus.

Feinstein held out hope that this time would be different because of the scale of casualties and the weaponry "taking it into war." And Manchin said that he planned to meet with Toomey on the background checks bill, but would not reintroduce it without significant GOP support, which he said "ain't going to happen unless the president gives his stamp of approval."

President Donald Trump visited Las Vegas on Wednesday but said "We're not going to talk about that today" when asked about gun issues.

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Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed.

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## 3 US Army special operations commandos killed in Niger

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say three U.S. Army special operations commandos were killed Wednesday and two others were wounded when they came under fire in southwest Niger.

The officials said the two wounded were taken to Niamey, the capital, and are in stable condition. The officials were not authorized to discuss the incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The officials said the commandos, who were Green Berets, were likely attacked by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb militants.

In a statement, U.S. Africa Command said the forces were with a joint U.S. and Nigerien patrol north of Niamey, near the Mali border, when they came under hostile fire.

Africa Command said the U.S. forces are in Niger to provide training and security assistance to the Nigerien Armed Forces in their efforts against violent extremists.

The White House said President Donald Trump was notified about the attack Wednesday night as he flew aboard Air Force One from Las Vegas to Washington. Trump was in Las Vegas meeting with victims of Sunday night's shooting massacre, along with first responders and doctors.

## Bradley's stunning triple helps D-backs outslug Rockies 11-8

By BOB BAUM, AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Three bags, four times.

And you wouldn't believe who got in on all the fun for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Spirited reliever Archie Bradley hit a stunning triple in the seventh inning, driving in two runs with one of four three-baggers by Arizona that sent the Diamondbacks past the Colorado Rockies 11-8 in the National League wild-card game Wednesday night.

"After today, I think pretty much I've seen everything," first-year Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "This was an incredible game."

As he watched his top reliever rounding second base, Lovullo said he thought, "Please stop there."

But that's not Bradley.

"That's just kind of who I am," he said. "I don't know any other way to play, so I was going to run as hard as I could until they told me to stop."

Paul Goldschmidt launched an early three-run homer and the Diamondbacks built a 6-0 lead before ace Zack Greinke faltered. Colorado climbed back into it and cut it to 8-7 when Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit back-to-back homers in the eighth off Bradley, perhaps tired from hustling around the bases and shouting in excitement to giddy teammates.

But then A.J. Pollock knocked in two runs with Arizona's fourth triple, this one off closer Greg Holland, as the Diamondbacks scored three times in their half of the eighth to finally put it away.

"Right away all hell broke loose," Colorado manager Bud Black said, "and from then on it was a heavy-weight fight."

Arizona advanced to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Dodgers, a team the Diamondbacks beat the last six times they played.

Game 1 is Friday night in Los Angeles.

"Look, the Dodgers got on a tremendous run there," Lovullo said, "and I think they were steamrolling teams and intimidating teams, and I don't think we have that mentality. We love that battle mindset. We love that challenge."

The Diamondbacks became the first team with four triples in a postseason game since the Boston Americans (now Red Sox) twice hit five during the first World Series back in 1903 against Pittsburgh.

It was that kind of crazy night in the desert as two NL West foes slugged it out. Daniel Descalso also homered for the Diamondbacks, and Ketel Marte tripled twice.

"That's one of the best games I've ever been a part of, if not the best," Goldschmidt said.

Bradley, a high-energy setup man recruited to play quarterback at Oklahoma, went 1 for 4 at the plate

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this season to raise his career batting average to .098. With two outs in the seventh, he drove a 3-1 pitch from Pat Neshek to deep left-center to give Arizona an 8-5 cushion. It was his first extra-base hit in the majors and the first triple by a reliever in postseason history.

Already a fan favorite for his bushy beard and late-inning relief work, Bradley regrouped from the two solo homers he gave up to get the final two outs of the eighth with the Diamondbacks clinging to a one-run lead.

Fernando Rodney allowed a run in the ninth before closing out Arizona's first playoff game since 2011.

Jake Lamb tied a Diamondbacks postseason record with four hits, all singles, and scored three times.

Jonathan Lucroy doubled twice, scored two runs and drove in one for the Rockies in their first playoff appearance since 2009.

Marte, who came to Arizona with pitcher Taijuan Walker from Seattle for Jean Segura in an offseason deal, became the first player to triple twice in a postseason game since Mariano Duncan did it for Philadelphia against Atlanta in the 1993 NL Championship Series.

The home team won for just the second time in the six NL wild-card games since the one-game format was adopted in 2012. The hosts hadn't even scored in the last three, but the Diamondbacks ended that before their first out.

Goldschmidt, in an 0-for-17 slump to end the regular season, hit the first pitch he saw from ineffective starter Jon Gray into the left-field seats for a three-run shot.

Greinke blanked the Rockies on one hit through three innings but never made it through the fourth.

Colorado, known for its power at the plate, got back into it with small ball — five hits, four of them singles. Lucroy's two-out RBI double followed by pinch-hitter Alexi Amarista's run-scoring single made it 6-4, and Greinke was finished. He allowed four runs and six hits in 3 2/3 innings.

"We know how tough these guys are. We play 'em all the time," Goldschmidt said. "Every time we scored, we just said, 'We've got to get more, we've got to get more.'"

Left-hander Robbie Ray, a 15-game winner during the regular season, came on for his first relief appearance in three years and threw two shutout innings before giving up a leadoff double to Lucroy just below the home run line in straightaway center in the seventh. Lucroy went to third on a wild pitch before Ray fanned Ian Desmond.

Lovullo replaced Ray with another lefty, ex-Rockies pitcher Jorge De La Rosa, to face NL batting champion Charlie Blackmon, who dragged a bunt that brought Lucroy home and cut the lead 6-5.

"That was a crazy game from the beginning all the way to the end," said longtime Colorado outfielder Carlos Gonzalez, who can become a free agent this fall. "Not a lot of people counted in the Rockies when we first started the season. We put ourselves in this position. We came so close."

The 25-year-old Gray was 4-0 with a 2.11 ERA in his previous five starts, but the Diamondbacks were up 3-0 on him before a good share of the 48,803 in the stands settled into their seats. He lasted just 1 1/3 innings.

"It was tough, tough emotionally," Gray said. "I really want to be good for the guys behind me. It is a really big situation, really a big game."

## TRIPLE THREAT

The previous pitcher to hit a postseason triple was Dontrelle Willis for the Marlins in 2003.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

There was a moment of silence for victims of the Las Vegas shooting, and a photo was shown on the big screen of one of them, Christiana Duarte, a University of Arizona graduate and former member of the Diamondbacks front office.

## UP NEXT

Rockies: Will be back in Arizona to open the 2018 season on March 29.

Diamondbacks: The Dodgers had the best record in baseball at 104-58 but went 8-11 against Arizona.

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

## 3 US Army special operations commandos killed in Niger

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

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The White House said President Donald Trump was notified about the attack Wednesday night as he flew aboard Air Force One from Las Vegas to Washington. Trump was in Las Vegas meeting with victims of Sunday night's shooting massacre, along with first responders and doctors.

## Is a new eclectic Nobel Literature winner on tap? Stay tuned

STOCKHOLM (AP) — After two consecutive years of unconventional choices for the Nobel Literature Prize, observers are wondering if the Swedish Academy's adventurous streak will continue.

Haruki Murakami of Japan, whose works fuse the realistic and the fantastic, and Kenya's Ngugi wa Thiong'o, whose political work forced him to leave for the United States, are seen as top contenders for the 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize being awarded Thursday.

In 2015, a rare Nobel Literature prize for a non-fiction writer went to Svetlana Alexievich of Belarus. Last year's award to American Bob Dylan sparked a debate about if popular song lyrics can legitimately be considered literature.

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor whose will established the prizes, said he wanted the literature award to honor "ideal" work, without defining the term.

## New cars increasingly crammed with distracting technology

By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The infotainment technology that automakers are cramming into the dashboard of new vehicles is making drivers take their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel for dangerously long periods of time, an AAA study says.

The study released Thursday is the latest by University of Utah professor David Strayer, who has been examining the impact of infotainment systems on safety for AAA's Foundation for Traffic Safety since 2013. Past studies also identified problems, but Strayer said the "explosion of technology" has made things worse.

Automakers now include more infotainment options to allow drivers to use social media, email and text. The technology is also becoming more complicated to use. Cars used to have a few buttons and knobs. Some vehicles now have as many as 50 buttons on the steering wheel and dashboard that are multi-functional. There are touch screens, voice commands, writing pads, heads-up displays on windshields and mirrors and 3-D computer-generated images.

"It's adding more and more layers of complexity and information at drivers' fingertips without often considering whether it's a good idea to put it at their fingertips," Strayer said. That complexity increases the overall amount of time drivers spend trying to use the systems.

The auto industry says the new systems are better alternatives for drivers than mobile phones and navigation devices that were not designed to be used while driving.

The vehicle-integrated systems "are designed to be used in the driving environment and require driver



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attention that is comparable to tuning the radio or adjusting climate controls, which have always been considered baseline acceptable behaviors while driving," said Wade Newton, a spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

But Jake Nelson, AAA's director for traffic safety advocacy and research, said drivers testing all 30 of the 2017 model year cars and light trucks took their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel while using infotainment systems. The test drivers used voice commands, touch screens and other interactive technologies to make calls, send texts, tune the radio or program navigation all while driving.

Clearly automakers haven't worked hard enough to make the systems quick and easy to use, Nelson said. Researchers rated 23 of the 30 vehicles "very high" or "high" in terms of the attention they demanded from drivers. Seven were rated "moderate." None required a low amount of attention to use.

Programming a destination into in-vehicle GPS navigation systems was the most distracting activity, taking drivers an average of 40 seconds to complete the task. At 25 mph (40 kph), a car can travel the length of four football fields during the time it takes to enter a destination. Previous research has shown that drivers who remove their eyes from the road for just two seconds double their risk for a crash.

Under pressure from industry, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2012 issued voluntary safety guidelines to automakers for dashboard technology instead of enforceable safety standards. The guidelines recommend that automakers lock out the ability to program navigation systems while a car is moving. However, the ability to program navigation while driving was available in 12 vehicles in the study.

The guidelines also recommend automakers prevent drivers from texting while driving, but three-quarters of the vehicles tested permit drivers to text while the car is moving. Texting was the second-most distracting task performed by test drivers.

Drivers looked away from the road less when using voice commands, but that safety benefit was offset by the increased amount of time drivers spent interacting with the systems.

AAA said drivers should use infotainment technologies "only for legitimate emergencies or urgent, driving-related purposes." It also urged automakers to block the ability to program navigation systems or send texts while driving. Automakers should also design infotainment systems so that they require no more attention to use than listening to the radio or an audiobook, it said.

Nearly 70 percent of U.S. adults say they want the new technologies in their vehicles, but only 24 percent feel that the technology already works perfectly, according to an opinion survey conducted for AAA.

"Drivers want technology that is safe and easy to use," said Marshall Doney, AAA's president and CEO, "but many of the features added to infotainment systems today have resulted in overly complex and sometimes frustrating user experiences for drivers."

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Follow Joan Lowy on Twitter at [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_Joan\\_Lowy](http://www.twitter.com/AP_Joan_Lowy)

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING: Girlfriend denies knowledge of Vegas plot**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The girlfriend of the Las Vegas shooter said Wednesday that she had no idea he was planning an attack on the Strip and is devastated for the victims.

A lawyer for Marilou Danley read a statement from her after she was questioned by FBI agents in Los Angeles about her boyfriend, Stephen Paddock. Danley was out of the country at the time of Sunday's attacks and said Paddock sent her to see her family in her native Philippines.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump traveled to Las Vegas to meet with law enforcement officers and survivors of the shooting outside the Mandalay Bay hotel casino that killed 58 people and wounded nearly 500 others.

More about the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history:

### THE GIRLFRIEND

Danley, 62, called Paddock a "kind, caring, quiet man" and said she hoped to have a future with him. She said she was initially pleased when Paddock wired her money in the Philippines to buy a house for her family, but she later worried it was a way to break up with her.

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"It never occurred to me in any whatsoever that he was planning violence against anyone," she said. FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, speaking at a cybersecurity forum Wednesday in Boston, said investigators are busy "reconstructing the life, the behavior, the pattern of activity of this individual and anyone and everyone who may have crossed his path in the days and the weeks leading up to this horrific event."

Asked if investigators had determined why Paddock carried out the attack, he said, "We are not there yet."  
THE GUNMAN

Paddock, a 64-year-old retired accountant and multimillionaire real estate investor, specifically requested an upper-floor room with a view of the country music festival, according to a person who has seen hotel records turned over to investigators.

Paddock wasn't able to move into the room until Saturday, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly and disclosed the information to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The room goes for \$590 but was given to Paddock for free because he was a good customer who wagered tens of thousands of dollars during each visit, the person said.

Casino regulators are looking closely at Paddock's gambling habits and checking their records to see whether he had any disputes with casinos or fellow patrons. In addition, investigators are examining a dozen financial reports filed in recent weeks when he bought more than \$10,000 in casino chips.

## TRUMP VISIT

President Donald Trump traveled to Las Vegas, where he met privately with shooting victims and their families and told the city that the nation stands with them to share in their grief.

Trump also told first responders that they should be proud of the way they responded to the massacre.

He said that he met "some of the most amazing people" during his visit to a hospital where victims were recovering and that he's invited some of the survivors to the White House for a visit.

On his trip from the airport, the president's motorcade drove past the Mandalay Bay hotel where the gunman fired down into the concert crowd. The president also drove past his own Trump hotel.

## THE DEAD

The 58 victims included a father of six, a man who died in his boyfriend's arms and a university student who was studying health care management.

Nearly 500 people were injured in the attacks. About 150 are still hospitalized, with about 50 in critical condition Wednesday night, hospital officials said.

The injured ended up in 13 hospitals scattered across southern Nevada, with most of them treated and released.

## POSSIBLE GUN LEGISLATION

Senior congressional Republicans said Wednesday they were open to considering legislation banning "bump stocks" like Paddock used to effectively convert semi-automatic rifles into fully automated weapons.

The comments from lawmakers including the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, marked a surprising departure from GOP lawmakers' general antipathy to any kind of gun regulations. But they were far from a guarantee of a path forward for the new legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., especially with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan making clear their priorities are elsewhere.

Other GOP legislators who seemed open to banning "bump stocks" included Sens. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and John Thune of South Dakota.

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For complete coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>.

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This story has been corrected to show that the death toll is 58, not including the gunman, based on revised information from the Clark County coroner.

## Some Republicans open to banning 'bump stocks' used in Vegas

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior congressional Republicans said Wednesday they are open to considering legislation banning "bump stocks" like the shooter in Las Vegas apparently used to make semi-automatic rifles perform more like fully automatic weapons.

The comments from lawmakers including the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, marked a surprising departure from GOP lawmakers' general antipathy to gun regulations of any kind. But they were far from a guarantee of a path forward for the new legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., especially with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan making clear their priorities are elsewhere.

"If somebody can essentially convert a semi-automatic weapon by buying one of these and utilizing it and cause the kind of mayhem and mass casualties that we saw in Las Vegas, that's something of obvious concern that we ought to explore," Cornyn told reporters.

"I own a lot of guns and as a hunter and sportsman I think that's our right as Americans, but I don't understand the use of this bump stock and that's another reason to have a hearing."

Cornyn later said he'd spoken with Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, and that Grassley was interested in convening a hearing.

The devices, known as "bump stocks" among other names, are legal and originally were intended to help people with limited hand mobility fire a semi-automatic without the individual trigger pulls required. They can fit over the rear shoulder-stock assembly on a semi-automatic rifle and with applied pressure cause the weapon to fire continuously, increasing the rate from between 45 and 60 rounds per minute to between 400 and 800 rounds per minute, according to Feinstein's office.

The government gave its seal of approval to selling the devices in 2010 after concluding that they did not violate federal law.

Feinstein has a career-long history on the issue of guns after becoming mayor in San Francisco after her predecessor was gunned down. She authored an assault weapons ban that was in place for a decade before expiring in 2004, and said she had been considering trying to reintroduce that more sweeping legislation, as she's done unsuccessfully after past mass shootings, including the one at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urged her to go with a narrower bill that might be likelier to draw support.

Feinstein pleaded with the public to pressure Congress to consider her legislation after the horrific violence earlier this week when a gunman killed 58 people and injured hundreds at an outdoor concert that she said her own daughter had considered attending.

"Mr. and Mrs. America, you have to stand up, you have to say 'enough is enough,'" Feinstein said. "Why can't we keep a weapon from becoming a military-grade weapon?"

The National Rifle Association, which has played a major role in exerting political pressure against gun curbs, did not respond to inquiries about its stance on Feinstein's bill.

At least one Republican senator, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, said outright he was prepared to vote to ban bump stocks. "I have no problem in banning those," he said.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 3 Republican senator, said, "I'm interest in finding out more about bump stocks and I've got my staff looking into that and I know there are other members interested in finding out more about it as well."

Even so, asked Tuesday about bump stocks and whether they should be legal, McConnell, R-Ky., said it was not an appropriate time to be discussing legislation.

Ryan, R-Wis., made similar comments Wednesday in a radio interview on WISN in Milwaukee.

"What I don't think you want your government to do is to lurch toward reactions before even having all the facts," Ryan said. "Bad people are going to do bad things."

In the House, meanwhile, Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., introduced a bill to ban the manufacture, possession, transfer, sale or importation of bump stocks. Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., whose district includes the site of Sunday night's rampage, said: "The victims and families in Las Vegas don't need an explanation about

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the difference between machine guns and firearms with bump stocks. They need action.”

Congress’ recent history gives little cause to think Republicans would take any action on guns. Even after the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting where schoolchildren were slaughtered, Feinstein’s reintroduced assault weapons ban went nowhere, and bipartisan background check legislation by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania fell short on the Senate floor.

Last year, after the mass shooting at a dance club in Orlando, Florida, Democrats commandeered the House floor to protest GOP inaction on guns, but while garnering headlines the tactic did not yield results. Shooting incidents involving lawmakers themselves, like at a baseball practice earlier this year where Majority Whip Steve Scalise was critically injured, have not changed the calculus.

Feinstein held out hope that this time would be different because of the scale of casualties and the weaponry “taking it into war.” And Manchin said that he planned to meet with Toomey on the background checks bill, but would not reintroduce it without significant GOP support, which he said “ain’t going to happen unless the president gives his stamp of approval.”

President Donald Trump visited Las Vegas on Wednesday but said “We’re not going to talk about that today” when asked about gun issues.

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Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed.

## **NKorean workers prep seafood going to US stores, restaurants**

**By TIM SULLIVAN, HYUNG-JIN KIM AND MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press**

HUNCHUN, China (AP) — The workers wake up each morning on metal bunk beds in fluorescent-lit Chinese dormitories, North Koreans outsourced by their government to process seafood that ends up in American stores and homes.

Privacy is forbidden. They cannot leave their compounds without permission. They must take the few steps to the factories in pairs or groups, with North Korean minders ensuring no one strays. They have no access to telephones or email. And they are paid a fraction of their salaries, while the rest — as much as 70 percent — is taken by North Korea’s government.

This means Americans buying salmon for dinner at Walmart or ALDI may inadvertently have subsidized the North Korean government as it builds its nuclear weapons program, an AP investigation has found. Their purchases may also have supported what the United States calls “modern day slavery” — even if the jobs are highly coveted by North Koreans.

At a time when North Korea faces sanctions on many exports, the government is sending tens of thousands of workers worldwide, bringing in revenue estimated at anywhere from \$200 million to \$500 million a year. That could account for a sizable portion of North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile programs, which South Korea says have cost more than \$1 billion.

While the presence of North Korean workers overseas has been documented, the AP investigation reveals for the first time that some products they make go to the United States, which is now a federal crime. AP also tracked the products made by North Korean workers to Canada, Germany and elsewhere in the European Union.

Besides seafood, AP found North Korean laborers making wood flooring and sewing garments in factories in Hunchun. Those industries also export to the U.S. from Hunchun, but AP did not track specific shipments except for seafood.

American companies are not allowed to import products made by North Korean workers anywhere in the world, under a law signed by President Donald Trump in early August. Importers or company officials could face criminal charges for using North Korean workers or materially benefiting from their work, according to the law.

Every Western company involved that responded to AP’s requests for comment said forced labor and potential support for North Korea’s weapons program were unacceptable in their supply chains. Many said they were going to investigate, and some said they had already cut off ties with suppliers.

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John Connelly, president of the National Fisheries Institute, the largest seafood trade association in the U.S., said his group was urging all of its companies to immediately re-examine their supply chains "to ensure that wages go to the workers, and are not siphoned off to support a dangerous dictator."

"While we understand that hiring North Korean workers may be legal in China," said Connelly, "we are deeply concerned that any seafood companies could be inadvertently propping up the despotic regime."

In response to the investigation, Senate leaders said Wednesday that the U.S. needs to keep products made by North Koreans out of the United States and get China to refuse to hire North Korean workers.

"The administration needs to ramp up the pressure on China to crack down on trade with North Korea across the board," said top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer.

## EXPORTING LABOR

North Koreans overseas work in construction in the Gulf states, shipbuilding in Poland, logging in Russia. In Uruguay, authorities told AP, about 90 North Koreans crewed fishing boats last year. U.N. sanctions now bar countries from authorizing new work permits for North Korean workers but do not target those already abroad.

Roughly 3,000 North Koreans are believed to work in Hunchun, a far northeast Chinese industrial hub just a few miles from the borders of both North Korea and Russia. Signs in this mercantile city are in Chinese, Korean and Russian. Korean restaurants advertise cold noodles, a Northern favorite, and Russian truckers stop into nightclubs with black bread on the menu.

In an effort to boost the local economy, China and North Korea agreed several years ago to allow factories to contract for groups of North Korean workers, establishing an industrial zone with bargain-priced labor. Since then dozens of fish processing companies have opened in Hunchun, along with other manufacturers. Using North Korean workers is legal in China, and not considered forced labor.

It's unknown what conditions are like in all factories in the region, but AP reporters saw North Koreans living and working in several of the Hunchun facilities under the watchful eye of their overseers. The workers are not allowed to speak to reporters. However, the AP identified them as North Korean in numerous ways: the portraits of North Korea's late leaders they have in their rooms, their distinctive accents, interviews with multiple Hunchun businesspeople. The AP also reviewed North Korean laborer documents, including copies of a North Korean passport, a Chinese work permit and a contract with a Hunchun company.

When a reporter approached a group of North Koreans — women in tight, bright polyester clothes preparing their food at a Hunchun garment factory — one confirmed that she and some others were from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. Then a minder arrived, ordering the workers to be silent: "Don't talk to him!"

Their contracts are typically for two or three years, and they are not allowed to go home early. The restrictions they work under make them very valuable employees. North Korean laborers are "more stable" than Chinese workers, said Li Shasha, a sales manager at Yanbian Shenghai Industry and Trade Co., a major Hunchun seafood processor.

Chinese workers have job protections that give them the right to take time off, while North Korean workers complete their contracts with few complaints, rare sick days and almost no turnover.

"They won't take a leave for some personal reason," said Li, whose company shipped containers of squid and snow crab to the U.S and Canada in July and August.

They are also often considered cheaper. Li said that at the Yanbian Shenghai factory, the North Koreans' salary is the same as for the Chinese, roughly \$300 to \$385 per month. But others say North Koreans are routinely paid about \$300 a month compared to up to \$540 for Chinese.

Either way, the North Korean government of Kim Jong Un keeps anywhere from half to 70 percent of their pay, according to scholars who have surveyed former laborers. It passes on to the workers as little as \$90 per month — or roughly 46 cents per hour.

The work can be exhausting, with shifts lasting up to 12 hours and most workers getting just one day off each week. At some factories, laborers work hunched over tables as North Korean political slogans are blasted from waist-high loudspeakers.

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Through dozens of interviews, observation, trade records and other public and confidential documents, AP identified three seafood processors that employ North Koreans and export to the U.S.: Joint venture Hunchun Dongyang Seafood Industry & Trade Co. Ltd. & Hunchun Pagoda Industry Co. Ltd. distributed globally by Ocean One Enterprise; Yantai Dachen Hunchun Seafood Products, and Yanbian Shenghai Industry & Trade Co. Ltd.

They're getting their seafood from China, Russia and, in some cases like snow crab, Alaska. Although AP saw North Korean workers at Hunchun Dongyang, manager Zhu Qizhen said they don't hire North Korean workers anymore and refused to give details. The other Chinese companies didn't respond to repeated requests for comment.

Shipping records seen by the AP show more than 100 cargo containers of seafood, more than 2,000 tons, were sent to the U.S. and Canada this year from the factories where North Koreans were working in China.

Packages of snow crab, salmon fillets, squid rings and more were imported by American distributors, including Sea-Trek Enterprises in Rhode Island, and The Fishin' Company in Pennsylvania. Sea-Trek exports seafood to Europe, Australia, Asia, Central America and the Caribbean. The Fishin' Company supplies retailers and food service companies, as well as supermarkets.

The Fishin' Company said it cut its ties with Hunchun processors and got its last shipment this summer, but seafood can remain in the supply chain for more than a year. Owners of both companies said they were very concerned about the North Korean laborers, and planned to investigate.

Often the seafood arrives in generic packaging, but some was already branded in China with familiar names like Walmart or Sea Queen, a seafood brand sold exclusively at ALDI supermarkets, which has 1,600 stores across 35 states. There's no way to say where a particular package ends up, nor what percentage of the factories' products wind up in the U.S.

Walmart spokeswoman Marilee McInnis said company officials learned in an audit a year ago that there were potential labor problems at a Hunchun factory, and that they had banned their suppliers, including The Fishin' Company, from getting seafood processed there. She said The Fishin' Company had "responded constructively" but did not specify how.

Some U.S. brands and companies had indirect ties to the North Korean laborers in Hunchun, including Chicken of the Sea, owned by Thai Union. Trade records show shipments came from a sister company of the Hunchun factory in another part of China, where Thai Union spokeswoman Whitney Small says labor standards are being met and the employees are all Chinese. Small said the sister companies should not be penalized.

Shipments also went to two Canadian importers, Morgan Foods and Alliance Seafood, which did not respond to requests for comment.

Boxes at the factories had markings from several major German supermarket chains and brands — All-Fish distributors, REWE and Penny grocers and Icewind brand. REWE Group, which also owns the Penny chain, said that they used to do business with Hunchun Dongyang but the contract has expired. All the companies that responded said their suppliers were forbidden to use forced labor.

## HIDDEN LIVES

North Korean workers in China are under much more intense surveillance than those in Russia and the Middle East, experts say. That's likely because Pyongyang fears they could follow in the footsteps of tens of thousands of their countrymen who escaped to China, or they could interact with South Koreans living in China.

"If a North Korean wants to go overseas, China is his or her least favorable option," said Andrei Lankov, a North Korea expert at Kookmin University in South Korea. "Because in China, (factories) have essentially prison-like conditions."

The vast majority of the workers in Hunchun are women in their 20s. Most are thought to be hired back home by labor brokers, who often demand bribes for overseas jobs. The laborers arrive in China already

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divided into work teams, each led by a North Korean overseer, and remain isolated even from their own employers.

"They're not allowed to mingle with the Chinese," said a senior manager at a Hunchun company that employs many North Koreans. He spoke on condition he not be identified, fearing repercussions on his business. "We can only communicate with their team leaders."

In a sense, the North Korean workers in China remain in North Korea, under constant surveillance.

"They only talk about what they need to," said a medical worker who confirmed their nationality and had cared for some, and also spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for angering Chinese authorities. "They don't talk about what they might be thinking."

They live crowded into rooms often above or next door to the factories, in a world awash in North Korean rituals.

"Let's Follow the Ideas!" of North Korea's leaders, urges a poster at the workers' dormitory at Hunchun Pagoda. Portraits of the country's first two rulers, worshipped as god-like in the deeply isolated nation, gaze down from otherwise-bare walls. Laundry is often hanging up to dry and potted plants — mostly what appear to be herbs, though one room at Hunchun Pagoda has bright yellow carnations — sit on many windowsills.

It's a world of concrete. The factory buildings and dormitories at Hunchun Pagoda are grey slabs of unpainted concrete. The yard where the women play volleyball in their free time is concrete. The street outside the front gate is concrete.

At most factories the women prepare their own food and make tubs of their own kimchi, the spicy cabbage dish beloved in both Koreas. Their televisions cannot tune in Chinese programming, and they organize their own sports and singing contests on their days off.

Nearly every compound has a workers' garden. There are a half dozen rows of corn at Hunchun Pagoda, and kidney beans and melons at Yantai.

A booming Chinese economy means money has come even to cities like Hunchun, where six-lane roads and factories bump up against cornfields that, a year later, often make way for yet another factory. Mercedes are now regular sights on the road and 30-foot billboards at malls show bone-thin models in fur coats.

But when the North Koreans are allowed to leave their compounds, they go to the city's working-class street markets, where vendors set their wares on plastic sheets or folding tables, or sell directly from the backs of trucks.

Chinese merchants say most North Koreans are very careful about their finances. For instance, while they splurge on expensive spices imported from South Korea, they also buy Chinese noodles that cost less than half of the South Korean brands.

On a recent morning, a group of about 70 North Korean women walked to a Hunchun street market from the nearby Hong Chao Zhi Yi garment factory. They asked about prices for watermelons and plums, browsed through cheap pantyhose and bought steamed corn-on-the-cob for 1 Chinese yuan (about 16 cents) apiece.

As the late summer chill set in one evening, a dozen or so women from Hunchun Pagoda played volleyball in the quiet road in front of the compound's gate, scrimmaging in the pool of light thrown by the street lamp.

A train horn blew. The women shouted to one another while they played. As a car with a foreigner drove by, one laughingly called out: "Bye-bye!"

## PROPPING UP NORTH KOREA

Estimates vary on how many North Koreans work overseas and how much money they bring in.

South Korea's intelligence agency estimated in 2014 that 50,000 to 60,000 work in about 50 countries, most in China and Russia. That number may now be up to 100,000, according to Lim Eul Chul, a scholar at South Korea's Kyungnam University who has interviewed numerous former laborers. Estimates that their labor brings in revenue of \$200 million to \$500 million annually to the North Korean government come from scholars, who base their findings on academic research papers, South Korean intelligence reports

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and sources in the Chinese business community.

That has made the workers a significant and reliable source of revenue for the North Korean regime as it struggles beneath the weight of increasing UN sanctions, which the U.S. estimates could cost Pyongyang upwards of \$1.5 billion each year in lost export revenues. In the last month alone, China has said it's cracking down on North Korean exports, businesses and joint ventures, but it has a long history of not enforcing sanctions in practice.

Despite the pay and restrictions, these are highly sought-after jobs in North Korea, a chance to move up a rickety economic ladder and see a bit of the world beyond the closed-in nation.

Their monthly earnings in China are far more than many would earn in North Korea today, where official salaries often equal \$1 per month. Experts estimate most families live on about \$40-\$60 a month, with much of their earnings coming from trading in the growing network of unofficial markets.

And there are plenty of benefits to working overseas. The laborers can use their earnings to start businesses in these markets, and can buy the status symbols of the slowly-growing middle class — foreign-made rice cookers, watches, TVs, tableware — selling them back home or using them as bribes. Simply going abroad is so rare that returning workers can find themselves highly sought-after when it comes time to marry.

Lim Il, a North Korean refugee, bribed a series of officials — with 20 bottles of liquor, 30 packs of cigarettes and restaurant gift cards — to get a job as a construction worker in Kuwait City in the late 1990s, when North Korea was still suffering through a horrific famine.

"I felt like I had won the lottery," he said. "People fantasized about getting overseas labor jobs."

Lim, a man in his late 40s who fled to South Korea in 1997 and now writes novels about the North, said that even though he was never paid his \$120-a-month salary, he was happy to simply get beef soup and rice every day.

"Unless you were an idiot, you wouldn't give up such an opportunity," he said. While he never thought of himself as a slave, looking back he says that is the right description: "These North Korean workers (today) still don't know they are slaves."

The new law in the U.S. labels all North Korean workers both overseas and inside the country as engaging in forced labor. (While U.S. law generally forbids Americans from conducting business in North Korea, the AP employs a small number of support staff in its Pyongyang bureau, operating under a waiver granted by the U.S. government to allow the flow of news and information.)

"There are not many countries that, at a government level, export their own citizens as a commodity to be exploited," said an official at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

For years the State Department has blacklisted North Korea in its human trafficking reports, saying the overseas laborers and their families could face reprisals if the workers complain or try to escape, and criticizing Pyongyang for keeping much of the workers' earnings. China, Russia and other countries hosting North Korean labor are all members of the United Nations International Labor Organization, which requires workers to receive their full salaries.

Luis CdeBaca, former U.S. ambassador-at-large for human trafficking issues, said both federal law enforcement agents and importers should be making sure workers are treated fairly.

"If you think about a company like Walmart, which is spending a lot of money, time and effort to clean up its supply chain, sending auditors and inspectors to factories, working with suppliers, all of that is thrown out the window if they are importing products made with exploited North Korean labor," said CdeBaca. "It contradicts everything they are doing."

CdeBaca conceded the North Korean workers might like their jobs.

"The question is not, 'Are you happy?' " he said. "The question is, 'Are you free to leave?'"

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Associated Press journalists Leonardo Haberkorn in Uruguay, Han Guan Ng and researcher Fu Ting in China, Kelvin K. Chan in Hong Kong, Frank Jordans in Germany and Jon Gambrell in United Arab Emirates contributed to this report. Mendoza reported from California.



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Read more in the series: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/RepublicofKim>

## Shares in Asia gain ahead of US jobs report

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Share prices mostly rose in Asia on Thursday following a day of meager gains on Wall Street. Investors are awaiting a U.S. government jobs data following a report by payroll processor ADP showing that hiring by private employers weakened sharply last month, partly because of the damage done by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index edged in and out of negative territory, staying nearly flat at 20,628.69. Australia's S&P ASX 200 added 0.2 percent to 5,662.90. Shares in Taiwan and Southeast Asia were mostly higher. Trading in the region was becalmed, with markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai and South Korea closed for public holidays.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks inched a bit further into record territory Wednesday after teeter-tottering through the day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,537.74 and Dow Jones industrial average also gained 0.1 percent, to 22,661.64. The Nasdaq composite picked up less than 0.1 percent, to 6,534.63. All three indexes added to records set a day earlier.

U.S. JOBS: The downbeat report by ADP said hiring by private employers weakened sharply last month, a setback for an economy that had been enjoying a generally strengthening job market. Economists are forecasting a weaker number, also, in a more comprehensive jobs report the government is due to release on Friday.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "In the main there is support for risk assets and investor disdain for safe havens," Michael McCarthy of CMC Markets said in a commentary. "Volumes across the Asia-Pacific region are expected to remain subdued as Hong Kong and greater China enjoy autumn holidays," he said.

FEDERAL RESERVE TALK: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday the Fed is committed to ensuring regulations it imposes on the nation's community banks are not overly burdensome. She pointed to a proposed rule to simplify requirements governing how much capital these banks must hold that she said was meant to lighten the burdens on smaller banks.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 8 cents to settle at \$49.90 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 49 cents to \$49.98 on Wednesday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, gained 5 cents to \$55.85 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 112.74 yen, little changed from its 112.75 yen level late Wednesday. The euro was steady at \$1.1760 and the British pound fell to \$1.3240 from \$1.3245.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed to this report.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2017. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

On this date:

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in North Fairfield, Vermont.

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean,

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arriving in Washington state some 41 hours after leaving Japan.

In 1941, former Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, the first Jewish member of the nation's highest court, died in Washington at age 84.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1969, the British TV comedy program "Monty Python's Flying Circus" made its debut on BBC 1.

In 1974, the Irish Republican Army bombed two pubs in Guildford, Surrey, England, resulting in five deaths and dozens of injuries. (Four men who became known as the Guildford Four were convicted of the bombings, but were ultimately vindicated.)

In 1984, the space shuttle Challenger blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on an 8-day mission; the crew included Kathryn D. Sullivan, who became the first American woman to walk in space, and Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1990, a jury in Cincinnati acquitted an art gallery and its director of obscenity charges stemming from an exhibit of sexually graphic photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

In 1999, two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station, killing 31 people.

In 2011, Apple founder Steve Jobs, 56, died in Palo Alto, California.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush defended his administration's methods of detaining and questioning terrorism suspects, saying both were successful and lawful. Topps Meat Co. said it was closing its business, six days after it was forced to issue a massive beef recall. Track star Marion Jones pleaded guilty in White Plains, New York, to lying to federal investigators when she denied using performance-enhancing drugs, and announced her retirement after the hearing.

Five years ago: A month before the presidential election, the Labor Department reported that unemployment fell in September 2012 to its lowest level, 7.8 percent, since President Barack Obama took office; some Republicans questioned whether the numbers had been manipulated.

One year ago: Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres won the Security Council's unanimous backing to become the next U.N. secretary-general, succeeding Ban Ki-moon. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Scottish-born Fraser Stoddart and Dutch scientist Bernard "Ben" Feringa won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for making devices the size of molecules.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Glynis Johns is 94. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 76. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 74. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 74. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 70. Actress Karen Allen is 66. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 65. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 63. Rock singer and famine-relief organizer Bob Geldof is 63. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 59. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 58. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 57. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 53. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 52. Actor Guy Pearce is 50. Actress Josie Bissett is 47. Singer-actress Heather Headley is 43. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 43. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 42. Actress Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 42. Actor Scott Weinger is 42. Actress Kate Winslet is 42. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 39. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 37. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 34. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 34. Actress Azure Parsons is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 32. Actor Kevin Bigley is 31. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 23. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 11.

Thought for Today: "America has believed that in differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress. It acted on this belief; it has advanced human happiness, and it has prospered." — Justice Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941).