

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Be prepared for more detours

As work on the SD37 gets close to the end, there will be more detours. An extension was given for the asphalt work. It was suppose to be done on October 15, but with the rain delays, it was extended to next Thursday.

Meanwhile, starting on Monday, access to the west side of town will shift to the north. Access will be given to SD37 off of Ninth Avenue, then south to Sixth Avenue for the entry to the west side of Groton. It will be that way on Monday and Tuesday. Another access will be opened on Wednesday. Locals will also be able to use SD37 from Sixth Avenue to US12.

Speaking of US12, it's going to be long and dark at nights on US12. The poles for the US12 lighting project are not expected to arrive until January. In addition, the poles are here but the light fixtures are not here yet for the lighting project on SD37. The fixtures are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

**Friday**

**Lake Region Marching Festival, 10 a.m.  
Football at Redfield, 7 p.m.**

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

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

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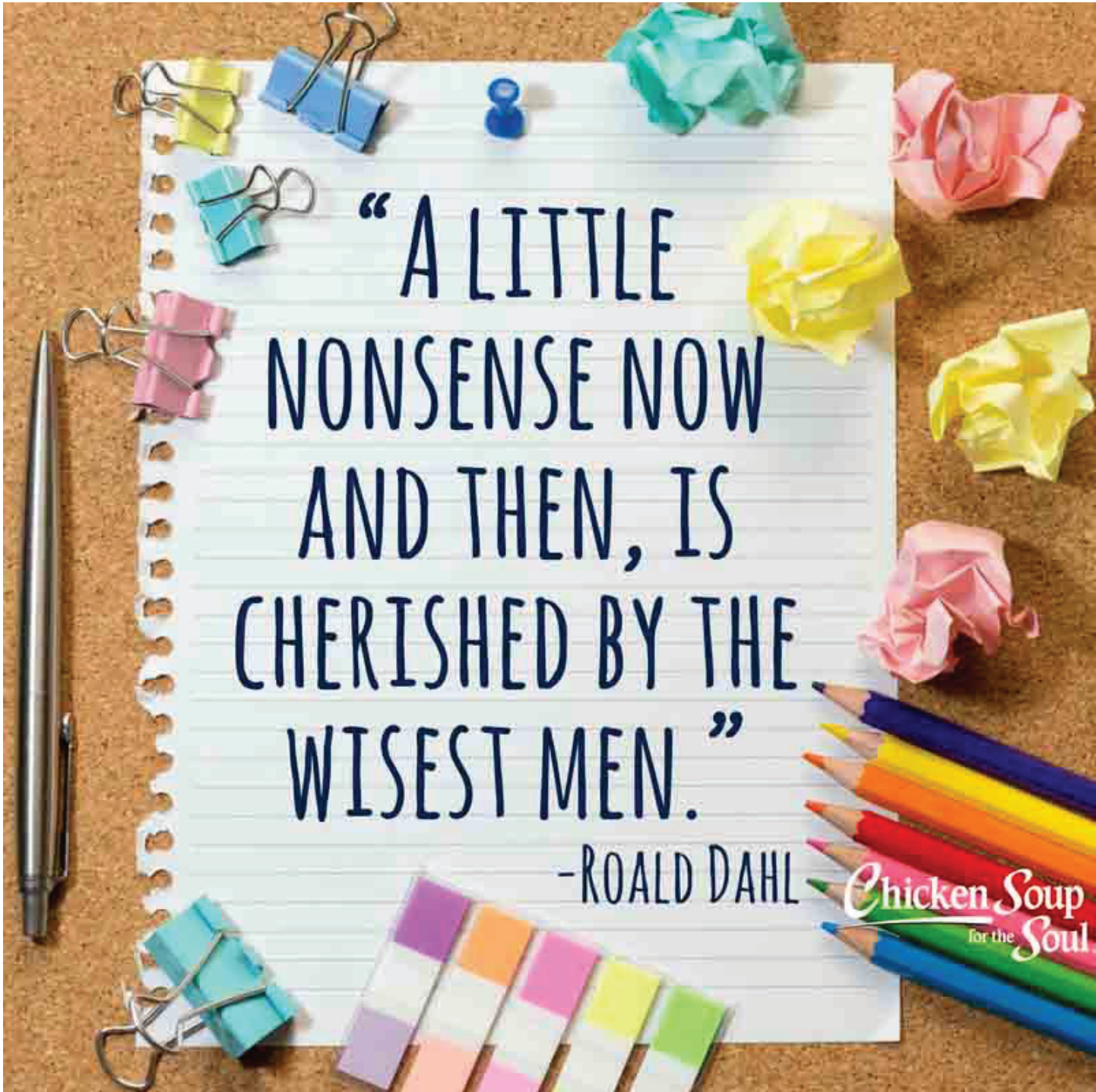


**Dakota Outdoors**

**Erik Dean**

402 N Main St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com



“A LITTLE  
NONSENSE NOW  
AND THEN, IS  
CHERISHED BY THE  
WISEST MEN.”

-ROALD DAHL

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

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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 605-397-2351.

## 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



## Thompson advances to state

Emily Thompson placed fifth at the regional cross country meet held Thursday in Webster. Her fifth place finish qualified her to run in the state cross country meet October 21 in Rapid City. She ran the 5,000m course in a time of 21:27.29.

Also running in the girl's division were Hannah Lewandowski, 26th place, time of 23:55.60; AnneMarie Smith, 37th, time of 26:41.72; and Rylee Rosenau, 38th place, time of 26:54.60.

In the boy's division, Micah Poor placed 26th with a time of 20:19.42 and Noah Poor placed 36th with a time of 23:06.23.



## Netters beat Tiospa Zina in 3 sets

Groton Area's volleyball team travelled to Tiospa Zina on Thursday and came home with a 3-0 win over the Wambdi. Game scores were 25-7, 25-12 and 25-8. Groton Area also won the junior varsity match by game scores of 25-1 and 25-9.

Groton Area was 70 of 75 in serving with 13 ace serves. Payton Colestock was 11 of 14 with five ace serves and Jennie Doeden was 11 of 11 with four ace serves.

Groton Area was 73 of 83 in attacks with 35 kills. Gia Gengerke was 20 of 23 with 11 kills and Nicole Marzahn was 20 of 20 with 10 kills.

Groton Area was 79 of 79 in sets with 30 assists. Miranda Hanson was 34 of 34 with 16 assists and Kaylin Kucker was 45 of 45 with 14 assists.

Groton Area had 40 digs with Jennie Doeden having 14 and Payton Maine 13.

The Lady Tigers will travel to Langford on Monday and finish the regular season hosting Northwestern on Oct. 17 and Milbank Area on Oct. 23.

## **Marshall County, South Dakota PRIVATE LAND SALE - 155 +/- ACRES**

Legal Description: The Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Twenty-six (126), Range Fifty-nine (59), West of the 5th P.M., except five acres of said land in the northeast corner of said land which is used for cemetery purposes, Marshall County, South Dakota.

155 acres with the total acres to be determined by survey or the acres used by Farm Service Agency in Marshall County, South Dakota.

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SELLERS: Estate of Nancy L. Wright  
Clark Wright & Elizabeth LaRocque Co- Personal Representatives

ATTORNEY FOR SELLERS: Rick A. Ribstein – Ribstein & Hogan Law Firm, 621 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006. Phone: (605) 692-1818

REVISED SALE/AUCTION FORMAT: Preliminary written bids will be accepted by Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney for Sellers, until 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017. Prospective purchasers will be notified by mail that they are invited to a private auction to be held in Amherst, South Dakota, on Friday, November 3, 2017. Sellers reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

PRELIMINARY WRITTEN BID FORMAT: Preliminary written bids may be submitted in the form of a letter mailed or delivered to Seller's Attorney at the address printed above. Preliminary bid letters should include bidder's name and mailing address, the preliminary bid amount, and should be accompanied by a check for a down payment equal to 5% of the preliminary bid amount. Down payment checks should be payable to Ribstein & Hogan Trust Account.

TERMS: 5% down with preliminary written bid. A 10% additional nonrefundable earnest money payment required on the day of sale and balance at closing. Possession will be subject to existing tenant's rights under their current lease and their rights to harvest the 2017 crops, with Fall tillage privileges for a new buyer(s) to be permitted with approval of the current tenants. Cost of owner's policy of title insurance and closing fees split 50/50. Sellers will pay the 2016 taxes due in 2017, and all prior taxes. 2017 taxes will be prorated until the day of closing.

INQUIRIES: Informal packages available upon request from Seller's Attorney. Questions about the real estate or auction format should be directed to Seller's Attorney by mail, or by calling (605) 692-1818. Ask for Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney or Sheila Maffett, Legal Secretary.

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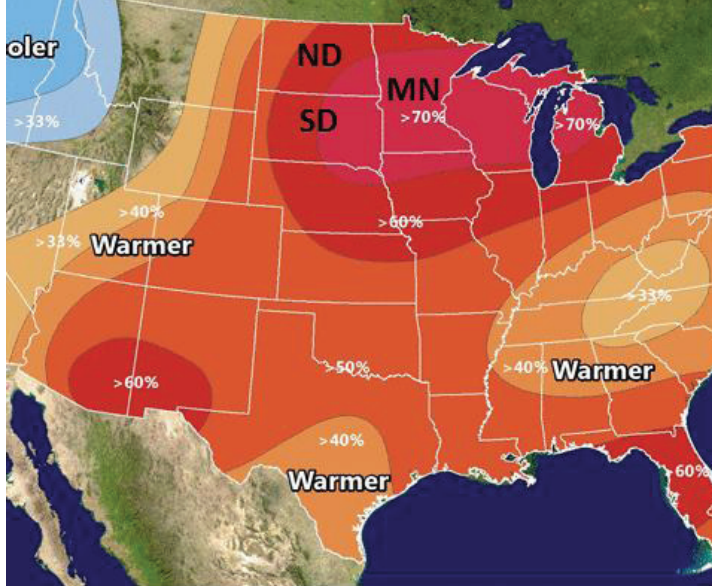
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## Above Ave Mid-Late Oct Temps

Climate Prediction Center Outlooks

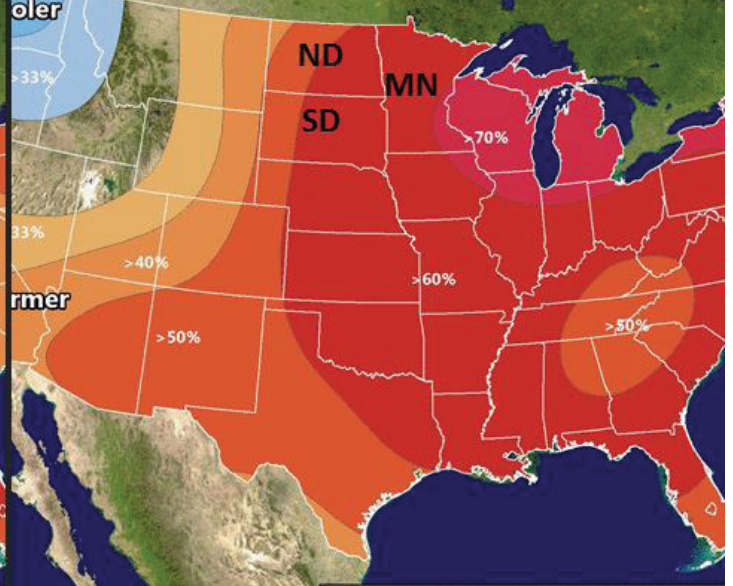
### 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Oct 17 - Oct 21, 2017



### 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Oct 19 - Oct 25, 2017



National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD



[www.weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://www.weather.gov/Aberdeen) Updated: 10/11/2017 6:35 PM CDT

Published on: 10/11/2017 at 6:47PM

Not quite ready for the cold air to settle in? Good news: large-scale patterns look to favor the Northern Plains for above average temperatures for the second half of October! That said, average highs during this time range from the low to upper 50's.



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## Today in Weather History

October 13, 1966: Late season thunderstorms brought hail and high winds to southeast South Dakota causing extensive damage to some soybean fields. The greatest damage was in the Garretson area. The strong winds also damaged many utility lines along with many farm structures. Lightning struck a church at Lake Andes, and the resulting fire destroyed it. The storms occurred from late on the 13th to the morning of the 14th.

1846 - A great hurricane tracked across Cuba, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The hurricane inflicted major damage along its entire path, which was similar to the path of Hurricane Hazel 108 years later. The hurricane caused great damage at Key West FL, and at Philadelphia PA it was the most destructive storm in thirty years. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983: Severe weather in Falls Church, VA, produced 2-3 tornadoes and caused \$1 million in damages.

1986 - Four tornadoes struck southeastern Virginia late in the night causing three million dollars damage. Tornadoes at Falls Church VA caused a million dollars damage. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 34 degrees at Meridian MS, 28 degrees at Paducah KY, and 26 degrees at Beckley WV. Another surge of arctic air entered the north central U.S. bringing snow to parts of Wyoming and Colorado. (The National Weather Summary)



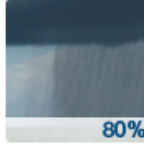




1988 - A total of forty-three cities in the eastern U.S. and the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV and Marquette MI where the mercury dipped to 18 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Sixteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s and low 90s from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast. Evansville IND and North Platte NE reported record highs of 91 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) 2006: The October 2006 Buffalo storm was an unusual early-season lake effect snow storm that hit the Buffalo, New York area and other surrounding areas of the United States and Canada on this day. Downtown Buffalo reported 15 inches from this event. Depew and Alden record 24 inches, the most from this lake effect storm.

2011: Three tornadoes hit central and Eastern Virginia on this day. One of the EF1 tornadoes caused damage to the Sylvania Plantation home that was built in 1746. The storm peeled the roof off the house.

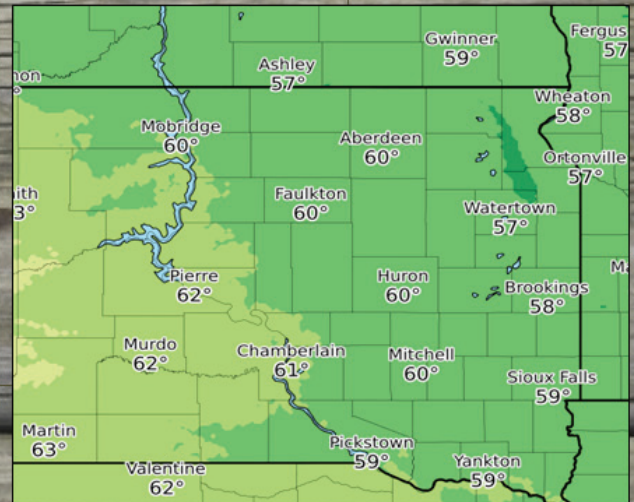
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	80% Showers	30% Chance Showers	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 60 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 67 °F

## Cooler Today, But Still Pleasant

Highs in the upper 50s to low 60s



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 10/13/2017 5:19 AM

Published on: 10/13/2017 at 5:22AM

Surface high pressure will bring cooler temperatures to the region today, with lighter winds. Conditions will still feel pleasant, with highs reaching the upper 50s to lower 60s. Rain moves into the region on Saturday, with even cooler temperatures. Rainfall amounts should be around a half inch or less for most locations.



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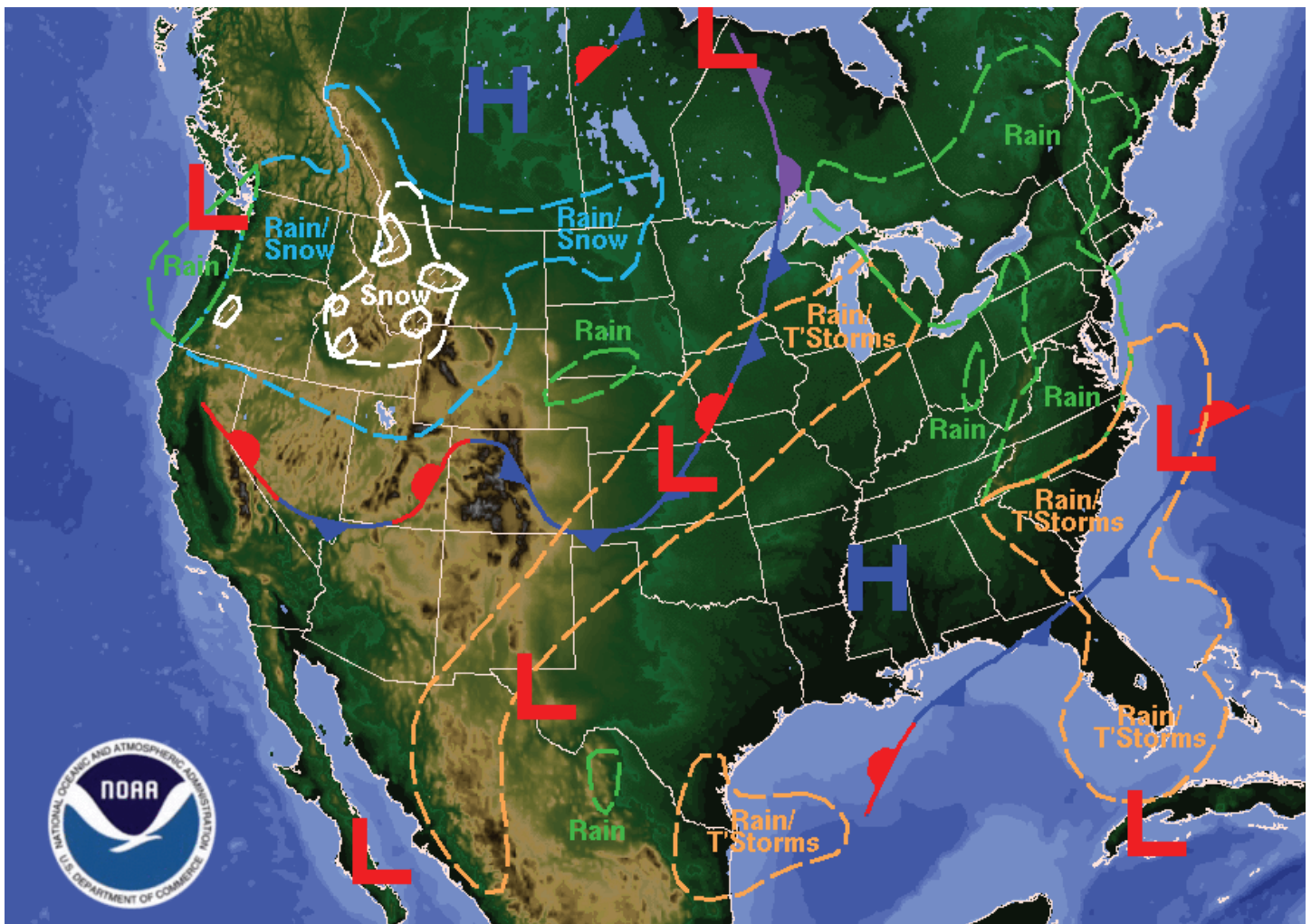
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 71.2 at 5:16 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 49.0 at 7:46 AM**  
**High Gust: 31 mph at 10:49 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 87° in 1958**  
**Record Low: 10° in 1909**  
**Average High: 59°F**  
**Average Low: 34°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct: 0.94**  
**Precip to date in Oct: 0.19**  
**Average Precip to date: 19.42**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.28**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:51 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Oct 13, 2017, issued 4:26 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)**



## SEEKING A SAFE SHELTER

It was a stormy day. Fierce winds and heavy rains made the windows of his office shake intensely. Suddenly one of the panes came loose and the wind and rain came rushing in and soaked the desk and papers of the great hymn writer, Charles Wesley.

Suddenly, he was startled by the sounds of a bird chirping. He looked around and discovered that a small bird had been carried into his room with the wind and the rain and had taken refuge in his coat that he had laid across a chair near his desk.

Noticing that the bird was frightened, he silently made his way to the chair and began to softly stroke the feathers of the bird to calm its fast-beating heart. The bird did not respond to his gentleness. Then he noticed that a hawk was perched on a bookcase, carefully watching the proceedings. He walked from his office with the bird and when the rain ceased released it into the sky. He went back to his desk and wrote the beloved hymn, "Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly."

David had fierce "storms" in his life. There were many times in his life when he had no place to go or any person he could turn to for help. But he had God and he knew that he could turn to Him at any moment in any of the storms of his life.

"Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me," he wrote. "For in You my soul takes refuge. I take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster passes."

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, for being our refuge when the storms of life arise. Protect us, we pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 57:1 Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

## 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



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News from the  Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Watertown, 25-15, 25-16, 25-16  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Sisseton, 25-11, 25-7, 25-19  
Arlington def. Castlewood, 25-21, 25-21, 25-9  
Belle Fourche def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-13, 25-20, 25-23  
Burke/South Central def. Gregory, 25-23, 25-17, 25-11  
Chester def. Canistota, 25-20, 25-17, 25-18  
Clark/Willow Lake def. Deuel, 25-16, 25-16, 25-12  
Colman-Egan def. Lake Preston, 21-25, 25-15, 25-21, 25-15  
Crow Creek def. Lower Brule, 20-25, 25-18, 25-18, 25-22  
Custer def. Douglas, 25-14, 22-25, 25-14, 25-21  
Deubrook def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 9-25, 25-12, 25-11, 25-16  
Edgemont def. Hulett, Wyo., 25-22, 25-21, 19-25, 25-14  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. DeSmet, 25-16, 25-17, 16-25, 25-18  
Eureka/Bowdle def. Wakpala, 25-3, 25-4, 25-8  
Faith def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-6, 25-13, 25-11  
Florence/Henry def. Iroquois, 25-11, 25-9, 25-12  
Groton Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-7, 25-12, 25-8  
Hamlin def. Webster, 25-13, 25-22, 23-25, 25-18  
Harding County def. McIntosh, 25-21, 25-17, 25-17  
Harrisburg def. Brandon Valley, 25-20, 25-22, 25-22  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-13, 25-8, 26-24  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Ipswich, 25-18, 30-28, 25-22  
James Valley Christian def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-23, 25-17, 25-14  
Kadoka Area def. Jones County, 25-8, 25-17, 25-9  
Kimball/White Lake def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-22, 25-16, 22-25, 27-25  
Lennox def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-12, 25-14, 25-8  
Leola/Frederick def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-9, 25-19, 25-23  
Menno def. Mitchell Christian, 25-9, 25-21, 25-16  
Northwestern def. Potter County, 25-11, 25-10, 25-13  
Omaha Nation, Neb. def. Flandreau Indian, 25-15, 25-18, 25-14  
Parker def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-10, 25-20  
Philip def. Lyman, 25-14, 25-14, 25-21  
Platte-Geddes def. Chamberlain, 25-16, 29-27, 26-24  
Rapid City Christian def. Newell, 25-17, 25-12, 25-12  
Redfield/Doland def. Milbank Area, 25-19, 25-22, 25-11  
Scotland def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-16, 10-25, 14-25, 25-10, 15-10  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Dell Rapids, 25-17, 25-15, 25-11  
Sioux Valley def. Baltic, 25-17, 25-9, 25-20  
Stanley County def. Dupree, 25-3, 25-20, 23-25, 27-25  
Sully Buttes def. Mobridge-Pollock, 20-25, 25-7, 25-10, 25-19  
Tea Area def. Garretson, 25-19, 25-13, 26-28, 25-14  
Wagner def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-18, 25-22, 25-18  
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-15, 25-23, 25-20

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West Central def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-15, 25-20, 25-11  
White River def. Colome, 25-22, 25-23, 25-21

## South Dakota school cancels homecoming after racist stunt

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota high school has forfeited its homecoming football game against a school from a nearby American Indian reservation and has cancelled its homecoming dance and parade after photos posted on social media show students destroying a car with "Go back to the Rez" painted on the side.

Sturgis Brown High School was scheduled to play Pine Ridge School, from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, on Friday. On Thursday, the Meade School Board voted 8-0 to cancel all remaining activities to avoid the potential that students could be put in danger, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Sturgis Principal Pete Wilson told The Associated Press that he learned of the posts Wednesday evening, saying the actions of a few reflect poorly on the school and that the situation "hurts the student body."

"It's the worst day I've ever had," said Wilson, adding that discipline would occur "after we figure out everything."

Superintendent Don Kirkegaard said: "I can't defend those actions, but I can try my best to make sure it never happens again." He said the district is working with police to determine who was responsible.

Pine Ridge Principal Michael Carlow commended Kirkegaard for taking responsibility and for his efforts to address the issue.

A photo shows people hitting a car with sledgehammers. The ritual used to be homecoming tradition but is no longer sponsored by the school, according to the newspaper.

Sturgis Police Chief Geody VanDewater said the department is working with school officials to provide assistance. VanDewater added that "at this point there's not anything criminal," but police are "looking through it thoroughly before we make judgment."

Kirkegaard, the school board and the district's administration and staff apologized for the actions of a "few students" from the high school in a joint statement, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"We do not support, teach nor endorse the inappropriate behaviors and actions that occurred Wednesday evening. We are appalled and disgusted by the racist comments that appeared on social media," the statement said.

Wilson said there was an assembly Thursday morning at the school, which state fall 2016 enrollment numbers say had about 685 students. Wilson said officials are planning cultural awareness assemblies throughout the entire district.

## Zimmer, Vikings send thriving defense at Rodgers, Packers

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The fast, clever and tough defense Minnesota has had in four seasons with head coach Mike Zimmer has given the Vikings as good a chance to beat rival Green Bay as they've had since Aaron Rodgers became Packers starting quarterback in 2008.

That doesn't mean Rodgers is fun for Zimmer to prepare for, with the latest matchup looming Sunday. Even in his 24th year in the NFL, he's still prone to anxiety figuring out how to defend the quarterback Zimmer said is essentially the best he's ever faced. Rodgers will be fresh from his latest mastery, a 35-31 comeback to beat Dallas last week that kept the Packers in first place in the NFC North.

"When you combine everything, his arm strength, his intelligence, his escape ability, the way he sees things," Zimmer said, pausing for effect: "I think they should trade him."

That probably will never happen, though the Packers did wind up dealing Brett Favre to pave the way for Rodgers to take over. He's 12-6 with 40 touchdown passes and six interceptions against Minnesota since then. But the Vikings have won two of the last three meetings, including a five-sack, one-interception performance at the home opener in 2016 during which Rodgers passed for a modest 213 yards in a 17-14 defeat.

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Zimmer's creative and aggressive approach to pass rushing and preference for tight man-to-man pass coverage has provided the Vikings a formula for slowing the Packers that they haven't had in decades.

"He's an innovator," Rodgers said. "He's brought some concepts to the league other people have tried to copy but not with anywhere near the kind of success he's had."

Here are some other key angles to follow for the game:

**GRIFFEN GETS EVEN BETTER:** Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen is one of three NFL players with at least one sack in each game this season. His streak of five straight games is second in team history to Jim Marshall, who had a sack in eight games in a row in 1969.

With 10 sacks in 15 career games against the Packers, Griffen has gained the respect of Rodgers. But the admiration grew out of more than just his ability to rush the passer with pure speed, quick moves and relentless power. Rodgers recalls a 76-yard touchdown pass he threw to Jordy Nelson at the Metrodome in 2013, when Griffen almost caught the wide receiver from the opposite side of the play. Rodgers also remembered watching the 6-foot-3, 280-pound Griffen earlier in his career play the outside coverage spot on the punt team often reserved for wide receivers and cornerbacks.

"I said, 'Who's this humongous guy out as the gunner?'" Rodgers said. "He's huge. He's fast."

**ANOTHER AARON:** Aaron Jones, one of three rookie running backs on the Packers, unquestionably remains the second-best Aaron in the backfield. With 125 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries in place of the injured Ty Montgomery against the Cowboys, however, the fifth-round draft pick from Texas-El Paso caught the league's attention.

The Packers, with Eddie Lacy in 2013 and 2014, have only had a 1,000-yard rusher twice in the last seven seasons. Montgomery, who sat out with broken ribs last week and is on track to return and start Sunday, is a converted wide receiver. But whether from a project rookie or a position switcher, a productive ground game would make Rodgers and the Packers that much more dangerous.

"If you let them get the running game going and the play-action and then they have Aaron, they're like three-dimensional," Griffen said. "You can't give them three dimensions."

**JET SET:** The Vikings survived their first game without rookie running back Dalvin Cook with a productive night by Jerick McKinnon, who's sharing the load in the backfield with Latavius Murray.

McKinnon had 146 yards from scrimmage, the second-highest total of his four-year career, on 22 touches in a 20-17 victory at Chicago. He caught all six passes that were thrown to him and scored on a 58-yard run off a toss sweep, but the 5-foot-9, 205-pound McKinnon was equally impressive by the way he absorbed and delivered punishing hits at the end of some of those plays.

"He's a tough kid, but he's also in great shape and as physically gifted as anyone I've ever been around," tight end Kyle Rudolph said. "To be as big and fast and strong as he is, I'd hate to be on the receiving end of that as well."

**THE LATEST ON THE LIST:** The secondary is the current area of concern on the injury report for the Packers.

Rookie cornerback Kevin King (concussion) missed practice at midweek, as did safety Morgan Burnett (hamstring). Both players were hurt against the Cowboys. King, the second-round draft pick out of Washington, has been the team's best cornerback so far. Burnett is the steady defensive signal caller whose versatility allows him to also play in the box as a valuable run stopper. Starting cornerback Davon House (quadriceps) was also limited this week.

Only five defensive players have started all five games for the Packers: Burnett, nose tackle Kenny Clark, free safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and linebackers Blake Martinez and Clay Matthews.

For more AP NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)



## South Dakota family sues boarding school over girl's death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The family of a 14-year-old South Dakota girl who killed herself at a Native American boarding school has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the federal government, which runs the school.

The family filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in South Dakota. It seeks unspecified compensation for funeral expenses, attorney fees, and pain and suffering.

The girl's grandfather, Emerson Little Elk, says the staff at the Pierre Indian Learning Center failed to adequately monitor his granddaughter, who he says had a history of depression and threatening to kill herself. She died in October 2015, a couple of months after arriving at the school, according to the Argus Leader, which didn't name the girl in its story.

The lawsuit says the school placed the girl in counseling after noticing she had trouble with other students and staff promised to see if she was being bullied, but there's no proof they ever did.

"Self-harm and suicide are ongoing, foreseeable problems with 'at-risk' students at PILIC, as suicide has been identified as a crisis of near epidemic proportions for youth with Tribal connections," the lawsuit said.

According to the newspaper, the girl hanged herself in a bathroom. A student who saw her screamed, but the lawsuit alleges that four staffers were slow to respond, causing the girl to hang longer than she otherwise might have.

The Pierre boarding school is overseen by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Education and serves Native American students with behavioral, mental health and emotional needs in grades one through eight.

The center's superintendent and a spokeswoman for the Department of Interior didn't immediately return requests for comment.

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

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Oct. 8

State needs to boost its college spending

The Board of Regents seems to be struggling to figure out why enrollment continues to decline at South Dakota's six public universities.

On Wednesday, the Journal reported that resident headcount has declined by 5,300 students since 2010. Over that same time period, the cost to attend Black Hills State University, for example, increased by 30 percent and 33 percent at the University of South Dakota — in both cases far above the overall cost of living.

In 2010, a BHSU freshman could expect to spend \$47,252 over four years if the school did not raise tuition and fees while the student was in school, which has not been the case at any state university lately. The figure is based on taking 32 credits a year and room and board.

In 2017, a freshman can expect to pay \$61,684 over four years based on 30 credits a year and those other expenses. At USD, it went from \$49,348 to \$65,772. At the School of Mines in Rapid City, it climbed 36 percent to \$66,552, the highest in the state.

So, let's use what a South Dakota lawmaker might call common-sense logic. Higher costs are at least playing a role in discouraging students from attending college.

The regents have been discussing this problem for some time now. In 2015, the board commissioned a study by the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute that showed only 38 percent of South Dakotans 25 and older had a two-year associate degree.

In 2015, the regents released a report that said South Dakota charged more for tuition and fees than North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska. At the same time, the state charged the lowest costs for out-of-state students.

In addition to rising tuition costs, public college students have been subjected to numerous fee increases,

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many dedicated to paying off bond debt for new buildings at the universities. Right now, the regents are considering a new fee of \$5.07 per credit hour to increase the salary of faculty members.

The Board of Regents president also has a new idea to address enrollment — let university presidents set tuition and fees for their colleges.

That, however, would be an inappropriate delegation of an important task from the regents who have direct access to the Legislature to university presidents who are busy managing multi-million dollar operations and working to provide college students with the best possible education.

The proposal also fails to address the main problem — the increasing cost of higher education in South Dakota, which in 2017 has the second highest proportion of students with college debt in the nation, according to WalletHub.com.

At the same meeting where the regents discussed handing off the tuition-and-fee problem to college presidents, it was reported by the Legislative Research Council that the state would need to increase funding by \$15.7 million annually to reach the regional average for state higher-education funding.

If the state of South Dakota wants to stop the bleeding of enrollment, the Legislature — not college presidents — needs to find more money for higher education. Otherwise, fewer of our youth will get the chance to make their dream come true in their home state.

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## American News, Aberdeen, Oct. 11

Help break the silence around domestic violence

Bludgeoned. Bloody. Burned and bruised.

Nov. 17, 2009, in Florida — a day Audrey Mabrey vividly remembers when her estranged husband bludgeoned her with a hammer before he lit her on fire.

She told her story Tuesday in the American News, and to an Aberdeen audience during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Often, there is a sad silence surrounding domestic violence. A silence that results in screams for those involved. A silence that too often ends in the most violent way after a string of silent violent acts.

For Mabrey, 80 percent of her body was covered in burns from that horrific day. She spent three months and one day in the hospital.

Like so many other domestic abuse cases, for those looking from the outside in, nothing seemed wrong in Mabrey's life, other than the normal day-to-day troubles we all encounter.

"If you talked to someone about our marriage they would tell you that he worshipped the ground I walked on," Mabrey said.

Mabrey said no domestic violence story is greater than any other.

Victims — survivors — sometimes downplay their situations, especially to Mabrey, often telling her, "My story isn't as bad as yours."

But it is.

"Trauma cannot be measured — period," Mabrey said.

We agree. Each domestic violence story is unique, disturbing and troubling in its own way. And the seemingly simple solution of "turn the abuser in" is never that simple, but a complex, twisted compilation of lives involved.

Mabrey was in Aberdeen for an event for the Safe Harbor crisis shelter. Our community and this region is blessed to have a facility such as Safe Harbor and others like it.

And that goes for the people who work at those facilities, as well. People who lovingly, caringly and expertly are taking care of fellow humans in crisis.

Domestic violence comes in many forms, but in the end, it is always wrong.

We've said it before from experts and domestic abuse online sites, but the best way to help those suffering domestic violence is to:

- Listen.
- Believe them.

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— Don't judge, and respect their decisions.

— Encourage and support them.

— Remind the person being abused how brave they are being in telling you their story.

If you have questions, places such as Safe Harbor have answers. The agency lists these numbers and website as part of a 24-hour help line:

— Local: 605-226-1212.

— Toll free: 888-290-2935.

— safeharborsd.org.

Domestic violence is never the answer to resolve conflict. There is no excuse for it.

Ever.

Mabrey suggests that we teach our children about healthy relationships.

She said sex education is being taught in schools and domestic violence is being defined, but no one is teaching youth what a healthy relationship is, she said.

"You don't just preach about not wanting war. You preach about peace," Mabrey said.

It makes sense in a subject that seems senseless but happens all too often here and everywhere else.

The silence is truly deafening.

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## The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Oct. 12

Anxious for lake study results

Great green gobs of disgusting, smelly algae filled Lake Mitchell over the summer.

With long stretches of hot, dry weather in eastern South Dakota, we heard several cries that this was the worst condition the lake's ever been in.

We know this: It sure was nasty at times. And that's why we're getting anxious for Omaha-based water quality specialist Fyra Engineering to present its findings on the lake's problems to the City Council soon.

The recreational opportunities at the lake are plentiful. Angling, scenery and walking and bike trails are all draws for the city's residents. But do we want to show off our lake when it looks like it did over the summer? Heck no.

There needs to be an urgency to figure out how to realistically slow the massive algae blooms each summer from overtaking Lake Mitchell.

The City Council voted in October 2016 to spend more than \$73,000 for Fyra to comprehensively study the lake. There are also a Watershed Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Team assembled of volunteers who understand the importance of improving the lake.

While we're encouraged to see steps in the right direction, the information we get within the next month from Fyra will be crucial to the future of the lake.

On Tuesday, Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Powell informed the Lake Advisory Committee that the key individual leading the Fyra study has left the agency, which doesn't lend any extra confidence to the results. And with a handful of studies having been conducted in the past, we empathize with those who think this \$73,725 report wasn't the best use of city dollars.

But we have to be optimistic in anticipation of Fyra's report. So here's hoping the information Fyra provides will ultimately lead to answers to fix the lake.

Because, quite honestly, we have no idea what will happen if this study falls flat.



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## A timeline of the Dakota Access oil pipeline

By The Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Notable events in the dispute over the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Dec. 2014 — Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners applies to the federal government to build the 1,200-mile, \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline to carry half a million barrels of North Dakota oil daily through the Dakotas and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's reservation and crosses under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in the Dakotas that serves as the tribe's drinking water source.

April 2016 — Opponents establish a camp in southern North Dakota for peaceful protest. Camps in the area would later swell to thousands of people.

July 2016 — The Army Corps of Engineers grants pipeline permits at more than 200 water crossings. The Standing Rock Sioux sues. The Cheyenne River, Oglala and Yankton Sioux tribes later join as plaintiffs.

Aug. 10 — North Dakota authorities make the first arrests of protesters. The total eventually reaches 761 over more than six months. Those arrested include actress Shailene Woodley and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein, neither of whom ends up serving jail time.

Sept. 9 — U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg in Washington, D.C., denies an attempt by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt pipeline construction. The same day, the Army, the Department of Justice and the Interior Department declare that construction bordering or under Lake Oahe won't go forward pending further review.

Nov. 20, 21 — Authorities use tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays on protesters who they say assaulted officers with rocks and burning logs at a blockaded bridge, in one of the most violent clashes of the protest. At least 17 protesters are taken to hospitals. One officer was injured when struck in the head with a rock.

Dec. 4 — Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy declines to allow the pipeline to be built under Lake Oahe in part because she says alternate routes need to be considered. ETP accuses President Barack Obama's administration of delaying the matter until he leaves office.

Jan. 18, 2017 — The Corps launches a full environmental study of the disputed Lake Oahe crossing that could take up to two years to complete. Boasberg rejects an ETP request to stop the study.

Jan. 24 — President Donald Trump signs an executive action to advance the pipeline's construction.

Feb. 8 — The Army forgoes further study and grants an easement necessary to complete the pipeline. Crews immediately begin drilling under Lake Oahe.

Feb. 22-23 — Authorities clear out the last remaining holdouts in the main protest camps in southern North Dakota in advance of spring flooding season.

March 10 — Pipeline opponents rally in Washington, D.C., demonstrating outside the White House and Trump's Washington hotel.

March 20 — ETP announces "coordinated physical attacks" along the pipeline. Authorities in South Dakota and Iowa confirm people apparently used a torch to burn holes through empty sections of the pipeline at aboveground shut-off valve sites.

April 4 — The pipeline leaks 84 gallons of oil at a rural pump station in South Dakota. Federal data released in May showed that the pipeline and a feeder line leaked more than 100 gallons of oil in North Dakota in separate incidents in March. All of the spills were cleaned up.

April 29 — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum asks Trump for a presidential disaster declaration to pave the way for federal reimbursement of protest policing costs. Trump later rejects the request.

May — Documents leaked to an online magazine show that TigerSwan, a private security firm hired by ETP, conducted an aggressive, multifaceted operation against protesters that included a close working relationship with public law enforcement.

June 1 — The pipeline begins shipping oil.

June 14 — Boasberg orders the Corps to do more environmental assessment of the pipeline's impact on

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the Standing Rock Sioux. The Corps estimates the work will take until April 2018.

June 27 — North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board sues TigerSwan for operating in the state without a license. TigerSwan says it's the victim of a smear campaign.

Aug. 22 — ETP sues Greenpeace and other groups, alleging they disseminated false and misleading information about the project and interfered with its construction. ETP seeks damages that could approach \$1 billion. Greenpeace says the suit is meritless.

Sept. 20 — North Dakota regulators approve an agreement settling allegations that ETP violated state rules during construction. It includes no fine and no admission of liability by the company.

Sept. 27 — Archambault is defeated in his bid for re-election as tribal chairman.

Sept. 28 — ETP gives North Dakota \$15 million to help pay an estimated \$43 million in protest policing bills. The state four days earlier had received a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Justice Department for the same purpose.

Oct. 10 — The North Dakota Pipeline Authority says the pipeline boosted the state's tax revenues by about \$19 million in its first three months of operation.

Oct. 10 — U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland in Bismarck, North Dakota, dismisses a lawsuit filed by twenty-one North Dakota landowners who alleged ETP and a consultant used deceit and fraud to acquire land easements.

Oct. 11 — Boasberg rules that the pipeline can continue operating while more court-ordered study is completed to assess its environmental impact on the Standing Rock Sioux.

## North Dakota landowners' lawsuit against pipeline dismissed

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by nearly two dozen North Dakota landowners who alleged the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline and a consultant used deceit and fraud to acquire private land easements for the project.

But a court case in Iowa involving the pipeline and landowners is expected to linger into next year.

In North Dakota, U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland in a ruling dated Tuesday sided with a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners and Contract Land Staff, a land acquisition consulting business also based in that state. The two companies disputed that the landowners had any valid claims, and Hovland also found their arguments lacking.

"The court finds that the plaintiffs have clearly failed to specifically allege who made the fraudulent statements, when the statements were made, and to whom the statements were made," the judge wrote.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline began moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois on June 1.

The 21 North Dakota landowners sued in January, seeking more than \$4 million in damages for what they called "misrepresentations, deception or other unfair tactics."

They alleged the Texas companies engaged in fraud while negotiating to lay pipeline on private land, resulting in compensation that was as much as nine times lower than what other landowners got. They also alleged they were told that if they didn't agree to the offered amount, they faced losing money or getting nothing either because their land would be condemned through eminent domain or the pipeline would be moved elsewhere.

Hovland ruled that the landowners didn't adequately prove their claims of wrongdoing, and he said it's impossible to know whether they might have received a better deal under other circumstances.

"The plaintiffs are upset their neighbors got a better price when the agent predicted prices would never be better," the judge wrote. "However, the court finds that opinions and predictions as to what future prices will be are simply not actionable as fraud."

Attorneys for the landowners did not immediately respond to phone and email requests for comment Wednesday and Thursday.

The landowners who sued represent only about 3 percent of the 800 North Dakotans who provided

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easements for the pipeline, according to ETP, whose attorneys called allegations “essentially a case of sellers’ remorse.”

Spokeswoman Vicki Granado said in a statement to The Associated Press that the company is guided by principles including “communicating clear, timely, and accurate information, and following the rule of law.”

In Iowa, a case filed by a group of landowners and an environmental group is on appeal to that state’s Supreme Court after a judge rejected their arguments in February. They challenge the Iowa Utility Board’s decision allowing the pipeline company to take their land under eminent domain.

The appeal also alleges the board refused to consider the need for, or benefits from, the pipeline. State law requires the board to approve pipeline projects only if they promote public convenience and necessity. Arguments are expected early next year.

AP writer David Pitt contributed to this story from Des Moines, Iowa.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>; and David Pitt at: <https://twitter.com/DavePitt>.

## **Dispute between Sioux Falls cab drivers ends with gun pulled**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls cab driver was arrested after allegedly pointing a handgun at another cab driver during a dispute near the airport.

Police say the two drivers clashed Wednesday evening over a parking space, and officers responded. The driver who allegedly pulled the gun was arrested on an aggravated assault charge.

## **Summer hail storms cause surge in Rapid City roof repairs**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Late-summer hail storms caused September building permit figures to spike in Rapid City.

The most serious storm was Aug. 14, when the city was pounded with hail up to 2 inches in diameter.

The Rapid City Journal reports that nearly 400 permits were issued last month for roofing repair work. That bumped total permits to 631, the eighth-highest number of permits issued in a month since 2000.

The total permit valuation for September surpassed \$12 million.

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

## **Wet weather slows harvest of corn, soybeans in South Dakota**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Another week of wet weather in South Dakota has slowed the harvest of corn and soybeans.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that only 6 percent of the state’s corn crop is harvested, well behind the long-term average of 29 percent. The soybean harvest is 22 percent complete, also well behind the average of 59 percent.

Slightly more than three-fourths of the winter wheat crop is now in the ground, with half of the crop emerged.

In the ranching community, pasture and range conditions are rated 54 percent poor or very poor. Stock water supplies are 47 percent in those categories.

The third cutting of alfalfa hay is 85 percent complete, slightly behind average.



## Trump said to disparage but not bolt from Iranian nuke deal

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will say Friday the Iran nuclear deal is no longer in U.S. national security interests, but he won't withdraw from the landmark 2015 accord or immediately re-impose sanctions against Tehran, according to U.S. officials and outside advisers to the administration.

Trump's speech from the White House will outline specific faults he finds in the pact but will also focus on an array of Iran's troubling non-nuclear activities, four officials and advisers said. Those include Tehran's ballistic missile program, support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and other groups that destabilize the region, including in Yemen.

Under U.S. law, Trump faces a Sunday deadline to notify Congress whether Iran is complying with the accord that was negotiated over 18 months by the Obama administration and determine if it remains a national security priority. Although Trump will allow that Iran is living up to the letter of the agreement, he will make the case that the deal is fatally flawed and that its non-nuclear behavior violates the spirit of the regional stability it was intended to encourage, the officials and advisers said.

The officials and advisers, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly preview the speech, said Trump will not call for a re-imposition of nuclear sanctions on Tehran. He will instead urge lawmakers to codify tough new requirements for Tehran to continue to benefit from the sanctions relief that it won in exchange for curbing its atomic program. And he'll announce his long-anticipated intent to impose sanctions on portions of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps by designating them terrorist organization under an existing executive order, according to the officials and advisers.

"The reckless behavior of the Iranian regime, and the IRGC in particular, poses one of the most dangerous threats to the interests of the United States and to regional stability," the White House said in a statement released ahead of the speech. The statement, which did not reveal Trump's decision, denounced the Obama administration for its "myopic focus on Iran's nuclear program to the exclusion of the regime's many other malign activities" and said the same "mistakes" would not be repeated.

"The Trump administration's Iran policy will address the totality of these threats from and malign activities by the Government of Iran and will seek to bring about a change in the Iranian's regime's behavior," it said.

Ali Larijani, Iran's parliament speaker, said Friday that any U.S. move against a nuclear deal with Iran would be an "insult" to the United Nations because the U.N. had given the deal its blessing.

He added that any revision of the deal would allow Iran to take its own actions, and warned that the U.S. move could destabilize the international situation.

"We will continue to adhere to our obligations ... for as long as other parties observe the agreement," he said on a visit to Russia.

In his speech, Trump will ask Congress to amend or replace legislation that currently requires him to certify Iranian compliance every 90 days. Officials have said that Trump hates the requirement more than the nuclear deal itself because it forces him to take a position every three months on what he has repeatedly denounced as the worst deal in American history. That frequency has also irritated aides who have complained that they are spending inordinate amounts of time on certification at the expense of other issues.

White House aides had initially sought a venue for Trump's address that would project American power and determination. The shuttered former Iranian embassy in Washington was briefly considered before being deemed inappropriate. Officials also considered the Iwo Jima Marine Corps Memorial, which was ruled out because it is currently being renovated. The Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House was eventually agreed.

American allies, who have pressed the White House to remain in the nuclear accord, will be closely watching the president's address. Trump wants to impress on the European parties to the accord — Germany, France and Britain — the importance of fixing what he sees as flaws in the nuclear accord and addressing malign behavior not covered in the agreement.

The Europeans, along with the other parties, Iran, Russia and China, have ruled out reopening the deal. But some, notably France, have signaled a willingness to tackle unresolved issues in supplementary negotiations. Among those issues are the expiration of several restrictions on advanced nuclear activity under

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so-called "sunset clauses" that will allow Iran to begin ramping up its enrichment capabilities after 10 years, the end of an arms embargo and the eventual easing of demands for a halt to its missile program.

In the speech, Trump hopes to "recruit" the Europeans into joining his broad strategy, particularly by punishing the Revolutionary Guard, which he and his national security team believe is fomenting instability, violence and extremism throughout the Middle East and beyond, according to one official.

In anticipation of Trump's announcements, Republican legislators have drawn up a new version of the law replacing the current 90-day timetable with "semi-annual" certifications, according to drafts seen by the Associated Press this week.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Bob Corker said in a statement on Friday that his panel had agreed to fresh certification criteria to include items that are also the province of the U.N. nuclear watchdog and require the U.S. intelligence community to determine if Iran is carrying out illicit activity in facilities to which the International Atomic Energy Agency has not had access.

The certification would also demand that the intelligence community produce judgments on Iranian behavior not covered by the nuclear deal, including missile testing and development, backing for Hezbollah and Assad and threats to Israel and the Mideast more broadly, according to the drafts.

Deb Riechmann contributed to this report.

## Trump to issue stop-payment order on health care subsidies

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a brash move likely to roil insurance markets, President Donald Trump will "immediately" halt payments to insurers under the Obama-era health care law he has been trying to unravel for months.

Before sunrise Friday morning, Trump went on Twitter to urge Democrats to make a deal: "The Democrats ObamaCare is imploding," he wrote. "Massive subsidy payments to their pet insurance companies has stopped. Dems should call me to fix!"

The Department of Health and Human Services had made the announcement in a statement late Thursday. "We will discontinue these payments immediately," said acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan and Medicare administrator Seema Verma. Sign-up season for subsidized private insurance starts Nov. 1, in less than three weeks, with about 9 million people currently covered.

In a separate statement, the White House said the government cannot legally continue to pay the so-called cost-sharing subsidies because they lack a formal authorization by Congress. Officials said a legal opinion from the Justice Department supports that conclusion.

However, the administration had been making the payments from month to month, even as Trump threatened to cut them off to force Democrats to negotiate over health care. The subsidies help lower copays and deductibles for people with modest incomes.

Halting the payments would trigger a spike in premiums for next year, unless Trump reverses course or Congress authorizes the money. The next payments are due around Oct. 20.

The top two Democrats in Congress sharply denounced the Trump plan in a joint statement.

"It is a spiteful act of vast, pointless sabotage leveled at working families and the middle class in every corner of America," said House and Senate Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi of California and Chuck Schumer of New York. "Make no mistake about it, Trump will try to blame the Affordable Care Act, but this will fall on his back and he will pay the price for it."

In a subsequent tweet, Trump asserted, "Obamacare is a broken mess. Piece by piece we will now begin the process of giving America the great HealthCare it deserves."

The president's action is likely to trigger a lawsuit from state attorneys general, who contend the subsidies to insurers are fully authorized by federal law, and say the president's position is reckless.

"We are prepared to sue," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. "We've taken the Trump Administration to court before and won."

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Word of Trump's plan came on a day when the president had also signed an executive order directing government agencies to design insurance plans that would offer lower premiums outside the requirements of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Frustrated over setbacks in Congress, Trump is wielding his executive powers to bring the "repeal and replace" debate to a head. He appears to be following through on his vow to punish Democrats and insurers after the failure of GOP health care legislation.

On Twitter, Trump has termed the payments to insurers a "bailout," but it's unclear if the president will get Democrats to negotiate by stopping payment.

Experts have warned that cutting off the money would lead to a double-digit spike in premiums, on top of increases insurers already planned for next year. That would deliver another blow to markets around the country already fragile from insurers exiting and costs rising. Insurers, hospitals, doctors' groups, state officials and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have urged the administration to keep paying.

Leading GOP lawmakers have also called for continuing the payments to insurers, at least temporarily, so constituents maintain access to health insurance. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., is working on such legislation with Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington.

The so-called "cost-sharing" subsidies defray copays and deductibles for people with low-to-modest incomes, and can reduce a deductible of \$3,500 to a few hundred dollars. Assistance is available to consumers buying individual policies; people with employer coverage are unaffected by the dispute.

Nearly 3 in 5 HealthCare.gov customers qualify for help, an estimated 6 million people or more. The annual cost to the government is currently about \$7 billion.

But the subsidies have been under a legal cloud because of a dispute over whether the Obama health care law properly approved them. Adding to the confusion, other parts of the Affordable Care Act clearly direct the government to reimburse the carriers.

For example, the ACA requires insurers to help low-income consumers with their copays and deductibles.

And the law also specifies that the government shall reimburse insurers for the cost-sharing assistance that they provide.

But there's disagreement over whether the law properly provided a congressional "appropriation," similar to an instruction to pay. The Constitution says the government shall not spend money unless Congress appropriates it.

House Republicans trying to thwart the ACA sued the Obama administration in federal court in Washington, arguing that the law lacked specific language appropriating the cost-sharing subsidies.

A district court judge agreed with House Republicans, and the case has been on hold before the U.S. appeals court in Washington. Up to this point the Trump administration continued making the monthly payments, as the Obama administration had done.

While the legal issue seems arcane, the impact on consumers would be real.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that premiums for a standard "silver" plan will increase by about 20 percent without the subsidies. Insurers can recover the cost-sharing money by raising premiums, since those are also subsidized by the ACA, and there's no legal question about their appropriation.

Consumers who receive tax credits under the ACA to pay their premiums would be shielded from those premium increases.

But millions of others buy individual health care policies without any financial assistance from the government and could face prohibitive increases. Taxpayers would end up spending more to subsidize premiums.

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Associated Press Writers Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.



## Californians under siege try to fight fires, find loved ones

By **ANDREW DALTON** and **JOHN L. MONE**, Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — They are trying to find lost loved ones, to sift through the remains of lost homes, to count, identify and mourn the dozens of dead — all while the fires rage on.

The communities of Northern California were preparing for another day under siege Friday, despite being driven to exhaustion by evacuations, destruction and danger amid the deadliest week of wildfires the state has ever seen.

"It wears you out," said winemaker Kristin Belair, who was driving back from Lake Tahoe to her as-yet-unburnt home in Napa. "Anybody who's been in a natural disaster can tell you that it goes on and on. I think you just kind of do hour by hour almost."

The death toll had climbed to an unprecedented 31, and was expected to keep rising. Individual fires including the Oakland Hills blaze of 1991 had killed more people than any one of the current fires, but no collection of simultaneous fires in California had ever led to so many deaths, authorities said.

"We had series of statewide fires in 2003, 2007, 2008 that didn't have anything close to this death count," said Daniel Berlant, a deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Hundreds more were injured or missing.

Real recovery would have to wait for firefighters to bring under control the 21 wildfires spanning more than 300 square miles (777 square kilometers). Most were less than 10 percent contained. New evacuations were still being ordered for fires that broke out on Sunday night.

"We are not even close to being out of this emergency," said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the state's Office of Emergency Services.

Choking smoke hung thick in the fire counties and drifted all over the San Francisco Bay Area, where masks to filter the fumes were becoming a regular uniform and the sunsets were blood-red from the haze.

"It's acrid now," said Wayne Petersen in Sonoma. "I'm wearing the mask because I've been here two or three days now, I live here, said Wayne Petersen in Sonoma. "It's starting to really affect my breathing and lungs so I'm wearing the mask. It's helping."

Even some members of the Oakland Raiders were wearing the masks during workouts Thursday.

The fires drove hundreds of evacuees northward to beaches, some sleeping on the sand on the first night of the blazes.

Since then, authorities have brought tents and sleeping bags and opened public buildings and restaurants to house people seeking refuge in the safety and clean air of the coastal community of Bodega Bay, where temperatures drop dramatically at night.

"The kids were scared," said Patricia Ginochio, who opened her seaside restaurant for some 300 people to sleep. "They were shivering and freezing."

California Highway Patrol Officer Quintin Shawk took relatives and other evacuees into his home and office, as did many others.

"It's like a refugee camp," Shawk said.

Teams with cadaver dogs began a grim search Thursday for more dead, resorting in some cases to serial numbers stamped on medical implants to identify remains in charred ruins.

Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano said officials were still investigating hundreds of reports of missing people and that recovery teams would begin conducting "targeted searches" for specific residents at their last known addresses.

"We have found bodies almost completely intact, and we have found bodies that were nothing more than ash and bones," said the sheriff, whose office released the names of 10 of the dead, all age 57 or older, on Thursday.

Some remains have been identified using medical devices uncovered in the scorched heaps that were once homes. Metal implants, such as artificial hips, have ID numbers that helped put names to victims, he said. Distinctive tattoos have helped identify some.

Since igniting Sunday in spots across eight counties, the fires have transformed many neighborhoods

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into wastelands. At least 3,500 homes and businesses have been destroyed and an estimated 25,000 people forced to flee.

Fire officials were investigating whether downed power lines or other utility failures could have sparked the fires.

Some lucky evacuees returned to find what they least expected.

Anna Brooner was prepared to find rubble and ashes after fleeing Santa Rosa's devastated Coffey Park neighborhood.

Then she got a call from a friend: "You're not going to believe this." Her home was one of only a handful still standing.

"I swore when I left I was never coming back to this place," Brooner said. "I feel so bad for all the other people. All of us came back thinking we had nothing left."

Dalton reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco, Jonathan J. Cooper in Santa Rosa and Brian Skoloff in Calistoga contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires> .

## 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. TRUMP MOVES TO WEAKEN 'OBAMACARE'

The president plans to halt payments to insurers under the Obama-era health care law that he has been trying to unravel for months.

### 2. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES UNDER SEIGE

The death toll climbs over 30 — the worst week of wildfires the state has ever seen — and is expected to keep rising as residents brace for more evacuations, destruction and danger.

### 3. TRUMP TO SPEAK ON IRAN NUKE DEAL

President Trump is expected to tell the nation that the landmark deal is not in America's best national security interests, and will specifically target Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard.

### 4. COUPLE DESCRIBED AS ADVENTURE-SEEKERS

The wife and husband who were freed in a dramatic rescue mission after being held hostage five years in Afghanistan wanted to see areas of the world infrequently traveled by Westerners, those who know them say.

### 5. "HW RAPED ME"

Actress Rose McGowan's rape allegations against Harvey Weinstein are latest incendiary episode in the fast-unraveling saga engulfing the fallen Hollywood mogul.

### 6. WHAT NATION IS CLAD IN BLACK, MOURNING

This marked one year since the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej with solemn ceremonies and acts of personal devotion before an elaborate five-day funeral later this month.

### 7. WHERE LACK OF OPIOIDS CAUSES HARM

A report finds that millions die suffering in part because of a global disparity that leaves many poor countries without opioid painkillers.

### 8. COST-OF-LIVING HIKE ON TAP

Millions of Social Security recipients and other retirees in the U.S. can expect another small increase in benefits next year.

### 9. WHOSE 'JEOPARDY!' STREAK HAS BEEN HALTED

Austin Rogers, a New York City bartender, is finally bested after a 12-game winning streak that earned him \$411,000.

## 10. DEFENDING CHAMP CUBS SURPASS NATIONALS

The Chicago Cubs bat around in the fifth inning and hold on for a 9-8 win, sending the Washington Nationals to another early playoff exit.

## US-Canadian family held 5 years by militants leaves Pakistan

By JILL COLVIN, ROB GILLIES and MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years after they were seized by an extremist network in the mountains of Afghanistan, an American woman, her Canadian husband and their children — all three born in captivity — are free after a dramatic rescue orchestrated by the U.S. and Pakistani governments and have left Pakistan, officials said Thursday.

The U.S. said Pakistan accomplished the release of Caitlan Coleman of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, and her husband, Canadian Joshua Boyle, who were abducted and held by the Haqqani network, which has ties to the Taliban.

The operation, which came after years of U.S. pressure on Pakistan for assistance, unfolded quickly and ended with what some described as a dangerous raid, a shootout and a captor's final, terrifying threat to "kill the hostage." Boyle suffered only a shrapnel wound, his family said.

U.S. officials did not confirm the details.

"Today they are free," President Donald Trump said in a statement, crediting the U.S.-Pakistani partnership for securing the release. Trump later praised Pakistan for its willingness to "do more to provide security in the region" and said the release suggests other "countries are starting to respect the United States of America once again."

The couple was kidnapped in October of 2012 while on a backpacking trip that took them to Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and then to Afghanistan. Coleman was several months pregnant at the time, "naive," but also "adventuresome" with a humanitarian bent, her father James told The Associated Press in 2012.

The Pakistani military said the family had been freed in "an intelligence-based operation by Pakistan troops" after they'd crossed the border from Afghanistan. Two Pakistani security officials said the family was flown out of Islamabad on Friday, without saying where they were headed. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with official protocol.

Boyle and the High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada described a scene in which gunshots rang out as Boyle, his wife and their children were intercepted by Pakistani forces while being transported in the trunk of their captors' car. Boyle told his parents there was a shoot-out in which some of his captors were killed and that the last words he'd heard from the kidnapers were, "kill the hostage," his father Patrick told reporters after speaking with his son. The younger Boyle also told his father he'd been hit by shrapnel in the leg. Three intelligence officials said the confrontation happened near a road crossing in the Nawa Kili area of the district of Kohat in northwest Pakistan.

The high commissioner, Tariq Azim Khan, said: "We know there was a shootout and Pakistan commandos carried out an attack and rescued the hostages."

A U.S. military official said that a military hostage team had flown to Pakistan Wednesday, prepared to fly the family out. The team did a preliminary health assessment and had a transport plane ready to go. But sometime after daybreak Thursday, as the family members were walking to the plane, Boyle said he did not want to board.

Boyle's father said his son did not want to board the plane because it was headed to Bagram Air Base and the family wanted to return directly to North America. Another U.S. official said Boyle was nervous about being in "custody" given his family ties.

He was once married to Zaynab Khadr, the older sister of former Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr and the daughter of a senior al-Qaida financier. Her father, the late Ahmed Said Khadr, and the family stayed with Osama bin Laden briefly when Omar Khadr was a boy.

The Canadian-born Omar Khadr was 15 when he was captured by U.S. troops following a firefight and



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was taken to the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Officials had discounted any link between that background and Boyle's capture, with one official describing it in 2014 as a "horrible coincidence."

The U.S. Justice Department said neither Boyle nor Coleman is wanted for any federal crime.

The couple told U.S. officials and their families they wanted to fly commercially to Canada.

Boyle's father called the rescue a "miracle." Coleman's parents, Jim and Lyn Coleman, meanwhile, posted a statement on the door of their Pennsylvania home expressing joy. Lyn Coleman said "I am in a state of euphoria, stunned and overjoyed," in an interview with ABC News.

The developments came rapidly Wednesday afternoon—nearly five years to the day after Coleman and Boyle lost touch with their families while traveling in a mountainous region near the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Coleman's parents last had a conversation with their son-in-law on Oct. 8, 2012, via an email sent from an internet cafe he'd described as being in an "unsafe" part of Afghanistan. From then on, there were only desperate hostage videos released by their captors and hand-scrawled letters mailed home.

"I pray to hear from you again, to hear how everybody is doing," read one letter the parents shared with the online Circa News service in July 2016, in which Coleman revealed she'd given birth to a second child in captivity. It's unclear whether they knew she'd had a third.

Boyle's parents say their son told them in a letter that he and his wife pretended to the children that their signs of captivity were part of a game being played with guards.

U.S. officials call the Haqqani group a terrorist organization and have targeted its leaders with drone strikes. But the group also operates like a criminal network. Unlike the Islamic State group, it does not typically execute Western hostages, preferring to ransom them for cash.

The Haqqani network had previously demanded the release of Anas Haqqani, a son of the founder of the group, in exchange for turning over the American-Canadian family. In one of the videos released by their captors, Boyle implored the Afghan government not to execute Taliban prisoners or he and his wife would be killed.

The U.S. has long criticized Pakistan for failing to aggressively go after the Haqqanis. In recent remarks on his Afghanistan policy, Trump noted billions paid to Pakistan "at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting. But that will have to change, and that will change immediately."

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said her country was "greatly relieved" the family was safe, and she thanked the U.S., Afghan and Pakistani governments for their efforts.

U.S. officials have said that several other Americans are being held by militant groups in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

They include Kevin King, 60, a teacher at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul who was abducted in August 2016, and Paul Overby, an author in his 70s who had traveled to the region several times but disappeared in eastern Afghanistan in mid-2014.

Ahmed reported from Islamabad, Gillies from Toronto. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Matthew Lee in Washington, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Lolita C. Baldor in Tampa, Florida, contributed.

## Dangerous sound? What Americans heard in Cuba attacks

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It sounds sort of like a mass of crickets. A high-pitched whine, but from what? It seems to undulate, even writhe. Listen closely: There are multiple, distinct tones that sound to some like they're colliding in a nails-on-the-chalkboard effect.

The Associated Press has obtained a recording of what some U.S. Embassy workers heard in Havana in a series of unnerving incidents later deemed to be deliberate attacks. The recording, released Thursday by the AP, is the first disseminated publicly of the many taken in Cuba of mysterious sounds that led investigators initially to suspect a sonic weapon.

The recordings themselves are not believed to be dangerous to those who listen. Sound experts and

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physicians say they know of no sound that can cause physical damage when played for short durations at normal levels through standard equipment like a cellphone or computer.

What device produced the original sound remains unknown. Americans affected in Havana reported the sounds hit them at extreme volumes.

Whether there's a direct relationship between the sound and the physical damage suffered by the victims is also unclear. The U.S. says that in general the attacks caused hearing, cognitive, visual, balance, sleep and other problems.

The recordings from Havana have been sent for analysis to the U.S. Navy, which has advanced capabilities for analyzing acoustic signals, and to the intelligence services, the AP has learned. But the recordings have not significantly advanced U.S. knowledge about what is harming diplomats.

The Navy did not respond to requests for comment on the recording. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert wouldn't comment on the tape's authenticity.

Cuba has denied involvement or knowledge of the attacks. The U.S. hasn't blamed anyone and says it still doesn't know what or who is responsible. But the government has faulted President Raul Castro's government for failing to protect American personnel, and Nauert said Thursday that Cuba "may have more information than we are aware of right now."

"We believe that the Cuban government could stop the attacks on our diplomats," said White House chief of staff John Kelly.

Not all Americans injured in Cuba heard sounds. Of those who did, it's not clear they heard precisely the same thing.

Yet the AP has reviewed several recordings from Havana taken under different circumstances, and all have variations of the same high-pitched sound. Individuals who have heard the noise in Havana confirm the recordings are generally consistent with what they heard.

"That's the sound," one of them said.

The recording being released by the AP has been digitally enhanced to increase volume and reduce background noise, but has not been otherwise altered.

The sound seemed to manifest in pulses of varying lengths — seven seconds, 12 seconds, two seconds — with some sustained periods of several minutes or more. Then there would be silence for a second, or 13 seconds, or four seconds, before the sound abruptly started again.

A closer examination of one recording reveals it's not just a single sound. Roughly 20 or more different frequencies, or pitches, are embedded in it, the AP discovered, using a spectrum analyzer, which measures a signal's frequency and amplitude.

To the ear, the multiple frequencies can sound a bit like dissonant keys on a piano being struck all at once. Plotted on a graph, the Havana sound forms a series of "peaks" that jump up from a baseline, like spikes or fingers on a hand.

"There are about 20 peaks, and they seem to be equally spaced. All these peaks correspond to a different frequency," said Kausik Sarkar, an acoustics expert and engineering professor at The George Washington University who reviewed the recording with the AP.

Those frequencies might be only part of the picture. Conventional recording devices and tools to measure sound may not pick up very high or low frequencies, such as those above or below what the human ear can hear. Investigators have explored whether infrasound or ultrasound might be at play in the Havana attacks.

The recordings have been played for workers at the U.S. Embassy to teach them what to listen for, said several individuals with knowledge of the situation in Havana. Some embassy employees have also been given recording devices to turn on if they hear the sounds. The individuals weren't authorized to discuss the situation publicly and demanded anonymity.

Cuban officials wouldn't say whether the U.S. has shared the recordings with Cuba's government.

Another big question remains: Even if you know you're under attack, what do you do? Still dumbfounded by what's causing this, the United States has been at a loss to offer advice.

The embassy's security officials have told staff if they believe they're being attacked, they should get up

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and move to a different location, because the attack is unlikely to be able to follow them, the commenting individuals said. The AP reported last month that some people experienced attacks or heard sounds that were narrowly confined to a room or parts of a room.

The State Department has said 22 Americans are "medically confirmed" to be affected and that the number could grow. The symptoms and circumstances reported have varied widely, making some hard to tie conclusively to the attacks. The incidents began last year and are considered "ongoing," with an attack reported as recently as late August.

Cuba has defended its "exhaustive and priority" response, emphasizing its eagerness to assist the U.S. investigation. Cuban officials did not respond to requests for comment for this story but have complained in the past that Washington refuses to share information they say they need to fully investigate, such as medical records, technical data and timely notification of attacks.

Lederman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jake Pearson in New York and Matthew Lee, Robert Burns, Lolita C. Baldor and Bradley Klapper in Washington contributed.

An earlier version of this story incorrectly described the sounds as being between 7,000 kHz and 8,000 kHz. That sentence has been deleted.

## **IMF's Lagarde urges leaders to find ways to spread wealth**

**By PAUL WISEMAN and MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — World leaders should take advantage of the healthiest global growth in years to pursue policies that will spread prosperity to those being left behind, the head of the International Monetary Fund is arguing.

"It is not time to be complacent," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said Thursday. "Policymakers can use this moment to provide more certainty and provide for the future risks."

Lagarde's warning came as global financial leaders gathered in Washington for the annual meetings of the 189-member IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank.

In addition, a meeting of finance officials from the world's 20 biggest economies, the Group of 20, is wrapping up Friday. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen are representing the United States at these discussions.

IMF forecasters expect the global economy to expand 3.6 percent this year, the fastest pace since 2010. And Lagarde says three-fourths of the world economy is participating in the uptick, creating the broadest recovery in a decade.

But many workers have seen their wages stagnate and their jobs replaced or threatened by technology. And many countries are seeing a widening income gap between rich and poor. "The result is growing political tensions in many places and increased skepticism about the benefits of globalization," Lagarde said.

Discontent with globalization and inequality is stoking the populist politics that took Donald Trump to the White House and prompted British voters to opt out of the European Union. "We have to reduce the gap between those who have everything and those who have nothing," said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

While the IMF boosted its outlook for the 19-country Eurozone, Japan and China, it trimmed its estimates slightly for the United States compared with the projections it had made in April. It now sees U.S. growth at 2.2 percent this year and 2.3 percent next year, still up from the lackluster 1.5 percent pace of last year.

IMF economists said the reduction of 0.1 percentage point for 2017 and 0.2 percentage point for 2018 reflected less certainty over when the Trump administration will be able to get its tax cut plan through Congress. Even before the reductions, the IMF's forecast was well below the 3 percent growth rates the administration says will be achieved with its policy changes to taxes and regulation and tougher trade enforcement.

A senior U.S. Treasury official, briefing reporters on this week's meetings, said the IMF has other con-

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cerns beyond getting involved in the U.S. tax debate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to discuss the U.S. agenda in advance of the meetings taking place.

An IMF report out Wednesday concluded that many countries could raise taxes on the wealthiest without sacrificing economic growth. But Lagarde suggested another way to cut income inequality: putting more women to work, improving their access to credit and narrowing their pay gap with men. "A no-brainer," she said.

Lagarde said one thing the major economies will need to handle carefully is the movement away from massive economic support from their central banks. Such a move, if not well-telegraphed in advance, could disrupt global financial markets and reduce needed capital to developing countries.

The Federal Reserve has announced that it will start this month trimming its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet, which was increased five-fold since 2008 as the Fed tried unconventional means to jump-start economic growth. The European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan have undertaken similar efforts.

On Thursday, European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi defended the ECB's aggressive easy-money campaign to revive the economy of the 19 countries that share the euro currency. He said the measures, which include a massive bond-buying program meant to push down interest rates, had helped create 7 million jobs over the last four years.

Speaking at a conference at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Draghi conceded that unconventional monetary policy can have unintended economic fallout. But, he said, "the bottom line is, the distortions may be there, but sometimes the tradeoff is so powerful that you just ignore them and do the right thing."

## Leaving home in a fire zone and fearing it's a final goodbye

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

BOYES HOT SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Neighbors and strangers huddle along streets under siege by wildfires. We fix our worried stares on ridges encircling us, at billowing smoke and hope we don't see the glow of flames.

In the path of one of California's deadliest blazes, talk is of wind direction, evacuations and goodbyes.

Each time I turn the key to lock my front door, I think I might be leaving home for the last time. I've covered my share of stories about people fleeing catastrophes, but I'm living the life of a fire evacuee for the first time.

"Take care, sweetie," one woman said in my community on the edge of the small, rural, wine-centric city of Sonoma, hugging me through my car window on one of three consecutive nights we fled an approaching blaze.

On that Tuesday night, flames arced like solar flares on the ridges above sprawling old oaks and tall redwoods. The trees conceal the wooden former cottages from Boyes Hot Springs' days as a resort destination for wealthy San Franciscans looking to soak away their aches in the hot springs.

Now, it's a tinder-dry working- and middle-class community on edge.

Another neighbor climbed onto his roof with a garden hose, training water first on his house, then surrounding ones. Another neighbor vowed to stay, envisioning taking a stand against any looters.

With the ever-present stench of smoke, discussion that night on the street focused on the direction of the wind and advancing fires.

"Northeast," one man said. I didn't understand the subtleties but knew winds from the north were bad.

"Northwest," a woman next to him angrily corrected, glaring at him in darkness brought on by a loss of electricity.

"Northeast," he insisted, and we all lapsed back into our silent sentry of the ridgetops.

Not everyone in Northern California had the ability to watch the fire grow when so-called Diablo winds whipped up the wildfires late Sunday. In the first hours, dry tempests toppled oaks onto roads, ripped loose power lines and drove deadly embers ahead for miles.

Many of the more than two dozen people killed so far died in those first hours as wildfires reduced whole



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blocks of houses to ankle-high ruins with little or no warning.

At 3:30 a.m. Monday, smoke was so strong that I awoke thinking my house was on fire. With electricity already gone, it shocked me how long it took to gather contact lenses, shoes and other essentials I scattered when I had returned to California a few hours earlier from a cousin's wedding in Oklahoma.

For two sleepless days, I drove around with my dog, John, in the backseat in case fire overtook my home while I was reporting on the destruction.

The death toll climbed. The number of houses destroyed grew into the thousands. And two dozen fires kept advancing at the whim of the winds.

My canine companion lost hope he was on an extra-long trip to the dog park and grew steadily depressed, slumping on the seat. Many others had their dogs in tow, their heads sticking out car windows as firetrucks sped past and mountains burned.

With my suitcase still packed from the wedding, I had a go-bag with me, although the knee-length dresses and heels were unsuitable evacuee wear.

Hundreds of police officers and then National Guard members poured into fire zones, helping evacuate residents and block people from returning to burning and scorched areas.

My press pass got me past roadblocks. Highways and farm lanes were blackened for miles on both sides. With familiar buildings and landmarks gone, whole stretches of road were unrecognizable.

I came across former volunteer firefighters defending their houses from relentless flames that advanced at first from one ridge, then another, then another. The popping of propane tanks in the area punctuated conversations.

People clustered at barricades that blocked them from their homes. Some pleaded with lawmen to pass. Others numbly accepted it.

I encountered people on foot where it seemed unwise to be.

A woman with a duffel bag hanging from each shoulder stood alone on a highway, the only pedestrian for miles in a burning area.

"What should I do?" she asked.

She had been told the fire was coming, that her house would surely burn. It wouldn't burn, would it? she asked, seeking reassurance. She didn't want to go to Sonoma, where I was heading, so she thanked me and stayed behind.

I gave a lift to a San Francisco man who had left his car and set out on foot to check the fate of a vacation rental property. He celebrated to see it unburned but returned to the car grumbling about how messy the vacationers had left it when they fled.

I returned home Wednesday morning and relished a rare normal moment walking my dog, only to curse when I realized ash was raining down.

Later that morning in Napa, the namesake city of the neighboring wine-making area, smoke blinded a driver as he rolled down a window exiting a freeway and rear-ended my gray Prius.

Driving back home with the left rear lights and back frame of my car now askew, the radio station I was listening to had a news reporter breathlessly broadcasting from my block. Never a good sign.

Ash pelted my windshield and officers encouraged us to go.

I picked up my tortoise shell cat, Jumpy, and sadly freed two chickens to their fate in my backyard before turning the key in the lock one more time.

Tree limbs started swaying gently as the wind rose and I drove away, hoping it wasn't the final goodbye.

## Social Security benefits to get another small boost in 2018

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Social Security recipients and other retirees can expect another small increase in benefits next year.

Preliminary figures suggest that the annual increase will be around 2 percent, which would mean an extra \$25 a month for the average beneficiary.

The Social Security Administration is scheduled to announce the cost-of-living adjustment Friday morning. The annual increase hasn't topped 2 percent since 2012.

The COLA affects benefits for more than 70 million U.S. residents, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees — about one in five Americans. The average monthly Social Security payment is \$1,258, or about \$15,000 a year.

By law, the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is based on a broad measure of consumer prices generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Advocates for seniors claim the inflation index doesn't accurately capture rising prices faced by seniors, especially for health care.

"It's squeezing them. It's causing them to dip into savings more quickly," said Mary Johnson of The Senior Citizens League. "The lifetime income that they were counting on just isn't there."

Some conservatives argue that the inflation index is too generous because when prices go up, people change their buying habits and buy cheaper alternatives.

Consumer prices went up only slightly in the past year despite a recent spike in gasoline prices after hurricanes slowed oil production in the Gulf Coast, said Max Gulker, senior research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research.

Gulker projects the COLA will be between 1.7 percent and 2.1 percent.

"For the most part, there was a decline in energy prices for a lot of the year," Gulker said. "But at the end of the year we saw that uptick in gas from the hurricanes."

Congress enacted automatic annual increases for Social Security in 1975. Presidents often get blamed when increases are small or zero, but President Donald Trump has no power to boost the increase, unless he persuades Congress to change the law.

In 2009, President Barack Obama persuaded Congress to approve one-time payments of \$250 to Social Security recipients as part an economic stimulus package.

Over the past eight years, the COLA has averaged just above 1 percent. In the previous decade, it averaged 3 percent.

Johnson noted that multiple years of small or no COLA's reduces the income of retirees for the rest of their lives.

"Think about the length of a retirement period. Eight years is about a third of a (healthy) retirement," Johnson said.

The COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, or CPI-W, a broad measure of consumer prices. It measures price changes for food, housing, clothing, transportation, energy, medical care, recreation and education.

The August report says energy prices are up 6.5 percent from the previous year, while the cost of medical care is up just 1.7 percent. The cost of food is up 1.1 percent.

The COLA is calculated using the average CPI-W for July, August and September, and comparing it to the same three months from the previous year.

The numbers for July and August suggest a COLA of 1.7 percent. The numbers for September are to be released Friday.

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Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

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## **Kidnapped, held 5 years, US-Canadian family free in Pakistan**

**By JILL COLVIN, ROB GILLIES and MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years after they were seized by a terrorist network in the mountains of Afghanistan, an American woman, her Canadian husband and their children — all three born in captivity — are free after a dramatic rescue orchestrated by the U.S. and Pakistani governments, officials said Thursday.

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U.S. officials did not confirm the details.

"Today they are free," President Donald Trump said in a statement, crediting the U.S.-Pakistani partnership for securing the release. Trump later praised Pakistan for its willingness to "do more to provide security in the region" and said the release suggests other "countries are starting to respect the United States of America once again."

The couple were kidnapped in October of 2012 while on a backpacking trip that took them to Russia, the countries of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and then to Afghanistan. Coleman was several months pregnant at the time, "naive," but also "adventuresome" with a humanitarian bent, her father James told The Associated Press in 2012.

The Pakistani military said early Thursday the family was "being repatriated to the country of their origin." But as of Thursday evening, it was not known when they would return to North America. They were together in a safe, undisclosed location in Pakistan, according to a U.S. national security official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Pakistani military said the family had been freed in "an intelligence-based operation by Pakistan troops" after they'd crossed the border from Afghanistan.

Boyle and the High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada described a scene in which gunshots rang out as Boyle, his wife and their children were intercepted by Pakistani forces while being transported in the trunk of their captors' car. Boyle told his parents there was a shootout in which some of his captors were killed and said the last words he'd heard from the kidnappers were, "kill the hostage," his father, Patrick told reporters after speaking with his son. The younger Boyle also told his father he'd been hit by shrapnel in the leg. Three intelligence officials said the confrontation happened near a road crossing in the Nawa Kili area of the district of Kohat in northwest Pakistan.

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Boyle's father said his son did not want to board the plane because it was headed to Bagram Air Base, a site associated with accusations of prisoner abuse, and Boyle was philosophically opposed to going to there. Another U.S. official said Boyle was nervous about being in "custody" given his family ties.

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"I pray to hear from you again, to hear how everybody is doing," read one letter the parents shared with the online Circa News service in July 2016, in which Coleman revealed she'd given birth to a second child in captivity. It's unclear whether they knew she'd had a third.

Boyle's parents say their son told them in a letter that he and his wife pretended to the children that their signs of captivity were part of a game being played with guards.

U.S. officials call the Haqqani group a terrorist organization and have targeted its leaders with drone strikes. But the group also operates like a criminal network. Unlike the Islamic State group, it does not typically execute Western hostages, preferring to ransom them for cash.

The Haqqani network had previously demanded the release of Anas Haqqani, a son of the founder of the group, in exchange for turning over the American-Canadian family. In one of the videos released by their captors, Boyle implored the Afghan government not to execute Taliban prisoners or he and his wife would be killed.

The U.S. has long criticized Pakistan for failing to aggressively go after the Haqqanis. In recent remarks on his Afghanistan policy, Trump noted billions paid to Pakistan "at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting. But that will have to change, and that will change immediately."

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said her country was "greatly relieved" the family was safe, and she thanked the U.S., Afghan and Pakistani governments for their efforts.

U.S. officials have said that several other Americans are being held by militant groups in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

They include Kevin King, 60, a teacher at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul who was abducted in August 2016, and Paul Overby, an author in his 70s who had traveled to the region several times but disappeared in eastern Afghanistan in mid-2014.

This story has been corrected to remove double-negative in paragraph relating to whether the couple was wanted on any charges.

Ahmed reported from Islamabad, Gillies from Toronto. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Matthew Lee in Washington, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Lolita C. Baldor in Tampa, Florida, contributed.

## Murky timeline is a focus of Las Vegas shooting probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

Nearly two weeks after one of the deadliest shootings in modern U.S. history, authorities have yet to sort out the basic facts surrounding the case of a high-stakes video poker player who murdered 58 people from his high-rise hotel room in Las Vegas.

What drove Stephen Paddock to open fire on the country music festival? Police and the FBI say they're still at a loss to explain his motive.

When did he fire his first shots in his Mandalay Bay hotel room? Those facts are still in dispute amid a constantly shifting timeline of events.

Why did Paddock stop firing into the concert? Authorities do not know, but police apparently had not reached his hotel room by that point.



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Las Vegas police are expected to release new information about the case Friday after a week that has seen the timeline of the shooting change almost daily.

In the most recent chronology provided Monday, Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said Paddock started spraying 200 rounds from his suite at the Mandalay Bay resort into a 32nd floor hallway at 9:59 p.m. on Oct. 1, wounding an unarmed security guard in the leg.

Six minutes later, the gunman unleashed a barrage of bullets on the festival crowd, according to the latest police timeline. He then killed himself with a gunshot to the head.

What happened in those six minutes has generated intense focus, with lawyers questioning why police and security weren't able to thwart Paddock earlier.

Mandalay Bay hotel officials on Thursday disputed the timeline and whether six minutes actually passed between the first gunfire in the hallway and the start of the concert rampage. They said Paddock may have wounded the security guard within 40 seconds of firing into the crowd.

The 64-year-old real estate investor and retired accountant began his 10-minute attack on the crowd at 10:05 p.m., firing more than 1,000 rounds from two bashed-out windows, police said. Police didn't arrive on the 32nd floor until 10:17 p.m., two minutes after he had stopped shooting, according to Lombardo.

In a statement Thursday, MGM Resorts International, which owns the Mandalay Bay, said the 9:59 p.m. reported time of the hallway shooting came from a report that was manually created after the massacre. "We are now confident that the time stated in this report is not accurate," the statement said.

The wounded guard, Jesus Campos, used his radio to call for help, the statement said. A maintenance worker, Stephen Schuck, has said he also called for help on his radio, asking a dispatcher to call the police because someone was shooting a rifle on the 32nd floor. It's not clear what Mandalay Bay maintenance and security workers did with those messages by the guard and other worker.

Police have declined to comment on MGM's statement.

The timeline given by police earlier this week differed dramatically from the one they gave last week: that Paddock wounded Campos after he had opened fire on the crowd. Campos was called a hero whose presence outside Paddock's suite stopped the concert carnage.

The six minutes that transpired between the hallway shooting and the start of the gunman's fusillade wouldn't have been enough time for officers to stop the attack, said Ron Hosko, a former FBI assistant director who has worked on SWAT teams. Rather than rush in without a game plan, police would have been formulating the best response to the barricaded gunman, he said.

"Maybe that's enough time to get the first patrolman onto the floor but the first patrolman is not going to go knock on that customer's door and say 'What's going on with 200 holes in the door?'" Hosko said.

As authorities seek answers about the timeline, they are lacking one important investigative tool. There are no surveillance cameras in the hotel hallways at the Mandalay Bay.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said investigators haven't determined a motive behind the mass shooting, but they're still digging.

"There's a lot of effort being put into unraveling this horrific act," Wray told reporters after a ribbon-cutting for the FBI's new Atlanta building. "We don't know yet what the motive is, but that's not for lack of trying, and if you know anything about the bureau we don't give up easy."

State court officials in Las Vegas on Thursday released copies of two search warrant applications that police submitted to a judge who approved a raid on Paddock's home in the retirement community in Mesquite, Nevada. The documents list items that investigators were seeking, including guns, explosives, vehicles, computers, photos, documents, medications and personal records.

Also Thursday, a funeral was held for Erick Silva, a 21-year-old security guard at the festival who was shot in the head while helping people climb over a barricade to escape the gunfire. Dozens of fellow "yellow shirt" security guards were among the hundreds of mourners at the service, where Silva was hailed as a hero.

"We counted on him, and he didn't let us down," said his boss, Gina Argento.

Associated Press writers Ken Ritter and Sally Ho in Las Vegas, Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Michelle

Price in Salt Lake City, Utah contributed to this report.

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

## In Weinstein saga, Rose McGowan emerges as powerful voice

By JAKE COYLE and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a flurry of unrestrained tweets and with the “RoseArmy” at her back, Rose McGowan has emerged a kind of whistleblowing avenger in the Harvey Weinstein saga, leaving a scorched path behind her across social media.

After long referencing a past incident with Weinstein, McGowan on Thursday for the first time said it outright: “HW raped me,” the actress wrote, apparently referring to the embattled former Weinstein Co. co-chairman. Weinstein representative Sallie Hofmeister said “any allegations of non-consensual contact are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein.”

The Hollywood Reporter said McGowan confirmed it was Weinstein she was referring to; her representative did not respond to a message seeking comment.

McGowan’s accusation was the latest development in the fast-unraveling saga surrounding Weinstein.

Police detectives in New York and London said Thursday that they are taking a fresh look into sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein now that some 30 women have accused the Hollywood film producer of inappropriate conduct. Hachette Book Group, one of the country’s top publishers, announced it has pulled the plug on its Weinstein Books imprint.

But it has been McGowan who spoke loudest Thursday, even though she spent half the day suspended by Twitter.

McGowan last year said that she had been raped by a “studio head.” The New Yorker expose that ran Tuesday reported that Weinstein had allegedly sexually assaulted three women, though the third woman was unnamed. The New York Times earlier reported that Weinstein paid a financial settlement of \$100,000 to McGowan in 1997 after an episode at a hotel room during the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

That settlement included provisions about speaking about the case in the future, but McGowan has increasingly refused to mince words. “It’s on,” tweeted McGowan before launching into a series of tweets directed at Amazon head Jeff Bezos.

“I told the head of your studio that HW raped me,” said McGowan in tweets directed to Bezos. “Over and Over I said it. He said it hadn’t been proven. I said I was the proof.”

Amazon did not return a message seeking comment.

Authorities are also seeking evidence against Weinstein, who in a video posted by celebrity website TMZ was shown Wednesday outside a Los Angeles home telling the paparazzi he’s “not doing OK” and that he “needs help.”

New York Police Department spokesman Peter Donald said Thursday that investigators are reviewing police files to see if anyone else reported being assaulted or harassed by him.

So far, no filed complaints have been found, he said, other than one well-known case that prompted an investigation in 2015, but authorities are encouraging anyone with information on Weinstein to contact the department.

London police were also looking into a claim it had received from the Merseyside force in northwest England, British media reported Thursday. Merseyside police said the allegation was made a day earlier and concerned “an alleged sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s.”

Some 30 women — including actresses Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd and Gwyneth Paltrow — have spoken out recently to say Weinstein had sexually harassed or sexually assaulted them. Weinstein was fired Sunday by The Weinstein Co., a studio he co-founded with his brother.

Some of the allegations involved conduct at hotels in Beverly Hills, but police there didn’t return calls on whether they were investigating any possible crimes. The Los Angeles Police Department has no open

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investigations.

Detectives in the NYPD's special victims unit were instructed to identify and speak with any potential victims, including the women who spoke about their encounters with Weinstein in the New Yorker article, according to a law enforcement official briefed on the matter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office, which shares a records system with Park City Police, had no reports or calls involving Weinstein or McGowan in the past 30 years, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Andrew Wright said.

In The New Yorker expose, a former actress, Lucia Evans, said Weinstein forced her to perform oral sex in 2004 when she was a college student. A second woman, actress and filmmaker Asia Argento, told the magazine that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 1997 at a hotel in France.

Under New York law, making someone engage in oral sex by physical force or the threat of it is a first-degree criminal sexual act. There's no legal time limit for bringing charges.

New York detectives already investigated Weinstein once, the 2015 probe when an Italian model said the studio executive grabbed her breasts and groped her. Detectives set up a sting where they recorded a conversation between the woman and Weinstein while he tried to persuade her to come into his hotel room.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said prosecutors decided there wasn't enough evidence to prosecute the case.

"I, like they, were very disturbed by the contents of the tape," Vance said. "But at the end of the day we operate in a courtroom of law, not the court of public opinion. And our sex crime prosecutors made a determination that this was not going to be a provable case."

Police investigated that allegation as a case of forcible touching, a misdemeanor with a two-year time limit for bringing charges. The statute of limitations has since expired.

Thursday evening, Amazon Studios announced its chief, Roy Price, had been placed on leave after a producer detailed crude remarks she said he made to her after a 2015 Comic-Con event in San Diego. Isa Hackett, the daughter of author Philip K. Dick and a producer on the Amazon series "Man in the High Castle," told The Hollywood Reporter that Price persisted with sexual remarks toward her throughout the evening.

She said she complained to Amazon executives, who launched an investigation but never informed her of the results. She told the Reporter she never saw Price again at an Amazon event promoting the show or another series based on her father's work.

Hours earlier, the Eastern branch of the Writers Guild of America pledged to take action to prevent future abuse, noting that "sexual harassment and assault have long been hallmarks of the entertainment industry."

## Cubs get to Scherzer, then hold on to top Nats 9-8 in Game 5

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Chicago Cubs win whenever they need to, with whatever it takes, even a seven-out save by Wade Davis to preserve a shrinking lead and a "Did that really happen?" four-run inning against Washington's Max Scherzer in a thriller of a Game 5.

That wild, bat-around fifth inning Thursday night for Chicago included Addison Russell's go-ahead, two-run double, a bases-loaded hit by pitch, and a disputed dropped third strike followed by a throwing error, helping the defending World Series champion Cubs come back — and then hold on — to edge the Nationals 9-8.

And for the third year in a row, Chicago reached the NL Championship Series.

"Give the boys credit," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "That's one of the most incredible victories I've ever been part of. I know a lot of people are probably saying the same thing, but under the circumstances, in the other team's ballpark, after a tough loss at home, to come back and do that, give our guys all the credit in the world."

Russell drove in four runs and Davis, Chicago's seventh pitcher, turned in his longest appearance since

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2012.

"I've always known he's got a lot of mettle in his soul," Ben Zobrist, who scored two runs for Chicago, said about Davis. "The guy just shows up. He's got ice in his veins."

The same could be said for all of the Cubs.

They trailed 4-1, then led 8-4 and 9-6, in a game that lasted more than 4½ hours and ended after midnight on Friday.

"It was 'Bizarro World,' there's no question about it," Maddon said. "But it happens. It happens this time of the year."

Catcher Willson Contreras picked off Jose Lobaton at first base to quash a Washington threat in the eighth and Davis fanned a swinging Bryce Harper for the final out.

"Just trying to stay focused and confident in the end," Davis said.

Chicago, which surpassed its total of eight runs from the first four games of the NL Division Series, advanced to face the Los Angeles Dodgers, who will start ace Clayton Kershaw at home in Game 1 of the NLCS on Saturday night.

For Maddon and the Cubs, this was their fourth consecutive victory in a win-or-be-eliminated postseason game. That includes three straight to end the 2016 World Series, when Chicago trailed the Cleveland Indians 3-1 before forcing a Game 7 won by the Cubs in 10 innings.

The Nationals, meanwhile, went one-and-done yet again: This is the fourth time in the past six years that the club won the NL East and immediately lost its opening playoff series. And this is the third time in that span that Washington bowed out with a Game 5 NLDS loss at home; that also happened in 2012 against the St. Louis Cardinals and last year against the Dodgers.

This one was played exactly five years to the day after the decider against the Cardinals, which the Nationals lost 9-7 in Washington. Just like that night, the Nationals started Gio Gonzalez. Just like that night, Washington raced out to an early lead (6-0 back then). And just like that night, Gonzalez had control problems and started giving back some of the edge.

"It was a series of bad events," Nationals manager Dusty Baker said. "It really hurts, you know, to lose like that, especially after what we went through all year long, and that was tough."

Homers by Daniel Murphy and Michael A. Taylor — whose grand slam off Davis backed Stephen Strasburg's 12-strikeout masterpiece in Washington's 5-0 victory in Game 4 at Wrigley Field on Wednesday — gave the hosts a 4-1 lead in the second against Cubs starter Kyle Hendricks.

But Gonzalez gave back two of those runs, so it was 4-3 as two-time Cy Young Award winner Scherzer entered for the fifth. He started Game 3 of this series, pushed back because of an injured right hamstring, and hadn't come out of the bullpen since 2013 with the Detroit Tigers.

"Huge. You look out there and you see Scherzer up there and you think, 'One of the best, if not the best, pitcher out there on the mound,'" Russell said. "You kind of have to change your game plan, your approach."

By the time Scherzer's one inning was over, the Cubs had taken a 7-4 lead, and Russell had delivered the biggest hit. Chicago scored two earned runs and two unearned runs, on the strength of three hits, one hit by pitch, one intentional walk, a catcher's interference, and one very odd play.

What could have been a potentially inning-ending strikeout turned into a run, as Javier Baez swung and missed, but the ball went under catcher Matt Wieters' glove and through his legs. When Wieters collected the ball, he threw it into right field for an error, then appeared to argue that the play should have been ruled over because Baez's follow-through carried the bat into the catcher's mask.

"This game's cruel sometimes," Scherzer said. "Just the way things can happen."

The play was not reviewable under the challenge rules.

"When the ball gets past him," plate umpire and crew chief Jerry Layne said, "in my judgment he didn't have any more opportunity after he had a chance to field the ball. There was no further play that could have been made on it."

"The graze of the helmet didn't have anything to do, in my judgment, with anything at all, with that particular play," he said. "I got together and found everybody was in agreement. That's what we went with."



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Russell made it 8-4 in the sixth on an RBI double when left fielder Jayson Werth tried to make a sliding catch but whiffed.

Werth said he lost the ball in the lights.

"It feels," he said, summing up the night for Washington, "like if it could go wrong, it did."

The lead was 9-6 when Washington got one run in the seventh on Harper's sacrifice fly, and one in the eighth on Taylor's RBI single.

But the Nationals wasted some opportunities. In the eighth, with two on and no outs, pinch-hitter Adam Lind hit into a double play. Later in that inning, again with two men aboard, Lobaton was nailed by Contreras' snap throw for the third out — Lobaton was originally ruled safe, a call that was overturned on replay.

In the seventh, Ryan Zimmerman was up as the go-ahead run with two men on, but Davis struck him out. That was part of an 0 for 4, three-K night for the first baseman who had a resurgent season, leading the Nationals with 36 homers and 108 RBIs.

That season is over for him and his team. The Cubs, though, will play on.

"We've been through it. And in those situations, we tend to start believing we're going to get the job done," Zobrist said, "even if it doesn't look like we are."

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## Trump to halt subsidies to health insurers

By **KEN THOMAS** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a brash move likely to roil insurance markets, President Donald Trump will "immediately" halt payments to insurers under the Obama-era health care law he has been trying to unravel for months.

The Health and Human Services department made the announcement in a statement late Thursday night. "We will discontinue these payments immediately," said acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan and Medicare administrator Seema Verma.

In a separate statement, the White House said the government cannot legally continue to pay the so-called cost-sharing subsidies because they lack a formal authorization by Congress.

However, the administration had been making the payments from month to month, even as Trump threatened to cut them off to force Democrats to negotiate over health care. The subsidies help lower copays and deductibles for people with modest incomes.

Halting the payments would trigger a spike in premiums for next year, unless Trump reverses course or Congress authorizes the money. The next payments are due around Oct. 20.

The top two Democrats in Congress sharply denounced the Trump plan in a joint statement.

"It is a spiteful act of vast, pointless sabotage leveled at working families and the middle class in every corner of America," said House and Senate Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi of California and Chuck Schumer of New York. "Make no mistake about it, Trump will try to blame the Affordable Care Act, but this will fall on his back and he will pay the price for it."

The president's action is likely to trigger a lawsuit from state attorneys general, who contend the subsidies to insurers are fully authorized by federal law, and say the president's position is reckless.

"We are prepared to sue," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra. "We've taken the Trump Administration to court before and won."

Word of Trump's plan came on a day when the president had also signed an executive order directing government agencies to design insurance plans that would offer lower premiums outside the requirements of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Frustrated over setbacks in Congress, Trump is wielding his executive powers to bring the "repeal and

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replace" debate to a head. He appears to be following through on his vow to punish Democrats and insurers after the failure of GOP health care legislation.

On Twitter, Trump has termed the payments to insurers a "bailout," but it's unclear if the president will get Democrats to negotiate by stopping payment.

Experts have warned that cutting off the money would lead to a double-digit spike in premiums, on top of increases insurers already planned for next year. That would deliver another blow to markets around the country already fragile from insurers exiting and costs rising. Insurers, hospitals, doctors' groups, state officials and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have urged the administration to keep paying.

Leading GOP lawmakers have also called for continuing the payments to insurers, at least temporarily, so constituents maintain access to health insurance. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., is working on such legislation with Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington.

The so-called "cost-sharing" subsidies defray copays and deductibles for people with low-to-modest incomes, and can reduce a deductible of \$3,500 to a few hundred dollars. Assistance is available to consumers buying individual policies; people with employer coverage are unaffected by the dispute.

Nearly 3 in 5 HealthCare.gov customers qualify for help, an estimated 6 million people or more. The annual cost to the government is currently about \$7 billion.

But the subsidies have been under a legal cloud because of a dispute over whether the Obama health care law properly approved them. Adding to the confusion, other parts of the Affordable Care Act clearly direct the government to reimburse the carriers.

For example, the ACA requires insurers to help low-income consumers with their copays and deductibles. And the law also specifies that the government shall reimburse insurers for the cost-sharing assistance that they provide.

But there's disagreement over whether the law properly provided a congressional "appropriation," similar to an instruction to pay. The Constitution says the government shall not spend money unless Congress appropriates it.

House Republicans trying to thwart the ACA sued the Obama administration in federal court in Washington, arguing that the law lacked specific language appropriating the cost-sharing subsidies.

A district court judge agreed with House Republicans, and the case has been on hold before the U.S. appeals court in Washington. Up to this point the Trump administration continued making the monthly payments, as the Obama administration had done.

While the legal issue seems arcane, the impact on consumers would be real.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that premiums for a standard "silver" plan will increase by about 20 percent without the subsidies. Insurers can recover the cost-sharing money by raising premiums, since those are also subsidized by the ACA, and there's no legal question about their appropriation.

Consumers who receive tax credits under the ACA to pay their premiums would be shielded from those premium increases.

But millions of others buy individual health care policies without any financial assistance from the government and could face prohibitive increases. Taxpayers would end up spending more to subsidize premiums.

Earlier Thursday, Trump had directed government agencies to design a legal framework for groups of employers to band together and offer health insurance plans across state lines, a longstanding goal for the president.

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Associated Press Writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

## US, Israel to exit UNESCO over its alleged anti-Israel bias

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **THOMAS ADAMSON**, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The United States announced Thursday it is pulling out of the U.N.'s educational, scientific and cultural agency because of what Washington sees as its anti-Israel bias and a need for "fundamental reform" in the agency. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel plans to follow suit.

While the Trump administration had been preparing for a likely withdrawal from UNESCO for months, the timing of the State Department's statement was unexpected. The Paris-based agency's executive board is in the midst of choosing a new chief — with Qatar's Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari leading the heated election heading into Friday's final vote.

Outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova expressed "profound regret" at the U.S. decision and tried to defend UNESCO's reputation. The organization is best known for its World Heritage program to protect cultural sites and traditions, but also works to improve education for girls, promote understanding of the Holocaust's horrors, and to defend media freedom.

Bokova called the U.S.'s planned departure a loss for "the United Nations family" and for multilateralism. The U.S. and UNESCO matter to each other more than ever now with "the rise of violent extremism and terrorism," she said.

The U.S. stopped funding UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011, but the State Department has maintained a UNESCO office and sought to weigh in on policy behind the scenes. The U.S. now owes about \$550 million in back payments.

In a statement, the State Department said the decision will take effect Dec. 31, 2018, and that the U.S. will seek a "permanent observer" status instead. It cited U.S. belief in "the need for fundamental reform in the organization."

Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel also plans to withdraw from the agency, saying it had become a "theater of the absurd because instead of preserving history, it distorts it."

Israel has been irked by resolutions that diminish its historical connection to the Holy Land and have instead named ancient Jewish sites as Palestinian heritage sites.

Praising Trump's decision as "brave and moral," Netanyahu said he has ordered Israeli diplomats to prepare for Israel's withdrawal from the organization in concert with the Americans.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, also praised Washington's move as heralding "a new day at the U.N., where there is a price to pay for discrimination against Israel."

"The United States stands by Israel and is a true leader for change at the U.N.," Danon said. "The alliance between our two countries is stronger than ever."

U.S. officials said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson made the decision and it was not discussed with other countries. The officials were not authorized to be publicly named discussing the issue.

Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, called UNESCO's July designation of Hebron's Old City and the Tomb of the Patriarchs as Palestinian territory the latest of many "foolish actions" that had made the agency "a chronic embarrassment."

Haley also criticized UNESCO for "keeping Syrian dictator Bashar Assad on a UNESCO human rights committee even after his murderous crackdown on peaceful protesters"

The United States has pulled out of UNESCO before. The Reagan administration did in 1984 because it viewed the agency as mismanaged, corrupt and used to advance Soviet interests. The U.S. rejoined in 2003.

The State Department informed Bokova it intends to stay engaged at UNESCO as a non-member "observer state" on "non-politicized" issues, including the protection of World Heritage sites, advocating for press freedoms and promoting scientific collaboration and education.

"We will be carefully watching how the organization and the new director-general steers the agency," Charge d'Affaires Chris Hegadorn, the ranking U.S. representative to UNESCO, told The Associated Press. "Ideally, it steers it in way that U.S. interests and UNESCO's mandate will converge."

UNESCO's 58-member executive board plans to select Bokova's successor from among three finalists remaining from the field of seven candidates under consideration at the beginning of the week.

Along with al-Kawari, Qatar's former culture minister, the finalists are Audrey Azoulay, a former culture minister in France, and former Egyptian government minister Moushira Khattab. The board's pick then goes to the full UNESCO general assembly next month for final approval.

Lee reported from Washington. Edith M. Lederer in New York, Aron Heller in Jerusalem and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

## Grim search for victims as wildfires grow to size of NYC

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JOCELYN GECKER, Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — Teams with cadaver dogs began a grim search Thursday for more dead in parts of California wine country devastated by wildfires, resorting in some cases to serial numbers stamped on medical implants to identify remains that turned up in the charred ruins.

New deaths confirmed Thursday took the toll to 31, making this the deadliest week of wildfires in California history.

Many of the flames still burned out of control, and the fires grew to more than 300 square miles (777 square kilometers), an area as large as New York City.

Sonoma and Napa counties endured a fourth day of choking smoke while many residents fled to shelters or camped out on beaches to await word on their homes and loved ones.

A forecast for gusty winds and dry air threatened to fan the fires further.

Some of the state's most historic tourist sites, including Sonoma city and Calistoga in Napa Valley, were ghost towns populated only by fire crews trying to stop the advancing infernos.

Calistoga, known for wine tastings and hot springs, had dozens of firefighters staged at street corners. Ash rained down from the sky and a thick haze covered the ground. Mayor Chris Canning warned that the fires were drawing closer and all of the city's 5,000 residents needed to heed an evacuation order.

"This is a mandatory evacuation. Your presence in Calistoga is not welcome if you are not a first responder," Canning said during a news briefing, explaining that firefighters needed to focus on the blazes and had no time to save people.

A few residents left behind cookies for fire crews with signs reading, "Please save our home!"

Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano said officials were still investigating hundreds of reports of missing people and that recovery teams would begin conducting "targeted searches" for specific residents at their last known addresses.

"We have found bodies almost completely intact, and we have found bodies that were nothing more than ash and bones," the sheriff said.

Some remains have been identified using medical devices uncovered in the scorched heaps that were once homes. Metal implants, such as artificial hips, have ID numbers that helped put names to victims, he said.

The eight new deaths confirmed Thursday brought the total to 31. Most of the fires, and the deaths, were in the coastal region north of San Francisco that encompasses wine country. Four deaths came further inland in Yuba County.

While the Oakland Hills fire of 1991 killed 25 people by itself and the Griffith Park fire in Los Angeles in 1933 killed 29, never in recorded state history have so many people been killed by a simultaneous series of fires, said Daniel Berlant, a deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Firefighters had reported modest gains against the blazes, but containment seemed nowhere in sight.

"We are not out of this emergency. We are not even close to being out of this emergency," Emergency Operations Director Mark Ghilarucci told a news conference.

More than 8,000 firefighters were battling the blazes, and more manpower and equipment was pouring in from around the country and from as far away as Australia, officials said.

Since igniting Sunday in spots across eight counties, the fires have transformed many neighborhoods into wastelands. At least 3,500 homes and businesses have been destroyed and an estimated 25,000



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people forced to flee.

The wildfires continued to grow in size. A total count of 22 fires on Wednesday fell to 21 on Thursday because two large fires merged, said state Fire Chief Ken Pimlott.

The challenge of fighting the fires was compounded by the need for more help and the growing fatigue of firefighters who have been working for days.

"We have people that have been on that fire for three days who don't want to leave," said Cal Fire's deputy incident commander in Napa, Barry Biermann. "At some point, you hit a road block."

Fire officials were investigating whether downed power lines or other utility failures could have sparked the fires. It's unclear if downed lines and live wires resulted from the fires or started them, said Janet Upton, a spokeswoman for Cal Fire.

Hundreds of evacuees fled to beaches far to the north of the fires, some sleeping on the sand on the first night of the blazes.

Since then, authorities have brought tents and sleeping bags and opened public buildings and restaurants to house people seeking refuge in the safety and clean air of the coastal community of Bodega Bay.

Local charities and residents went to Costco to buy supplies for the fleeing families. California Highway Patrol Officer Quintin Shawk took relatives and other evacuees into his home and office, as did many others.

"It's like a refugee camp," at his office, Shawk said.

Community members fed breakfast to some 200 people on the beach alone, and Patricia Ginochio, who owns a restaurant, opened the eatery for 300 more to sleep, she said. The evacuees' arrival was heralded by a long line of headlights heading to beaches.

"The kids were scared," Ginochio said, adding that temperatures by the beach drop dramatically at night. "They were shivering and freezing."

Some lucky evacuees returned to find what they least expected.

Anna Brooner was prepared to find rubble and ashes after fleeing Santa Rosa's devastated Coffey Park neighborhood.

Then she got a call from a friend: "You're not going to believe this." Her home was one of only a handful still standing.

"I swore when I left I was never coming back to this place," Brooner said. "I feel so bad for all the other people. All of us came back thinking we had nothing left."

Gecker reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez and Andrew Dalton in San Francisco, Jonathan J. Cooper in Santa Rosa and Brian Skoloff in Calistoga contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires> .

## NYC, London police taking fresh look at Weinstein claims

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Police detectives in New York City and London are taking a fresh look into sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein now that some 30 women have accused the Hollywood film producer of inappropriate conduct.

New York Police Department spokesman Peter Donald said Thursday that investigators are reviewing police files to see if anyone else reported being assaulted or harassed by him.

So far, no filed complaints have been found, he said, other than one well-known case that prompted an investigation in 2015, but authorities are encouraging anyone with information on Weinstein to contact the department.

London police were also looking into a claim it had received from the Merseyside force in northwest England, British media reported Thursday. Merseyside police said the allegation was made a day earlier and concerned "an alleged sexual assault in the London area in the 1980s."

Some 30 women — including actresses Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd and Gwyneth Paltrow — have spoken

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out recently to say Weinstein had sexually harassed or sexually assaulted them. Rose McGowan, who has long suggested that Weinstein sexually assaulted her, tweeted Thursday that "HW raped me."

The initials were an apparent reference to Weinstein, and The Hollywood Reporter said the actress confirmed to them that she was referring to the disgraced film mogul. The New York Times earlier reported that Weinstein paid a financial settlement of \$100,000 to McGowan in 1997 over an incident in a hotel room at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

"Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein," Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister said Thursday.

Weinstein was fired Sunday by The Weinstein Co., a studio he co-founded with his brother.

Some of the allegations involved conduct at hotels in Beverly Hills, but police there didn't return calls on whether they were investigating any possible crimes. The Los Angeles Police Department has no open investigations.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office, which shares a records system with Park City Police, had no reports or calls involving Weinstein or McGowan in the past 30 years, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Andrew Wright said.

Detectives in the NYPD's special victims unit were instructed to identify and speak with any potential victims, including the women who spoke about their encounters with Weinstein in a recent New Yorker article, according to a law enforcement official briefed on the matter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In The New Yorker expose, a former actress, Lucia Evans, said Weinstein forced her to perform oral sex in 2004 when she was a college student.

At least one other unnamed woman said she was raped by Weinstein, but the article did not disclose when or where it happened. A third woman, actress Asia Argento, told the magazine that Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 1997 at a hotel in France.

Under New York law, making someone engage in oral sex by physical force or the threat of it is a first-degree criminal sexual act. There's no legal time limit for bringing charges.

Weinstein, through a spokeswoman, has denied any nonconsensual sexual conduct with any women.

The media mogul has long been a major figure at the Academy Awards, where his films have regularly won Oscars.

He reappeared briefly on Wednesday outside a Los Angeles home, telling the paparazzi he's "not doing OK," but he's hoping for a "second chance," according to video posted by celebrity website TMZ. He also told the photographers he needs to "get help" and "we all make mistakes."

New York detectives already investigated Weinstein once, the 2015 probe when an Italian model said the studio executive grabbed her breasts and groped her. Detectives set up a sting where they recorded a conversation between the woman and Weinstein while he tried to persuade her to come into his hotel room.

"Why yesterday you touch my breast?" the 22-year-old asked on the recording, published by The New Yorker.

"Oh, please, I'm sorry, just come on in. I'm used to that. Come on. Please," Weinstein responded.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said prosecutors decided there wasn't enough evidence to prosecute the case.

"I, like they, were very disturbed by the contents of the tape," Vance said. "But at the end of the day we operate in a courtroom of law, not the court of public opinion. And our sex crime prosecutors made a determination that this was not going to be a provable case."

Police investigated that allegation as a case of forcible touching, a misdemeanor with a two-year time limit for bringing charges. The statute of limitations has since expired.

On Thursday, actress Kate Beckinsale recounted that she was 17 when Weinstein greeted her in his bathrobe. Years later, Beckinsale said, she met Weinstein again and he asked if he had tried anything at their first meeting. She said she realized "he couldn't remember if he had assaulted me or not."

The actress said she rejected several offers over the years to work with Weinstein, and he would often respond with anger, profanity and threats. She called for industry changes to be made to "stop allowing

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our young women to be sexual cannon fodder."

The Eastern branch of the Writers Guild of America pledged to take action to prevent future abuse, noting that "sexual harassment and assault have long been hallmarks of the entertainment industry."

Fallout from the numerous allegations against Weinstein, 65, continued Thursday, with the leaders of the Cannes film festival expressing dismay at the accusations.

"These actions point to a pattern of behavior that merits only the clearest and most unequivocal condemnation," said festival president Pierre Lescure and general delegate Thierry Fremaux.

Hachette Book Group, one of the country's top publishers, also announced it has "terminated" Weinstein Books.

Associated Press Film Writer Jake Coyle in New York and Associated Press Writer Michelle Price in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## Trump lashes out at Puerto Rico as House passes aid package

By KEN THOMAS and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out at hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico on Thursday, insisting in tweets that the federal government can't keep sending help "forever" and suggesting the U.S. territory was to blame for its financial struggles.

His broadsides triggered an outcry from Democrats in Washington and officials on the island, which has been reeling since Hurricane Maria struck three weeks ago, leaving death and destruction in an unparalleled humanitarian crisis.

San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, with whom Trump has had a running war of words, tweeted that the president's comments were "unbecoming" to a commander in chief and "seem more to come from a 'Hater in Chief.'"

"Mr. President, you seem to want to disregard the moral imperative that your administration has been unable to fulfill," the mayor said in a statement.

The debate played out as the House passed, on a sweeping 353-69 vote, a \$36.5 billion disaster aid package that includes assistance for Puerto Rico's financially-strapped government. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the government needs to ensure that Puerto Rico can "begin to stand on its own two feet" and said the U.S. has "got to do more to help Puerto Rico rebuild its own economy."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders praised the House action Thursday night and promised the administration "will continue to work with Congress to provide the resources necessary to recover and rebuild from the hurricanes" and the wildfires in California.

Forty-five deaths in Puerto Rico have been blamed on Maria, about 85 percent of Puerto Rico residents still lack electricity and the government says it hopes to have electricity restored completely by March.

Both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence visited the island last week to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the island's recovery. But Trump's tweets Thursday raised questions about whether the U.S. would remain there for the long haul. He tweeted, "We cannot keep FEMA, the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. forever!"

In a series of tweets, the president added, "electric and all infrastructure was disaster before hurricanes." He blamed Puerto Rico for its looming financial crisis and "a total lack of accountability."

The tweets conflicted with Trump's past statements on Puerto Rico. During an event last week honoring the heritage of Hispanics, for example, the president said, "We will be there all the time to help Puerto Rico recover, restore, rebuild."

White House chief of staff John Kelly, speaking to reporters, said the military and other emergency responders were trying very hard to "work themselves out of a job." Reassuring the island, Kelly said the U.S. will "stand with those American citizens in Puerto Rico until the job is done."

At the Pentagon, Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. told reporters "there's still plenty of work to be done" by the military troops in Puerto Rico. He said there was no current plan to withdraw troops who are sup-

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porting FEMA's recovery efforts. McKenzie, director of the military's Joint Staff, said it will be up to FEMA and other civilian agencies to decide when the military is no longer needed there.

Democrats said Trump's tweets were deplorable, given that the 3 million-plus U.S. citizens on Puerto Rico are confronting the kind of hardships that would draw howls of outrage if they affected a state. One-third of the island lacks clean running water and just 8 percent of its roads are passable, according to government statistics.

"It is shameful that President Trump is threatening to abandon these Americans when they most need the federal government's help," said Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer, the second-ranking House Democrat.

After years of economic challenges, Puerto Rico was already in the process of restructuring much of its \$74 billion in debt before the hurricane struck. The financial situation is more complicated than Trump's tweets suggest.

Puerto Rico lost population and jobs after Congress eliminated special tax breaks in 2006, making it more difficult to repay its debts. Yet lenders continued to extend credit to Puerto Rico despite its economic struggles, while pension costs strained Puerto Rico's government and its infrastructure deteriorated.

The legislative aid package totals \$36.5 billion and sticks close to a White House request. For now, it ignores huge demands from the powerful Florida and Texas delegations, which together pressed for some \$40 billion more.

A steady series of disasters could put 2017 on track to rival Hurricane Katrina and other 2005 storms as the most costly set of disasters ever. Katrina required about \$110 billion in emergency appropriations.

The bill combines \$18.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency with \$16 billion to permit the financially troubled federal flood insurance program pay an influx of Harvey-related claims. An additional \$577 million would pay for western firefighting efforts.

Up to \$5 billion of the FEMA money could be used to help local governments remain functional as they endure unsustainable cash shortfalls in the aftermath of Maria, which has choked off revenues and strained resources.

Ryan, the House speaker, planned to visit Puerto Rico on Friday. He has promised that the island will get what it needs.

"It's not easy when you're used to living in an American way of life, and then somebody tells you that you're going to be without power for six or eight months," said Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, who represents Puerto Rico as a nonvoting member of Congress. "It's not easy when you are continue to suffer — see the suffering of the people without food, without water, and actually living in a humanitarian crisis."

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Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Robert Burns contributed to this report.

## Hotel: Gunman shot at crowd seconds after shooting guard

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

Even as investigators struggle to unravel the mystery of what motivated a gunman to open fire on a Las Vegas concert crowd, confusion surrounds the sequence of events in the fatal few minutes of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

On Thursday, the hotel where gunman Stephen Paddock opened fire from his high-rise hotel suite disputed the official timeline for the Las Vegas massacre and rejected any suggestion hotel officials delayed summoning police for several minutes after the gunman's initial burst of fire.

It was the latest head-turning change in the investigation that has been frustrating for all involved. Since the Oct. 1 massacre, the timeline of the shooting has changed several times and police and hotel officials can't seem to agree on the basics of when the shooting happened.

In the most recent chronology given by investigators on Monday, police said Paddock sprayed 200 rounds into the hallway on the 32nd floor Oct. 1, wounding an unarmed security guard in the leg, six minutes before he unleashed his barrage of bullets on the festival crowd. That raised a series of questions about



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whether officers were given information quickly enough to possibly have a chance to take out the gunman before he could carry out the bloodshed.

But on Thursday, MGM Resorts International, which owns the Mandalay Bay, said it was no more than 40 seconds between the time the guard using his walkie talkie to call for help and Paddock opening fire on the crowd from two windows in his suite.

The 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and real estate investor began his 10-minute attack on the crowd at 10:05 p.m., firing more than 1,000 rounds from his bashed-out windows, police said. Police didn't arrive on the 32nd floor until 10:17 p.m., two minutes after he had stopped shooting.

The timeline given by police earlier this week differed dramatically from the one they gave last week: that Paddock shot through his door and wounded Campos after the guard distracted him

Hotel officials said the reported time of the hallway shooting, which Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said happened at 9:59 p.m., came from a report that was manually created after the massacre and "is not accurate."

A spokesman for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department declined to comment on MGM's statement.

The hotel said Las Vegas police officers and armed hotel guards immediately responded to the shooting and the company is continuing to cooperate with police.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said investigators haven't yet determined a motive behind the mass shooting but they're still digging.

"There's a lot of effort being put into unraveling this horrific act," Wray told reporters after a ribbon-cutting for the FBI's new Atlanta building. "We don't know yet what the motive is, but that's not for lack of trying, and if you know anything about the bureau we don't give up easy."

Also Thursday, a funeral was held for Erick Silva, a 21-year-old security guard at the festival who was shot in the head while helping people climb over a barricade to escape the gunfire. Dozens of fellow "yellow shirt" security guards were among the hundreds of mourners at the service, where Silva was hailed as a hero.

"We counted on him, and he didn't let us down," said his boss, Gina Argento.

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Associated Press writers Ken Ritter and Sally Ho in Las Vegas, Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Michelle Price in Salt Lake City, Utah contributed to this report.

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

## Asian markets subdued as investors brace for earnings season

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were subdued on Friday following losses on Wall Street as investors awaited corporate earnings and U.S. inflation data.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.5 percent to 21,067.53 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.1 percent to 2,476.73. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index edged down 0.1 percent to 28,447.08 and Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.1 percent to 3,390.63. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.3 percent to 5,811.70. Stocks in Southeast Asia were higher.

SAMSUNG EARNINGS: Samsung said its third quarterly profit nearly tripled from a year earlier thanks to a continued boom in the memory chip industry. The company's share price dipped 0.4 percent after the head of its semiconductor business offered to resign, saying the company needs a new leader.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock indexes retreated from their record highs Thursday as health-related stocks slumped after President Donald Trump signed an order to launch health care reforms. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.2 percent to 2,550.93. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.1 percent to 22,841.01. The Nasdaq composite dipped 0.2 percent to 6,591.51. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks edged 0.1 percent lower to 1,505.16.

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ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "U.S. markets took another break from record breaking, ending Thursday broadly lower. Diving into the earnings season, it may not be a welcoming turn for Asian markets looking to continue the strong rally from yesterday," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary. "Friday's September CPI release may still offer an opportunity for the U.S. dollar to see some upsides."

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude oil added 27 cents to \$50.87 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 70 cents, or 1.4 percent, to finish at \$50.60 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 25 cents to \$56.50 per barrel in London. It fell 69 cents, or 1.2 percent, to close at \$56.25 a barrel on Thursday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 112.14 yen from 112.30 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1850 from \$1.1828.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 13, the 286th day of 2017. There are 79 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 13, 1792, the cornerstone of the executive mansion, later known as the White House, was laid by President George Washington during a ceremony in the District of Columbia.

On this date:

In A.D. 54, Roman Emperor Claudius I died, poisoned apparently at the behest of his wife, Agrippina (ag-rih-PEE'-nuh).

In 1307, King Philip IV of France ordered the arrests of Knights Templar on charges of heresy.

In 1775, the United States Navy had its origins as the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

In 1843, the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith (buh-NAY' brith) was founded in New York City.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington.

In 1944, during World War II, American troops entered Aachen, Germany.

In 1957, CBS-TV broadcast "The Edsel Show," a one-hour live special starring Bing Crosby designed to promote the new, ill-fated Ford automobile. (It was the first special to use new videotape technology to delay the broadcast to the West Coast.)

In 1962, Edward Albee's four-character drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" opened on Broadway.

In 1972, a Uruguayan chartered flight carrying 45 people crashed in the Andes; survivors resorted to feeding off the remains of some of the dead in order to stay alive until they were rescued more than two months later.

In 1981, voters in Egypt participated in a referendum to elect Vice President Hosni Mubarak (HAHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk) the new president, one week after the assassination of Anwar Sadat.

In 1999, the Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, with 48 senators voting in favor and 51 against, far short of the 67 needed for ratification. In Boulder, Colorado, the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury was dismissed after 13 months of work with prosecutors saying there wasn't enough evidence to charge anyone in the 6-year-old beauty queen's 1996 slaying.

In 2010, rescuers in Chile using a missile-like escape capsule pulled 33 men one by one to fresh air and freedom 69 days after they were trapped in a collapsed mine a half-mile underground.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, after meeting with human-rights activists in Moscow, told reporters the Russian government under Vladimir Putin had amassed so much central authority that the power-grab could undermine its commitment to democracy.

Five years ago: Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan rallied college students in all corners of all-important Ohio and hammered at President Barack Obama for going easy on China over unfair trade practices; Obama took precious time off the campaign trail to practice for the next debate against his GOP rival. The Detroit Tigers beat the New York Yankees 6-4 in the first game of the American League

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Championship Series. Actor and TV host Gary Collins, 74, died in Biloxi, Mississippi.

One year ago: Donald Trump heatedly rejected the growing list of sexual assault allegations against him as "pure fiction," hammering his female accusers as "horrible, horrible liars." Bob Dylan was named winner of the Nobel prize in literature. Death claimed Thailand's longtime monarch, King Bhumibol, at age 88 and Nobel Prize-winning Italian playwright Dario Fo at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar is 80. Actress Melinda Dillon is 78. Singer-musician Paul Simon is 76. Actress Pamela Tiffin is 75. Musician Robert Lamm (Chicago) is 73. Country singer Lacy J. Dalton is 71. Actor Demond Wilson is 71. Singer-musician Sammy Hagar is 70. Pop singer John Ford Coley is 69. Actor John Lone is 65. Model Beverly Johnson is 65. Producer-writer Chris Carter is 61. Actor Reggie Theus (THEE'-us) is 60. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., is 59. Singer Marie Osmond is 58. Rock singer Joey Belladonna is 57. Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer is 57. NBA coach Doc Rivers is 56. Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah (tuh-KEE'-ah KRYS'-tal kee-MAH') is 55. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice is 55. Actress Kelly Preston is 55. Country singer John Wiggins is 55. Actor Christopher Judge is 53. Actor Matt Walsh is 53. Actor Reginald Ballard is 52. Actress Kate Walsh is 50. Rhythm-and-blues musician Jeff Allen (Mint Condition) is 49. Actress Tisha Campbell-Martin is 49. Classical singer Carlos Marin (Il Divo) is 49. Olympic silver medal figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is 48. Country singer Rhett Akins is 48. Classical crossover singer Paul Potts is 47. TV personality Billy Bush is 46. Actor Sacha Baron Cohen is 46. Rock musician Jan Van Sichem Jr. (K's Choice) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singers Brandon and Brian Casey (Jagged Edge) are 42. Actress Kiele Sanchez is 41. NBA All-Star Paul Pierce is 40. DJ Vice is 39. Singer Ashanti (ah-SHAHN'-tee) is 37. Christian rock singer Jon Micah Sumrall (Kutless) is 37. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ian Thorpe is 35. Actor Caleb McLaughlin (TV: "Stranger Things") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Nobody holds a good opinion of a man who has a low opinion of himself." — Anthony Trollope (TROL'-up), English author (1815-1882).