

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Thursday, Oct. 19**

**1st Round Football Playoffs  
6:30 p.m.: Groton hosts Bennett County**

**Saturday, Oct. 21**

**State Cross Country in Rapid City  
Robotics in Groton  
School Surplus Auction at 1 p.m.**

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Groton Area Tigers**

**VS**

**Bennett County Warriors**

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
at Doney Field, Groton, SD

**Here is the link to the program**

**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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**Hanlon Brothers  
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe

**605/395-6531**

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"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."

-James Cash Penney

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  
Housekeeping.

## 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

0913.1006

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## Groton remains on top

The regional seed points for Region 1 were updated after yesterday's post, showing that Groton Area still has a slim lead in the number one position. Redfield/Doland and Aberdeen Roncalli are right behind in second and third place. The Tigers finish the regular season hosting Milbank on Monday.

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
<a href="#">Groton Area</a>	43.10	16-5
<a href="#">Redfield/Doland</a>	42.92	18-8
<a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	42.09	16-6
<a href="#">Milbank</a>	38.59	9-13
<a href="#">Webster Area</a>	37.33	4-20
<a href="#">Sisseton</a>	36.83	5-18
<a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	36.43	6-15

## KIWANIS CLUB

Lola Pollard, Lt. Governor for Kiwanis, installed new officers for 2017-18, at Groton Kiwanis , on Wednesday. They are Reed Litch,president, Tom Mahan, vice president'; Kathy Sundermeyer, secretary; and Roger Rix, treasurer.

Orville Schaller was honored for 50 years of membership.

The Lt Governor honored Lee Schinkel, for sponsoring all three new members last year.

Tom Paepke received a round of applause for serving as the club's president last year.

Michelle Mullenburg will order a new vest for the Frosty Snowman outfit, that the club voted upon.

Next week's program leader will be Larry Schelle, followed by Lee Schinkel.

## Secretary of State Receives First Ballot Question Petitions for Review

Pierre, SD – Today, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs received petitions for An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing campaign finance and lobbying laws, creating a government accountability board, and changing certain initiative and referendum provisions.

Petitions will be reviewed by the Secretary of State's office in the order in which they were received.

If validated and certified the constitutional amendment will appear on the November 2018 general election ballot as a ballot question.

A Constitutional Amendment requires 27,741 valid signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. The Secretary of State's office will conduct a random sampling of the petition signatures to determine the validity. The process is outlined in SDCL 2-1-16 and 2-1-17

This is the first 2018 Ballot Question to be received by the Secretary of State's office for petition review.

There are a total of 20 potential ballot measures that could be placed on the ballot for 2018.

### Ballot Question Information

Deadline for submitting initiated constitutional amendment petition – 5:00pm CT November 6, 2017

Deadline for submitting initiated measure petition – 5:00pm CT November 6, 2017

Random Sampling process for statewide ballot measures:

2-1-16. Signatures to be verified by random sampling--Methodology. The secretary of state shall verify the signatures pursuant to § 2-1-15 by random sampling. The random sample of signatures to be verified shall be drawn so that each signature received by the secretary of state is given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. The secretary of state shall calculate the number of valid signatures by multiplying the total number of signatures received by the percentage of successfully verified signatures from the random sample. The secretary of state shall promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, establishing the methodology for conducting the random sample. The random sampling shall be an examination of the signatures received consisting of a number of signatures that is statistically correlative to not less than ninety-five percent level of confidence with a margin of error equal to not more than three and sixty-two one-hundredths percent.

2-1-17. Certification of results of random sampling--Notification of petition sponsors. If the random sample indicates that a sufficient number of qualified electors have signed the petition, the secretary of state shall certify that the petition has been signed by the required number of qualified electors and shall place the proposed measure or amendment on the next general election ballot. If the random sample indicates that an insufficient number of qualified electors have signed the petition, the secretary of state shall certify that the petition has not been signed by the required number of qualified electors and may not place the proposed measure or amendment on the next general election ballot. The secretary of state shall, within five days of certifying, notify the petition sponsors by certified mail of the secretary of state's action pursuant to this section.

## 2 day Day Dog Obedience Training



### Seminar

Friday October 27th 6-pm -9p.m.  
Saturday October 28th 9am -11 am

Held at (A & S Hardware Hank and Rental)

Junction Hwy 12-25 in Webster, SD

**K-9 Classics Dog Obedience hosting**

**Friday: Basic: Sit, Stay, Come & Down.**

**Saturday: Behavioral Issues**

**Why does my dog do that?**

**Q&A**

**Great information, Great fun**

**\$100 per dog**

Pre register-A&S Hardware Hank and Rental

**345-3821 K-9 Classics 880-1779**

## Rounds Accepting Spring 2018 Internship Applications

**\*\*Deadline Extended to Nov. 1\*\***

WASHINGTON— U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today announced that he is currently accepting internship applications for spring 2018. The deadline to apply for internships in his Washington, D.C., Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices is Nov. 1, 2017. College credit is available.

Duties in the Washington, D.C., office may include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Duties in the South Dakota offices include researching constituent inquiries and requests, participation in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail. In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office.

Interested college students should complete the online internship application and submit a resume no later than Nov. 1, 2017. Resumes should be submitted to intern coordinator Rebecca Herman at [rebecca\\_herman@rounds.senate.gov](mailto:rebecca_herman@rounds.senate.gov). Information about the internship program, along with the application, can be found online at [www.rounds.senate.gov/internships](http://www.rounds.senate.gov/internships).

## ROSLYN, SOUTH DAKOTA

### 4-PLEX FOR SALE

The following real estate is for sale:

Lots Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), Block Twenty-two (22), Original Plat, Roslyn, Day County, South Dakota;

A/k/a 716 1st Street, Roslyn, South Dakota; st Consisting of lots and 4-plex apartment house, currently unoccupied and has been for five (5) years. Property is to be sold "AS IS". Apartment units have electric baseboard heat and electric hot water heaters. Apartment units also include electric ranges, refrigerators, and washers/dryers.

No warranties are being offered on the appliances ("AS IS").

Interested parties should submit sealed bids to Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C., 506 Main Street, Webster, SD 57274, or hand delivered to the same address prior to 5:00 p.m. on the 14th day of November, 2017. Bids will be opened after the bid deadline, and Seller will identify the bidders that will be invited to raise their bid on the 17 day of November, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C. in Webster, South Dakota. Not all bidders will be invited to raise their bid.

Successful bidder will be required to execute a standard Purchase Agreement and make an earnest money deposit.

**SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.**

Direct all inquiries, questions or requests for real estate information to Danny R. Smeins, Attorney at Law, at (605) 345-4875 or (605) 448-5964 or Ray Lardy, Roslyn Homes, Inc., at (605) 228-1597 or Richard Galbraith at (605) 229-0180

## **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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## Class of 67 50th Reunion

Back Row, L-R: Janell Wall Case, Barb Johnson Imberi, Judy Flihs Feser, Karen Sanderson Bakke, Lee Landwehr Crary, Audrey Zoellner Bender, Pat Ruden Larson, Cynthia Thompson Finlay, Marcy Mitchell Stenseth, Nancy McKiver Walter, Jeanne Wegner Wanous

Front Row, L-R: Doug Bahr, Lanny Hill, Dan Sueltz, Roger Zastrow, Curtis Belden, Lona Koffler Belden, Collette Ries Gesinger, Gaylene Hosley Haber, Tom Paepke, Jim Pray, Alan Nierman, Merle Walter



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## SCHOOL SURPLUS AUCTION

809 N 6th St, Groton SD (School Bus Barns)  
Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 1:00 PM

### 1995 GMC 47 PASSENGER BLUE BIRD BUS

- 165,367 miles, 5 sp, Diesel Cat 6.6 L model 3116
- Tires 75%, 245/75R 22.5



### OFFICE/CLASSROOM

- Swintec 4000 electric typewriter
- "Jumbo" 160M laminator with 4 wheel cart
- Blue swivel desk chair
- Office type chairs - several
- LaserJet printer
- Metal desks
- Teacher desks - several
- 2-black stools
- Dukane movie projector
- Overhead projectors - several
- Free standing A-frame chalk/bulletin boards - several
- Leapfrog learning system
- Lots of misc. teaching supplies/books etc.

### KITCHEN/HOME

- Icemaker
- Maytag gas range stove with glass front (excellent condition)
- 2-Maytag electric stoves
- Whirlpool microwave
- Panasonic microwave
- Box of cooking pans/cutting boards
- Misc. cooking utensils
- 3- salad bar carts
- Handicapped shower chair
- Room fans - several
- Ceiling fans - several
- Small electric hanging heater
- Room dividers - several
- 6 ft and 8 ft folding tables - several
- 2 sanitizing stations
- Small iron and boards with box of misc.
- Box of sewing templates
- Baby carriers - several
- Realcare baby
- Child's pool/game table
- Assortment of kid's toys
- Playground equipment

### CABINETS

- 2 wire baskets
- Steel and wood storage lockers - several
- Card catalogue storage box
- Circular book rack
- File cabinets - several
- Book cases - assortment of different sizes
- Assortment of wall hanging cabinets
- Storage cabinets on wheels - several
- 4 wheel steel utility carts - several
- Wood shelving and accessories - several
- Assortment of wood/steel doors

### SCOREBOARD/ MAN CAVE SPECIAL

- Old school scoreboard with controller and bonus display



### MUSIC

- "Fender" Amplifier
- "Gallen-Krueger" Amplifier and Speaker
- "Hohner Bass 3" Keyboard
- "Standel" bass amplifier
- "Alesis QS 8.2" keyboard
- AM/FM karaoke machine
- Record player
- Box of music recorders
- 4- music storage units
- Boxes of show choir clothing - several

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 2 frames, matted, and numbered pictures - William Wilson - artist
- Framed/matted wall picture - B. Chipton, artist
- Golf pull-type caddy
- Wood shop clamps
- Several TV sets
- 7.4 ft. Fluorescent light fixtures
- 1- 8 ft fluorescent light fixture (new in box)
- Stage lighting fixtures
- Many misc. items

### Owner: Groton Area School District 06-6

**AUCTIONEERS:** Steve Simon and Gerard Simon  
**SALE DAY CELL PHONE:** Steve: 605-380-8506, Peggy: 605-380-8505  
**CLERK:** Simon Auction Service  
**WEBSITE:** [www.stevesimongroton.com](http://www.stevesimongroton.com)

The auction company, its employees and associates assume no responsibility for typographical or other errors, which may appear herein. Seller and Auctioneer make NO WARRANTIES, express or implied, to anyone about any aspect of any item, except that Seller will provide marketable title.

**TERMS:** Cash or bankable check. All items to be paid for and removed on day of auction. Announcements on sale day take precedence over printed material.



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## Today in Weather History

October 19, 1982: An early fall snowstorm dropped 3 to 12 inches of wet snow over the southeastern corner of South Dakota. The wet snow combined with the gusty winds of 20 to 40 mph dropped wind chills to around zero. Numerous trees snapped downing power lines. Power outages were extensive from Vermillion to Mitchell. Thunder rumbled, and lightning flashed amidst the height of the snowstorm. Almost a foot of snow fell in northern Union and southern Lincoln counties. High wind gusts knocked out television and radio transmitters in Sioux Falls. The weight of the snow collapsed a panel on the covered stadium at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

1844 - The famous "Lower Great Lakes Storm" occurred. Southwesterly winds were at hurricane force for five hours, driving lake waters into downtown Buffalo NY. The storm drowned 200 persons. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Rain changed to a record early season, heavy wet snow over the southern mountains of West Virginia. Leaves were still on trees, resulting in the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1952 and 1953. One to two feet of snow fell near Summersville and Richwood. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Thunderstorms deluged the town of Odem, TX (located 15 miles northwest of Corpus Christi) with 25 inches of rain in just three and a half hours. Most businesses in Odem were flooded, as were 1000 homes in nearby Sinton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought rainshowers to parts of the central U.S., and ushered cool Canadian air into the Great Plains Region. Daytime highs were only in the 30s in North Dakota and eastern Montana. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds in eastern Colorado, with gusts to 63 mph reported at La Junta. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)





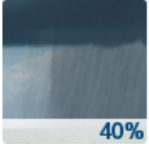


1989 - Record breaking snows fell across northern and central Indiana. Totals ranged up to 10.5 inches at Kokomo, and 9.3 inches was reported at Indianapolis. The 8.8 inch total at South Bend was a record for the month as a whole. Up to seven inches of snow fell in extreme southern Lower Michigan, and up to six inches fell in southwestern Ohio. The heavy wet snow downed many trees and power lines. Half the city of Cincinnati OH was without electricity during the morning hours. Temperatures dipped below freezing across much of the Great Plains Region. Twenty cities, including fourteen in Texas, reported record low temperatures for the date. North Platte NE reported a record low of 11 degrees. In Florida, four cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 92 degrees at Miami also marked a record fourteen days of 90 degree weather in October

1996: The opening game of World Series between the Braves and Yankees in New York was postponed by heavy rains and high wind from a major storm system affecting the East Coast, marking the third time in history that the World Series opener had been postponed. Overall, nine of the 22 games that have been canceled in Series history were scheduled in New York or Brooklyn.

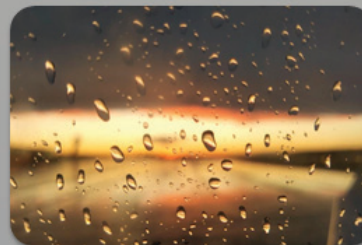
2007: A total of 87 tornadoes were reported in the United States from Oct. 17-19, a new record outbreak for the month, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The outbreak also contributed to the monthly total of 105 tornado reports – the second highest for October, behind the 117 tornadoes in October 2001. Records date back to 1950.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy	Chance Showers 40%	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 65 °F

## 3-Day Outlook



Today

74 to 82°

BREEZY near  
Sisseton Hills

VERY WARM

Friday

76 to 84°

20 mph, gusts 30 to  
near 40 mph  
BREEZY

VERY WARM

Saturday

Low 60s

COOLER



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

GRAPHIC CREATED:  
10/19/2017 4:15 AM

Published on: 10/19/2017 at 4:16AM

Very Warm through Friday! South winds will help push temperatures into the 70s to low 80s today. Breezy conditions will be possible near the Sisseton Hills this afternoon. Temperatures will only fall into the low 50s tonight, before rising into the upper 70s to mid 80s on Friday. Expect steady winds over 20 mph east of the Missouri River Friday afternoon, with stronger gusts of 30 to near 40 mph possible. A brief chance of showers will return Saturday, along with temperatures closer to normal for this time of year.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 61.6**

**Low Outside Temp: 37.1**

**High Gust: 27**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 86° in 1947**

**Record Low: 10° in 1917**

**Average High: 56°F**

**Average Low: 32°F**

**Average Precip in Oct: 1.37**

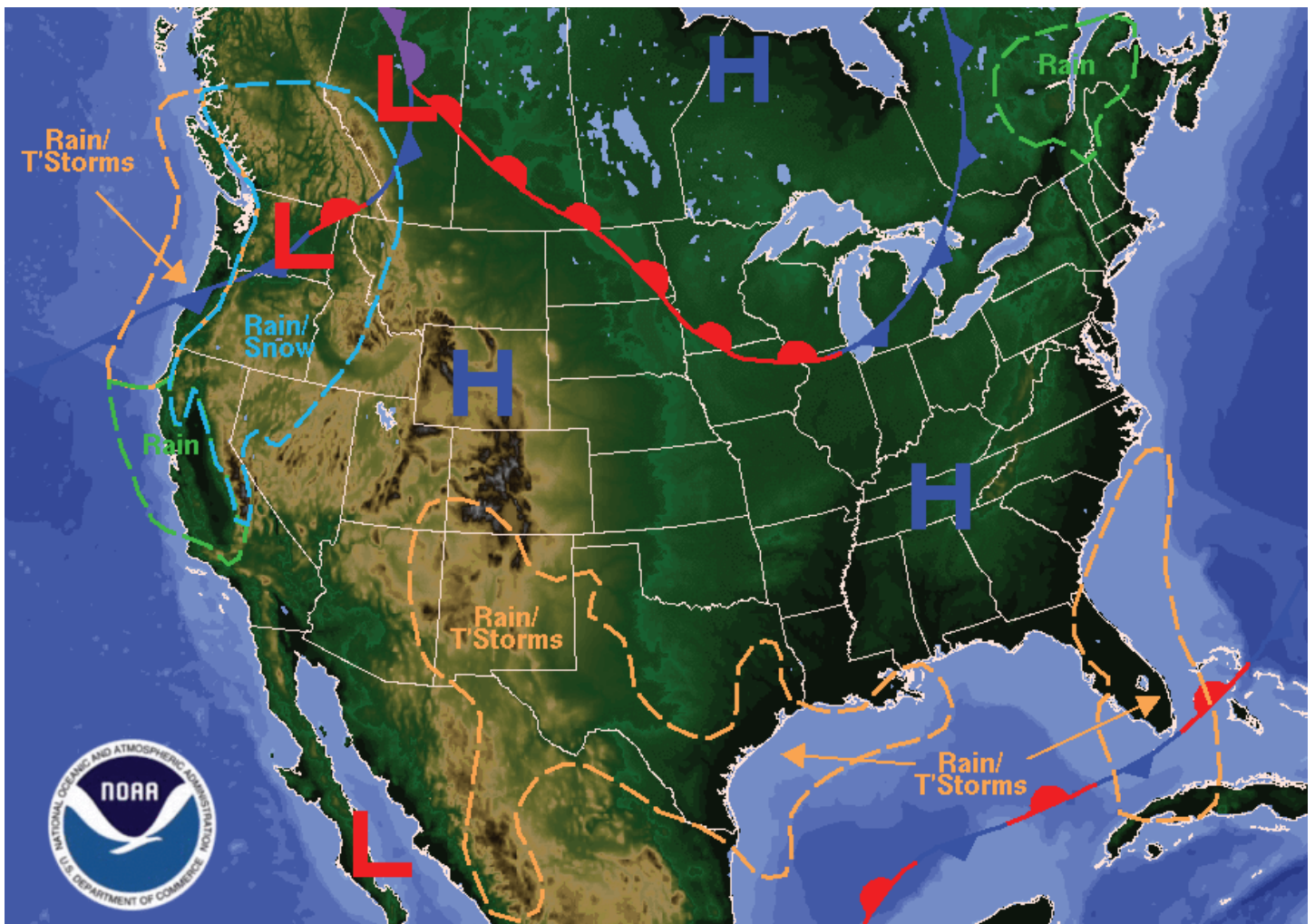
**Precip to date in Oct: 0.67**

**Average Precip to date: 19.85**

**Precip Year to Date: 13.47**

**Sunset Tonight: 6:40 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Oct 19, 2017, issued 5:05 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## ALONE AND ABANDONED

It's not a popular topic to talk about but it is a common feeling we all have at one time or another. No matter how great our achievements or how powerful we become, no one seems to escape feelings of defeat that come our way as we journey through life.

It started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rejected the guidance of God. They decided to go their own way and do their own thing and leave God out of their lives. It is impossible to imagine the beauty they enjoyed or the tranquility they were given. They were not satisfied with God's plan and chose to reject it.

We read in God's Word that when Israel was faithful to God, God was faithful to Israel. The army was triumphant and the people prospered. And when the people were disobedient, discontent and doubting, they were defeated, and at times, nearly destroyed.

What was true then is equally true today. God cannot and will not bless any one or any nation that defies Him or His teachings. He will only bless those who follow His teachings and obey His laws. His nature demands righteousness and if we are faithful to Him we can count on His being faithful to us, giving us His best blessings individually and as a nation.

David experienced the rejection of God because of His disobedience. He could not restore his soul or the souls of his people. Only God could restore him when he repented. He knew this and prayed, "You have rejected us...You have been angry...now restore us!"

Prayer: May we realize, Father, it is not You who rejects us, but we who reject You. Restore us, we pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 60:1 You have rejected us, God, and burst upon us; you have been angry — now restore us!

## 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 Meat- 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

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash  
09-22-26-31-35  
(nine, twenty-two, twenty-six, thirty-one, thirty-five)  
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto  
01-16-29-38-43, Hot Ball: 15  
(one, sixteen, twenty-nine, thirty-eight, forty-three; Hot Ball: fifteen)  
Estimated jackpot: \$11.76 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball  
30-49-54-66-69, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2  
(thirty, forty-nine, fifty-four, sixty-six, sixty-nine; Powerball: eight; Power Play: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$156 million

### Iowa governor pushes Trump to preserve ethanol quotas

By BARBARA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa's Republican governor on Wednesday called on President Donald Trump and his administration to preserve a federal program mandating that biofuels such as corn-based ethanol be blended into gasoline and diesel following a proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency to lower production targets for renewable fuels.

Gov. Kim Reynolds highlighted the issue amid a proposal by the EPA to lower production targets for biofuels in the so-called Renewable Fuel Standard program, known as RFS. She elevated her concerns by speaking at a press conference alongside RFS supporters such as farmers.

Reynolds, a staunch supporter of Trump, said she spoke with the president ahead of her remarks at an agriculture cooperative in Pella, about an hour southeast of Des Moines. She said that she also had a phone conversation with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

"Both of them personally affirmed to me their continued commitment to the renewable fuel standard," she told reporters.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed Trump's call during a briefing in Washington but said "no definitive decision was made on RFS."

Reynolds' press secretary, Brenna Smith, said a decision can't be made until a public comment period on the plan ends Thursday.

The EPA oversees the decade-old RFS program, which sets how much corn-based ethanol and other renewable fuels must be blended into gasoline and diesel. The program is dear to politicians in agricultural states such as Iowa, the nation's largest producer of corn.

In addition to supporting farmers, the program is aimed at reducing dependence on foreign oil. Pruitt recently proposed targets for 2017 and 2018 set slightly below current levels, following a push by oil com-

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panies to ease the mandates.

Asked about Reynolds' call with Pruitt, an EPA spokesman said by email, "What Administrator Pruitt said in his confirmation hearing still stands: he doesn't want to take any steps to undermine the objectives in the statute of the RFS. We continue to work with RFS stakeholders to ensure EPA is applying the statute in a meaningful way, as Congress intended."

Trump gained early support in Iowa during his presidential campaign in part of emphasizing his support for the RFS program. It's a point U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa pointed out after meeting with Pruitt on Tuesday.

"It's Administrator Pruitt's duty to follow congressional intent and also make good on President Trump's pledge to support biofuels," he said in a statement. "I'll oppose any effort to reduce blending levels or undermine the integrity of the RFS. I'm watching this issue closely and plan to hold the Administration accountable."

On Wednesday, a Senate committee delayed consideration of four of Trump's nominees for key EPA posts. U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, also of Iowa, said in a statement she was not prepared to support the nomination of Bill Wehrum, Trump's choice to lead the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. Wehrum, a lawyer in private practice whose clients have included pro-fossil fuel groups, would oversee the RFS program if confirmed.

"Holding the EPA's feet to the fire has put us on a path to receive strong reassurances on biofuel volumes and the EPA's commitment to follow both the letter and the spirit of the RFS," she said in a statement.

Reynolds' press conference comes days after she and the Republican governors of Kansas, Missouri and South Dakota sent a letter to Trump about the RFS. She said Wednesday that a reduction in biofuels production would hurt Iowa's economy. She plans to travel to Washington next week to drive the point home.

"They are feeling the pressure, and that's why we need to keep it up," she said.

## Natural gas production tax gets life in Pennsylvania House

By MARC LEVY, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The potential for a tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas production gained new life Wednesday, as a bill emerged from a state House committee and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf urged leaders of the Republican-controlled chamber to speed it to a floor vote.

Wolf, who has long sought the tax, called the proposal "fair and commonsense."

Pennsylvania, the nation's No. 2 gas state thanks to the prolific Marcellus Shale, is the only major natural gas producer that does not tax production. Wolf and other supporters of the tax say it is a fair way to help stitch up Pennsylvania's deficit-riddled finances amid a four-month budget standoff.

Six Republicans on the House Finance Committee defied party leaders to vote for the bill with all 10 Democrats.

The exploration industry opposes it, as does the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and it still faces a climb to get to Wolf's desk. House Republican leaders, who oppose it, could use procedural tactics to bottle it up or delay it.

The Republican-controlled Senate approved a similar tax in July, along with provisions designed to speed up the state's issuance of pollution-control permits for the activities of various industries. The House bill did not include those provisions, and Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Centre, said Republicans in his chamber would not support the tax without them.

The House bill imposes a volume tax that rises with the price of natural gas from 2 cents per thousand cubic feet to 3.5 cents per thousand cubic feet. A sponsor, Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, R-Bucks, said at the current price it would raise about \$250 million in a full year, although others calculated a figure closer to \$100 million, using 2016 production and current prices.

Opponents also warned that a provision in the bill changing the terms of landowner royalty contracts is unconstitutional. It would effectively prohibit producers from deducting costs before paying the 12.5 percent royalty in future contracts as well as tens of thousands of existing contracts, said James Welty, vice president of government affairs for the Marcellus Shale Coalition, a trade association.



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That makes the bill is a “double whammy” for the industry, Welty said, when combined with hub prices in Pennsylvania that recently have ranged from one-half to one-third of the price at a benchmark hub in Louisiana.

“That’s why you’re seeing capital flow to other basins” in other states where prices are higher, Welty said. Pennsylvania’s lower prices are due to a lack of pipeline capacity to bring the gas to customers, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, an arm of the Energy Department.

Meanwhile, the industry and other business groups roundly say there is a profound need for faster permits: Long and uncertain wait times play havoc with a business’ ability to keep its crews, equipment and money available. That hurts the economy, they say, but environmental groups bitterly oppose the Senate’s proposed permitting changes.

Joe Minott, executive director of the Philadelphia-based Clean Air Council, on Wednesday said the natural gas tax “should not be used to trade away the clean air and water of Pennsylvanians.”

In any case, the industry has been encouraged by higher prices at the Louisiana hub, and the number of shale wells drilled in Pennsylvania has almost doubled in 2017 compared with the same point last year.

DiGirolamo said he does not believe a tax will hurt Marcellus Shale exploration in Pennsylvania, which also sits atop another relatively unexplored shale formation, the Utica Shale.

“They’re paying this tax in every other state,” DiGirolamo said. “They’re not leaving. The jobs are still there.”

## North Dakota grapes see successful harvest despite drought

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota’s wine industry has seen an unusually productive harvest despite severe drought conditions this summer.

Grapes grown in the state are cold-climate varieties, but heat allows the grapes to ripen faster, The Bismarck Tribune reported. The state’s grapes are usually more acidic, but as the grapes ripened this year, the acid dropped and they became sweeter.

“It was actually a great year for grapes,” said Deb Kinzel, of Dickinson-based Fluffy Fields Vineyard & Winery.

Grapes that are used to create wine need to reach a certain sweetness and sugar level called brix, according to Randy Albrecht, operator of Wolf Creek Winery in Coleharbor. A brix level of 22.5 will make a wine about 12 percent alcohol.

“We generally saw higher brix and lower acid, which makes winemakers smile,” Albrecht said.

“A brix of 22 to 24 is really where we like to see the grapes,” he noted. “If we harvest with less, it produces less alcohol and it’s more acidic.”

The state’s wine industry has been successful and is expected to continue its rapid growth.

The industry expects the industry to grow at a rate of about 200 percent annually through 2020, said RayAnn Kilen, a consultant for the industry. That’s causing some concern that there isn’t enough fruit being commercially grown to meet demands in the future.

Wine makers currently purchase nearly 80 percent of their produce from out of state.

## South Dakota man turns ranch into wildlife haven

By NICK LOWREY, Capital Journal

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — John Moisan is a hunter.

That fact becomes apparent when he looks out at the 640 acres of land he owns in Tripp County a few dozen miles south of Presho. Moisan sees the cuts and draws, the cattails and trees not as impediments to farming and cattle but as goldmines for pheasants, grouse and deer. Driving around his property in the back of a friend’s pickup, he points to the grass he’s planted as his proudest achievement, not the rows of sorghum that also thrive on his land.

Hunched over in an elevated box blind, surrounded by the early September sights, sounds and smells of

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a central South Dakota grassland, he pointed out where a friend killed a giant whitetail deer buck a year or two before. That hunter had been sitting in the same blind Moisan was in. That was beside the point though, he said, the fact is, that buck wouldn't have been anywhere near the blind 15 years ago.

Back then, just about every square inch of the property had been covered in wheat stubble. From the soggiest draw to the windiest hill top, one plant had dominated the landscape. From time to time, a covey of prairie grouse could fly in to feed on the waste grain. A few mule deer also could be seen wandering through on occasion. But not much actually lived on the property, Moisan said.

When he first saw the property back in 2002, an eagle was giving the place a once over, too. Moisan took that as inspiration to buy the place and turn it into something special — a place to harbor and grow wild things. Having a place where he could hunt with his five children was one of the motivations that spurred his purchase of what he would come to call Eagle View Ranch.

"This is my way of giving back to nature," Moisan told the Capital Journal .

Moisan grew up back in the soil bank days of the late 50s and early 60s, when pheasants were like locusts in their multitudes. Moisan lived with his mother and her parents on a small piece of ground near Watertown. His grandpa, an old market hunter who'd fought in World War I and spent World War II guiding military brass from the local air base on pheasant hunts, took him hunting when there was time.

Those were good days to be a budding hunter. Between 1958 and 1963, South Dakota's pheasant population never fell below 7.5 million. Hunters annually took home between 2.2 and 3.2 million birds. Hunter success has never again reached such heights. So it is safe to say the young Moisan got plenty of hunting in before the soil bank era ended and the number of pheasants in South Dakota plunged from 10 million in 1963 to 5 million in 1964.

Moisan helped his grandparents and, in addition to developing his love for wildlife, he forged a deep connection to the land. He graduated high school and went on to college at the University of South Dakota where he joined the ROTC.

This was the early 1970s and the Vietnam War was still raging. Moisan became an artillery officer and served for a few years.

After his military career, Moisan returned to South Dakota and started working on a master's degree. He spent a summer managing grasslands with the Corps of Engineers and learned a deeper respect for the land. His time working on the grassland also helped strengthen his desire to own some land.

Eventually, Moisan went to work for the State of South Dakota and moved to the Pierre area. He spent 30 years in state government. During that time, he raised five kids, trained many hunting dogs and developed many relationships with landowners all over the state who let his family and him hunt.

By the late 1990s and early 2000s, commercial pheasant hunting was becoming bigger business and finding private land to hunt was becoming harder and harder for Moisan to do. In 2002, his family came into some money.

The early 2000s were a transitional time in South Dakota agriculture. Corn was in the early stages of taking off as a major cash crop. Land values had yet to skyrocket in response to the ethanol boom and the rise in the price of corn that soon followed. Farm land was still reasonably affordable

At about that time, 640 acres of contiguous land in Tripp County came on the market. Nearly every square inch of the property was planted to wheat. There was just one small pasture to the northeast and it had routinely been grazed to the dirt.

"I saw it as a fixer-upper farm," Moisan said.

It was a tremendous opportunity, Moisan thought. He and a business partner offered \$400 per acre and eventually paid \$412.40. Today, the price per acre for farm ground can run up to \$2,500. It didn't take long for Moisan to be confronted by just how tough restoring the newly christened Eagle View Ranch would be.

For more than 100 years, the family that owned the land had abused it. Wheat was about the only thing they'd grown there. Just about everywhere a plow could hit had been tilled. This included the tops of hills and the bottoms draws, places prone to erosion and flooding.

After a century of tillage and erosion from wind and rain, there wasn't much more than a few inches of topsoil left on most of the farm. Gravel was exposed on the tops of hills.

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There were old oil filters, fan belts and all manner of broken tractor parts sprinkled liberally across the landscape. Crumbling barns and other buildings filled what had been a farmyard and there was very little water anywhere on the farm. There wasn't much in the way of wildlife, either.

"It was a hell of a mess," Moisan said.

He and his partner hadn't had nearly enough money to buy the place outright. There was a mortgage to pay and a hefty property tax bill to consider as well, Moisan said. So he needed a renter to produce a crop to help pay the mortgage and taxes. The guy he found wasn't that great a farmer and largely kept doing what the previous owners had done.

"I lost \$30,000 one year," Moisan said.

In 2004, Moisan turned to the Conservation Reserve Program, which pays landowners to take land out of production and turn it into wildlife habitat, especially when the land's soil is highly erodible. He learned about a program contained in the program called CP38, which is better known as State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement or SAFE. The idea is to put the least-productive portions of farm fields to better use as wildlife habitat.

Moisan heard about the program at a Pheasants Forever banquet in Pierre. The Farm Service Agency office in Tripp County, though, wasn't familiar with it. Still they worked with Moisan to enroll 130 acres into the program.

He planted 42 acres of trees, totaling about 66,000 individual plants. The rest of that first 130 acres was planted to grass. Moisan's renter was not happy about the change. Farming around the trees was going to make things a bit more difficult and the renter didn't much care if the newly planted CRP acres hadn't actually been producing a profitable crop.

Moisan was forced to part ways with that first renter after just a few years.

Moisan's goal for Eagle View Ranch was to create a haven for wildlife, while at the same time making enough money to break even on the property financially. The plan revolved planting 30 percent of the property to native grasses and enrolling it into CRP, keeping 30 percent of the property as farm ground and another 30 percent would be pasture land. The remaining acres would be used for stock dams, drainage basins and a few more manicured acres around the small mobile home and few remaining barns that made up the farmyard.

Moisan said he based his plan on a master's degree thesis written by Emmett Keyser. The thesis focused on pheasant habitat requirements. Keyser's thesis found that a mix of about one-third crop, one-third undisturbed grass and one-third disturbed grass was ideal for pheasant production.

Making his plan a reality was a tall order. One that would require an experienced, forward-thinking farmer and a thorough understanding of federal, state and privately funded conservation programs.

Understanding the conservation programs came only after countless hours of study and practice. What Moisan discovered was that the people who manage federal conservation programs at the country level often interpret the programs differently from each other. The end result is that the USDA officers in Tripp County will enforce different rules than their counterparts in Hughes County even if they're working with the same program.

A big part of navigating federal conservation programs, Moisan discovered, was knowing more about what was available than those at his local FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices.

"One thing about NRCS offices in the area is that they don't actively tell people about the programs available to them," Moisan said.

Still, he was able to get 30 percent of his land enrolled into CRP. Moisan also was able to get a new dam built with the help of a cost share between the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and himself.

The work isn't over once the land is enrolled either, Moisan said. He spends a lot of time working with the FSA and NRCS offices in Tripp County to figure out what he can and can't do to improve wildlife habitat on his property.

"The biggest hurdle I've seen was what the NRCS and what the FSA told me I could plant was really far apart," Moisan said.

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Last summer, for example, Moisan devised a plan to mow some of his CRP in irregular strips. The idea was to confound pheasant nest predators such as foxes, skunks and coyotes, while at the same time allowing his renter to take some much needed hay and meeting management goals included in the CRP contract. Moisan's plan wasn't accepted because the contract requires that mowing take place in blocks of no less than 10 acres. So, he had to go back to the drawing board.

Though Moisan was able to enroll the acres he needed into CRP, the crop portion of Eagle View Ranch's operations proved harder to turn profitable. In 2010, when another renter parted ways with Moisan, the landowner was forced to find another farmer, this time he hoped to find someone who shared his vision. Or at least one that understood it.

The man Moisan needed turned out to be Mick Rowe. Rowe farmed over 1,000 acres in and around Tripp County and had embraced the practice of no-till farming. The idea behind no-till farming is to leave plenty of crop residue in the ground after harvesting. That leaves more organic matter in the ground and helps moisture make its way into the ground. Leaving the roots and stems in the dirt also has the important effect of reducing soil erosion.

Rowe said he picked the idea up from Dwayne Beck, who runs the Dakota Lakes Research Farm south of Pierre. Beck has been at the forefront of a revolution of sorts in dry land farming. Farmers from Kansas to Canada have implemented no-till and other farming practices Beck has pioneered.

It can take a few years but, eventually, no-till farming and a good crop rotation plan leads to healthier soil that in turn leads to better yields, with reduced need for such things as fertilizer. The increased moisture retention also helps crops such as corn and sorghum weather central South Dakota's often dry climate. Rowe said it took him six years to break even on Moisan's land.

"There's just no topsoil," Rowe said. "It's all been eroded away."

Rowe also has embraced modern technology. He's started using satellite imagery to help him plant more efficiently in the spring and to help identify where and how to use chemicals, which ends up reducing the amount needed and, by extension, the cost of the chemicals. That translates into more money in his pocket and Moisan's pocket.

That's critical, Moisan said, because even with land enrolled in the CRP program, there's no way he could afford to keep his ranch without profitable farm ground.

"The way I've got it setup now, the land pays for itself," Moisan said.

Precision doesn't come without some sacrifice, though. Rowe said he's invested many thousands of dollars in both hardware and software.

It didn't take long after Moisan started planting trees and grass for wildlife to respond. When his land was a desert of wheat stubble most of the year, the only birds he saw there were some grouse that combed in for dinner in the afternoon. They weren't really huntable in that situation.

After planting trees and grass on his marginal cropland, it took about three years before Moisan started seeing a difference in the number of pheasants on his land. By 2008, Moisan said, his sons and friends were able to harvest hundreds of birds in a season.

"The pheasant and grouse crop just exploded," Moisan said.

He started letting people who asked hunt on Eagle View Ranch provided they cleaned up after themselves. Moisan said if people who asked to hunt had kids and dogs with them they'd be even more likely to get permission to hunt.

"You could sit on the deck, have breakfast and 60 to 70 pheasants would walk across the yard," Moisan said of the pheasant population on his property.

For four years, the hunting was incredible, Moisan said. Then, in 2012, the pheasant population tanked. Only a few birds were killed on Eagle View Ranch that year. In 2013, Moisan said he stopped hunting the property.

The birds still haven't come back, he said, even though the habitat on his property is some of the best around.

"I just don't understand that," Moisan said. "If the wildlife comes back, I've got a five-star hotel with a

sign out that says vacancy.”

Still, he’s proud of what he’s done with Eagle View Ranch.

“My goal is pretty much achieved,” Moisan said. “To be able to take a piece of dirt that had been abused for 100 years and turn it into something special, is priceless.”

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

## South Dakota students record senior residents’ stories

By SARA BERTSCH, The Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A new learning style at Dakota Wesleyan University will allow the stories of Mitchell’s senior residents to be shared worldwide.

Dakota Wesleyan has recently incorporated community-based learning into curriculum. And for one class, this has taken students to Wesley Acres in Mitchell — a senior living facility for adults 62 and older.

The Faith and Reason class, led by professor Joel Allen, focuses on the analytical examination of faith. And a class project is reaching out to the community. Allen connected with Wesley Acres, asking if there were 22 residents willing to pair up with his 22 students and share their life story.

On a recent Tuesday morning, the 22 student-resident pairs met for the second time this semester, exchanging stories and laughs. Students interviewed each resident, focusing on life lessons they’d like to leave for others and how faith has impacted their life.

The students will take the recorded interview and turn it into a “memory book of their life,” Allen said, which is shared through Story Corps — a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving humanity’s stories. The stories will then be uploaded to the Library of Congress national database.

“This database can be studied for years to come,” Allen told The Daily Republic. “Great, great grandchildren of these people in 30 or 40 years from now can go back and listen to these stories.”

The students will meet with the residents one more time this fall semester, collecting data from their life, Allen said. The data, which includes photographs, will be used to create the memory book.

And so far, it’s been a blast for Dylan Dethlefsen and Phyllis Salmen. Dethlefsen is a senior at Dakota Wesleyan majoring in religious studies. He was paired with Salmen, who he has known for several years, but has never heard her full life story.

“It’s very inspirational and people of her generation have a lot they can teach my generation,” Dethlefsen said. “I think there’s a lot to learn from them, and there’s a lot to appreciate. And now is the best time to do that because you never know what tomorrow brings for any of us.”

It’s been just as good for Salmen, who said Dethlefsen is “fantastic.”

“It’s great, just going through all of this old stuff again,” Salmen said of the photos and notes she had prepared on a table for Dethlefsen. “And just remembering all the things I did.”

The project of Allen’s class at Dakota Wesleyan is one of eight community-based learning projects on campus, according to Carly Hubers, program coordinator for the McGovern Center.

This “interesting and unique” style of learning has allowed students to learn class material in a different way, Hubers said, benefiting both parties.

“It’s been really cool to see Dakota Wesleyan students dive into the Mitchell community in a way that allows them to see what’s going on just outside of campus,” Hubers said. “It’s helping students learn, but it’s also helping the community.”

And Dethlefsen and Salmen aren’t the only pairs enjoying themselves. Hubers and Allen said the students are increasingly excited each time they meet with their resident, and the same goes for the residents.

“It was really neat to see the connections being made. It’s really something,” Allen said. “The residents, and the students both, had a great time. It was neat to see these bonds and friendships form instantly.”

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

## South Dakota bar replaces loading dock to continue tradition

BY DILLON DWYER, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — After nearly 40 years of smashing bottles underneath its boards, The Ice House is replacing its famous loading dock.

The nationally recognized institution, which got its name by being the first place in the Yankton area to artificially produce ice in 1928, was named one of America's best dive bars by Esquire magazine and was also featured on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

Two things make a visit to The Ice House unique. At the end of prohibition around 1933, the business obtained a beer license and began a long tradition of serving beer to individuals who parked in their car along the loading dock. Along with that practice, it also became standard for individuals to smash their bottles under the dock when they were finished drinking.

Both traditions have stood the test of time thanks to grandfather laws, but the brick wall underneath the deck has not been so lucky. After years of absorbing the impact from bottles being clashed against its surface, it has eroded and began to crumble. The need to repair the brick underneath the deck facilitated the replacement of both structures at the same time.

"The wood on the dock was getting really bad and underneath it the brick on the building had been broken out from people breaking their bottles against it," said Carla Anderson, whose great-grandfather started the business. "We had to repair the damage done to the bricks, and it was just easier to do that with the deck torn out."

The new dock will be roughly the same size and dimensions as the original. Aside from looking newer, nothing will change regarding the location's unique traditions.

"People can still break their bottles under the new dock," Anderson told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. "We put in a second layer of brick under there, so we wouldn't run into the same problems again."

While the business is busiest on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months, Anderson did note that there were a couple groups that were hoping to snag a picture on the dock last weekend.

"We had a few disappointed weddings this weekend when they couldn't get their picture taken on the old dock," Anderson said. "It's kind of the thing to do now. People like to come down after their wedding and take pictures out front."

Locals are welcome to christen the new dock with a few broken beer bottles once construction is complete. "Everybody is more than welcome to come check it out," Anderson said.

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

## DIY craft businesses gain popularity in South Dakota

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When mother-daughter team Patience Pickner and Chelsea Tracy opened a home decor store near downtown Sioux Falls earlier this year, their goal was to provide a unique experience for buying home decor.

And one way to sell customers on that experience was to help them make the decor themselves.

The store, Conversation Piece, now hosts regular "make-and-take" events, in which customers work through a craft with step-by-step guidance from Pickner. They all leave with their own handmade project.

"That's a huge draw," Tracy told the Argus Leader. "People are excited to be working with their hands."

More Sioux Falls businesses are jumping on the make-and-take trend in recent years as a way to not only get customers in the door but also to educate them on products and build relationships to ensure they keep coming back.

While there are no set rules for what a make-and-take looks like, they all typically involve a class-like setting where an instructor guides attendees through a craft project step-by-step. Customers usually pay for the materials, and the business provides the tools to put it all together.

Often, customers turn make-and-take events into a social event.

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In her first week in business, AR Workshop owner Tracy Hinkkanen has seen groups from mothers and daughters to friends to bridal parties at the new do it yourself franchise in Sioux Falls.

AR Workshop's entire business model hinges on the popularity of make-and-take. Customers choose a time to work on a craft, such as a farmhouse-style sign or a centerpiece box, and as they're guided through the project, they can have a few drinks and socialize with friends.

The early success of AR Workshop solidifies for Hinkkanen the popularity of DIY as a social experience. "People are, first of all, really, really busy," she said. "And so when they get together with friends, it feels good to be productive ... They also get to create something, that sense of satisfaction."

Make-and-take events also give employees a chance to educate customers about products.

At New You Infrared Spa, Manager Stacey Harris hosts make-and-take events about essential oils. It's a way to bring in new customers and also a way to share the benefits of essential oils in a no-pressure environment.

"We tell them to try it out," Harris said. "They're trusting that we're not just trying to sell them something. We're really trying to help them."

The personal interactions during a make-and-take help customers see the passion employees and business owners have for their work.

"We become closer to our customers because people can sense when you're passionate about what you do. ... They become a little extended family for us," Harris said.

Landscape Garden Centers has hosted make-and-take events for about six years, said Betty Tarrell, retail store manager.

In the last few years, Tarrell has seen these events become more popular, and in the spring, she's hosting up to four events per week.

"It's worthwhile to us because we are passionate about our industry, and we like to pass that passion to our customers," Tarrell said.

Make-and-take events empower customers to use Landscape Garden Centers' products confidently, Tarrell said. It's a way for employees and employers to create a shared passion for gardening, flowers, fairy gardens and arrangements.

That's true for other businesses as well. Harris sees repeat customers coming back again and again for a certain essential oil they first tried at a make-and-take.

For Tracy, make-and-take events give customers a chance to try their hand at DIY decor, but they also get a chance to see the offerings at Conversation Piece.

It gets customers in the door, having fun and interacting with employees, and, often, they come back.

"You build that personal relationship," Tarrell said. "And I think you build customers for life."

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

## Alaska man files lawsuit over motorcycle mishap at concert

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — An Alaska man who says he was hit by a motorcycle that flew offstage during a 2016 Buffalo Chip Campground concert has filed a federal lawsuit against the campground, the rider and the bike company.

The Argus Leader reports that Royce Rath was in the crowd during the Aug. 2016 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally festivities at the campground. The complaint filed this week says in between concert performers Lita Ford and Kid Rock, showman Roland Sands rode a motorcycle designed without front brakes across the stage and into a crowd of spectators.

The lawsuit says Rath suffered permanent disability, medical expenses and the loss of wages and earning capacity. Federal court records don't list attorneys for Sands, Polaris Industries or Buffalo Chip Campground.

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

## Ethics amendment campaign submits signatures for 2018 ballot

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a proposed government ethics constitutional amendment have turned in more than 50,000 signatures to put the measure on the 2018 ballot, the initiative campaign said Wednesday.

The amendment would tighten campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, create an independent ethics commission and require that laws changing the ballot question process pass a public vote, among other provisions. Initiative group Represent South Dakota needs nearly 28,000 valid signatures for it to go before voters in 2018.

The Secretary of State's office says the amendment is the first 2018 ballot question officials have received for review. The office will conduct a random sampling of the signatures to determine their validity.

The proposal would replace a voter-imposed ethics overhaul called Initiated Measure 22 that South Dakota lawmakers repealed this year.

"South Dakotans clearly demanded change last November with IM 22, but the will of the people was ignored; now the people are one step closer to having the final say," Mitch Richter, a co-sponsor of the amendment, said in a statement. "This amendment is a response to what the Legislature has done and failed to do."

Represent South Dakota bills itself as conservative, progressive and independent state residents working together to fight corruption. It started as a local offshoot of Represent.Us, a Massachusetts-based organization working to reduce the influence of money in politics that funded the 2016 South Dakota ballot measure campaign.

A little over 51 percent of voters supported that government ethics initiative last year, but Republican lawmakers scrubbed the initiative from law just months later citing constitutional concerns.

If passed, the new constitutional amendment would largely be protected from legislative changes.

The new amendment would create a seven-member state government accountability board with broad powers to serve as a citizen ethics commission. It would require lawmakers to put \$389,000 annually indexed to inflation into a fund administered by the board.

The panel would investigate allegations of corruption and violations of lobbying, campaign finance and government ethics regulations. It would also have the authority to conduct audits of disclosures including for lobbying and campaign finance and impose sanctions such as fines on public officials.

Don Hagggar, state director of South Dakota's chapter of Americans for Prosperity, the conservative advocacy group backed by billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch, said he's concerned because the commission would be a "fourth branch of government" with no check and balance. He also said the state constitution shouldn't contain political rhetoric or appropriations.

Americans for Prosperity, which fought against the 2016 ballot measure, opposes the new amendment, but hasn't decided how much of a role it will play in an opposition campaign.

The new amendment would also lower campaign donation limits. For example, it would decrease the contribution limit for a state representative from \$1,000 a year from individuals to \$500 per election cycle. It would ban donations from corporations and labor unions to candidates or political parties. It also would bar gifts from lobbyists to many public officials.

Currently, there's an annual \$100 limit on gifts that legislators and other public officials can accept from lobbyists, but gifts don't include food, beverage or entertainment for immediate consumption, among other things.

The proposed amendment also prevents the Legislature from altering or rejecting laws approved by voters without returning to the ballot.



## Judge to hear arguments on tribe's pipeline contingency plan

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge in Washington, D.C., will accept arguments over the next month on whether the developer of the Dakota Access pipeline must stage equipment near an American Indian reservation in southern North Dakota to respond to any oil spill under the Missouri River.

The idea is part of a fallback plan proposed by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in August in case U.S. District Judge James Boasberg eventually decided to allow the four-state pipeline to continue operating while federal officials do more study on the \$3.8 billion project's impact on the tribe.

Boasberg ruled on Oct. 11 that oil could keep flowing from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois, as it has been since June 1. President Donald Trump earlier this year pushed through the pipeline's completion.

On Wednesday, Boasberg conferred with attorneys on both sides of an ongoing tribal lawsuit against the pipeline and set a timeline for arguments on Standing Rock's proposal. It includes increased public reporting of pipeline issues such as repairs, and implementation of an emergency spill response plan — including equipment staging — at the crossing beneath the Missouri River's Lake Oahe reservoir.

The tribe gets its water from the reservoir and fears harm from any spill. Standing Rock is the leader of four Sioux tribes hoping to convince Boasberg to shut down the line, which Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners maintains is safe.

Boasberg won't make a decision until the Army Corps of Engineers, which permitted the project, completes more study that he ordered in June on the pipeline's impact on Standing Rock. The additional review isn't likely to be completed until next spring, according to the Corps.

Boasberg in his ruling allowing pipeline operations to continue noted that the Corps and ETP had not yet expressed their positions on the tribe's "alternative relief" plan and said he would hear arguments on the matter. He'll make a decision on the proposal sometime after mid-November under the timeline for arguments that he set Wednesday.

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Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## Auction of former STAR Academy solicits no bids

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The auction of a former state-run juvenile corrections facility near Custer solicited no bids.

The State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy closed in April 2016 because of a significant drop in the number of juveniles being sent there by the courts.

It was put up for sale Wednesday. The state Board of Appraisal earlier this year appraised the property at \$2.3 million.

A group of South Dakota lawmakers on Tuesday asked Gov. Dennis Daugaard to postpone the sale, saying more time should be dedicated to finding the best use for the property. He refused.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Wednesday's auction was ended after about a minute due to no bids. Policy adviser Hunter Roberts says Daugaard's office will discuss what to do next.

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

## Crews quickly smother fire at oil refinery near Los Angeles

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A fire that erupted at the largest oil refinery on the West Coast threatened storage tanks while sending huge flames into the sky and black smoke across California neighborhoods before crews quickly smothered it.

Dozens of firefighters responded late Tuesday to the 1,000-acre Chevron El Segundo Refinery just south

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of Los Angeles, which processes nearly 275,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

Nearby residents were urged to close windows and stay inside. Streets were briefly closed, but no evacuations were ordered and no injuries were reported.

Crews using firefighting foam kept the blaze from spreading to storage tanks. Within a half-hour, few flames were visible.

The fire did not burn near any of the facility's main processing units and was confined to a distribution manifold along the facility's southwestern perimeter, Chevron spokesman Braden Reddall said in a statement. The cause was under investigation, he said.

"At this point, Chevron does not expect this incident to have an impact on its ability to supply petroleum products to its customers in the region," the statement said.

Petroleum industry analyst Patrick DeHaan said initial information indicates the fire was unlikely to affect gas prices.

DeHaan, a senior analyst with GasBuddy, said the El Segundo facility was not running at full capacity at the time of the fire because it had shuttered most operations for semi-annual preventative maintenance.

Chevron was fined nearly \$1 million by the state of California for a major fire in 2012 at a refinery in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The El Segundo refinery supplies 40 percent of the jet fuel used at nearby Los Angeles International Airport and has 20 percent of the market for gasoline in Southern California, according to the company's website.

Daily production includes 110,000 barrels of gasoline and 100,000 barrels of jet and diesel fuels. Other products include fuel oils, coke and liquefied petroleum gas.

About 1,100 Chevron employees and 300 contract employees work at the refinery.

The facility dates to 1911 and was the second refinery built in California by Chevron predecessor Standard Oil Co.

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Associated Press writers John Antczak and Andrew Dalton contributed to this report.

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Follow Christopher Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM> .

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This story has been corrected to show that the facility processes 275,000 barrels, not gallons, per day.

## Minnesota lawmakers seek more federal money for wolf control

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A federal program that helps Minnesota farmers and ranchers who lose livestock to wolves has run out of money for the year.

So members of Minnesota's congressional delegation Wednesday urged U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to find the money to allow wolf depredation services to continue. They cite Minnesota's growing wolf population, which rose to an estimated 2,900 last winter, an increase of 25 percent in one year.

Signing the letter were Sens. Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar, and Reps. Collin Peterson, Rick Nolan, Tom Emmer and Tim Walz.

The program provides trapping and other help for farmers and ranchers facing problem wolves, which remain on the endangered list.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture this week made \$120,000 in grants available to help producers prevent wolf attacks by nonlethal means.

## Minnesota residents concerned tribe will use land for casino

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A Native American tribe has asked that a large swath of land in eastern Minnesota be placed into a federal trust, saying the land will likely be used for housing. But some nearby residents fear it could eventually become a casino.

Prairie Island Indian Community leaders told the St. Paul Pioneer Press there are no specific plans for

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the property but the tribe's main priority is housing. The tribe bought the property, which spans more than 110 acres, for \$4.4 million in 2015.

The tribe is asking the U.S. Department of the Interior to put the land into the Land Trust Program, which would make development immune to local land use and zoning ordinances.

West Lakeland Township officials say cheaper land could be used for housing and that the area the tribe is seeking is better suited for commercial use.

"I have talked with a lot of people, and not one of them said they want a casino to go in there," said John McPherson, the township's former supervisor.

The tribe owns the Treasure Island Resort and Casino in Red Wing, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southeast of West Lakeland Township. Tribe members said building another casino is unlikely, but the idea hasn't been completely ruled out.

Tribal spokesman Eric Pehle noted that building a casino requires a separate permitting process, so constructing a casino would take years.

"It's like path A and path B," said Pehle. "It's a very long, very hard process. They would have to go back and start from zero."

Pehle also noted that the tribe recently built an assisted-care facility on a piece of property near Hastings, about 18 miles (29 kilometers) south of the township, to provide more housing options. He said housing is the tribe's priority.

The town board is taking comments on the proposal until Nov. 1.

Information from: St. Paul Pioneer Press, <http://www.twincities.com>

## Blazes light up California pot farms ahead of legalization

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

GLEN ELLEN, Calif. (AP) — Desperate to see if wildfires had damaged his farm, Marcos Morales gunned his four-wheel-drive station wagon along the hidden dirt roads that crisscross Sonoma County vineyards.

After evading police roadblocks and passing vintners' well-tended pools and houses, he finally arrived to a disheartening sight: Scores of his marijuana plants had been destroyed, and a barn that held 1,600 pounds of ready-for-market pot was a smoldering ruin.

The same fires that destroyed Northern California wineries and threatened to taint grapes still on the vine also took a toll on the region's marijuana farms, which were about to begin an important harvest less than three months before the nation's largest recreational pot market opens for business in January.

Morales and the workers who made it around the roadblocks Sunday worked to cut down 2,500 smoke-damaged plants, which will be worth far less than the top dollar he had hoped to get for premium bud.

"It's not good," he said Sunday. "But we'll be OK."

His operation in Glenn Ellen and other pot farms nearby were still in a fire zone that was off limits to all but emergency personnel a week after flames tore through the area.

At least 31 marijuana farms were destroyed and many more damaged, according to the pot industry's California Growers Association. That number is expected to rise significantly once evacuation orders are lifted and farmers are allowed back to their property.

Unlike neighboring wineries, marijuana farmers do not have crop insurance because the plant is still listed as an illegal drug under federal law. That keeps financial institutions out of the industry.

The estimated losses do not count indoor grows, backyard greenhouses and converted garages lost to the fire in hard-hit Santa Rosa, the center of Sonoma County's blossoming marijuana industry.

The figure also does not account for illegal growers who want no part of legalization and operate as far undercover as possible even in a region where toking up on the sidewalk is as socially acceptable as popping a bottle of red in a park.

In Santa Rosa's devastated Coffey Park neighborhood, a half-dozen destroyed houses with obvious indoor operations were clearly visible in the ashen ruins. The smell of fresh bud overwhelmed the ever-present

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odor of smoke on one block.

The fire damage was especially costly because most farmers were about to start harvesting.

Many of the growers who suffered the greatest losses were working to obtain licenses to grow recreational pot once state regulators starting issuing permits on Jan. 1.

Farmers with local permits to grow medical marijuana are expected to receive the first state licenses. But those damaged by fire are now concerned they may lose out if they don't get back up and running quickly. Many of them have already paid fees and lawyers in their efforts to go legitimate.

"I did everything right and by the book for the first time this year," said Andrew Lopas, who lost 900 plants worth \$2 million outside of Santa Rosa next to a popular wild animal park.

Lopas obtained a Sonoma County permit to grow medical marijuana in anticipation of applying for a state license.

"This was the first time I put a crop in the open," he said. "This is the first time I put in that many plants."

In Mendocino County to the north, growers complained that law enforcement officials refused to escort them to their farms so they could water plants even though the same courtesy was extended to wineries.

A day later, Sheriff Thomas Allman announced that marijuana growers "in good standing" with permits or applications for permits would be allowed to check on their farms in evacuation areas.

Meanwhile, people in the industry now joke about renaming famous strains to "Campfire Pot" and "Hickory Kush."

The damage is expected to have little impact on the state's overall marijuana economy because thousands of growers were unaffected by the fires, especially in the three-county region known as the Emerald Triangle.

"The impact will be pretty modest statewide," said association President Hezekiah Allen, who put the economic losses in the tens of millions of dollars. "Even though the timing could not have been worst."

7 historic Tlingit relics returned to Southeast Alaska

SITKA, Alaska (AP) — Seven historic Tlingit pieces that were in East Coast museums for decades have been returned to Southeast Alaska.

The pieces were on display Saturday as part of a conference in Sitka, The Daily Sitka Sentinel reported .

Cultural resource specialist for the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Harold Jacobs, said the three helmets, two hats, headdress and beaded shirt date from as far back as the 1600s to about 1890.

The Raven Barbecuing Hat was made about 1800 in Dry Bay by the carver Kux'laa of the Chookaneidi Clan. It was made for the L'ooknax.adi, Jacobs said. It was acquired from the Sealion House collection by Louis Shotridge in 1918 and had been at the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

The six other pieces were at the National Museum of American Indians in Washington, D.C., Jacobs said.

The relics were brought back to Alaska through the efforts of the council. They will be stored through the National Park Service, with access being granted to the Tlingit clans.

Information from: Daily Sitka (Alaska) Sentinel, <http://www.sitkasentinel.com/>

## US agency withdraws rule aimed at protecting animal farmers

By DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Trump administration's decision to kill a rule designed to protect the rights of farmers who raise chickens, cows and hogs for the United States' largest meat processors has infuriated farmer advocates, including a Republican senator from Iowa who said he has "violent opposition" to the move.

The rule would have made it easier for farmers to sue companies they contract with over unfair, discriminatory or deceptive practices. Called the Farmer Fair Practice Rule, it was rolled out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture during President Barack Obama's final days in office but never took effect. The agency

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under President Donald Trump delayed its April 22 start date for six months, then announced Tuesday that it wouldn't implement the regulation at all.

"They're just pandering to big corporations. They aren't interested in the family farmer," Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa farmer, said in an uncharacteristic criticism of the Trump administration. "The USDA is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, not the U.S. Department of Big Agribusiness."

The rule was first proposed by the USDA in 2010 but faced delays after meeting resistance in Congress and by the meat processing industry. The USDA finally released it last December.

Currently, several court rulings have interpreted federal law as saying a farmer must prove a company's actions harm competition in the entire industry before a lawsuit can move forward. The rule would have eased that high burden of proof.

Chicken and pork producers, for example, must often enter long-term contracts with companies like Tyson Foods and Pilgrim's Pride that farmers allege lock them into deals that fix their compensation at unprofitably low levels and forces them deeply into debt.

But the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration within the USDA, known as GIPSA, concluded the rule is inconsistent with several court decisions and would lead to further lawsuits.

"Protracted litigation to both interpret this regulation and defend it serves neither the interests of the livestock and poultry industries nor GIPSA," the agency said.

National Chicken Council President Mike Brown said the rule would have "opened the floodgates to frivolous and costly litigation" and National Pork Producers Council President Ken Maschhoff said the regulation "would have reduced competition, stifled innovation and provided no benefits to anyone other than trial lawyers and activist groups that no doubt would have used the rule to attack the livestock industry."

Kansas Republican Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, commended the USDA action, saying it demonstrates the Trump administration's commitment to promoting economic prosperity and reducing regulatory burdens in rural America.

"The Obama administration spent the better part of a decade ignoring the calls from farmers, ranchers, and agriculture economists warning of the billion dollar blow this rule would have levied against American agriculture," he said.

But others said the rule would have protected farmers.

"Farmers have made clear that they need protection from harmful and abusive practices that are standard in their industry," said Sally Lee, program director for the nonprofit Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA, a North Carolina family farm advocacy group.

Mike Weaver, a Fort Seybert, West Virginia, poultry farmer called on Trump to issue an executive order to implement the rule.

"The administration is allowing multinational corporations led by foreign interests to hold America's farmers and ranchers hostage with their monopolistic, retaliatory and predatory practices," he said.

## **Rollover crash in Lawrence County kills 49-year-old man**

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A man is dead after a single-vehicle crash in Lawrence County.

The Highway Patrol says the 49-year-old man was driving a pickup truck that went out of control on U.S. Highway 385 and rolled several times about 4 miles south of Deadwood. The crash scene was discovered Tuesday morning.

The victim's name wasn't immediately released.

## **Virginia Creeper Trail invites bikers to take it easy**

**By KAREN TESTA, Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Virginia (AP) — It was an invitation even teenagers who had hoped to be watching college football or playing video games couldn't resist: a mountain bike ride — all downhill.

Visitors to the Virginia Creeper Trail will find a remarkably family-friendly ride, adaptable to any skill level,

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and with scenery to hold anyone's attention. With its broad paths and wide curves, the Creeper encourages riders to take it at any comfortable pace, with plenty of opportunities for breaks along the way.

The trail runs about 34 miles (55 km) from Whitetop Station in Whitetop, Virginia (about a mile or 1.6 km shy of the North Carolina border) into Abingdon, Virginia. But its most popular segment is the first 17 miles (27 km) from Whitetop to Damascus, on a stone dust and gravel trail that allows bikers to reap the benefits of gravity on a gorgeous, woodsy path over dozens of trestles and bridges back into town.

At least a half-dozen outfitters in the area rent bikes (including some with "comfort seats" for a slight upcharge) and provide shuttles to Whitetop Station. The shuttle trip up the twisting and turning mountain roadway — where speed limits reduce at several places to 20 mph (32 kph) — takes a bit more than an hour from Abingdon and about 40 minutes from Damascus. It's well worth the \$25 fee per rider.

Note to procrastinators: Book ahead during busy times, like fall foliage season when rental shops sell out on weekends.

Once at Whitetop Station, riders claim their bikes and head out. On a recent October weekend, with low humidity, moderate temperatures and near peak foliage, the trail was heavily traveled and sometimes crowded with bikers ranging from toddlers in trailers to grandparents. But calling out a simple, "On your left!" got most of the slower riders to ease to the side and allow others to pass.

Still, there was no hurry. Speed would be contrary to the spirit of the Creeper.

## HISTORY OF THE CREEPER

The Creeper began as a Native American footpath. Later it was used by colonists and settlers including Daniel Boone, according to a history provided by the U.S. Forest Service. By the early 1900s, it was a rail line, where steam engines moved coal, lumber, passengers and other supplies from Abingdon to North Carolina.

The nickname, the Virginia Creeper, is said to come from the super slow speed at which the early steam locomotives navigated the many twists and turns and chugged up the mountain pass.

But the rail line struggled, and after decades of failing to turn a profit, the railroad company petitioned to abandon the line. The Creeper saw its last train run in the 1970s, and the U.S. Forest Service secured much of the land and started removing the track.

## ALL DOWNHILL

The most popular segment — the 17 miles (27 km) from Whitetop Station to Damascus — requires only moderate pedaling given the gentle downhill slope. Signs along the route indicate when hikers or bikers are coming into the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area or moving onto private property.

There are plenty of spots to stop along the way, including restrooms.

Green Cove Station Visitor Center is the first significant stop, and is just 3 miles from Whitetop Station. One of the most picturesque areas along the path is the High Trestle, a little more than 7 miles from the top. The elevated structure stretches 550 feet (168 meters) and is 100 feet (30 meters) tall.

Taylor's Valley is about 11 miles (18 km) from the top, and a perfect spot for a break, especially if the volunteers from the local church are set up on the green. Recently, about a half-dozen church members were offering hot dogs with homemade slaw and chili, cookies, fruit salad, pumpkin roll, chips and cold drinks — all for a free-will donation.

## TRAIL TOWN

The final approach to Damascus becomes obvious for several reasons. The trail levels a bit, and pedaling requires more effort; cars can be seen along the adjacent highway; and signs along the path remind travelers they are only a short distance from a cold beer or margarita.

Damascus has come to be known as "Trail Town USA," as at least a half-dozen biking and hiking trails intersect there, most notably the Appalachian Trail. The community's economy is built upon hikers, bikers and anglers, and its downtown is dotted with bike shops and sporting goods and outdoors shops.

## READY FOR MORE

The popular downhill portion of the Creeper is only half of the trail. It continues another 17 miles (27 km) through a more settled area that will require a bit more exertion for the biker or hiker but is still family friendly. The path undulates from Damascus to the trailhead in Abingdon, where there is a visitor center

and an original steam locomotive on display.

And for a real challenge, the ambitious can always turn around, and take the path back up.

— If You Go...

VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL: A 34-mile (55 km) route from Whitetop to Abingdon, Virginia, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5312878> .

## **Inmate missing from minimum-security unit in Rapid City**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate has been placed on escape status after failing to return to a minimum-security unit in Rapid City.

State corrections officials say 20-year-old Daniel Eisenbraun was allowed to leave the Rapid City Community Work Center on Tuesday to search for a work-release job. He didn't return at the designated time.

Eisenbraun is serving a two-year sentence for a grand theft conviction in Meade County and a two-year sentence for a drug conviction in Pennington County.

Another inmate who failed to return to the center from his work release job Oct. 6 is back in custody. Authorities say Zachery Yellow Boy was arrested in Rapid City overnight.

## **Contractor to study panels on Sioux Falls' \$117M stadium**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls has begun taking bids for an independent contractor to determine if paneling on the city's new \$117 million events center is protecting the building's interior.

The flawed paneling on the Denny Sanford Premier Center was the subject of a city settlement with five construction companies in 2015. An earlier forensic report concluded the flawed paneling wasn't worth replacing. But the report was never made public or disclosed to the City Council.

The Argus Leader reports that council members two weeks ago called for a third-party review of the paneling, and City Hall signed off on the move Tuesday. The consultant also will be asked to review the air and moisture barrier system behind the metal wall panel system.

The cost of the study isn't known.

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

## **South Carolina agency wants nuclear cost customer refunds**

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A state agency wants regulators to outline plans to give customers most of the money South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. expects in compensation for its failed nuclear reactor project.

The State newspaper reported the Office of Regulatory Staff filed a request Tuesday with the Public Service Commission asking the panel to decide the best way for ratepayers to be paid.

The money could be returned by reducing monthly bills or giving direct rebates.

SCE&G's parent company, SCANA, expects nearly \$1 billion from Toshiba, parent company of Westinghouse, whose bankruptcy this year resulted in abandonment of work on two Fairfield County reactors.

SCE&G customers have paid nearly \$2 billion for the reactors.

SCANA spokesman Eric Boomhower has said money from Toshiba would be used to offset the project's costs.

Information from: The State, <http://www.thestate.com>

## **Driver who killed 3 cited for careless driving**

ALCESTER, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has cited the driver who crashed into a nursing home in Alcester killing three people and injuring five others in July.

Eighty-one-year-old Patricia Berg is charged with careless driving. Berg pulled into the Alcester Care and

Rehab Center and stepped on the gas instead of the brakes causing her car to strike residents and staff who were outside for a physical therapy session.

Union County State's Attorney Jerry Miller tells the Argus Leader Berg is scheduled to appear in magistrate court in Elk Point on Oct. 26. The misdemeanor charge is punishable by 30 days in jail, a \$500 fine or both.

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

## Spain ready to revoke Catalan autonomy amid independence bid

By ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spain's government on Thursday immediately rejected a threat by Catalonia's leader to declare independence unless talks are held, calling a special Cabinet session for the weekend to activate measures to take control of the region's semi-autonomous powers.

Catalan president Carles Puigdemont's warning came in a letter to Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy with minutes to spare before the expiration of a deadline set by the central government for him to back-track on his calls for secession.

"If the central government persists in impeding dialogue and continuing its repression, Catalonia's parliament may proceed ... with a vote to formally declare independence," Puigdemont's letter said.

Spain's government quickly responded with a statement saying it was calling a special Cabinet session for Saturday in which it would trigger the process to activate Article 155 of Spain's 1978 Constitution. It allows for central authorities to take over the semi-autonomous powers of any of the country's 17 regions, including Catalonia.

The Cabinet meeting will "approve the measures that will be sent to the Senate to protect the general interest of all Spaniards," the statement said.

The constitutional law has never been used in the four decades since democracy was restored at the end of Gen. Francisco Franco's dictatorship.

Spain's government needs to outline what are the exact measures it wants to apply in Catalonia and submit them for a vote in Spain's Senate.

The ruling Popular Party's majority in the top chamber would be enough to approve the measure, but Rajoy has held discussions with opposition leaders to rally further support.

The government was meeting Thursday morning with members of the leading opposition Socialist party to decide what measures to take under Article 155.

Puigdemont addressed the regional parliament on Oct. 10, saying he had the mandate under a banned Oct. 1 referendum to declare independence from Spain. But he immediately suspended the implementation of the secession proclamation and called for talks with Spain and international mediators.

But Spain's government responded by setting two deadlines for Puigdemont — a Monday one for him to say a simple "yes" or "no" to whether he indeed had declared independence or not, and a second one for Thursday morning for him to fall in line with Spain's laws.

Spain's government says that Puigdemont hasn't offered any clarity in his replies.

Catalans would consider the application of Article 155 an "invasion" of the region's self-government, while Spain's central authorities have portrayed it as an undesired move, yet a necessary one, to restore legality after Puigdemont's government pushed ahead with a banned referendum that violated the country's constitution.

More than 40 percent of Catalonia's 5.5 million eligible voters cast ballots in the illegal Oct. 1 referendum as police used violence to try to enforce a court order to stop it from going ahead. Opponents boycotted the vote.

Catalan officials say that hundreds of people were injured in police violence, while Spanish authorities say hundreds of police officers were also hurt and the use of force was proportional to the resistance they met.

The separatists declared an overwhelming victory despite the boycott by opponents, who said it was illegal and lacked basic guarantees such as an independent electoral board.



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Spain's government had said it would be willing to hold off on applying Article 155 if the Catalan separatist leader were to call a snap regional election. But Catalan officials have ruled that out.

The Catalan government's international affairs director, Raul Romeva, told reporters in Brussels on Wednesday that Catalonia's banned secession referendum gave the region's separatist government a mandate to declare independence from Spain.

Andrew Dowling, an expert in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said that any declaration of independence in the Catalan parliament would be symbolic without border and institutional control and no international support.

Such a declaration "will see the fracture between hardliners and the pragmatic people in Catalonia who are already seeing an economic fallout," Dowling said.

More than 700 companies, including Catalan banks, multinationals and mid-size businesses, have moved their registered addresses out of the troubled region because of concerns about the region's legal status, according to Spain's Association of Commercial Registers. While it doesn't affect jobs, the firms could delay investments if the standoff continues.

Civil society groups who have drawn hundreds of thousands to the streets in peaceful pro-independence demonstrations over the past few years are calling for new protests Thursday at the gates of the central government's office in Barcelona and a bigger march later this week.

Ciaran Giles reported from Madrid. Frank Griffiths contributed to this report from London.

## 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. TOURISTS NOW QUESTIONING INVISIBLE ATTACKS IN CUBA

Chris Allen, visiting Havana from South Carolina, tells the AP exclusively he had similar neurological symptoms as a U.S. government worker when Allen stayed at the same hotel two years earlier.

### 2. TRUMP'S REMARKS ON KELLY'S SON CONTRAST WITH MESSY BRAWL THIS WEEK

The president's political firefight over his role as consoler-in-chief is a remarkable contrast with his solemn Memorial Day tribute to U.S. personnel lost to war.

### 3. AS CATALAN DEADLINE PASSES, MADRID TAKES ACTION

Spain will hold a special Cabinet meeting on Saturday to trigger the process to take some or full control of Catalonia's semi-autonomous powers.

### 4. WHY TRUMP IS AN ERRATIC TRADING PARTNER

The president often kicks thorny policy issues to Congress and then sends conflicting signals about what he really wants.

### 5. SWEEPING MULTISTATE MANHUNT ENDS

Police say they chased down on foot Radee Prince, 37, accused of shooting five co-workers at a granite company in Maryland, killing three.

### 6. UNCERTAINTY AS MIDDLE EAST DEFEATS MILITANTS IN RAQQA

The downfall of the Islamic State group could open up cracks in temporary alliances created to fight the extremists, and rivalries for influence are now likely to take center stage.

### 7. JIHADIST AMBUSH ON US FORCES SHOWS NEW DANGER IN SAHEL

Authorities believe the attack in Niger was carried out by a group that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

### 8. WHAT PHILIPPINE CITY IS IN RUINS FROM MILITANT SIEGE

A five-monthlong assault of Marawi reveals a devastated southern city with smoke smoldering from damaged houses.

### 9. DODGERS HAVE TO PUT BROOMS AWAY

Javier Baez snaps a long batting slump with two home runs and the Chicago Cubs avoid a sweep, hold-

ing off Los Angeles 3-2 in Game 4 of the NLCS.

## 10. COUNTRY STARS SHAKE UP AWARDS SHOW

Jason Aldean and other musicians honor the victims of a mass shooting in Las Vegas instead of accepting trophies at the CMT Artists of the Year show.

## As US warns of Cuba attacks, tourists ask: Were we hit, too?

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Chris Allen's phone started buzzing as word broke that invisible attacks in Cuba had hit a U.S. government worker at Havana's Hotel Capri. Allen's friends and family had heard an eerily similar story from him before.

The tourist from South Carolina had cut short his trip to Cuba two years earlier after numbness spread through all four of his limbs within minutes of climbing into bed at the same hotel where the American government workers were housed. Those weren't the only parallels. Convinced the incidents must be related, Allen joined a growing list of private U.S. citizens asking the same alarming but unanswerable question: Were we victims, too?

It may be that Allen's unexplained illness, which lingered for months and bewildered a half-dozen neurologists in the United States, bears no connection to whatever has harmed at least 22 American diplomats, intelligence agents and their spouses over the last year. But for Cuba and the U.S., it matters all the same.

It's cases like Allen's that illustrate the essential paradox of Havana's mystery: If you can't say what the attacks are, how can you say what they're not?

With no answers about the weapon, culprit or motive, the U.S. and Cuba have been unable to prevent the attacks from becoming a runaway crisis. As the United States warns its citizens to stay away from Cuba, there are signs that spring breakers, adventure-seekers and retirees already are reconsidering trips to the island. After years of cautious progress, U.S.-Cuban relations are now at risk of collapsing entirely.

That delicate rapprochement hadn't even started to take hold in April 2014 when Allen felt numbness overtake his body on his first night in the Havana hotel.

"It was so noticeable and it happened so quickly that it was all I could focus on and it really, really frightened me," said Allen, a 37-year-old who works in finance.

The Associated Press reviewed more than 30 pages of Allen's medical records, lab results, travel agency records and contemporaneous emails, some sent from Havana. They tell the story of an American tourist who fell ill under baffling circumstances in the Cuban capital, left abruptly, then spent months and thousands of dollars undergoing medical tests as his symptoms continued to recur.

One troubling fact is true for tourists and embassy workers alike: There's no test to definitively say who was attacked with a mysterious, unseen weapon and whose symptoms might be entirely unrelated. The United States hasn't disclosed what criteria prove its assertion that 22 embassy workers and their spouses are "medically confirmed" victims.

So it's no surprise that even the U.S. government has struggled to sort through confusing signs of possible attacks, odd symptoms, and incidents that could easily be interpreted as coincidences.

The AP has learned that an FBI agent sent down to Cuba this year was alarmed enough by an unexplained sound in his hotel that he sought medical testing to see whether he was the latest victim of what some U.S. officials suspect are "sonic attacks." Whether the FBI agent was really affected is disputed.

But there's no dispute that a U.S. government doctor was hit in Havana, half a dozen U.S. officials said.

Dispatched to the island earlier this year to test and treat Americans at the embassy, the physician became the latest victim himself. How badly he was hurt varies from telling to telling. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the sensitive investigation. The FBI and the State Department declined to comment.

While the U.S. hasn't blamed anyone for perpetrating the attacks, President Donald Trump said this week he holds Cuba "responsible."

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Cuba's government, which declined to comment for this story, vehemently denies involvement or knowledge of the attacks. Miguel Diaz-Canel, Cuba's first vice president and presumably its next leader, last week called the allegations "bizarre nonsense without the slightest evidence, with the perverse intention of discrediting Cuba's impeccable behavior."

When Allen visited Havana three years ago, the sicknesses and political drama were all still in the distant future.

After spending his first day walking the city, he checked into room 1414 of the recently refurbished Hotel Capri. Within minutes of going to bed, he started losing feeling.

The tingling originated in his toes, like that prickly feeling when your foot falls asleep. It spread into his ankles and calves, then to his fingertips. He got up to investigate, and the sensation went away. He got back in bed. The tingling returned, reaching his hands, forearms, ears, cheek and neck.

Allen assumed he'd never identify the cause of all his trouble. Then in September, the AP revealed the hotel where he stayed was the site of other puzzling events — later declared "attacks" by U.S. officials — that left embassy staffers with their own set of varying and seemingly inscrutable symptoms.

"I wanted to waive a flag and be like, I know this, I know what it is like to stay there and have something weird happen to your body and not be able to explain it," Allen said in an hour-long interview in his office in Charleston.

While the State Department says it's not aware of any tourists being attacked, it has given credence to the notion that the unidentifiable danger could potentially ensnare any American who sets foot on the island. Its extraordinary warnings last month noted that assaults have occurred at popular tourist hotels, including the Capri, and that the U.S. is no position to guarantee anyone's safety.

Among the hundreds of thousands of Americans who've thronged to Cuba in recent years, Allen isn't the only tourist who believes he was attacked.

The State Department has received reports of several citizens who visited Cuba and say they've developed symptoms similar to what embassy victims experienced. The government says it can't verify their accounts, but hasn't indicated it's trying hard to do so. Asked if anyone is investigating such reports, the State Department said its advice to concerned tourists is to "consult a medical professional."

Since the AP began reporting on the Cuba attacks, roughly three dozen American citizens have contacted the news agency to say they believe they may have been affected by the same or related phenomena. The AP has not published those accounts, because closer examination gave ample reason to doubt their situations were connected.

Allen's case is different.

He stayed on the 14th floor of the same Havana hotel where U.S. government workers have been attacked, including on an upper floor. He described sudden-onset symptoms that began in his hotel bed, but disappeared in other parts of the room — similar to accounts given by U.S. government workers who described attacks narrowly confined to just parts of rooms. They also spoke of being hit at night, in bed.

And medical records show Allen conveyed consistent, detailed descriptions of what he experienced to at least six physicians — almost two years before the public knew anything about the attacks.

Still, other parts of Allen's story don't neatly align with what embassy workers have reported.

The U.S. has said the attacks started in 2016, two years after Allen's Cuba visit.

His primary complaints of numbness and tingling aren't known to have been reported by the government victims, though their symptoms, too, have varied widely and included many neurological problems.

Allen also didn't recount hearing the blaring, agonizing sound — a recording of which the AP published last week — that led investigators to suspect a sonic weapon. Then again, neither did many of the 22 "medically confirmed" government victims.

When Allen traveled to Havana for a long weekend of sightseeing, Americans were still prohibited from visiting under U.S. travel restrictions that were later eased. He booked flights through Mexico using a Canadian travel company that specifically recommended he stay at Capri, travel records show.

Whatever happened on his first night in Havana, it came back the next evening. Again the numbness set in within minutes of getting into bed, this time stronger and in more parts of his body. It didn't go away.

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So the next morning Allen rushed to the airport and took the first available flight off the island.

But the numbness stayed with him to varying degrees for six months. In that time, he saw an urgent care doctor, then his family physician, and then one neurologist after another at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Every time the numbness seemed to ease, it would return without explanation. Specialists performed nerve conduction tests, full blood workups, exams to check muscle function, a CT of the head, an MRI of the spine, a sonogram of the heart. Doctors considered infections, tumors, the temporarily paralyzing Guillain-Barre syndrome, poisoning from heavy metal contamination and even ciguatoxin, contained in some Caribbean fish.

"When you have these vague symptoms, sometimes all you can do is prove what it's not," said Dr. George Durst, Allen's longtime physician. "No one's smart enough to figure out what it was."

Durst said Allen was right to be worried and didn't imagine his symptoms. He said Allen's loss of sensation on both sides of the body ruled out peripheral nerve damage, suggesting the problem was in his central nervous system instead.

Outside medical experts say it's difficult if not impossible to determine whether different symptoms experienced by different individuals in Cuba are causally connected. The U.S. has declined to say what criteria separate the medically confirmed victims from others who've reported concerns or symptoms.

"I am sure that between April 2014 and October 2017 there must have been a very large number of people who were in Cuba and who were affected by various symptoms. But that's not unusual," said Mario Svirsky, who teaches neuroscience at New York University School of Medicine.

If Allen was targeted by anyone, it's not clear why.

He would have been one of the first Americans to come through Hotel Capri after a major renovation. The iconic high-rise, known as a flashy mobster hangout before Cuba's 1959 revolution, had re-opened a few months earlier under a partnership between Cuba's state-run tourism company and a Spanish hotel chain. Hotel spokespeople declined to comment for this story.

To an outsider, Allen could have looked like a U.S. government agent, potentially even a spy.

A clean-cut 33-year-old at the time, he had worked for years in Republican politics, including on former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman's 2012 presidential campaign. He also performed "advance" work in George W. Bush's administration that involved setting up logistics for official trips, a contract job that meant he briefly had an official passport.

Allen approached the AP after it reported on the Capri attacks to ask how he could contact investigators to volunteer information. He agreed to tell his story publicly once it became clear the U.S. government was not actively looking into cases of potentially affected tourists. Allen said he was uninterested in publicity, and declined AP's requests to be photographed and to tell his story on camera.

The harrowing symptoms aside, Allen said he doesn't regret visiting Cuba. Eight months after his trip, as former President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced they would restore diplomatic relations, Allen took to Instagram to reflect on "a few wonderful days wandering the streets and photographing the people of Havana."

"If the latest news makes it easier for you to visit, I encourage all of you to do so sooner than later," he wrote.

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AP Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard and news researcher Monika Mathur contributed to this report along with Matthew Lee and Bradley Klapper in Washington.

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Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>. Follow the AP's coverage of the Cuba attacks at <http://apnews.com/tag/CubaHealthMystery>.

## 5 months of Marawi siege reveals Philippine city in ruins

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MARAWI, Philippines (AP) — Smoke wafted from the smoldering carcasses of buildings and houses, with the dome of a mosque blasted out with holes, as Philippine troops battled Thursday to defeat a final stand by the last dozens of pro-Islamic State group militants in a southern city.

The desolate war scene, which was witnessed by Associated Press journalists on board a navy patrol gunboat in Lake Lanao, could herald what the government hopes will be the end of a nearly five-month siege by the militants in Marawi city.

Filipino troops killed 13 more suspected militants Wednesday night, including one believed to be a top Malaysian terror suspect although his body hasn't been recovered yet, military officials said.

"Our troops are continuing their assault," army Col. Romeo Brawner said after his news conference in Marawi was disrupted by loud explosions reverberating from the final area of battle, about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) away. About 20 to 30 militants continue to fight back, he said.

While troops pressed their assault with artillery and gunfire, officers used loudspeakers to ask the militants, many of them positioned in a bullet-pocked two-story building, to surrender. The building stands on a pier by the lake near a huge gunfire-scarred welcome sign that says "I (love) Marawi."

Sporadic fighting continued even after President Rodrigo Duterte visited the Islamic city on Tuesday and announced its liberation, sparking hopes that hundreds of thousands of residents could begin returning home. The speed of their return, however, will depend on how quickly the city is declared safe of militants and rebuilt.

Volunteers and displaced residents have begun a government-led cleanup in neighborhoods that were declared safe. Power has been restored in more than half of the lakeside city, along with water supply, officials said.

On Monday, the defense secretary and military chief of staff announced that two of the last leaders of the siege — Isnilon Hapilon, who is one of the FBI's most-wanted terror suspects, and Omarkhayam Maute — were killed in a gunbattle.

Their deaths were the turning point that partly convinced the president he could declare Marawi liberated from the gunmen, Brawner told the AP.

Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Malaysian Mahmud bin Ahmad was believed among 13 militants killed overnight and another seven in the morning. Six soldiers were slightly wounded in the fighting.

Two civilian hostages — a mother and her teenage daughter — were also rescued, Padilla said.

The information about Mahmud was based on what the rescued mother and daughter told the military, Padilla said.

Mahmud, who uses nom de guerre Abu Handzalah, is a close associate of Hapilon. Military officials said he had linked up Hapilon with the Islamic State group and provided funding to bankroll the siege of Marawi.

Padilla said troops discovered that there may be more militant fighters remaining in a small battle area than earlier estimated.

Marawi, a mosque-studded center of Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, has been devastated by the siege by the militants who waved IS-style black flags and hung them on buildings they had occupied in Marawi's business district and outlying areas, according to the military.

The insurrection prompted the military to launch a ground offensive and airstrikes, with the United States and Australia later backing the troops by deploying surveillance aircraft. Duterte declared martial law across the south, the homeland of minority Muslims and the scene of a decades-old separatist rebellion, to deal with the uprising and prevent other insurgents from waging attacks elsewhere and reinforcing the fighters in Marawi.

The surprise occupation of the city and the involvement of foreign fighters set off alarms in Southeast Asia. Analysts said parts of the southern Philippines were at risk of becoming a new base for IS as it lost territory to international forces in Iraq and Syria.

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Some of the residents who returned to Marawi for the cleanup Thursday became emotional after seeing their devastated city and homes. Esnairah Macabunar saw weeds growing around her two-story house but became more stunned when she went inside and realized her home had been ransacked.

"Everything was stolen in my house," she said. "I am still shaken because I cannot accept what happened, my whole life savings are gone."

Associated Press writer Teresa Cerojano in Manila contributed to this report.

## Trump remarks on Kelly contrast with quiet tribute to son

By LAURIE KELLMAN and ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's known as some of the saddest ground in America, a 14-acre plot of Arlington National Cemetery called Section 60 where many U.S. personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are interred. On Memorial Day this year, President Donald Trump and the man who would be his chief of staff visited Grave 9480, the final resting place of Robert Kelly, a Marine killed Nov. 9, 2010, in Afghanistan.

"We grieve with you. We honor you. And we pledge to you that we will always remember Robert and what he did for all of us," Trump said, singling out the Kelly family during his remarks to the nation that day. Turning to Robert's father, then the secretary of homeland security, Trump added, "Thank you, John."

The quiet tribute contrasts with Trump's messy brawl this week with critics of his handling of condolences to Gold Star families who, like Kelly, have lost people to recent warfare. Trump brought up the loss of Kelly's son as part of an attack on former President Barack Obama, dragging the family's searing loss into a political fight over who has consoled grieving families better. Kelly has not commented on the controversy, but it was exactly the sort of public attention to a personal tragedy that the reserved, retired Marine general would abhor.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders acknowledged Kelly was "disgusted" that the condolence calls had been politicized, but said she was not certain if the chief of staff knew Trump was going to talk about his son publicly.

Trump sparked the controversy during an interview Tuesday with Fox News Radio. Asked whether he'd called the families of Americans killed in Niger nearly two weeks before, Trump replied, "You could ask Gen. Kelly, did he get a call from Obama?"

The remark set many in the military community seething. Kelly is the most senior U.S. military officer to lose a child in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"I would be surprised if he comes in and starts allowing people to use his family as a tool," said Charles C. Krulak, a former Marine Corps commandant who has known John Kelly since the mid-1990s.

There was a sense among some that Trump's words were not an appropriate part of the national political dialogue.

"If there is one sacred ground in politics it should be the ultimate sacrifices made by our military," wrote Chuck Hagel, a defense secretary under Obama and before that, a Republican U.S. senator. In an email to The Associated Press, Hagel added: "To use General Kelly and his family in this disgusting political way is sickening and beneath every shred of decency of presidential leadership."

Trump has had a fraught relationship with grieving Gold Star families since the 2016 campaign, when he feuded with the parents of slain Army Capt. Humayun Khan, who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

Now the commander in chief, Trump ranked himself above his predecessors on such matters, insisting this week that he's "called every family of someone who's died," while past presidents didn't place such calls. But The Associated Press found relatives of soldiers who died overseas during Trump's presidency who said they never received calls from him, and more who said they did not receive letters.

As for whether Obama called Kelly, White House officials said later that Obama did not call Kelly, but White House visitor logs show that Kelly and his wife attended the Obamas' lunch with Gold Star families.

The public controversy has to have been painful for Kelly, whose son had been awarded the Purple Heart. The White House chief of staff is a military veteran of more than four decades who has rarely discussed

his son's death and refused to politicize it.

Robert Kelly, 29, was killed when he stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan's remote Helmand province. His father, aware that Robert Kelly accompanied almost every patrol with his men through mine-filled battlefields, had just days before warned the family of the potential danger, according to a report in The Washington Post. When Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. rang the elder Kelly's doorbell at 6:10 a.m. on November 9, 2010, John Kelly knew Robert was dead, according to the report.

Four days later, the grieving father with the four-decade military career asked a Marine Corps officer not to mention Robert's death during an event in St. Louis. There, without mentioning Robert, John Kelly delivered an impassioned speech about the disconnect between military personnel and members of American society who do not support their mission.

"Their struggle is your struggle," Kelly said.

"We are only one of 5,500 American families who have suffered the loss of a child in this war," Kelly wrote to The Post in an e-mail. "The death of my boy simply cannot be made to seem any more tragic than the others."

In March 2011, Kelly accompanied his boss, Defense Secretary Bob Gates, on a visit to the Sangin district, in Helmand province — the scene of some of the most intense fighting of the war and where Robert Kelly had been killed.

As Gates' senior military assistant, Kelly stood silently among young Marines gathering under a harsh sun as Gates applauded what they had accomplished.

"Your success, obviously, has come at an extraordinary price," Gates said without mentioning names.

Ahead of Trump and Kelly's visit to Robert's grave on Memorial Day, Kelly's voice caught when he was asked on Fox & Friends to describe his son.

"He's the finest man I ever knew," Kelly said. Asked to elaborate, Kelly struggled at first. "Just is. Finest guy. Wonderful guy. Wonderful husband, wonderful son, wonderful brother. Brave beyond all get out. His men still correspond with us. They still mourn him as we do."

Follow Kellman and Burns on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and <http://www.twitter.com/RobertBurnsAP>.

Associated Press writer Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report.

## Trump kicks issues to Congress, is erratic trading partner

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is proving to be an erratic trading partner as he kicks thorny policy issues to Congress and then sends conflicting signals about what he really wants.

His rapid backpedal on a short-term health care fix this week is the latest example to leave Republicans and Democrats alike scratching their heads.

"The president has had six positions on our bill," an exasperated Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said Wednesday after Trump offered multiple reads on a bipartisan plan to keep health insurance markets in business, ultimately ending with a thumbs-down.

Nine months into office, Trump has shown a preference for delegating to lawmakers on everything from health care to immigration to foreign policy. Sometimes he creates situations that demand a congressional solution. In other cases, he sets difficult-to-achieve broad policy goals and expects lawmakers to fill in the fine print.

Along the way, he's proven to be an unpredictable force. He encouraged Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee to work with Murray on a bipartisan solution on insurer payments, only to announce after some wavering that he wouldn't support it.

The results speak for themselves: Despite controlling both chambers of Congress and the White House, Republicans have achieved no major legislative successes this year. Their efforts on health care have ended

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in failure, leaving tax overhaul legislation as their only hope for a major win. But despite a self-imposed year-end deadline, they've made only modest progress on that issue.

Some Republicans on Capitol Hill have grown resentful — and they're looking ahead to 2018 midterm elections with apprehension.

But most shy from offering public criticism, arguing that the president is simply looking to Congress to do its job and pass legislation. If the work is piling up, they say, it's because former President Barack Obama took executive steps that were actually in Congress' domain, and now Trump needs congressional help to unwind them.

They point to immigration, where Obama acted unilaterally to extend protections to immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children, and the Iran nuclear deal, where Trump's decision not to certify Iran's compliance kicks the future of U.S. participation to Congress.

"Look, our job is our job and it's our responsibility, it's our job to get this done," said Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. "I'm not going to try to lay the blame at somebody else."

Trump doesn't have any such hesitation to assign blame elsewhere.

"I have great relationships with actually many senators, but in particular with most Republican senators. But we're not getting the job done," he said this week. "And I'm not going to blame myself, I'll be honest. They are not getting the job done."

Trump's unpredictability makes it hard for lawmakers to keep up with his latest positions.

"I hadn't heard that. I thought yesterday he was liking it," Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga., remarked in surprise on Wednesday when asked about Trump's opposition to the insurer payments deal Alexander crafted with Murray. Indeed, Trump had spoken favorably about the deal around midday Tuesday, only to reverse course by the time evening rolled around.

On immigration, Trump at different times in recent weeks has offered to work with Democrats to protect young immigrants for deportation, denied such a deal is in the offing and suggested he could step in and craft a fix of his own.

Trump's allies argue he is just pushing lawmakers to enact the agenda they were elected on. A newcomer to legislative politics, Trump also brings a business and showman's perspective to negotiations, relishing drama and surprise.

Critics say Trump is comfortable making Congress the fall guy.

"He sees Congress's public approval ratings lower than his. So he feels he has an advantage over Congress," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "Whenever there's a policy issue that's thorny or undoable, he boots it to Congress to figure it out.

Brinkley added: "It's the opposite of a buck-stops-here approach with Harry Truman."

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who's announced plans to retire and recently has been critical of Trump, says the president takes a different approach than past leaders.

"The more standard route is for the administration to lay out, for instance on health care, ... a series of bullet points at the minimum, or a full bill. That's typically the way things would work. So, yeah, it's a very different way of governing and I think it's one of the reasons you've seen the results to be what they are."

Democrats are more pointed. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Trump is making everyone's job harder.

"This seems to be his M.O.," Schumer said on the Senate floor. "He throws red meat to his right-wing base, whether it's on health care, immigration, Iran, disaster aid, and then he says to Congress, 'You fix it up.' That's not the way to lead. That's following."

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Associated Press Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.



## Police capture shooter they say targeted 6 people he knew

By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A sweeping multistate manhunt that kept the Mid-Atlantic region on high alert for more than 10 hours ended when law enforcement officers on foot chased down a man they say shot six people, killing three, in two separate shootings.

Radee Prince, 37, of Elkton, Maryland, shot five co-workers early Wednesday at a granite company in Maryland, then drove to Wilmington, Delaware, and shot an acquaintance in the head at a used car lot, police in Maryland and Delaware said.

Wilmington Police Chief Robert Tracy said at a news conference Wednesday night that police and federal agents arrested Prince after they spotted him in the Glasgow neighborhood. He'd left his SUV near a high school and a civilian notified authorities. Officers found him nearby, and he ran about 75 feet (23 meters), throwing away a gun, before being arrested. No one was hurt in the capture.

"I even get chills talking about it because I know what it's like when we do hunt individuals that are desperate," Tracy said.

Tracy said the attacks were targeted and Prince knew each of his victims.

"This is a person with no conscience," he said.

Police say Prince killed three colleagues at the start of the workday at Advanced Granite Solutions in Edgewood, Maryland, and seriously wounded two others. The Harford County Sheriff's Office identified the slain victims Wednesday night as Bayarsaikhan Tudev, 53, of Virginia; Jose Hidalgo Romero, 34, of Aberdeen, Maryland; and Enis Mrvoljak, 48, of Dundalk, Maryland. The wounded employees — in critical condition at a Baltimore trauma center — have not been publicly identified.

Less than two hours after his first attack, Prince drove to a used car lot about 55 miles (90 kilometers) away in Wilmington, and opened fire on a man with whom Tracy said Prince had "beefs" in the past. The man was wounded but survived and identified Prince to police.

The search for Prince clogged the Interstate 95 corridor from Maryland to Philadelphia with cruisers patrolling the highways. Officers were stationed at nearly every median cut-through between Edgewood and Wilmington. Overhead highway signs flashed Prince's Delaware license plate number and the make and model of his vehicle. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said helicopters were circling the airspace searching for any sign of the black 2008 GMC Acadia.

Although police have not disclosed a motive for Prince's shootings, his legal record painted a portrait of a man with an alleged history of workplace violence, gun charges, traffic violations and problems with his probation.

A felon with 42 arrests in Delaware, court records showed Prince had been fired from a Maryland job earlier this year after allegedly punching a co-worker. He also faced charges of being a felon in possession of a gun, was habitually late paying his rent, was repeatedly cited for traffic violations, and was ordered to undergo drug and alcohol counseling in recent years.

Earlier this year, Prince was fired from JPS Marble and Granite and scared his prior employer so badly that the man tried to get a restraining order.

At one point, his former boss Philip Sison told the court: "He came to see me, cursed and yelled at me about unemployment benefits. I felt very threatened because he is a big guy and very aggressive on me." Sison said he "didn't want to wait" until Prince became physically violent, and noted his prior gun charge as a reason for feeling particularly afraid of the man. A Harford County District Court judge denied the order, saying the case didn't meet the required burden of proof.

Prince had been a machine operator at Advanced Granite Solutions, which designs and installs granite countertops, for four months, owner Barak Caba told The Associated Press in a phone interview. He said Prince and the five people shot were all employees, but declined to offer any further details.

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Associated Press writers Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland; and Matthew Barakat in McLean, Virginia; contributed to this report.

## Under fire, Trump defends call to soldier's grieving family

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Donald Trump emphatically rejected claims Wednesday that he was disrespectful to the grieving family of a slain soldier, as the firestorm he ignited over his assertions of empathy for American service members spread into a third contentious day. "I have proof," he insisted.

The controversy over how Trump has conducted one of the most sacred of presidential tasks generated new turmoil in the White House. After one slain soldier's father accused the president of going back on a promise to send a check for \$25,000, the White House said the money had been sent.

Chief of staff John Kelly, a retired Marine general whose son was killed in Afghanistan, was left angry and frustrated at the way the issue has become politicized. The dispute was fresh evidence of Trump's willingness to attack any critic and do battle over the most sensitive of matters — and critics' readiness to find fault with his words.

The aunt of an Army sergeant killed in Niger, who raised the soldier as her son, said Wednesday that Trump had shown "disrespect" to the soldier's loved ones as he telephoned them to extend condolences as they drove to the Miami airport to receive his body. Sgt. La David Johnson was one of four American soldiers killed nearly two weeks ago; Trump called the families on Tuesday.

Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Florida Democrat who was in the car with Johnson's family, said in an interview that Trump had told the widow that "you know that this could happen when you signed up for it ... but it still hurts." He also referred to Johnson as "your guy," Wilson said, which the congresswoman found insensitive.

Cowanda Jones-Johnson, who raised the soldier from age 5 after his mother died, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the Democratic congresswoman's account was correct.

"Yes the statement is true," she said. "I was in the car and I heard the full conversation."

At the airport, widow Myeshia Johnson leaned in grief across the flag-draped coffin after a military guard received it.

"She was crying for the whole time," Wilson said. "And the worst part of it: When he hung up you know what she turned to me and said? She said he didn't even remember his name."

Trump started the storm this week when he claimed that he alone of U.S. presidents had called the families of all slain soldiers.

AP found relatives of four soldiers who died overseas during Trump's presidency who said they never received calls from him. Relatives of three also said they did not get letters.

Obama and George W. Bush — saddled with far more combat casualties than the roughly two dozen so far under Trump — did not call all those soldiers' families, either, but both did take steps to write, call or meet bereaved military families.

Chris Baldrige, the father of Army Cpl. Dillon Baldrige who was killed in June in Afghanistan, told The Washington Post that when Trump called him, he offered him \$25,000 and said he would direct his staff to establish an online fundraiser for the family. But Baldrige said it didn't happen.

The White House said Wednesday that a check has been sent. And Trump spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said it was "disgusting" that the news media were casting his "generous and sincere gesture" in a negative light.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said protocol requires that the Pentagon and White House Military Office prepare and confirm an information packet before the president contacts grieving family members, a process that can take weeks. She said Trump has made some form of contact with every family for whom he has received the appropriate information.

Trump, who tangled with a Gold Star family during last year's presidential campaign, fiercely denied Rep. Wilson's version of events. He declared on Twitter: "Democrat Congresswoman totally fabricated what I said to the wife of a soldier who died in action (and I have proof). Sad!"

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He later insisted that he "didn't say what that congresswoman said, didn't say it at all. She knows it."

In private, he bitterly complained to associates about the flare-up, believing the press was eager to paint his response in a negative light, according to two people who recently spoke to him but were not authorized to comment publicly about private conversations. His anger was echoed from the White House briefing room podium by Sanders, who said she was "appalled" by what she described as Wilson's efforts to politicize the tragedy.

"Just because the president said 'your guy' doesn't mean he doesn't know his name," said Sanders. She added that while no recordings of the conversation existed, several senior officials, including Kelly, witnessed the call and described Trump's manner as "respectful" and "very sympathetic."

Wilson did not back down from her account.

Like presidents before him, Trump has made personal contact with some families of the fallen but not all. What's different is that Trump, alone among them, has suggested he's done a better job of honoring the war dead and their families. He said Tuesday: "I think I've called every family of someone who's died" while suggesting past presidents had not.

Trump's delay in publicly discussing the lives lost in Niger does not appear to be unusual, judging from past examples, but his comments are. He went so far Tuesday as to cite the death of Kelly's son to question whether Obama had properly honored the war dead.

Kelly was a Marine general under Obama when his Marine son Robert died in 2010. "You could ask General Kelly, did he get a call from Obama?" Trump said on Fox News radio.

Sanders said Obama did not call Kelly but it was not clear if some other form of contact was made. She added that Kelly was "disgusted" the condolence calls had been politicized but said she was not certain if the chief of staff knew Trump was going to talk about his son publicly.

Two White House officials said Kelly was also frustrated that the controversy had distracted from a significant military win over the Islamic State in Raqqa, Syria.

Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who led the Pentagon for a portion of the time Kelly served as commander of U.S. Southern Command, was bitterly critical of Trump's comments.

"If there is one sacred ground in politics it should be the ultimate sacrifices made by our military," Hagel wrote in an email to the AP. "To use General Kelly and his family in this disgusting political way is sickening and beneath every shred of decency of presidential leadership. Beyond the dignity of the office."

Johnson was one of four soldiers killed in an ambush by dozens of Islamic extremists during a joint patrol by American and Niger forces, U.S. military officials say.

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Curt Anderson and Josh Repplog in Miami and Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## Cubs avoid sweep, top Dodgers 3-2 to cut NLCS deficit to 3-1

By ANDREW SELIGMAN, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Javier Baez sensed he was ready to bust out of his slump and give the Chicago Cubs the lift they needed.

As breakthroughs go, this was a big one. Just in time to keep the season going for the defending champs.

Baez snapped an 0-for-20 skid with two home runs, Wade Davis hung on for a six-out save and Cubs avoided a sweep, holding off the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Wednesday night in Game 4 of the NL Championship Series.

"We have to be much more offensive," manager Joe Maddon said. "It's got to start happening tomorrow. We're going to do this. Going to pull this off, we have to become more offensive tomorrow."

Baez finally got going with a pair of solo drives .

Jake Arrieta pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning to help the Cubs close their deficit to 3-1. Maddon got ejected for the second time in this series in the eighth, and a packed Wrigley Field crowd watched Davis get Cody Bellinger to ground into a game-ending double play.

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Maddon was heavily criticized for not using Davis during a 4-1 loss in Game 2. This time, the Cubs closer threw 48 pitches to finish the job.

Willson Contreras also homered for the Cubs. Bellinger and Justin Turner connected for the Dodgers, who had won a team-record six straight playoff games.

Game 5 is Thursday, with Jose Quintana pitching for Chicago against Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw.

"They're the world champs, and you know they're going to fight to the end," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "So today, they did. We got beat today."

Baez hit solo drives in the second and fifth after going hitless in his first 20 playoff at-bats. He had been watching videos and felt his timing was starting to come back in recent trips to the plate.

"I just need to take a step back and see what's going on," he said.

Contreras added a long homer against Alex Wood.

Davis entered with a 3-1 lead in the eighth. He gave up a leadoff homer to Turner, who went 2 for 2 and drew two walks.

Maddon became incensed that a swinging strike three against Curtis Granderson was ruled a foul after the umpires discussed the play. Maddon got tossed, and Granderson struck out swinging at the next pitch.

And after walking Yasmani Grandal to put runners on first and second, Davis struck out Chase Utley, who is hitless in his last 24 postseason at-bats.

All seven of Chicago's runs in this series have come on homers. And long drives in the second by Contreras and Baez made it 2-0.

"Great to have this win, because if not we were going home tomorrow," Baez said. "But I feel like we're still not on track as a team. But I think if we get back on track, everybody as a team, we're going to be the best again."

Contreras' 491-foot homer banged off the left-field videoboard and Baez sent a towering drive out to left.

Bellinger cut it to 2-1 with his drive to right in the third. But Baez got the lead back up to two with a shot to the left-field bleachers in the fifth, the raucous crowd chanting "Javy! Javy!" for the flashy young star who was co-MVP of the NLCS last year.

No Cubs player had hit two in a playoff game since Alex Gonzalez went deep twice in Game 2 of the 2003 NLCS against Miami.

Arrieta exited with runners on first and second in the seventh after walking Chris Taylor on a 3-2 pitch. He tipped his hat as fans gave him a standing ovation, a fitting show of appreciation for a pitcher with an expiring contract.

"Hopefully, it's not a goodbye, it's a thank you, obviously," Arrieta said. "I still intend to have another start in this ballpark. If that's where it ends, I did my best and I left it all out there."

Arrieta turns 32 in March and figures to land a huge deal in free agency. The trade that brought him from Baltimore helped fuel Chicago's rise, with the right-hander capturing the 2015 NL Cy Young Award and contributing to last year's drought-busting championship run.

Limited by a right hamstring injury in the final month of the season, he threw 111 pitches. Brian Duensing retired Bellinger on a fly to end the seventh.

Turner made it a one-run game with his homer off the left-field videoboard against Davis in the eighth.

A career-high 16-game winner, Wood gave up three runs and four hits in 42/3 innings.

"The only frustrating thing is we fell a run short," Turner said. "We played a great game, they played a great game. They just hit one more ball over the fence than we did."

FINISHING UP

Maddon said Davis would not be available on Thursday.

"So other guys got to do it," Maddon said. "We have to be much more offensive. It's got to start happening tomorrow. We're going to do this. Going to pull this off, we have to become more offensive tomorrow."

QUOTABLE

Chicago's Kyle Schwarber on all the Cubs' runs coming on homers in the series: "That's fine. A run's a run, anyway you can get them in. Obviously, we want to manufacture some runs, but we won a ballgame

3-2 hitting homers; I'll take that, too."

UP NEXT

Dodgers: The Dodgers turn to Kershaw to try to wrap up the series. The three-time NL Cy Young winner went five innings in Game 1, allowing two runs, and has a 4.76 ERA in two postseason starts this year.

Cubs: Quintana pitched five innings of two-hit ball in Game 1, one day after his wife, Michel, was taken off the team plane in Albuquerque with a medical ailment.

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

## Solace or silence? Not all families of fallen get Trump call

By CALVIN WOODWARD and TOM DAVIES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some got sympathy and solace. Some got silence. One got a promise of cash. Relatives of people who died in military service have recounted varied interactions with President Donald Trump in the difficult days and weeks after their loved one's death. Despite Trump's boast that he reaches out personally to all families of the fallen, interviews with families members did not support his claim. Some never heard from him at all, and a few who did came away more upset.

The Associated Press reached out to the families of all 43 people who have died in military service since Trump became president and made contact with about half the families. Of those who would address the question, relatives of nine said they had heard from Trump by phone or mail. Relatives of nine others said they haven't.

Several spoke of being comforted by Trump but at least one call went awry: Cowanda Jones-Johnson told the AP that Trump spoke disrespectfully of her fallen nephew, Sgt. La David Johnson, when he called family members Tuesday. Johnson was among four servicemen killed in Niger earlier this month.

Chris Baldridge of Zebulon, North Carolina, told The Washington Post that Trump promised him \$25,000 of his own money when they spoke in the summer about the loss of his son, Army Sgt. Dillon Baldridge, killed in Afghanistan, but the check never came. The White House said Wednesday, after the report, that "the check has been sent."

Others waited for calls that did not come.

After Army Sgt. Jonathon M. Hunter died in a suicide bombing attack in Afghanistan in August, his family was told to expect a call from Trump. But it didn't happen. Hunter, 23, from Columbus, Indiana, died 32 days into his first deployment since joining the Army in 2014.

Mark Hunter, his father, said a military casualty officer informed the family that Trump would call and the family was let down when he didn't.

"Disappointed that he at least didn't call and thank me for my son and our ultimate sacrifice," Hunter said. "That's all I wanted to hear. He didn't have to say nothing else. That's all I wanted to hear. From him — not the vice president."

The family spoke with Vice President Mike Pence, who grew up in the same southern Indiana city, at the ceremony honoring the return of the soldier's remains at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. So did several other families who lost loved ones in uniform.

Calling every family member isn't a presidential tradition. Trump's recent predecessors have reached out to Gold Star families through letters, private meetings and invitations. For Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, who saw far more war dead on their watch, individual phone calls would have been a time-consuming task. Still, Trump this week used his calls as evidence of his support for the military, suggesting he did more to honor the families than his predecessors.

"I think I've called every family of someone who's died," Trump said, then adding, "virtually everybody." He said it's his practice both to make phone calls and send letters.

Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders repeated the claim Wednesday, saying the president "has made contact with all of the families that have been presented to him through the White House Military Office." She did not say whether that contact necessarily meant a phone call, or only a letter, and she did

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not not address the specifics of why families of some war dead have received neither.

When someone is killed in action, a Pentagon officer notifies next of kin and sends information to the White House office that is confirmed and assembled. "Once that process is completed, the president or other members of the administration can engage in contact," she said.

That process appears to have broken down.

After Army Spc. Christopher Michael Harris, 25, of Jackson Springs, North Carolina, was killed in a suicide attack in Afghanistan in August, the White House offered to set up a call but "it fell through" and no letter came from the president, either, said his widow, Brittany Harris.

Aaron Butler, a 27-year-old guardsman from Monticello, Utah, was killed Aug. 16 at a booby-trapped building in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. His mother, Laura Butler, and family spokesman Bill Boyle said Trump has not called or sent a letter. The family is not complaining. "The family is very careful that they do not want to be pulled into a partisan slugfest," Boyle said.

Jodie Missildine's 20-year-old stepson, Alex Missildine, was killed Oct. 1 when an IED exploded near his vehicle in Ninawa Province, Iraq. He had been in Iraq for less than a month.

Jodie Missildine said the family had received an outpouring of support from Washington since receiving news of Alex's death. But when asked if Trump had been in contact, she demurred, saying, "We will not speak ill of a president who adores his troops."

In his claims, Trump made no distinction between combat and non-combat deaths. Past practice suggests that those who die fighting are more likely than military-accident victims to prompt a president to reach out personally to the family.

After U.S. Army Specialist Isiah Booker died Jan. 7 in Jordan, apparently when operating heavy construction equipment, President Barack Obama did not call. Neither did Trump after he took office that month. Chereisa Booker, of Schertz, Texas, said Trump had taken office by the time a condolence letter was processed and she and her husband received the letter. They also asked for and got one from Obama. But no calls.

Booker said "not really" when asked if she wanted to hear from Trump. But Sheila Murphy did after her son, Army Spc. Etienne J. Murphy, 22, died May 26 after an armored vehicle he was riding in rolled over in Syria.

"Because it was non-combat, I feel like maybe he thought it was an accident, it doesn't matter," Sheila Murphy said of Trump. "But my son was in Syria." She says she's waited in vain for a letter, even after writing to Trump six weeks ago to tell him she was still deeply grieving.

"I hate sunrises because I have to deal with another day that my son is not here," she told the AP Wednesday. "I welcome sunsets because I'm hoping that maybe when the sun goes down I won't have to deal with another sunrise. So sunrises are my enemy right now."

Cynthia Kimball received a letter from the president, but no call, after her Navy son John Henry Hoagland III died in the collision between the USS John S. McCain and a merchant vessel in August. "They said we could order more copies of it if we wanted," she said. "It was pretty generic. I hate to say that, because it did come from Washington and the president. But, I'm going to guess that it was the same or similar to the letter that everybody else received."

McCain, himself, though, called her and other families of the victims. He left a "really nice" phone message with his cell phone number in case she needed anything, she said. Kimball lives in Fort Benning, Georgia, and her son grew up in Cleveland, Texas.

Davies reported from Indianapolis. Associated Press writers Claudia Lauer in Dallas, Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina, Emily Schmall in Fort Worth, Texas, Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, Chris Carola in Albany, New York, Kristen de Groot in Philadelphia, Jennifer McDermott in Providence, Rhode Island, and Michelle Price in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

This story corrects that Sgt. La David Johnson was Cowanda Jones-Johnson's nephew, not her son.

## China's conflicted goals: Freer markets, more party control

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's ruling Communist Party is expanding its role in business even as it promises freer markets and support for entrepreneurs on the eve of President Xi Jinping's second five-year term as leader.

Party officials are tightening their control over state-owned enterprises and want a voice in how some foreign companies are run. State companies that dominate energy and other fields are being made even bigger through mergers. Some are forming ties with private sector success stories such as tech giants Alibaba and Tencent to draw on their skills.

Beijing's conflicting goals are raising concerns that leaders might put off changes needed to reinvigorate a cooling economy that faces surging debt and trade tensions with Washington and Europe.

"There is no grand vision. There are parallel goals that are competing with each other," said Andrew Polk, an economist at Trivium/China, a research firm in Beijing. "We are not sure which ones are going to win out at a given moment."

No major policy changes are expected out of the twice-a-decade party congress that is due to re-appoint Xi as general secretary. The party also will name a Standing Committee, the country's ruling inner circle of power, in preparation for installing a new government in early 2018.

The impact of those choices, by creating jobs and business opportunities or dragging on economic activity, will take time to filter down to ordinary Chinese.

At the opening of the congress Wednesday, Xi repeated official promises to support entrepreneurs and give market forces a "decisive role" but affirmed the dominance of state-owned industry.

"There must be no irresolution about working to consolidate and develop the public sector," said Xi in a nationally televised address.

Data released Thursday showed economic growth stayed relatively stable in the quarter ending in September, buoyed by strength in consumer spending and exports. Output rose 6.8 percent, down marginally from the previous quarter's 6.9 percent.

Investors are watching the congress for signs of where the party wants to go and how fast. A key indicator will be which posts go to Xi allies seen as reformers with the personal authority to overcome opposition from party or state industry factions that might lose influence.

One closely watched figure is Wang Qishan, a vice premier and respected problem-solver who oversaw China's response to SARS and at age 69 is obliged by party tradition to leave the seven-person Standing Committee. If he stays in a leadership post, analysts say that would suggest Xi wants his help to carry out painful changes.

Reform advocates complain that since Xi took power in 2012, the leadership has dragged its feet on fulfilling promises to tackle debt that has soared to dangerous levels, curb the dominance of state industry and give a bigger role to entrepreneurs who create China's new jobs and wealth.

Instead, Xi focused on an anti-corruption campaign and tightened political control, detained activist lawyers and stepped up internet censorship.

Foreign industry groups complain China is moving too slowly on promises to shrink state-owned steel and aluminum producers they accuse of threatening jobs by flooding global markets with low-cost exports.

"Generally speaking, there has been no major progress in economic reform," said Sheng Hong, director of the Unirule Institute, an independent economic research group in Beijing.

Regulators closed Unirule's website and social media accounts in a crackdown in January on liberal voices.

The party's internal conflict is reflected in a 2013 declaration that promised for the first time to give market forces the "decisive role" but also vowed the party would intensify its control of state industry. Private sector analysts say this appears to be aimed at rooting out corruption and waste.

This year, some foreign companies say the party, which already has cells in all enterprises and controls agencies that regulate them, is trying to expand its authority further by asking for a formal voice in commercial decisions.

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Some 32 mainland companies with shares traded in Hong Kong have proposed changes to their legal structure to make the party an adviser to their board. Financial commentators complain this might hurt shareholders.

"This is potentially a huge problem," said the German ambassador to China, Michael Clauss. "Many foreign companies are very alarmed."

Foreign companies already are frustrated by rules that give them little access to industries such as finance and technology, plans they say might limit their role in promising fields such as electric cars. That pessimism helped lead to a 1.2 percent decline in investment into China in the first seven months of this year, breaking a series of annual double-digit gains.

A business leader in Wenzhou, a southeastern city known as a hotbed of private sector activity, welcomed Xi's pledge to do more to help entrepreneurs.

"If private enterprises succeed, China's economy succeeds," said Zhou Dwen, president of the city's Association for Promotion of Development of Small and Medium-sized Companies.

Beijing is pushing entrepreneurs to support state-owned enterprises, or SOEs.

The party pledged in a Sept. 25 declaration to promote "entrepreneurial spirit" while also urging entrepreneurs to learn "socialist core values."

In August, one of the country's three major state-owned phone carriers, China Unicom Ltd., sold an \$11.7 billion stake to private investors including Alibaba Group, the biggest global e-commerce company by sales volume; Tencent Holdings Ltd., which operates the popular WeChat social media platform, and internet search giant Baidu Inc. There was no indication they would get any voice in management.

In September, Tencent paid \$366 million for 5 percent of state-owned investment bank China International Capital Corp. CICC gets access to Tencent's marketing and other skills, but the private company gained no management control.

Other state companies have announced similar plans to bring in private shareholders.

Meanwhile, authorities are discussing taking a direct state ownership stake in Alibaba and Tencent, The Wall Street Journal reported this month, citing unidentified sources.

"Supposed reforms in state-own companies such as 'mixed ownership' can never be called a reform," said Sheng. "Setting up party committees in companies not only is not a reform, but is a step backward."

In August, the government announced the merger of Shenhua Group, the world's biggest coal producer, and Guodian Group, a major power supplier, to form the world's biggest utility by assets.

"They are being quite clear that they want bigger, bolder, better SOEs, with not just state but party leadership," said Polk.

The pressure for action is building.

Economic growth has been propped up this year by a lending boom and government stimulus, but that sets back official efforts to build a consumer-driven economy.

Forecasters expect growth to cool as regulators tighten lending controls to rein in debt that has risen to the equivalent of 260 percent of annual economic output — unusually high for a developing country.

"Strains within the country's banking sector are already glaringly evident," the Economist Intelligence Unit said in a report.

AP researcher Yu Bing contributed.

## US-backed Syrian forces clear Raqqa after driving out IS

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-backed Syrian forces were removing land mines and clearing roads in the northern city of Raqqa on Wednesday, a day after commanders said they had driven the Islamic State group from its de facto capital.

Mustafa Bali, spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, said preparations were underway for a formal declaration of the city's liberation.



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The SDF said Tuesday that military operations in Raqqa have ended and that their troops have taken full control of the city. The U.S.-led coalition cautioned that the clearing operations would continue, saying some 100 militants may still be hiding in the city.

On Wednesday, the spokesman for the coalition, Col. Ryan Dillon, tweeted that 95 percent of the city is now under full control as clearing operations continue.

The coalition stressed that the SDF has been successful in holding onto captured territory because of its thorough clearing procedures, which prevent counterattacks.

Brett McGurk, the top U.S. envoy for the coalition, said he was in northern Syria to prepare for the defeat of the militants. He said the United States will help in clearing explosives as well as restoring services in the city.

McGurk posted a photograph Wednesday of surrendering IS militants, saying: "Once purported as fierce, now pathetic and a lost cause." He said IS lost nearly 6,000 militants in Raqqa before surrendering in large numbers.

The White House said the imminent liberation of the Islamic State stronghold of Raqqa will open a new phase in the Syrian conflict. Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders blamed the Syrian government for hindering previous efforts to free Raqqa.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the latest developments in Syria "point once again to the urgent need to reinvigorate the political process," according to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric. He said Guterres had directed the U.N. special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, to intensify efforts to reconvene the next round of peace talks between the government and opposition.

Aid and charity organizations have warned of the high cost borne by civilians.

In the neighboring Deir el-Zour province, where the SDF and Russian-backed Syrian troops are waging separate offensives against the militants, nearly half a million civilians remain trapped by the fighting, the International Rescue Committee said late Tuesday.

The U.N. refugee agency said that in the last few days, around 40,000 Raqqa residents arrived in already overcrowded displacement camps in the province, warning of the danger of land mines and unexploded ordnance.

The fall of Raqqa marks a major defeat for the extremist group, which has seen its self-styled Islamic caliphate steadily shrink since summer. IS took over Raqqa, located on the Euphrates River, in 2014 and transformed it into the epicenter of its brutal rule.

The group still holds territory to the south of Raqqa and in Deir el-Zour, as well as smaller pockets elsewhere in Syria and Iraq.

On Wednesday, fierce clashes were reported between the SDF and IS militants in the group's last strip of land in Hassakeh province, to the east of Raqqa. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported intense clashes between forces allied with the Syrian government and IS militants.

A media outlet affiliated with the Syrian military said a senior commander who led the fight against IS in Deir el-Zour was killed Wednesday in operations against the group.

The Central Military Media described Brig. Gen. Issam Zahreddine, 56, as one of the most important field commanders in the Syrian army, saying he was instrumental in breaking a nearly three-year IS siege on the city of Deir el-Zour earlier this year. The Lebanese Al-Manar TV, which is close to the Syrian government, said a land mine killed him.

Zahreddine maintained a government presence in Deir el-Zour despite the prolonged siege on his forces. The siege was breached in September in a Russian-backed offensive, and the government and allied troops have since retaken most of the city.

Zahreddine also led government offensives against armed opposition in the central Homs province and near the capital, Damascus, in the earlier days of the Syrian conflict.

In comments widely played after Deir el-Zour's siege was breached, Zahreddine warned those who fled the country not to return because the army "will never forget or forgive." He later apologized on state TV.

## Country stars honor shooting victims at CMT Artists show

By KRISTIN M. HALL, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Singer Jason Aldean and other stars honored victims of a mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas instead of accepting awards at the CMT Artists of the Year show Wednesday night.

The format of the show pivoted to focus on victims of the shooting, as well as those recovering from hurricanes and wildfires, with a night of somber tributes, inspirational anthems and voices lifted in harmony.

Aldean, who was on stage at the Route 91 Harvest Festival when the shooting occurred Oct. 1, stood side-by-side with the night's other award winners, including Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, Chris Stapleton and Keith Urban, to dedicate the night to music fans. The honorees did not accept awards or give speeches as usual, but some chose to perform or other musicians performed in their honor.

"We've been tested beyond our worst nightmare these past few months," Aldean said during the live broadcast from Nashville, Tennessee. "Heartbroken doesn't even begin to describe how some of us feel. But we have proven time and again in this country that we have the power to overcome anything that threatens our way of life, or our freedom. We dedicate this night to you and everyone who has experienced loss or tragedy in the last few months."

Aldean closed out the night with a defiant and rollicking group performance of "I Won't Back Down" by Tom Petty with Urban, Stapleton and Little Big Town.

Andra Day kicked off the awards show with her anthem "Rise Up," in a beautiful harmony duet by Little Big Town. Then Lee Ann Womack, Danielle Bradbury and rapper Common joined them for a performance of "Stand Up For Something."

"On this night when we usually celebrate a year of music, we also want to celebrate a year of incredible human spirit, the spirit we see in our fans every night," Stapleton said.

"So in some small way we want to thank you for your resolve and perhaps lift your spirits for just a moment," Urban said.

The names of the 58 victims from Las Vegas were listed during an in memoriam segment, along with the names of Petty, Gregg Allman, Glen Campbell, Don Williams and Troy Gentry.

Other performances including Bryan singing his single "Fast," and Stapleton singing his song "Broken Halos," a song that he's dedicated to victims of the Vegas shooting.

The Backstreet Boys sang Florida Georgia Line's emotional ballad "H.O.L.Y." and Keith Urban performed a jazzy version of his song "Blue Ain't Your Color."

Phillip Phillips added some blues licks to Sam Hunt's mega hit "Body Like a Back Road," which was named song of the year by CMT.

Near the end of the night, Bryan took a moment to honor his friend Aldean.

"It could have been any one of us standing on that stage two weeks ago," Bryan said. "It's a nightmare that nobody should have to face. Jason has responded with dignity, care, respect and, some ways, defiance. And we all proud of him, especially me."

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Online: <http://www.cmt.com/artists-of-the-year>

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Follow Kristin Hall at [Twitter.com/kmhall](https://twitter.com/kmhall)

## Tanaka, Yankees top Keuchel, Astros 5-0 for 3-2 lead in ALCS

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This time, it was Masahiro Tanaka who was untouchable on the mound.

And when the New York Yankees sent Houston ace Dallas Keuchel to an early exit, their rollicking crowd let loose with a cathartic roar that must have boomed all over the Bronx.

"New York is no joke," Keuchel said afterward.

One more big win, and these Yankees are World Series-bound.

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Tanaka pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and New York finally solved a longtime nemesis at just the right moment, beating Keuchel and the Astros 5-0 on Wednesday for a 3-2 lead in the AL Championship Series.

"What a performance," Yankees third baseman Todd Frazier said about Tanaka. "Just gutsy."

Gary Sanchez hit an RBI single off Keuchel and later homered to help the wild-card Yankees win for the third straight day at home, moving them within one victory of their first pennant since 2009 and record 41st overall.

The teams head back to Houston for Game 6 on Friday night, when Justin Verlander and the reeling Astros will try to regain their footing following an off day and force a decisive Game 7. Luis Severino is scheduled to start for New York.

To take the series, the Yankees knew they needed to win at least one game started by Keuchel or Verlander, both Cy Young Award winners. Now they've done that — and they don't want to let Houston back up.

"Don't wake that sleeping dog. So we've got to just keep on rolling," Frazier said. "They're going to be ready to go. We know that."

Houston arrived up two games to none and appeared to be closing in on its second World Series appearance. But the Astros, like defending AL champion Cleveland before them, have been unable to put away these poised Yankees, who improved to 6-0 at home this postseason in front of their cheering, chanting fans.

New York has won 19 of its past 22 games at Yankee Stadium.

"It's been unbelievable. I haven't seen anything like it in Major League Baseball," veteran Chase Headley said. "Reminds me of college football games. They're going crazy the entire game. It's a huge advantage for us."

Aaron Judge, Greg Bird and Didi Gregorius also delivered big hits as New York chased Keuchel in the fifth and handed him his first postseason loss.

Keuchel had been Yankees kryptonite, entering 6-2 with a 1.09 ERA in eight career starts against New York — including a pair of scoreless outings in playoff wins.

Both of those came at the expense of Tanaka, who lost 3-0 to Keuchel in the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium and 2-1 in Game 1 of this series. The ace lefty with the long, bushy beard entered 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 26 2/3 postseason innings overall.

But this night belonged to Tanaka and the Baby Bombers.

New York finally broke through against Keuchel with two outs in the second, when Starlin Castro doubled and scored on Greg Bird's sharp single. The sellout crowd of 49,647 almost sounded surprised by the hit — big enough for Bird to flash both thumbs down, doubling up on the Yankees' playful sign to each other for clutch swings.

"The most frustrating part is the fact that I didn't pick the guys up and they were looking towards me to kind of saddle up and get this thing back going again," Keuchel said. "That's a talented group over there and 1 through 9 right now the bats have woken up and it's quite a challenge."

In the third, Judge grounded an RBI double just inside the third base line and past a diving Alex Bregman. Brett Gardner sped all the way around from first and scored with a headfirst slide.

Bregman's throwing error on an infield single by Headley, who had three hits in the No. 9 spot, aided the Yankees in the fifth. Keuchel walked Judge with two outs before Sanchez lined a run-scoring single into the left-field corner.

Going into that at-bat, Sanchez was 1 for 16 with seven strikeouts in the series — and 0 for 8 with six strikeouts against Keuchel overall.

Gregorius then grounded an RBI single up the middle that grazed the glove of diving second baseman Jose Altuve. That ended the night for Keuchel and gave the Yankees a 4-0 cushion, the most runs he had ever allowed against them.

With the stands pulsating, fans reveled in his slow walk to the dugout as the Yankee Stadium sound system blared Scandal's "Goodbye To You."

"When you play at home, things like this happen and that's why it's so tough to win on the road in the

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playoffs," Keuchel said. "Yankee Stadium is a tough place to play and it was rockin' these three games, but it's going to be rockin' on Friday for us."

Sanchez hit his third postseason homer off Brad Peacock in the seventh to make it 5-0.

Despite beautiful weather in the Bronx, the Astros didn't take batting practice on the field. If they were hoping that might help their slumping hitters reset, it didn't.

"One swing and we'll be back where we need to be," Bregman said. "We're going home. We've got to fight back."

The highest-scoring team in the majors this season, Houston is batting .147 in the series and Tanaka is a major reason. The normally reserved right-hander from Japan, who can opt out of his \$155 million contract this winter, has been at the top of his game in October and showed rare emotion on the mound during this one.

He worked around a leadoff double in the second, when the Yankees — with a stingy Keuchel undoubtedly in mind — successfully played their infield in with Yuli Gurriel on third and one out in a scoreless game.

Tanaka later spun around and shouted in excitement after striking out struggling table-setters George Springer and Josh Reddick with two on to end the fifth.

"I love it. Those are the best guys. To see that, it gets me fired up again," Frazier said. "He's been doing it all postseason. Just dominant, man. You see him out there, he talks to himself, he does all this crazy stuff and the next thing you know the ball just disappears on batters."

Keeping the ball down with his slider and splitter, Tanaka struck out eight and walked one. Tommy Kahnle tossed two innings to finish the four-hitter.

Tanaka also beat the Indians 1-0 in the Division Series to save the Yankees' season when they were down 0-2 in that best-of-five playoff. After going 13-12 with a 4.74 ERA during an inconsistent season, he has a 0.90 ERA in three playoff starts.

"I feel like I'm just keeping it really simple," Tanaka said through a translator. "You go out there and you fight and you empty the tank."

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

## Man convicted in plot to behead blogger over cartoon contest

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press writer

BOSTON (AP) — A man who authorities say fell under the influence of the Islamic State group was convicted Wednesday of plotting to behead a conservative American blogger for organizing a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest.

Jurors found David Wright guilty of all charges, including conspiracy to provide material support to a

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designated foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

The 28-year-old from Everett, Massachusetts, faces up to life in prison when he's sentenced in December. Federal officials called Wright's conviction a victory for America in its fight against terrorism.

"We can all sleep better now knowing that David Wright, a person who wanted to kill in the name of ISIS, will no longer be free to walk the streets of the Commonwealth," said FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Peter Kowenhoven.

Prosecutors said Wright, his uncle and a third man conspired to kill blogger Pamela Geller because they were upset she organized Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas in 2015. During the contest, two other men opened fire outside and wounded a security guard before they were killed in a shootout with law enforcement assigned to guard the event.

Wright's uncle, Ussamah Rahim, told Wright on a recorded phone call later that month that he couldn't wait to attack Geller and decided instead to go after "those boys in blue," referring to police. Wright told his uncle that was "beautiful" and encouraged him to delete all the data from his computer before carrying out his attack.

Hours later, Rahim was shot and killed by authorities after he lunged at them with a knife when they approached him in Boston. The attack on Geller, who has spearheaded scores of events across the nation to decry Islamic extremism, was never carried out. She didn't testify at the trial.

Geller said she is thrilled with the verdict and "deeply grateful to the good people of Boston who were on the jury."

Wright cried on the stand when he spoke of his uncle, insisting that he didn't think Rahim was serious about the attack. Wright, who was more than 500 pounds (227 kilograms) and spent much of his time playing video games in 2015, testified that he used Islamic State group propaganda to get attention but that it was just a "fantasy."

"I didn't want my uncle to get hurt. I didn't want law enforcement to get hurt," Wright said. "I lost someone who was very close to me because I was so deluded and self-centered that I couldn't see beyond my own need for attention."

Wright's attorney said they are disappointed in the verdict and heartbroken for Wright and his family, but plan to appeal.

"We are not finished," Jessica Hedges said.

Prosecutors said Wright was the leader of the conspiracy and recruited his uncle and others to help him wage war on the U.S. Wright's uncle received directions about the plan to kill Geller from Junaid Hussain, an Islamic State group member and hacker who was later killed in an airstrike in Syria, prosecutors said.

Wright conducted online research for guns, swords and tranquilizers that put people to sleep instantly. He created a Twitter page seeking recruits for their "martyrdom operation cell," collected a trove of horrific Islamic State group documents and videos and created a manifesto warning that America's "days are numbered," prosecutors said.

Wright's uncle bought three large knives — one for each of them — for their attack on Geller, authorities say.

"These were not just words, as the defense argued," William Weinreb, acting U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, told reporters after the verdict. "This wasn't fantasy. It was real."

The third man accused in the plot, Nicholas Rovinski, of Warwick, Rhode Island, testified against Wright after pleading guilty last year to conspiracy charges. Rovinski faces 15 to 22 years in prison.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher>. Read more of her work at <http://bit.ly/2hIhzDb>

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## Tanaka, Yankees top Keuchel, Astros 5-0 for 3-2 lead in ALCS

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This time, it was Masahiro Tanaka who was untouchable on the mound. And when the New York Yankees sent Houston ace Dallas Keuchel to an early exit, their rollicking crowd let loose with a cathartic roar that must have boomed all over the Bronx.

One more big win, and these Yankees are World Series-bound.

Tanaka pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and New York finally solved a longtime nemesis at just the right moment, beating Keuchel and the Astros 5-0 on Wednesday for a 3-2 lead in the AL Championship Series.

"It's a special feeling," manager Joe Girardi said.

Gary Sanchez hit an RBI single off Keuchel and later homered to help the wild-card Yankees win for the third straight day at home, moving within one victory of their first pennant since 2009 and record 41st overall.

The teams head back to Houston for Game 6 on Friday night, when Justin Verlander and the reeling Astros will try to regain their footing following an off day and force a decisive Game 7. Luis Severino is scheduled to start for New York.

Just days ago, Houston was up two games to none and appeared to be closing in on its second World Series appearance. But the Astros, like defending AL champion Cleveland before them, have been unable to put away these poised Yankees, who improved to 6-0 at home in this postseason in front of their cheering, chanting fans.

"It's been unbelievable. I haven't seen anything like it in Major League Baseball," New York veteran Chase Headley said. "Reminds me of college football games. They're going crazy the entire game. It's a huge advantage for us."

Aaron Judge, Greg Bird and Didi Gregorius also delivered big hits as New York chased Keuchel in the fifth and handed him his first postseason loss. Keuchel had been Yankees kryptonite, entering 6-2 with a 1.09 ERA in eight career starts against New York — including a pair of scoreless outings in playoff wins.

Both of those came at the expense of Tanaka, who lost 3-0 to Keuchel in the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium and 2-1 in Game 1 of this series. The ace lefty and 2015 Cy Young Award winner with the long, bushy beard entered 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 26 2/3 postseason innings overall.

But this night belonged to Tanaka and the Baby Bombers.

New York finally broke through against Keuchel with two outs in the second, when Starlin Castro doubled to deep left-center and scored on Greg Bird's sharp single. The sellout crowd of 49,647 almost sounded surprised by the hit — big enough for Bird to flash both thumbs down, doubling up on the Yankees' playful sign to each other for clutch swings.

"The most frustrating part is the fact that I didn't pick the guys up and they were looking towards me to kind of saddle up and get this thing back going again," Keuchel said. "That's a talented group over there and 1 through 9 right now the bats have woken up and it's quite a challenge."

In the third, Judge grounded an RBI double just inside the third base line and past a diving Alex Bregman. Brett Gardner sped all the way around from first and scored with a headfirst slide.

Bregman's throwing error on an infield single by Headley, who had three hits in the No. 9 spot, aided the Yankees in the fifth. Keuchel walked Judge with two outs before Sanchez lined a run-scoring single into the left-field corner.

Going into that at-bat, Sanchez was 1 for 16 with seven strikeouts in the series — and 0 for 8 with six strikeouts against Keuchel overall.

Gregorius then grounded an RBI single up the middle that grazed the glove of diving second baseman Jose Altuve. With the score 4-0, it marked the end of the night for Keuchel and the most runs he'd ever allowed to New York.

With the stands pulsating, fans reveled in his slow walk to the dugout as the Yankee Stadium sound system blared "Goodbye To You" by Scandal.

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"When you play at home, things like this happen and that's why it's so tough to win on the road in the playoffs," Keuchel said. "New York is no joke. Yankee Stadium is a tough place to play and it was rockin' these three games, but it's going to be rockin' on Friday for us."

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He worked around a leadoff double in the second, when the Yankees — with a stingy Keuchel undoubtedly in mind — successfully played their infield in with Yuli Gurriel on third and one out in a scoreless game. Tanaka later spun around and shouted in excitement after striking out struggling table-setters George Springer and Josh Reddick with two on to end the fifth.

Tanaka received treatment on his leg between starts after being struck by Reddick's liner in Game 1, but showed no ill effects. Keeping the ball down with his slider and splitter, he struck out eight and walked one.

Tommy Kahnle tossed two innings to finish the four-hitter.

Tanaka also beat the Indians 1-0 in the Division Series to save the Yankees' season when they were down 0-2 in that best-of-five playoff.

"I feel like I'm just keeping it really simple," Tanaka said through a translator. "You go out there and you fight and you empty the tank."

TIES THAT BIND

Andy Pettitte threw out the ceremonial first pitch in a Yankees jacket. The former New York and Houston left-hander appeared in the World Series for both the Yankees and his hometown Astros.

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Yankees: Severino gave up one run and two hits over four innings in Game 2 but was pulled as a precaution after only 62 pitches because Girardi was concerned about the 23-year-old righty pitching hurt, saying he didn't look comfortable in his mechanics. Girardi said Severino didn't require any tests and, by now, the Yankees are confident he's fine. "I feel good about where he's at," Girardi said Wednesday. "Those concerns have kind of been put to rest for me."

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

## Sessions defends Comey firing, dodges questions on Trump

By ERIC TUCKER and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions strongly defended President Donald Trump's firing of James Comey, but at a Senate hearing Wednesday repeatedly declined to discuss private conversations with the president about the dismissal, frustrating Democratic lawmakers who wanted to link the firing of

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the FBI director to a broader inquiry into Russian election meddling.

The repeated, often-testy questioning about the Russia investigation, coming even as Sessions spearheads sweeping changes to the Justice Department in the areas of LGBT rights, criminal justice and immigration, illustrates the extent to which the probe continues to shadow Sessions even though he recused himself months ago.

Sessions advised the Senate Judiciary Committee at the outset of his first oversight hearing as attorney general that he would not answer any questions about conversations with the president that he considered confidential.

He largely adhered to that principle during the five-hour hearing, refusing to say what Trump told him about his reasons for wanting to fire Comey, whether Trump confided in him his concern about "lifting the cloud" of the Russia investigation and whether he had asked him to drop a criminal case against Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Arizona.

Sessions deflected the questions by maintaining that presidents are entitled to have private discussions with Cabinet secretaries, saying at one point, "I do not confirm or deny the existence of any communication between the president that I consider to be confidential."

Still, Sessions' defense of the Comey firing — and his insistence that it stemmed from the handling of the Hillary Clinton email case — was consistent with the initial explanation by the White House. It was, he said, "the first time I'm aware of" in which an FBI director had performed the traditional role of Justice Department prosecutors by announcing on his own the conclusion of a federal investigation — that no charges would be brought against Clinton.

He said he was further galled when Comey, shortly before his firing, insisted to Congress that he would have taken the same actions again.

"That was a fairly stunning event for both of us and it did highlight the problem more significantly than it had been before," Sessions said, referring to Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein.

Though he refused to say whether he discussed with Trump Comey's involvement in the Russia investigation, he did say that the president had asked him and Rosenstein for their recommendations about what to do with Comey.

But that explanation has been muddled by Trump himself, who days after the May 9 firing said he would have fired Comey even without the Justice Department's recommendation and that he was thinking of "this Russia thing" when he dismissed him.

The circumstances of Comey's firing are among many events being investigated by Robert Mueller, who was appointed as the Justice Department's special counsel to look into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 election.

After initially balking at the question, Sessions said Mueller's team had not interviewed him as part of its investigation.

The hearing marked a return to the Judiciary Committee for Sessions, who served on it for years as a Republican senator. Yet his interactions with his former peers have been frayed as attorney general, particularly amid Democratic accusations that he provided misleading testimony at his confirmation hearing about his contacts with the Russian ambassador.

He bickered with Sen. Al Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, who accused him of having moved the "goalpost" in his denials about his contacts with the ambassador.

He said that while Sessions had initially denied having any contacts with Russians during the campaign, he later qualified his answer to say that he had not discussed any matters related to the campaign. Sessions repeated Wednesday that he had done nothing improper and had given a "good-faith" response.

Apart from Russia, Sessions faced questions from lawmakers about his swift undoing of Obama-era protections for gay and transgender people and his rollback of criminal justice policies that aimed to reduce the federal prison population, among other changes he has made in the nine months since taking office.

Franken praised his decision to send an experienced federal hate crimes prosecutor to assist in a transgender murder case in Iowa, but said his Justice Department has "demonstrated an unrelenting hostility toward LGBT people," an assertion Sessions disputed.



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Sessions has tried to pressure so-called sanctuary cities into cooperating with federal immigration authorities by threatening to withhold grant money, and he was the public face of the Trump administration's decision to end a program benefiting hundreds of thousands of young people who entered the U.S. illegally as children. Congress is seeking a legislative solution to extend the protections before recipients' work permits expire.

He tussled with Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois over whether people living in the country illegally are driving Chicago's gun violence. The city has been in the Trump administration's crosshairs for refusing to help immigration authorities detain and deport immigrants. Durbin said he wanted Chicago officers doing community policing and not immigration work.

"How does that make the city of Chicago safer when you don't remove criminals who are illegally in the country?" Sessions said.

It is standard policy for attorneys general to appear before the Justice Department's congressional overseers on the House and Senate judiciary committees.

Yet, in a reflection of the extent to which the Russia investigation and his own role as a Trump campaign ally have dominated public attention, Sessions first appeared months ago before the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is conducting its own probe of election meddling.

## Wildfires worsen housing crunch in famously costly Bay Area

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Even before fire wiped out the home she rented for 17 years, Suzanne Finzell had thought about leaving this city on the edge of the San Francisco Bay Area because of rising prices. A spike in housing and other living costs had driven her friends to Nevada and Oregon.

Now, Finzell wonders if that will be her fate too, as the wildfires that charred California wine country send thousands of people who lost their homes scrambling for new places to live in one of the nation's tightest and most expensive housing markets.

Before the fires, the rental vacancy rate was a mere 1 percent in Santa Rosa and 3 percent in surrounding Sonoma County. Then the city lost an estimated 5 percent of its housing stock to the flames.

"We had a housing crisis before the fires," Mayor Chris Coursey said Wednesday. "It's magnitudes worse now."

Meanwhile, authorities reported more progress against the flames. The deputy chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said crews had stopped the movement of all fires.

Firefighters were helped by cooler weather and the lack of wind. Forecasters expect a tenth of an inch of rain in the affected areas on Thursday — not enough to quench any fires outright but still welcome.

The fires that swept through parts of seven counties were the deadliest and most destructive series of blazes in California history. At least 42 people died and 6,000 homes were lost.

The flames were especially devastating in Sonoma and Napa counties on the northern edge of the Bay Area — a region that has seen housing prices skyrocket in recent years amid a technology industry boom. In San Francisco, an average one-bedroom apartment rents for more than \$3,000 a month, and the median home price is about \$1.5 million.

Cities such as Santa Rosa, about 50 miles north of San Francisco, have offered more affordable housing for people willing to endure a longer commute. But that may not be the case anymore.

The 62-year-old Finzell, who has lived in Santa Rosa since she was 3, said the housing situation means her generation "heads into retirement with no chance of living in the places we grew up."

Housing for displaced families is "going to be a really big challenge," said Ana Lugo, president of the North Bay Organizing Project, an organization that advocates for affordable housing in Sonoma County.

Lugo said government officials are still focused on putting out the fires and "repopulating" evacuated neighborhoods. But she said the affordable housing issue will need to be addressed, including preventing price gouging.

Elsewhere in the aftermath, a spokesman for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office said he did not expect the county's death toll to go much higher. It stood at 23 on Wednesday.

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"The number of dead people we're finding has really slowed down," Sgt. Spencer Crum said, and many people listed as missing have been found safe.

About half of the 50 missing person reports are for homeless people. Crum does not believe they perished in fires because they did not live in the hardest-hit areas.

An estimated 100,000 people were evacuated at the height of the fires, and about 22,000 remain under evacuation.

Many homeowners who lost houses or condos said insurance would cover the cost of temporary housing and rebuilding. But those who rented faced greater uncertainty.

Yvette Escutia, 28, lost the four-bedroom, three-bath home she rented in Santa Rosa's Coffey Park neighborhood for \$1,750 a month.

The rent was already lower than that of a neighbor, who was paying \$2,800 for a similar unit, so she expected a steep rent hike. She and her 2-year-old son, parents and other family members were at a friend's house, where she planned to stay "until they kick us out," she said.

Affordable housing advocates are concerned that many residents, especially the working poor, will have difficulty remaining in the region.

Escutia vowed to stay in Santa Rosa.

"It's going to be very expensive, but we have our jobs here and we were born here," she said.

Tenants Together, a renters' rights group in San Francisco, warned that landlords could not raise rents by more than 10 percent under a state of emergency declared by Gov. Jerry Brown in Napa and Sonoma counties. The group encouraged tenants who face steeper rent hikes to contact local prosecutors.

Finzell, a nursing assistant, was trying to get permission to put a trailer on the property that she rented. But she may have to look for another rental home, an option that she knows would be unaffordable. She lamented that the area had turned into a destination for tourists and the "ultra-rich."

"There has to be a balance," she said. "There has to be a way where those who loved and built this land for generations can retain and stay here if they choose to."

Elias reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Jocelyn Gecker and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this report.

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

## Black, female insurance exec on quest to mentor teen girls

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr., Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Teresa White, the first woman and African-American president of Georgia-based insurance giant Aflac U.S., has the knack to inspire. So says Seychelle Hercules, a formerly bashful girl who went on to win Georgia's Miss Columbus pageant after hearing the trailblazing black executive speak.

Hercules' life took a major turn after White told her and some other teenage girls about how she overcame obstacles and stereotypes in rising to the corporate suites of Aflac U.S., a \$130 billion brand known for its TV commercials featuring a duck that randomly quacks out the company name to potential customers.

White told each young African-American girl present that they, too, were capable of success. Hercules walked away filled with hope.

"She inspired me that day," said Hercules, who went on to win beauty pageants and now represents Columbus, a rural Georgia city south of Atlanta where Aflac is based. "She spoke with so much confidence and grace. One thing I love about Mrs. Teresa is that she looks like me. She gives me hope. I can soar to greater heights. She's a pioneer in so many ways."

Since joining Aflac in 1998, White stood out for her ability to write computer code — a skill she says is uncommon for most African-American women around her at the time. Now 50, White landed the prestigious position of president in 2015, becoming the first woman and African-American to hold the title in the company's 61-year history. Even today, the company's information technology group still reports to her.

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Not bad for a woman who originally wanted to be a beautician.

"I had plenty of people who told me since I was a female that I should stay on the beautician side," White said. "Because I was African-American, the stats say you're not going to make it here. But I said to myself that I'll prove them wrong. That was the tingling in my fire to say 'That's what you think, but that's not what I think.'"

White now oversees 3,500 employees for Aflac's U.S. operations, focusing on product innovation and expanding distribution. She received several honors this year from the American Business Awards and was recognized by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the most powerful women in business.

Though African-American friends and peers have told her of their struggles to climb the corporate ladder, White says her ascent was made less difficult by Aflac's initiative for diversity. Aflac's executive leadership team is one-third female and two-thirds of the company's workforce is comprised of women. About 40 percent of employees are minorities.

"It's what made me stay," White told The Associated Press in an interview. "Certainly, I've had opportunities. But for me, you can't replace an organization that has the groundwork already laid to allow people to be who they are and honor their work product and not their skin color."

During her tenure at Aflac, White has sought to uplift her colleagues with early morning devotion times, where employees join her to read Bible scriptures and meditate, sometimes in her spacious 12th-floor corner office at Aflac headquarters in Columbus. She also began a career development program for those in the company in 2014.

But White wanted to do even more in the community, specifically for young girls she felt needed mentoring in a major way.

In 2015, White created the Bold Moves, an eight-week summer program in Columbus to inspire African-American girls ages 13 to 17. The program is backed by Aflac and features nearly 30 women who are community and business leaders teaching various lessons ranging from personal finance and entrepreneurship to business etiquette, resume writing and more.

Hercules and many other black girls have been inspired by White and have taken part in Bold Moves. The program works with Girls Inc. to recruit girls such as Hercules — who's been involved with both programs for years.

"She cares about the people," Aflac CEO Daniel Amos said. "When you know the boss cares about you, you work harder for them. It's that caring attitude that really makes her the person she is. Then, it's her IQ and her ability to manage and leadership skills ... She's got the combination of it all."

White felt she could relate to the girls. She and her sister were raised by their single mother in impoverished public housing in Dallas, where drugs were rife and she recalled people around her who made a lot of "bad decisions."

Mentorship, she said, helped her overcome the obstacles and set her on her career path.

"I want to be a lighthouse," White said. "This is an opportunity to show a different picture of what success looks like."

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Follow Jonathan Landrum Jr. on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MrLandrum31](http://www.twitter.com/MrLandrum31) . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/jonathan%20landrum>

## 5 things to know about China's twice-a-decade party congress

BEIJING (AP) — The crucial parts are being held behind closed doors, but journalists, academics and more than a billion Chinese citizens are closely watching for any public hints signaling change at this week's twice-a-decade congress of China's ruling Communist Party.

Possible outcomes include the emergence of President Xi Jinping's closest allies, signs indicating the direction of an increasingly aggressive foreign policy and clues about the possible next leader of the world's second-biggest economy.

Five things to watch for:

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## SIGNS OF XI'S POWER

Observers are watching to see if Xi's personal political theory will be entered into the party constitution alongside those of predecessors such as Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping.

Xi's wide-ranging, almost 3 1/2-hour address to the congress' opening session Wednesday made no clear statement on that matter. But repeated references to "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" — including in the speech's somewhat cumbersome title — pointed in that direction.

One section talked of "arming the whole party with the thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" — placing the concept in the framework of the "thoughts" and "theories" associated with previous leaders.

Another key indicator will be whether Xi's name is included in the concept's formal title if it is inserted into the party constitution. That would elevate him to the ranks of Mao and Deng, above his immediate predecessors who received no such distinction when their own theories were entered into the constitution's list of guiding philosophies at the end of their terms.

Including the "thought" along with Xi's name this early in his term would be a clear sign that the already powerful leader will continue to dominate Chinese politics.

## POWERFUL PLAYERS WILL EMERGE

Perhaps the most immediate results of the congress will be the distribution of new jobs, rumors about which have swirled for months.

The meetings are cloaked in secrecy, but Xi has spent five years sidelining his rivals, so the recipients will be allies.

While Xi and his No. 2, Premier Li Keqiang, are expected to stay on the party's Politburo Standing Committee that runs China, four others will likely depart. The status of party discipline boss and close Xi ally Wang Qishan seems unclear.

Chief among Xi's allies are Chen Min'er, who was appointed this year to run the mega-city of Chongqing. Beijing party chief Cai Qi has also enjoyed rapid promotion under Xi. Key aides within the party, most notably chief of staff Li Zhanshu, are also tipped for higher office.

Companies and investors are watching to see what posts go to Xi allies regarded as reformers with the personal authority to push through painful changes over opposition from party factions or state companies that stand to lose influence.

## XI'S SUCCESSOR

Xi is 64 and may suggest a potential successor for when his traditional second five-year term as party leader ends.

The nation's presidency is limited to two five-year terms, but the office of party general secretary is bound by no such restrictions.

Xi could step aside for a younger leader while maintaining ultimate control from behind the scenes.

## STRONGER FOREIGN POLICY

Xi has been steadily channeling Chinese nationalism and pride as he boosts the Communist Party's role in Chinese life and his country's presence in Asia and the world.

The muscular approach is likely to get even stronger after the congress. Xi will try to gradually expand China's influence by continuing to leverage the nation's booming economy and mountain of foreign currency holdings.

The goal is to restore China to its traditional role as East Asia's leading nation and a global economic and cultural force.

Beijing could push to expand its role in international bodies and become more assertive in regional hot spots such as the South and East China Seas and its contested border with India.

## THE ECONOMY

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Observers will pore over the text of Xi's long address for clues on the direction of the world's second-largest economy.

Xi affirmed plans that call for developing state-owned companies that dominate industries including finance, energy and telecoms while also giving the market the "decisive role" in allocating resources.

He said Beijing "must develop the public sector," a goal that reform advocates complain wastes public money and further slows economic growth.

And he confirmed official pledges to make the banking industry more market-oriented and to shrink bloated state-owned steel and coal industries.

Xi also vowed that the party would have "zero tolerance" for corruption and exhorted members to resist "pleasure seeking, inaction, sloth and problem avoidance."

## Asian markets mixed as data shows China growth slowed

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian markets were mixed on Thursday after Wall Street closed at record highs. Data showed that China's quarterly growth slowed slightly but was in line with expectations.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.5 percent to 21,474.80, while South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.3 percent to 2,474.79. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.1 percent to 28,698.05 while the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.4 percent to 3,368.62. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.1 percent to 5,895.90. Stocks in Taiwan and Singapore were higher but elsewhere in Southeast Asia, they were lower.

CHINA: China's economy expanded at a 6.8 percent annual pace during the July-September quarter, relatively stable growth but slightly below the previous quarter's 6.9 percent, government data showed. The latest result gives a boost to the ruling Communist Party that has been trying to steer the world's second-largest economy to slower, more sustainable growth based on consumer spending rather than exports and investment.

JAPAN TRADE: Customs data show Japan's trade surplus leaped nearly 38 percent in September from a year earlier, on strong shipments of cars, car parts and machinery to China and the U.S. The upbeat report boosted share prices for manufacturers like Toyota Motor Corp. and Panasonic. However, analysts are forecasting that growth will slow in coming months.

BANK OF KOREA: The Bank of Korea's policymakers kept its key policy rate at a record low 1.25 percent but for the first time in a year the decision Thursday was not unanimous: one policymaker recommended a rate hike. The result reinforces suspicions that a rate increase may be in the offing, making South Korea among the first Asian countries to begin monetary tightening. The central bank slightly revised upward its forecast for growth in Asia's fourth-largest economy, to 3 percent this year.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks finished with modest gains on Wednesday recording more milestones for Wall Street. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,561.26, a record high, while the Dow Jones industrial average closed at 23,157.60, up 0.7 percent. The Nasdaq composite index was flat at 6,624.22. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 0.5 percent to 1,505.14.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 9 cents to \$52.17 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 15 cents to settle at \$52.26 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 11 cents to \$58.04 per barrel in London. It gained 27 cents to close at \$58.15 a barrel on Wednesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.98 yen from 112.93 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1801 from \$1.1788.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2017. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value (its biggest daily percentage loss), to close at 1,738.74 in what came to be known as "Black Monday."

On this date:

In 1216, John, King of England, died, more than a year after affixing his royal seal to Magna Carta ("The Great Charter").

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1789, John Jay was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the United States.

In 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's soldiers attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Virginia; the Union troops were able to rally and defeat the Confederates.

In 1914, the U.S. Post Office began delivering mail with government-owned cars, as opposed to using contracted vehicles. The First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) began during World War I.

In 1936, H.R. Ekins of the New York World-Telegram beat out Dorothy Kilgallen of the New York Journal and Leo Kieran of The New York Times in a round-the-world race on commercial flights that lasted 18 1/2 days.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). The play "I Remember Mama" by John Van Druten opened at the Music Box Theater on Broadway.

In 1953, the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451," set in a dystopian future where books are banned and burned by the government, was first published by Ballantine Books.

In 1967, the U.S. space probe Mariner 5 flew past Venus.

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City. The body of West German industrialist Hanns Martin Schleyer (SHLY'-ur), who had been kidnapped by left-wing extremists, was found in Mulhouse, France.

In 1982, automaker John Z. DeLorean was arrested by federal agents in Los Angeles, accused of conspiring to sell \$24 million of cocaine to salvage his business. (DeLorean was acquitted at trial on grounds of entrapment.)

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district. Entertainer Martha Raye died in Los Angeles at age 78.

Ten years ago: A three-year global manhunt for a Canadian schoolteacher suspected of sexually abusing Asian boys ended when police in northeastern Thailand arrested Christopher Paul Neil. (Neil later pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy and was sentenced to three years and three months in jail; he was later convicted of holding the boy's 9-year-old brother against his will, and was sentenced to five years; he was released and returned to Canada in 2012.)

Five years ago: The Dow Jones industrial average had its worst day in four months, sinking 205.43 points, or 1.5 percent, to close at 13,343.51. The San Francisco Giants cut the Cardinals' lead in the National League Championship Series to 3-2 with a 5-0 victory over St. Louis.

One year ago: In the third and final 2016 presidential debate, Republican Donald Trump stunned the forum in Las Vegas by refusing to say he would accept the results of the election if he were to lose; Democrat Hillary Clinton declared Trump's resistance "horrifying." A man convicted of killing an Atlanta police officer and wounding a second officer with an AR-15 rifle was executed in Georgia. The Cleveland Indians won their first pennant since 1997, blanking Toronto 3-0 in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series. The Chicago Cubs routed the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-2 to even the NL Championship Series at 2-all.

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Today's Birthdays: Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAY') is 86. Artist Peter Max is 80. Author and critic Renata Adler is 80. Actor Michael Gambon is 77. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH'-goh) is 72. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 72. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 72. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 69. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 65. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 60. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 59. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 57. Boxer Evander Holyfield is 55. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 53. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 52. Actor Jon Favreau is 51. Amy Carter is 50. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 48. Comedian Chris Kattan is 47. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 45. Actor Omar Gooding is 41. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 41. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 40. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 37. Actress Gillian Jacobs is 35. Actress Rebecca Ferguson is 34. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 31. Singer-actress Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 27. Actress Hunter King is 24.

Thought for Today: "It takes a clever man to turn cynic and a wise man to be clever enough not to." — Fannie Hurst, American author (both this date in 1885, died 1968).