

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Tuesday

- Flu Clinic at Groton Area Elementary from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Senior Scholarship info night at GHS at 6:45 p.m.

## Wednesday


- MathCounts at Roncalli Middle School from 8:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

## Thursday

- 2nd Round football playoffs: Groton Area at S.F. Christian at 7 p.m.

## Friday

- No School - Teacher Inservice



**MCKIVER COLLISION**  
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!

13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445  
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

**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**

"To be  
impulsive is to  
be fully alive."

-Marty Rubin

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 Area stuns Milbank with 3-game comeback

Groton Area staged a three-game come-back to beat Milbank in volleyball action Monday in Groton.

The match was carried live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by Olson Development, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Grain Solutions with Jesse Zak, Blocker Construction, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Hanlon Brothers, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen, Erickson Insurance Agency and Bahr Spray Foam and Construction.

Milbank took a commanding lead in the first game with an 18-7 lead, but then Groton Area rallied off nine straight points to come back in the game and ended up tying the game at 22, 24 and 25 before Milbank scored the last two points to win the first game, 27-25.

The Tigers had difficulty finding its rhythm again in the second game. The game was tied three times at 2, 3 and 10 before the Bulldogs would start to pull away for the 25-16 second game win.

Milbank had the early lead in the third game, but this game was tied six times. Groton would score nine straight points to take a 19-12 lead and the Tigers would go on to win, 25-20.

The third game rally would extend into the fourth game as the Tigers never trailed to win the game., 25-17, to tie the series at two games apiece. Groton again would take the early lead in the fifth and deciding match and would win that one, never trailing, 15-12.

Senior Gia Gengerke would lead the Tigers with 20 kills and six blocks while Jennie Doeden would add 12 kills, two blocks and three ace serves. Nicole Marzahn would have five kills in the third game as she finished the night with seven kills. Jessica Bjerke had five ace serves, one kill and an assisted block.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match by game scores of 30-28 and 25-13, and the C match, 25-12 and 25-5.

Groton Area is still hanging on to the number one spot in the region with a 17-5 record. Redfield-Doland is in second place with a 20-8 record, just .09 point behind Groton Area. Milbank is 10-14 on the season. Regional action begins next week with matches starting on Tuesday and ending on Thursday with the Sweet 16 game on November 9.

Serving: Groton: 99-105, 9 ace serves (Jessica Bjerke 33-33, 5 ace serves; Jennie Doeden 16-17, 3 ace serves). Milbank: Jacey Engebretson 4 ace serves, Mady Lightfield 4, Gabbie Cummins 2).

Attacks: Groton: 182-206, 45 kills. (Gia Gengerke 50-55, 20 kills; Jennie Doeden 45-53, 12 kills). Milbank: Molly Rick 20 kills, Jacey Engebretson 15 kills.

Sets: Groton Area: 202-203, 41 assists. (Miranda Hanson 164-165, 27 assists. Jessica Bjerke 13-13, 3 assists). Milbank: Mady Lightfield 27 assists, Jacey Engebretson 13.

Digs: Groton: 148 (Payton Maine 32, Jennie Doeden 32, Jesscia Bjerke 29). Milbank: Molly Rick 36, Gabbie Cummins 24, Mady Lightfield 17.

Blocks: Groton: 6 solo, 1 assisted (Gia Gengerke 6 solo, 1 assist, Jessica Bjerke 1 assist). Milbank: Molly Rick 1, Gabbie Cummins 1.

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
<a href="#">Groton Area</a>	43.41	17-5
<a href="#">Redfield/Doland</a>	43.32	20-8
<a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	42.25	18-6
<a href="#">Milbank</a>	39.21	10-14
<a href="#">Webster Area</a>	37.54	5-21
<a href="#">Sisseton</a>	37.00	6-18
<a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	36.39	6-17



## Pump Prices Continue to Recover Slowly

October 23, 2017 - The average price at the pump has fallen for 15 of the last 20 days, for a total savings of seven cents per gallon. The national average currently sits at \$2.46 per gallon, which is one cent less than one week ago, 12 cents less than one month ago and 24 cents more year-over-year. The national average is down 17 cents per gallon versus the 2017 peak price reached in September (\$2.67).

South Dakota's average stands at \$2.47, two cents higher than one week ago. Month over month the South Dakota average is 5 cents less today, but is 20 cents more than one year ago.

"Despite recent declines, the residual impact of last month's hurricanes linger," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA South Dakota spokesperson. "Drivers continue to pay in excess of 20 cents more for a gallon of gasoline than they did in 2016, which may prove challenging for those looking to put away some extra cash for the holidays."

### Quick Stats

Largest monthly decreases: Georgia \$2.39 (-29 cents), South Carolina \$2.21 (-27 cents), Florida \$2.42 (-26 cents), Alabama \$2.22 (-25 cents), Tennessee \$2.27 (-25 cents), North Carolina \$2.33 (-24 cents), Texas (\$2.24 (-23 cents), New Jersey \$2.44 (-22 cents), Mississippi \$2.21 (-21 cents) and Virginia \$2.25 (-20 cents).

The nation's top ten most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.11), California (\$3.03), Alaska (\$3.02), Washington (\$2.92), Oregon (\$2.75), Nevada (\$2.73), Connecticut (\$2.71), Idaho (\$2.70), Washington, DC (\$2.67) and Pennsylvania (\$2.65).

### Great Lakes and Central States

Gas prices across much of the region have seen a mixed bag of increases and decreases this week. Missouri (\$2.20) Kentucky (\$2.31), Ohio (\$2.32) and Kansas (2.33), all land on the list of top 15 least expensive markets. At the moment, prices moderately increased in some parts of the region which can likely be attributed to refinery maintenance and the steady decline in gasoline inventories. According to the latest EIA data, regional refineries are running at less than 85 percent capacity and gasoline inventories are at a nearly 3.5 million bbl deficit compared to this same time last year.

### Oil Market Dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased 18 cents to settle at \$51.47. As the week progresses, the oil market appears poised to continue making gains. Last week's EIA report noted a drop in crude inventories by 5.7 million barrels. The decrease is likely due to crude exports increasing to 1.8 million barrels per day, according to EIA.

As the market gets tighter, market observers will closely watch this week's EIA report to see if the trends continue. Additionally, the upcoming OPEC meeting scheduled for November 30 in Vienna will also help the market assess the 2018 horizon for oil prices. At the meeting, OPEC and non-OPEC members who have agreed to cut production through March 2018 will discuss the status of the agreement and may decide to take additional measures to deepen the agreement's market impact.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

## 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.

## 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**

## **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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## Today in Weather History

October 24, 1989: A storm in the western U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the mountains around Lake Tahoe, with 21 inches reported at Donner Summit. Thunderstorms in northern California produced 3.36 inches of rain at Redding to establish a 24 hour record for October, and bring their rainfall total for the month to a record 5.11 inches. Chiefly "Indian Summer" type weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s. Record highs included 74 degrees at International Falls, Minnesota and 86 degrees at Yankton, South Dakota. Record highs also occurred across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The record highs were 80 degrees at Mobridge and Sisseton, 83 degrees at Aberdeen, and 84 degrees at Pierre.

1785 - A four day rain swelled the Merrimack River in New Hampshire and Massachusetts to the greatest height of record causing extensive damage to bridges and mills. (David Ludlum)

1878: The Gale of 1878 was an intense Category 2 hurricane that was active between October 18 and October 25. It caused extensive damage from Cuba to New England. Believed to be the strongest storm to hit the Washington - Baltimore region since hurricane records began in 1851.

1937 - A snow squall in Buffalo NY tied up traffic in six inches of slush. (David Ludlum)

1947 - The Bar Harbor holocaust occurred in Maine when forest fires consumed homes and a medical research institute. The fires claimed 17 lives, and caused thirty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1951 - Sacramento, CA, reported a barometric pressure of 29.42 inches, to establish a record for October. (The Weather Channel)

1969 - Unseasonably cold air gripped the northeastern U.S. Lows of 10 degrees at Concord, NH, and 6 degrees at Albany NY established October records. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Snow fell across northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin overnight, with five inches reported at Poplar Lake MN and Gunflint Trail MN. Thunderstorm rains caused flash flooding in south central Arizona, with street flooding reported around Las Vegas NV. Strong northwesterly winds gusting to 50 mph downed some trees and power lines in western Pennsylvania and the northern panhandle of West Virginia. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds circulating around a deep low pressure centered produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region, with six inches reported at Ironwood MI. Wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at State College PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - A storm in the western U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the mountains around Lake Tahoe, with 21 inches reported at Donner Summit. Thunderstorms in northern California produced 3.36 inches of rain at Redding to establish a 24 hour record for October, and bring their rainfall total for the month to a record 5.11 inches. Chiefly "Indian Summer" type weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s. Record highs included 74 degrees at International Falls MN, and 86 degrees at Yankton SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


2005 - Hurricane Wilma reached the U.S. coastline near Everglades City in Florida with maximum sustained winds near 120 mph. The hurricane accelerated across south Florida and the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area, exiting the coast later the same day. There were 10 fatalities in Florida, and nearly 6 million people lost power, the most widespread power outage in Florida history. Preliminary estimates of insured losses in Florida were over \$6 billion, while uninsured losses were over \$12 billion.




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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Increasing Clouds	Windy, Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain	Chance Rain/Snow and Windy then Chance Snow and Blustery	Mostly Sunny



## Breezy Northerly Winds Today




Highs Warming Into The 50s To Low 50s



**Very Windy on Thursday**

**National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD**

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 10/24/2017 5:37 AM Central

Published on: 10/24/2017 at 5:46AM

Breezy northwesterly winds will persist today before diminishing tonight. Highs today will range from the lower 50s, to the lower 60s. Temperatures will warm on Wednesday before falling behind a strong low pressure system on Thursday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.3

Low Outside Temp: 41.0

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1989

Record Low: 6° in 1917

Average High: 54°F

Average Low: 30°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.66

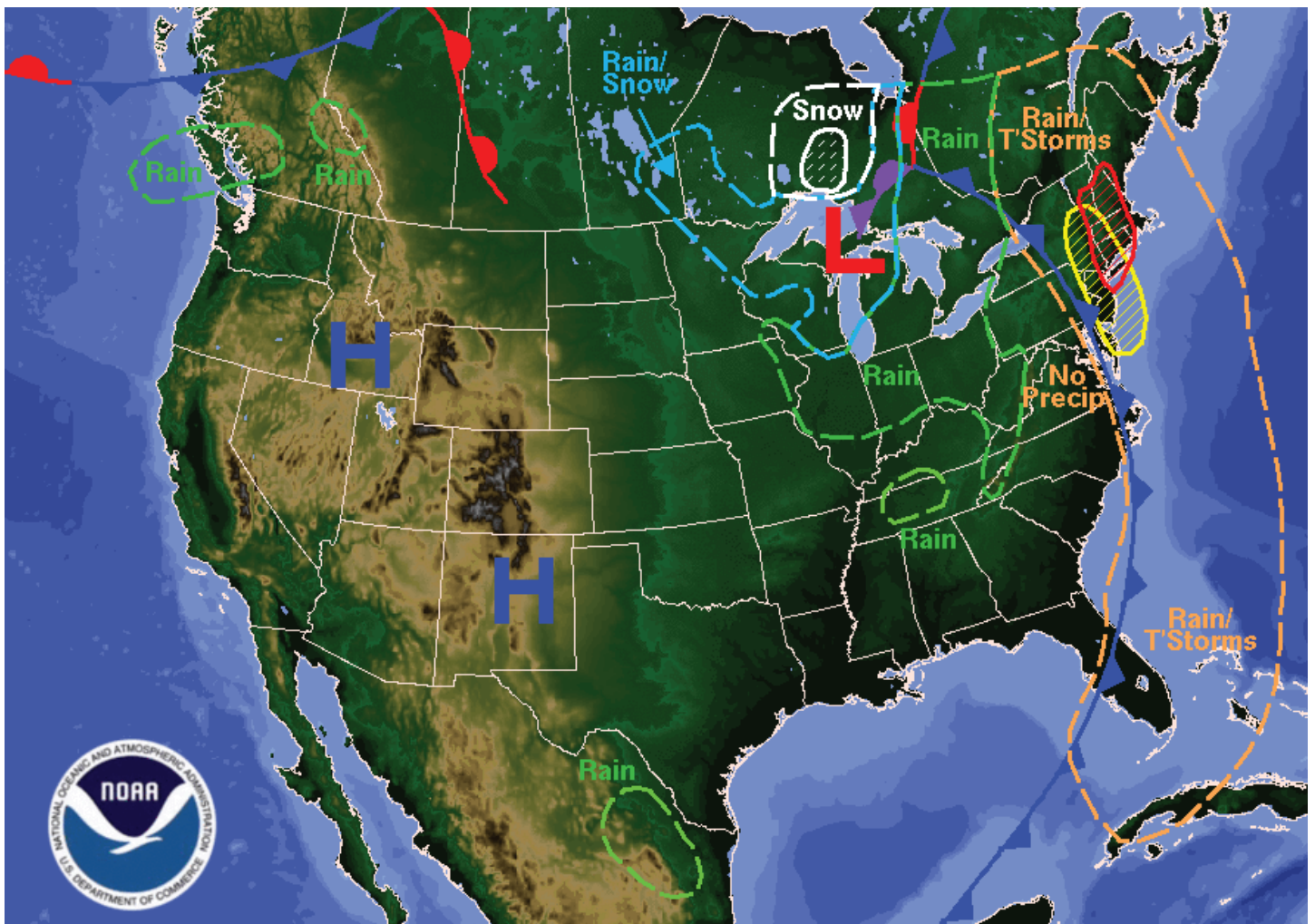
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 20.14

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:32 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Oct 24, 2017, issued 4:38 AM EDT

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## THE REALITY OF GOD'S REWARDS

What words best "describe" God? Are there some that are more precise, or accurate, to talk about Him? Is it more appropriate to use some words and not others to describe Him?

Throughout the Psalms, from beginning to end, David uses many different words to describe the various acts of God. While some of them are "high and lofty," most of them are practical and helpful. He speaks of God as his deliverer, protector, friend, savior, refuge, and stronghold. All words we could observe if we were to see God walking along a path with David.

In bringing Psalm 62 to a conclusion he speaks of his relationship with God as "strong" and "loving." He had experienced God's compassion and care, protection and presence and power – as we have. He also enjoyed God's love, grace and mercy as we, too, have. And then he adds something that is most interesting: "You reward everyone according to what they have done."

David enjoyed God's goodness. He mentions it again and again. He spoke often of those who wanted to kill him, defeat him, steal from him, embarrass him and even ruin his reputation. But through it all he survived and prospered. He was deeply grateful for the mercy and grace of God and recognized them as "God's reward" for his faithfulness in spite of his failures.

David speaks bluntly of those who are evil and do evil things to harm and hurt His beloved. They will not endure. But the righteous will be rewarded lavishly.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for rewarding us with so many of Your gifts. May we shout Your praises forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 62:12 "and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."



## 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

## Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Britton-Hecla, 25-17, 25-9, 25-12  
Alcester-Hudson def. Viborg-Hurley, 28-26, 25-22, 25-8  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Gregory, 25-19, 25-13, 25-19  
Avon def. Gayville-Volin, 25-15, 25-10, 25-18  
Baltic def. Flandreau, 25-23, 25-21, 25-23  
Belle Fourche def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-16, 25-12  
Castlewood def. Estelline, 25-8, 25-15, 25-16  
Chamberlain def. Jones County, 25-13, 25-10, 25-18  
Chester def. Arlington, 25-21, 23-25, 21-25, 25-3, 15-6  
Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-9, 25-4, 25-15  
Corsica/Stickney def. Marty Indian, 25-15, 25-22, 25-11  
Crow Creek def. Lower Brule, 25-18, 25-14, 25-20  
Dakota Valley def. Tea Area, 25-13, 25-20, 25-14  
DeSmet def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-14, 25-19, 25-22  
Edmunds Central def. Timber Lake, 25-17, 17-25, 25-20, 9-25, 15-11  
Ethan def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-15, 25-8, 25-20  
Faith def. Newell, 25-9, 25-13, 25-7  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Waverly-South Shore, 20-25, 25-21, 25-10, 25-18  
Groton Area def. Milbank, 28-27, 16-25, 25-20, 25-17, 15-12  
Hamlin def. Sisseton, 25-22, 25-6, 25-15  
Harding County def. Bison, 25-16, 25-14, 25-16  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Ipswich, 23-25, 25-23, 23-25, 25-18, 15-5  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Wessington Springs, 25-17, 25-19, 24-26, 25-17  
Kadoka Area def. Rapid City Christian, 26-24, 25-14, 25-13  
Kimball/White Lake def. Colome, 25-5, 25-19, 25-17  
Lemmon def. Dupree, 25-15, 25-18, 25-17  
Lyman def. Stanley County, 25-21, 25-20, 25-15  
Madison def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-14, 25-8  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Hanson, 23-25, 25-14, 26-24, 20-25, 15-10  
McIntosh def. McLaughlin, 25-19, 25-9, 25-11  
Menno def. Scotland, 25-23, 21-25, 25-21, 25-9  
Parker def. Howard, 25-21, 25-14, 25-21  
Philip def. New Underwood, 25-15, 25-19, 25-20  
Potter County def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-19, 25-15, 25-10  
Redfield/Doland def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-17, 25-12, 25-14  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Lennox, 25-12, 25-12, 25-14  
Sioux Valley def. Garretson, 25-15, 25-6, 25-10  
Spearfish def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-20, 25-14, 25-13  
St. Thomas More def. Custer, 25-17, 17-25, 21-25, 25-23, 15-10  
Valentine, Neb. def. Bennett County, 20-25, 25-23, 23-25, 25-18, 16-14  
Wagner def. Burke/South Central, 25-18, 25-17, 22-25, 16-25, 15-8  
Waubay/Summit def. Hankinson, N.D., 25-18, 16-25, 25-19, 19-25, 15-8  
Webster def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 17-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-21

West Central def. Tri-Valley, 25-19, 25-14, 20-25, 25-18

Winner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-21, 25-20, 25-15

Wolsey-Wessington def. Lake Preston, 25-23, 25-18, 25-22

## **GAO: Climate change already costing US billions in losses**

**By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A non-partisan federal watchdog says climate change is already costing U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars each year, with those costs expected to rise as devastating storms, floods, wildfires and droughts become more frequent in the coming decades.

A Government Accountability Office report released Monday said the federal government has spent more than \$350 billion over the last decade on disaster assistance programs and losses from flood and crop insurance. That tally does not include the massive toll from this year's three major hurricanes and wildfires, expected to be among the most costly in the nation's history.

The report predicts these costs will only grow in the future, potentially reaching a budget busting \$35 billion a year by 2050. The report says the federal government doesn't effectively plan for these recurring costs, classifying the financial exposure from climate-related costs as "high risk."

"The federal government has not undertaken strategic government-wide planning to manage climate risks by using information on the potential economic effects of climate change to identify significant risks and craft appropriate federal responses," the study said. "By using such information, the federal government could take the initial step in establishing government-wide priorities to manage such risks."

GAO undertook the study following a request from Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"This nonpartisan GAO report Senator Cantwell and I requested contains astonishing numbers about the consequences of climate change for our economy and for the federal budget in particular," said Collins. "In Maine, our economy is inextricably linked to the environment. We are experiencing a real change in the sea life, which has serious implications for the livelihoods of many people across our state, including those who work in our iconic lobster industry."

The report's authors reviewed 30 government and academic studies examining the national and regional impacts of climate change. They also interviewed 28 experts familiar with the strengths and limitations of the studies, which rely on future projections of climate impacts to estimate likely costs.

The report says the fiscal impacts of climate change are likely to vary widely by region. The Southeast is at increased risk because of coastal property that could be swamped by storm surge and sea level rise. The Northeast is also under threat from storm surge and sea level rise, though not as much as the Southeast.

The Midwest and Great Plains are susceptible to decreased crop yields, the report said. The west is expected to see increased drought, wildfires and deadly heatwaves.

Advance copies were provided to the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency, which provided no official comments for inclusion in the GAO report.

Requests for comment from The Associated Press also received no response on Monday.

President Donald Trump has called climate change a hoax, announcing his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accords and revoke Obama-era initiatives to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Trump has also appointed officials such as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, all of whom question the scientific consensus that carbon released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of global warming.

Earlier this month Trump nominated Kathleen Hartnett White of Texas to serve as his top environmental adviser at the White House. She has credited the fossil fuel industry with "vastly improved living conditions across the world" and likened the work of mainstream climate scientists to "the dogmatic claims of ideologues and clerics."

White, who works at a conservative think tank that has received funding from fossil-fuel companies, holds academic degrees in East Asian studies and comparative literature.

Follow Associated Press environmental writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Submit a confidential tip to The Associated Press at <https://www.ap.org.tips>

## **A few deer, turkey licenses still available in North Dakota**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Deer and wild turkey hunters can still get a North Dakota license for the upcoming hunting seasons.

The state Game and Fish Department says more than 200 doe licenses remain in units 3F1, 3F2 and 4F. They're available to hunters who have not already received a lottery or landowner license, and they're valid only during the regular deer gun season.

More than 100 fall turkey licenses remain in Unit 25, which includes McHenry County and parts of Pierce and Ward counties. Hunters are allowed a maximum of five turkey licenses for the fall season.

Resident and out-of-state hunters must apply online at the Game and Fish website .

## **Tribes seek reparations over destroyed Oregon site**

**By STEVEN DUBOIS, Associated Press**

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Government lawyers asked a federal judge Monday to dismiss a lawsuit filed by tribal elders who say a sacred site was destroyed to expand a highway near Oregon's Mount Hood.

U.S. Justice Department attorney Ben Schifman said in a telephone hearing that the elders were not substantially burdened by the expansion of U.S. 26 and lacked standing to sue.

The elders from Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde claim the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Their attorney Stephanie Barclay said the government in 2008 could have widened the road without bulldozing a site that included a stone altar and medicinal plants.

Rather than money, the Native Americans are asking for a historical marker, a rebuilt altar and for the planting of new trees and plants.

"Even more importantly, one of the things the plaintiffs are asking for in this case is simply for the judge to say what the federal government did was against the law," Barclay said after the hearing. "The federal government does not get to destroy sacred sites of Native Americans with impunity."

Judge Youlee Yim You will decide whether the case filed nine years ago moves forward. She did not indicate when she will rule.

The Oregon Department of Transportation widened the highway after receiving complaints about a dangerous stretch east of Portland. Residents believed the addition of a center-turn lane would increase safety.

Schifman said the Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not apply in this case because the elders have not been denied a public benefit or forced to violate their religion. He said if every individual were to have a religious veto over the use of public land, nearly all projects would grind to a halt.

Schifman noted that the plaintiffs have access to visit the roadside area.

"No one has been threatened by federal law enforcement officers with any kind of trespass or any criminal penalty for visiting the site," he said.

Barclay said access is useless when the elements that made it special are gone: "It would be like telling Christians that they can still access a church when the walls have been knocked down and the remainder has been covered in a mound of dirt."

Though the hearing was conducted by telephone, a sizable group of Native Americans listened in at the federal courthouse in downtown Portland.

Plaintiff Carol Logan, from the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, said she worshipped for decades at the site known as Ana Kwna Nchi nchi Patat, or the "Place of Big Big Trees."

"This is where our ancestors rest, and yet they rip the soil apart like an open wound," she said.

## Biofuel company announces plans for Mississippi refinery

NATCHEZ, Miss. (AP) — A British company aims to build a \$300 million refinery in southwest Mississippi to turn wood into the equivalent of diesel or jet fuel.

Velocys announced Friday that it signed an option for a 100-acre (40-hectare) site in Natchez.

Chandler Russ of economic development agency Natchez Inc. says Velocys plans 40 refinery jobs averaging \$100,000 yearly in pay and benefits, and could indirectly support 100-plus forestry jobs paying \$40,000 on average.

Russ says Adams County will pay for levee upgrades and donate land — a package worth \$4 million — if Velocys obtains \$300 million in financing.

He says Adams County would cut property taxes by two-thirds, worth \$42 million. Velocys says it would also get \$15 million in state tax breaks, but Mississippi's state government isn't contributing money upfront.

## Ex-energy regulators denounce Trump bid to boost coal

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight former federal energy regulators — including five former commission chairs — oppose a Trump administration plan to bolster nuclear and coal-fired power plants, arguing it would raise prices and disrupt electricity markets.

The former officials, who served under presidents from both parties, call the plan "a significant step backward."

The plan by Energy Secretary Rick Perry would reward nuclear and coal-fired power plants for adding reliability to the nation's power grid. Perry says the plan is needed to help prevent widespread outages such as those caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

The plan aims to reverse a steady tide of retirements of coal and nuclear plants, which have lost market share as natural gas and renewable energy flourish. President Donald Trump has vowed to revive the struggling coal industry and expressed strong support for nuclear power, while casting a skeptical eye toward renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is considering the plan and could decide by mid-December.

A letter signed by eight former energy commission members said "subsidizing resources" such as coal and nuclear plants "so they do not retire would fundamentally distort markets ... and inevitably raise prices to customers."

The plan could backfire as investors lose confidence in energy markets, the former officials said. "This loss of faith in markets would thereby undermine reliability," they wrote.

The letter was signed by officials who served under every president since Ronald Reagan, including former FERC chairs Elizabeth Moler, James Hoecker, Pat Wood III, Joseph Kelliher and Jon Wellinghoff. Moler, Hoecker and Wellinghoff are Democrats, while Wood and Kelliher are Republicans.

The American Public Power Association also urged FERC to reject the plan, saying in a statement Monday it would "impose significant costs on customers without any justification."

Energy markets "need significant reform, but the DOE proposal would take us in the wrong direction," said Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the power group, which represents community-owned utilities.

The Utility Workers Union of America, meanwhile, supported the plan, noting that nearly 8,000 jobs have been lost in electric power generation by traditional fossil fuels since 2011, with another 6,500 nuclear jobs lost during that same period. "If baseload coal and nuclear generation are not properly valued for their services, thousands more workers are at risk of losing their jobs," the union wrote.

Perry's plan would compensate power plant owners that maintain a 90-day fuel supply protected against the elements. The exact cost is unknown, but critics say it could result in subsidies worth billions of dollars.

The proposal has drawn opposition from an unusual coalition of business and environmental groups that frequently disagree with one another.

Environmental groups say the plan would boost dirty and dangerous fuels, while the energy industry warns about interference in the free market and manufacturers that use huge amounts of electricity com-



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plain about higher energy prices that could be passed on to consumers.

Opponents say there is no evidence of a threat to the grid's day-to-day reliability that would justify the emergency action Perry is seeking. An Energy Department report in August called reliability "adequate," citing significant additions to the grid from natural gas, wind, and solar.

Democrats in Congress have denounced the plan, while Republicans have generally taken a wait-and-see approach.

Follow Matthew Daly: <http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

## South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Media Prep Volleyball Poll for the week of Oct. 23, 2017. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

### Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Harrisburg	(13)	17-1	65	1
2. Mitchell -	18-2	51	2	
3. Aberdeen Central	-	13-4	35	4
4. R.C. Stevens -	26-6	28	3	
5. S.F. Washington -	17-12	8	NR	

Others receiving votes: S.F. O'Gorman (15-13) 3, Watertown (10-7) 3, Huron (11-9) 2.

### Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(13)	25-4	65	1
2. Dakota Valley	-	23-3	52	2
3. Madison -	22-4	39	3	
4. Parker -	22-6	21	4	
5. Miller -	22-4	11	5	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Valley (22-4) 4, Belle Fourche (27-3) 3.

### Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(13)	28-1	65	1
2. Warner -	25-4	50	2	
3. Hanson -	24-1	40	3	
4. Chester Area	-	21-4	25	4
5. Phillip -	26-2	12	5	

Others receiving votes: Herreid-Selby Area (25-2) 2, Ethan (18-4) 1.

## Gas pipeline explosion kills man doing maintenance work

NAVARRE, Ohio (AP) — A sheriff's office says a natural gas pipeline explosion in Ohio killed a man doing maintenance work.

The explosion Monday killed a Columbia Gas Transmission pipeline worker and caused a large gas leak just south of Canton that forced authorities to evacuate the neighborhood.

The Stark County Sheriff's office identified the victim as 60-year-old Wesley Johnson, of Wooster.

The Repository in Canton reports that investigators believe a cap on the end of a pipeline gave way, but

the cause isn't known.

Gas odors drifted more than four miles away after the explosion sent natural gas spewing from a valve. Most residents were able to return to their homes within an hour.

Information from: The Repository, <http://www.cantonrep.com>

## Casino plan in Sioux Falls neighborhood upsets residents

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some residents of a Sioux Falls neighborhood are unhappy about a gas station's plan to open a video lottery casino on its premises.

City planners granted an alcohol sale permit to convenience store owner Gary Cones earlier this month. South Dakota requires people seeking a video lottery license to have a special on-sale alcohol permit, the Argus Leader reported .

Cones plans to add video lottery room to his Hilltop BP gas station.

Neighbors upset with the plan have asked the city council to reconsider the decision because they worry the casino could bring crime to the neighborhood.

"I've seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood," said Judith Kock, who has lived across Cones' gas station for decades. "There's been robberies ... and now you're going to bring a criminal element into our neighborhood worse than it is now by allowing a casino."

City Hall said alcohol sales can be permitted at the store because there are other businesses in the immediate vicinity.

Cones said the concerns are overblown.

"It's my home also, and I would never want anything to happen where we have a bar where people are going to be getting drunk," he said.

Cones said he plans to close the casino when the gas station closes at 10 p.m. He said he also doesn't expect casino users to consume much alcohol.

"We're not going to keep it as a bar. People who play at casinos don't drink a lot of alcohol," he said. "But in order for us to acquire a lottery license, we have to have an on-sale beverage license."

The city council will discuss the matter Nov. 7.

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

## St. Croix Chippewa ready to grow hemp in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin tribe is set to grow hemp in hopes of extracting oil from the plant that could help treat seizures and other health problems, despite uncertainty over its legality.

The St. Croix Chippewa plan to begin production at the end of the month, the Wisconsin State Journal reported .

Parents of children who suffer seizures contend cannabidiol oil, a hemp extract, can help ease symptoms.

The oil doesn't cause a high because it contains much less THC, marijuana's active ingredient that creates the psychoactive effect, but it's illegal to produce or sell in Wisconsin. Republican Gov. Scott Walker, however, signed a bill in April that makes possession legal with a doctor's certification.

The St. Croix Chippewa argue that since the state has chosen to regulate the oil it can't enforce a production prohibition on tribal lands because of a federal law that limits how states can enforce criminal law on reservations.

Growing hemp to obtain the oil remains illegal in Wisconsin and the Legislature would have to change the law before the St. Croix Chippewa could legally cultivate the plant, Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel said Monday during a news conference that promoted the state's Drug Take Back Day.

Schimel, a Republican, pointed out that the Menominee tribe tried to grow hemp in 2015 and federal authorities destroyed the crop, costing the tribe millions of dollars.

"Right now the law really doesn't permit the production of marijuana to make CBD oil in Wisconsin," he

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said. "So they're going to want to take this very cautiously."

The Burnett County Board of Supervisors supports the tribe's plan, board chair Don Taylor said in a letter last week.

"Families need a safe, reliable distributor of cannabidiol and the tribe's willingness to serve in that capacity is absolutely critical right now," tribal council member Elmer Emery said.

The operation will provide jobs to a county with high unemployment rates, Emery said. The facility will initially employ about 15 workers.

The tribe plans to spend about \$1.2 million on startup costs, said Jeff Cornell, the tribe's lawyer. Many tribes are considering growing hemp or marijuana to offset declines in casino revenue, he said.

"We're very excited about the opportunity to provide this medicine," Cornell said. "It's not just a business decision. It's about families, it's about health care."

Hemp can also be used to produce rope, building materials, body products, biodiesel and nutritional supplements.

Information from: Wisconsin State Journal, <http://www.madison.com/wsj>

## Oregon rafters may get a break on permits

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon State Marine Board is considering a plan that would no longer require people who rent commercial rafts and kayaks to carry Aquatic Invasive Species permits.

While raft-rental companies still would be required to buy the same permits to outfit their fleets, their customers would not have to physically carry proof while on waterways. Just the company name on the raft would suffice, thereby saving the Marine Board printing costs and reducing water authorities' need to check for permits.

"I think it's going to make life easier for everyone," said Sgt. Shawn Richards of the Jackson County sheriff's Marine Patrol. "We do yearly inspections on liveries, so we know they're compliant. This way, if there's not a tag on the boat, we don't have to hassle the clients."

The Marine Board is taking written public comments through Nov. 30, the Mail Tribune reported.

Marine Board spokeswoman Ashley Massey said the results will be presented to the board in January, and if it passes, the plan would be in place before next summer's boating season.

The proposed change would not apply to private boaters on privately owned crafts, who still would have to carry their permits.

Created by the Oregon Legislature in 2009, the invasive species program is the first line of defense against environmental invaders such as zebra and quagga mussels.

Users of nonmotorized boats over 10 feet (3.05 meters) must carry a permit, which is transferable. Boats under 10 feet (3.05 meters) remain exempt.

Information from: Mail Tribune, <http://www.mailtribune.com/>

## South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Oct. 23 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams and listing the team's record, points received and ranking in the previous poll. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses. (This week's poll is the final edition of the season for the 11AAA, 11AA and 11A classes.)<

Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

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1. Sioux Falls Washington;(24);9-0;120;1
  2. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;-;8-1;96;2
  3. Brandon Valley;-;7-2;72;4
  4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;6-3;48;3
  5. RC Stevens;-;5-4;21;5
- Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central 3.<

## Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

T1. Pierre;(12);6-3;107;1

T1. Mitchell;(12);6-3;107;3

3. Harrisburg;-;5-4;64;2

4. Douglas;-;5-4;46;4

5. Yankton;-;3-6;31;RV

Others receiving votes: Huron 4, Brookings 1.<

## Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Madison;(24);9-0;120;1

2. Dakota Valley;-;9-0;96;2

3. Dell Rapids;-;7-2;62;3

4. St. Thomas More;-;7-2;54;5

5. Milbank;-;6-3;23;RV

Others receiving votes: Tea Area 4, Pine Ridge 1.<

## Iowa college creates campus wetland to filter farm runoff

WEST BURLINGTON, Iowa (AP) — A community college in southeast Iowa has created a wetland on its campus to filter runoff from college-owned farmland and provide a learning tool for students and farmers.

The wetland on Southeastern Community College's West Burlington campus will typically be between 1.5 to 2 acres, The Hawk Eye reported . It could be as large as 9 acres during heavy rain, said Sabrina Pidgeon, an agriculture instructor at the college.

The wetland is located on the school's agriculture field primarily used for corn and soybeans.

"It's not the ideal location for a wetland in general, but it is the ideal location for educational purposes," Pidgeon said.

Pidgeon said her students will test the water to monitor nitrate levels. They'll also be able to observe wildlife including water fowl, amphibians, insects and plants.

"I like to call it our living lab. We'll be constantly learning out there," Pidgeon said.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service surveyed the area, constructed the wetland and created a water control structure. The structure controls the amount of groundwater in the soil and the wetland's water level.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation obtained a \$10,000 grant for the project. John Sandbothe, a regional manager at the bureau, approached the college and the Des Moines County Farm Bureau with the idea to create a wetland on the college's campus.

"It's a good way to showcase conservation and water quality practices for other farmers and also understand what farmers are doing to protect our resources," Sandbothe said.

The wetland also features grass, cattails and other water-loving plants that transform nitrates into harmless nitrogen gas. Nitrogen and phosphorus can also be absorbed by wetland soil. Most of the nitrates and other nutrients are soaked up by crops, which cuts down on nitrate runoff.

\_\_\_ Information from: The Hawk Eye, <http://www.thehawkeye.com>



## California company recalls vegetables over listeria fears

SALINAS, Calif. (AP) — A California company has voluntarily recalled packaged vegetables distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada because of possible bacterial contamination.

Mann Packing of Salinas says there have been no reported illnesses associated with the products. The recall was ordered last week after random testing in Canada turned up a single positive result for listeria.

The vegetables have "best if used by" dates from Oct. 11 through Oct. 20.

The recalled brands are: Signature Farms products sold at Albertsons; Archer Farms products sold at Target; kohlrabi salad blends sold at Trader Joe's; several varieties of broccoli and cauliflower sold at Walmart; and at least 30 Mann branded bags of veggies.

Listeria can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems.

## Average US gas price falls a nickel to \$2.51 for regular

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline fell a nickel nationally over the past two weeks to \$2.51.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the drop comes as distribution systems continue to get back to normal following disruptions from late-summer hurricanes along the Gulf Coast.

Gas in San Francisco was the highest in the contiguous United States at an average of \$3.07 a gallon. The lowest was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at \$2.14 a gallon.

The U.S. average diesel price is \$2.76, down about a penny from two weeks ago.

## Climbers set speed record on Yosemite's Nose of El Capitan

Two climbers have set a speed record for ascending the Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, one of the world's most technical and dangerous verticals. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Brad Gobright, 29, and climbing partner Jim Reynolds raced up the nearly 90-degree, 2,900-foot precipice in 2 hours and 19 minutes. The pair broke the previous record set in 2012 by four minutes.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two climbers have set a new speed record for ascending the Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, one of the world's most technical and dangerous verticals.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Brad Gobright, 29, and climbing partner Jim Reynolds raced up the nearly 90-degree, 2,900-foot (884-meter) precipice in 2 hours and 19 minutes.

The pair broke the previous record set in 2012 by four minutes.

The previous record was set by Hans Florine and Alex Honnold in 2 hours and 23 minutes in June 2012.

Yosemite Climbing Association president Ken Yager says climbing the Nose is a "very dangerous pursuit" and that he worries about climbers, especially when going fast.

More than two dozen people have been killed on El Capitan since 1905.

Information from: San Francisco Chronicle, <http://www.sfgate.com>

## Smithsonian museum to exhibit post from pipeline protest

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A centerpiece of a sprawling camp that evolved on disputed land in southern North Dakota to protest the four-state Dakota Access pipeline is going on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The nearly 12-foot-tall mile-marker post was constructed by protesters to show the distances they had traveled from around the globe. Points of origin on hand-crafted signs nailed to the post ranged from Fort Buffalo 50 yards away to Sápmi in the Arctic, home of the Sami indigenous peoples, 3,900 miles away.

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When the camp was forced to disband in February, Hickory Edwards of the Onondaga Nation took the post and donated it to the museum, which is putting it on public display Tuesday as part of an exhibit called "Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations."

"When more than 12,000 activists and hundreds of Native Nations assembled in North Dakota during 2016 to protest the Dakota Access pipeline, treaties were at the heart of the issue," museum Director Kevin Gover said.

Opponents maintained that the \$3.8 billion pipeline to move North Dakota oil to Illinois violated Native rights. The protest camp itself was on federal land that American Indians maintained still belonged to them under old treaties.

Thousands of people flocked there, many of them enduring a harsh winter and many clashing with police. There were 761 arrests between August 2016 and February 2017, when authorities shut down the camp in advance of spring flooding season.

Edwards, who erected the post in September 2016, made a special trip to retrieve it the night before the camp was closed. In all, he made five trips from his home in Nedrow, New York, to the camp — a distance of about 1,800 miles.

"When people came (to the camp), and they would see all these people in the middle of the Plains, miles and miles and miles out in the middle of nowhere, they would ask, 'Where did all these people come from?'" he said Monday. "We would point to this mile-marker post, and we would say, 'everywhere.'"

Michelle Cook, a Navajo who traveled about 1,600 miles from Arizona to the camp, on Monday called it "an incredible moment of cultural and historical significance, not only for American Indian people, but for our country and the world."

"To have that monument be recognized and acknowledged and honored is incredibly important, to remember and to celebrate what was sacrificed by the people," she said.

The post will be the final piece of the exhibit that deals with the issue of treaties by "reaching way back in time and really bringing it to the present," museum spokeswoman Bethany Bentley said. It will remain on display through 2021.

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This story has been corrected to show the cost of the pipeline was \$3.8 billion, not \$3.8 million.

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

## Climbers set speed record on Yosemite's Nose of El Capitan

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More than two dozen people have been killed on El Capitan since 1905.

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Information from: San Francisco Chronicle, <http://www.sfgate.com>

## Farmers market training events set in West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A series of training seminars will be held around West Virginia aimed at boosting farmers markets and farm production.

The first seminar will be held Tuesday at the Country Inn in Berkeley Springs. Additional seminars are scheduled for Nov. 9 at Jackson's Mill near Jane Lew and for Dec. 14 at the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea.

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They are being hosted by the West Virginia Farmers Market Association and the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition.

The Department of Agriculture said in a news release that among the topics for discussion will be branding and marketing, product pricing, regulatory compliance, access to capital and insurance, and social media.

The sessions are open to the public, but participants must register in advance. For more information, contact Erica Gallimore of the Farmers Market Association at (304) 412-6166.

## Florida pays nearly \$437,000 after losing skim milk battle

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida is paying nearly \$437,000 to cover the fees of attorneys who sued Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam.

A federal appeals court earlier this year sided with an all-natural dairy that fought the state's demand to label its skim milk "imitation" because vitamins aren't added to it.

Court records show a federal judge in September ordered Putnam's office to pay the attorneys who represented Ocheese Creamery. State officials reported earlier this month that the money had been paid. The notice states Putnam's agency "concur[s] that complying with this order is in the best interest of the state."

The creamery is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Tallahassee.

Since 2011 the state has paid more than \$20 million to cover expenses and fees for lawyers who have sued the state.

## Aberdeen armed robber still at large

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Police are searching for a gunman who robbed an Aberdeen convenience store and casino over the weekend.

Police say the man, dressed in black with a scarf over his face, entered the Sooper Stop West Saturday evening. Capt. Eric Duven tells Aberdeen American News the man brandished a handgun and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. Duven says no one was hurt and the gun was not discharged.

Investigators are reviewing video surveillance tape.

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

## Man who died in interstate crash was firefighter

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the man who died in an interstate crash near Mitchell was a firefighter for two area communities.

The Daily Republic reported Monday that Tracy Morehead died in Saturday's crash on Interstate 90. He was a firefighter for Salem and Spencer.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a Dodge Durango was westbound when it struck six cows that had wandered onto the interstate. The SUV came to a stop in the passing lane and was struck from the rear by a Chevrolet Impala driven by Morehead. The 39-year-old man died at a Mitchell hospital.

A 10-year-old girl who was a passenger in the Durango suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital. A 33-year-old woman in the SUV was seriously injured.

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

## Oklahoma's Kickapoo tribe gets more than \$282k from EPA

McLOUD, Okla. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma more than \$282,000 to curb water pollution.

The McCloud-based tribe will use the grant to control surface and groundwater pollution and establish protection programs that address indoor air, underground storage tanks and solid and hazardous waste

management.

The federal agency says the grant can be applied to different programs and can be used to remedy cost-cutting measures.

The EPA says performance partnership grants provide financial aid to states and tribes and allows recipients to use the awards with greater flexibility for priority environmental problems or program needs.

## 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. WHAT US OFFICIALS ARE PREPPING TILLERSON FOR

AP learns they are preparing a recommendation for the secretary of state to declare that "ethnic cleansing" is occurring against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims.

### 2. MORE THAN JUST LUNCH

Trump will dine with GOP senators on Capitol Hill this afternoon as congressional Republicans turn their focus to overhauling the tax code.

### 3. GHOSTS OF VIETNAM STIRRING AS TRUMP'S ASIA TRIP LOOMS

Sen. John McCain, a former POW after his plane was shot down in Vietnam, put an unwelcome spotlight on the president's five draft deferments to avoid military service.

### 4. CHINA LIFTS XI'S STATUS TO MOST POWERFUL LEADER IN DECADES

By inserting his name and dogma into the party's constitution, it tightens his grip over the country while pursuing a muscular foreign policy and military expansion.

### 5. WOMEN ON TRIAL VISIT SCENE OF ATTACK ON KIM JONG NAM

The judge and legal teams for both sides tour the inside of Kuala Lumpur's airport to give the court a better perspective of events as they unfolded.

### 6. WASHINGTONIANS UP IN ARMS ABOUT ONLY-IN-DC PHENOMENON

A string of former embassies and diplomatic buildings whose governments have essentially abandoned them raise the ire of residents and politicians.

### 7. WHY TRUMP'S COMMENTS CONCERN BERGDAHL JUDGE

A military judge is weighing the public perception of military justice after the president's criticism of the Army sergeant convicted of deserting his comrades in Afghanistan in 2009.

### 8. WATCHDOG: CLIMATE CHANGE COSTING AMERICAN TAXPAYERS BILLIONS

Those costs expected to rise as devastating storms, floods, wildfires and droughts become more frequent, a Government Accountability Office report finds.

### 9. SAUDIS HOST MAJOR INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

The gathering comes amid low oil prices, pressures from a growing population, fledgling reforms and regional unrest.

### 10. WELCOME TO THE REAL LATE SHOW

With so many trips to the pitching mound for discussions, the average time of a nine-inning baseball game is 3 hours, 32 minutes during the postseason — up 18 minutes since 2015.

## Trump comments concern judge, loom over Bergdahl sentencing

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump's criticism of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has become a factor in the soldier's sentencing as a military judge weighs the president's impact on public perception of military justice.

The judge deciding Bergdahl's punishment for walking off his post in Afghanistan in 2009 heard defense arguments Monday that Trump recently reaffirmed his scathing criticism and is preventing a fair sentencing hearing. Bergdahl faces a maximum sentence of life in prison after pleading guilty last week to desertion



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and misbehavior before the enemy.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, allowed the attorneys to question him about whether he was swayed by Trump's comments, and responded that he would be fair.

"I don't have any doubt whatsoever that I can be fair and impartial in the sentencing in this matter," Nance said.

But he had stern words for prosecutors about what effect Trump's comments would have on public perception of the case. He indicated he would issue a ruling later on the defense request to dismiss the case because of Trump.

While campaigning, Trump repeatedly called Bergdahl a "traitor" who deserved harsh punishment such as being shot. Nance previously ruled those comments were "disturbing" but didn't amount to unlawful command influence and noted the statements were made before Trump became commander in chief.

But last week Trump addressed his past comments when asked about them at a news conference. He replied that he couldn't say anything more about the case, "but I think people have heard my comments in the past." That, the defense said, shows he harbors the same views now that he commands the military.

Prosecutors argued Trump's comments didn't reaffirm his campaign-trail criticism and were narrowly focused on answering a reporter.

But Nance said he was having a "hard time" with prosecutors' interpretation, noting public confidence in military courts was something he had to consider.

Nance said his interpretation was that Trump was essentially saying: "I shouldn't comment on that, but I think everyone knows what I think on Bowe Bergdahl."

Former Army lawyer Eric Carpenter said the judge has to worry not only about whether Trump has directly influenced the case, but also what the public thinks under a military justice concept called apparent unlawful command influence. Nance's remarks Monday should resolve the question of whether Trump directly swayed the court, but the judge could still make concessions to the defense to address these concerns, Carpenter said.

"It gives you a clue that he's concerned about public appearance, and he can grant pretty significant remedies just to preserve the public's faith in the system," said Carpenter, who teaches law at Florida International University.

Carpenter doubts the judge would dismiss the case outright, but said Nance could limit Bergdahl's punishment because of Trump.

The White House issued a statement Friday that any military justice case must be "resolved on its own facts." White House representatives didn't respond to an email seeking comment Monday.

Bergdahl's sentencing, set to begin Monday, has been delayed until Wednesday because one of the defense attorneys wasn't available until then, the judge said.

Bergdahl, 31, pleaded guilty last week. Prosecutors made no deal to cap his punishment, so the judge has wide leeway to decide his sentence. Several more days of testimony are expected.

Nance is expected to weigh factors including Bergdahl's willingness to admit guilt, his five years of captivity by Taliban allies, and serious wounds suffered by soldiers and a Navy SEAL who searched for him.

Bergdahl, from Hailey, Idaho, was captured after walking off his remote post in 2009. He has said he was caged, kept in darkness and beaten, and tried to escape more than a dozen times before President Barack Obama brought Bergdahl home in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

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## What can be done about the abandoned embassy next door?

By **ASHRAF KHALIL**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The large building at the corner of 22nd and R streets in downtown Washington, D.C., sticks out like a wart in the otherwise upscale neighborhood. Plywood covers the windows, sleeping bags and empty bottles litter the shuttered doorways and head-high weeds sprout through the asphalt

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of the empty fenced-off parking lot.

For a solid decade, neighbors and local political leaders complained bitterly about the condition of the former Pakistani consulate. But the city remained powerless to do anything as long as the building was classified by the State Department as a diplomatic property.

That diplomatic designation has since been revoked, according to the State Department, but the building still stands as perhaps the most egregious example of an only-in-D.C. phenomenon, where diplomatic protocol allows a string of abandoned buildings to fester, untouchable and tax-free.

"Residents, who themselves are under obligation to keep their properties in order, are complaining to me," said City Councilwoman Mary Cheh, whose Ward 3 contains several such problematic properties. "Unless the State Department is really committed to the issue, these countries can really string you along."

Cheh's office has compiled a partial list of vacant and neglected diplomatic buildings and she co-authored a bill calling for creating a comprehensive citywide list. Violators on Cheh's list include properties owned by the governments of Serbia, Sri Lanka, Cameroon and Argentina.

Many of these eyesores are in some of the District's most high-end neighborhoods. The Sheridan-Kalorama area, where several are located, is home to former President Barack Obama, as well as President Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner. Jeff Bezos, owner of Amazon and The Washington Post, recently bought a massive house there. The area's most recent prominent resident is Secretary Of State Rex Tillerson, whose department is responsible for making sure these diplomatic properties are maintained.

The issue is particularly frustrating for members of the city council, who find themselves unable to use the many instruments at their disposal for dealing with neglected buildings. For example, the city has a three-tiered tax structure designed to compel landlords to maintain their properties. Ordinary buildings are taxed at 85 cents per \$100 in assessed value; for a vacant property, that rate increases to \$5 per \$100 and if a property is judged by the city to be neglected or "blighted" the tax rate jumps to \$10 per \$100 in assessed value.

But that isn't applicable for a diplomatic building.

"If I have a vacant house in the Shaw neighborhood that's becoming a problem, I can call in the cops, clean it up, throw a fence around it and if necessary seize it for unpaid taxes," said City Councilman Jack Evans. "I have a lot of tools in my tool box. But I don't have those tools available to me if it's a diplomatic property."

The State Department doesn't have a lot of options either. Cliff Seagroves, acting head of the Office of Foreign Missions, said he's largely bound by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Revoking a property's diplomatic status is an extreme step that could provoke a diplomatic crisis and retaliatory action against U.S. properties abroad.

"We have to balance (local residents' concerns) with making sure we're not making things harder for ourselves overseas," Seagroves said.

With limited options, Seagroves admitted that his office is often pleased to see negative press coverage of the issue that he hopes will embarrass intransigent nations into action.

"The shame factor is often our most effective tool in getting these matters resolved," he said.

The case of the former Pakistani consulate on R Street stands as a rare recent success. But it's also an example of how bad a situation has to get before the State Department will act. Seagroves said the Pakistani Foreign Ministry built a new embassy, moved its consular staff there and "in effect, walked away" from the old building.

After years of nagging, and with the building becoming a magnet for squatters, Seagroves' office finally delivered an ultimatum and a deadline. When that passed, State revoked the diplomatic status in February 2016 and let the city move in and treat the property like any other blighted building. By June 2017, the property had accumulated more than \$70,000 in tax debt. That debt was purchased by an investment group at a tax auction in July 2017, giving the Pakistani government about six months to settle the debt or risk losing the property.

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The Pakistani government, in a statement to The Associated Press, said that "a plan is being worked out" for the building's renovation and it was working with the State Department and District of Columbia government "to amicably resolve the issue."

However the Pakistani statement also pointed out that all diplomatic properties are exempt from taxation, a contention that seemingly ignores the revocation of the property's diplomatic status.

Repeated queries as to the why the building fell into such an extreme state of disrepair went unanswered.

While residents can claim victory there, the fight continues. One block away down R Street, the former Serbian embassy sits in similar disrepair with its diplomatic status intact.

Some of these unused buildings are unused for an understandable reason. The former Iranian Embassy has been empty since the two countries severed ties in 1979 and is now maintained by Seagroves' office. But in other cases, there seems to be multiple reasons why these nations would allow such valuable real estate to sit vacant and neglected.

David Bender, head of the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission, said an ambassador once told him that he couldn't afford to fix up a property, but didn't want to sell it because he didn't want to be responsible for downsizing his country's presence in the U.S. capital.

Seagroves said one foreign ministry official told him that "the cost to renovate a particular property in D.C. was equivalent to their entire annual budget for maintaining diplomatic properties around the world."

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## Late show: MLB postseason games stretch to record length

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Don't be surprised if you doze off during one of these World Series games, wake up and discover they're not even at the seventh-inning stretch.

With managers and pitching coaches walking to the mound earlier and more often in another postseason of record game times, Justin Verlander is the lone throwback.

Verlander pitched the only complete game during the playoffs, when the average time of a nine-inning game stretched to a sometimes thrilling but often annoying 3 hours, 32 minutes, up seven minutes from last year and 18 from 2015.

"There are the outliers, there are guys like me who can still go deep in games," the Houston ace said as he prepared to start Game 2 against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night.

When the Dodgers last were in the World Series, Orel Hershiser pitched a pair of complete games against Oakland, a three-hit shutout in Game 2 that took 2:30 and a four-hitter in the Game 5 finale that lasted 2:51.

The average time of a nine-inning postseason game hasn't been below three hours since 1990, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Attribute the elongated action — or inaction — to mushrooming mound visits along with television commercial time.

Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw won't get the chance to replicate the feats of Sandy Koufax, who pitched a four-hit shutout against Minnesota in Game 5 of the 1965 Series at Dodger Stadium that took 2:34, then came back on two days' rest to toss a three-hit shutout on the road that won Game 7, which breezed by in 2:27.

"I don't think it's fair to compare eras because baseball is a lot different now," Kershaw said. "I'm not going to debate which one is better or worse. But there's a lot of things that change over the course of the time. And we have a really good bullpen; you can't argue with that. I think the era of baseball we are in is pretty great. I'm happy to be a part of it."

Even before the postseason, teams were concerned the average nine-inning game during the regular-season took 3:05:11, up from 3:00:42 last year and 2:56 in 2015. Major League Baseball has proposed a 20-second pitch clock and restricting catchers to one trip to the mound per pitcher each inning, rules management can impose unilaterally for 2018.

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"I think you'd start to see some of the most sophisticated signs known to man," said Astros manager A.J. Hinch, a former big league catcher. "You can't express enough how important it is to give no competitive advantage to the hitter when it come to your signs, to what pitch the guy is throwing. All of that is out of paranoia that you don't want the hitter to know what's coming."

Talks between management and the players' association are ongoing, and it is possible changes could be phased in over several seasons.

Advanced analytics have transformed the sport. Last year's World Series was the first in which no starting pitcher got even one out in the seventh inning, according to Elias.

The average pitches by a starter this postseason is 81, according to Baseball Info Solutions, down from 96 in 2010. The average number of outs by postseason starters has dropped in the same span from 18 to 14.

Houston, like many teams, often prefers its starting pitchers not face batters for a third time.

"In the last probably four or five years I think things have really started to change rapidly," Verlander said. "You can buck the trend of some of the numbers to a certain point, but it's going to be hard for the younger generation to be able to show that they can do that when they might not even have the opportunity."

Dodgers backup catcher Kyle Farmer was part of the 2015 Arizona Fall League experiment that limited trips to the mound. While many times the conference is to change signs or go over pitch selection, gamesmanship is part of the strategy, especially after a string of foul balls,

"It gives the hitter time to rest and time to think, and that can also mess up the hitter's timing," he said. "You kind of get him out of his rhythm. It's like a chess match."

Los Angeles outfielder Curtis Granderson would rather alter the television presentation than tinker with the way the game is played.

"Why is it so difficult that if we're ready to play, meaning the pitcher and the hitter, can't we just go live and put the commercial on the side? We do we have to wait? I saw it in a boxing match earlier this summer," he said. "If you can just cut a minute off of each inning break, make it from three minutes to two minutes, you've already saved 18 minutes on the game."

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

## Ghosts of Vietnam stirring as Trump preps for Asia trip

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For more than 50 years, every American president has been forced to grapple, in one way or another, with the quagmire of the Vietnam War. Now it's Donald Trump's turn.

The ghosts of Vietnam are stirring anew, just as Trump prepares to visit the nation on his first presidential tour of Asia. Vietnam war hero Sen. John McCain, who spent more than five years in a prisoner of war camp after his plane was shot down, this week put an unwelcome spotlight on Trump's five draft deferments to avoid military service. And Trump's prolonged political tussle over the proper way for presidents to honor and grieve with the families of fallen soldiers has focused attention on his lack of military service as well.

Trump tried to set all that aside Monday as he presented the Medal of Honor to retired Capt. Gary Rose, a Vietnam era medic who repeatedly ran into the line of enemy fire and ignored his own wounds to save his colleagues during a fierce firefight in enemy-controlled territory in September 1970.

"Mike, this is serious stuff," Trump said. "Your love for your fellow soldier, your devotion to your country inspires us all."

But the matter of Trump's lack of service wasn't far off stage.

McCain, the Arizona Republican who has frequently clashed with the president, made clear he had Trump in mind Monday as he criticized the Vietnam draft system that forced low-income Americans to serve while the wealthy could avoid war with a doctor's note. Trump, the son of a millionaire developer, received draft deferments, one attained with a physician's letter stating that he suffered from bone spurs in his feet.

"I don't consider him so much a draft dodger as I feel that the system was so wrong that certain Americans could evade their responsibilities to serve the country," McCain said on ABC's "The View." McCain



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was being pressed about earlier comments on C-SPAN in which he lamented that the military “drafted the lowest income level of America and the highest income level found a doctor that would say they had a bone spur.”

When a host on the ABC show remarked that people thought McCain had been talking about Trump on C-SPAN because the president had sought a medical deferment, McCain interjected, “More than once, yes.”

Over the decades, Vietnam has become shorthand for a bogged-down military conflict, a comparison invoked during more recent struggles in Afghanistan and Iraq. It has served as a cautionary lesson about the political peril for presidents ensnared in prolonged overseas military operations.

President Lyndon Johnson abandoned his re-election quest after an escalation in the war led to more American deaths, while President Richard Nixon took fierce criticism for expanding the conflict. President Bill Clinton’s wartime deferment before he entered the Vietnam draft generated considerable heat during the 1992 presidential campaign.

More recently, questions about the service of George W. Bush and John Kerry were prominent in the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns. Bush served in the Texas Air National Guard but faced scrutiny over his status and why he was never deployed overseas. Kerry was a decorated veteran who threw away his medals and testified against the war before Congress. His service record was questioned in campaign ads.

Obama, the first post-Vietnam president, positioned himself as the one who might heal the rift between those who served and those who didn’t. Although he, too, was burdened with lessons of the war.

“Let us resolve that when America sends our sons and daughters into harm’s way, we will always give them a clear mission; we will always give them a sound strategy; we will give them the equipment they need to get the job done,” Obama said at a visit to the Vietnam Memorial in 2012. “We will have their backs.”

Trump is slated to make his first presidential trip to Vietnam early next month as part of his 12-day, five-nation Asia tour. He will participate in an international summit in Da Nang before meeting the Vietnamese president in Hanoi. The White House said Monday it had not been decided if Trump would visit any war sites, like the prison where McCain was held.

Trump ignited a feud with McCain in July 2015 when he belittled the senator’s time in captivity.

“He’s not a war hero,” said Trump. “He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured.”

Trump once compared his ability to avoid sexually transmitted diseases in the Manhattan dating scene of the 1980s and 1990s to the perils of wartime that claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans in Vietnam.

“It is a dangerous world out there,” Trump said in a 1997 interview with shock jock Howard Stern. “It’s like Vietnam, sort of. It is my personal Vietnam. I feel like a great and very brave soldier.”

The renewed focus on Trump’s lack of service in Vietnam comes as he faces scrutiny over his treatment of the families of America’s war dead.

Trump has been pushing back against criticism from the family of slain Army Sgt. La David Johnson, killed this month in Niger, that he was disrespectful in his condolence call to the new widow.

Trump has steadfastly denied the claim. But the Johnsons are not the only family of a slain soldier to be angry at Trump.

The family of Capt. Ben Cross of Bethel, Maine, who was one of three Marines killed in an MV-22 Osprey crash in August off the coast of Australia, received a condolence letter from Trump on Friday.

The family questioned the timing of the letter, which arrived via overnight mail after the controversy over Gold Star families had erupted.

“I think that anyone who received five deferrals in order to avoid military service is unfit to be commander in chief and even less qualified to console a grieving family who has lost a loved one defending our country,” Cross’ brother Ryan said Monday. “He doesn’t know the first thing about service or sacrifice.”

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Associated Press writer David Sharp contributed reporting from Portland, Maine.

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## **APNewsBreak: Review to confirm Rohingya 'ethnic cleansing'**

**By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials are preparing a recommendation for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to declare that "ethnic cleansing" is occurring against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. That assessment would raise pressure on the Trump administration and U.S. lawmakers to consider new sanctions on a country that had been lauded for its democratic transition.

Tillerson could receive the recommendation as early as this week, said officials familiar with the process. He will then decide whether to adopt the advice of his agency's policy experts and lawyers.

A declaration of "ethnic cleansing" by the top U.S. diplomat would mark a reversal of fortune in American relations with the country also known as Burma, whose civilian government has been under the leadership of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for more than a year. But Suu Kyi and her government allies have little control over Myanmar's still powerful military, which is blamed for a brutal crackdown on Muslims in Rakhine State that has caused more than 600,000 refugees to flee to Bangladesh.

The State Department declined to comment.

The recommendation is being prepared as U.S. lawmakers urge fresh sanctions on Myanmar's military and are calling on the Trump administration to sever already restricted military ties. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee takes up the issue at a hearing on U.S. policy toward Myanmar on Tuesday.

The U.S. officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the internal process and requested anonymity, said the State Department won't make a call yet on whether crimes against humanity in Myanmar have occurred. Such a determination would be even more detrimental to Myanmar's military, as it could force the U.S. to push for legal accountability.

Attacks by Rohingya insurgents on security forces in late August triggered what human rights groups have called a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Amnesty International has reported that hundreds of Rohingya men, women and children have been systematically killed.

Calls for a U.S. determination of "ethnic cleansing" have intensified, as the United Nations and leading Western governments have used the term. Six weeks ago, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini said it "seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing." French President Emmanuel Macron echoed that opinion, as have leaders of many in the Muslim world.

U.S. officials have been more reticent. Tillerson, who last week said that perpetrators will be held to account for atrocities, has referred to the violence as "characterized by many as ethnic cleansing." U.N. envoy Nikki Haley told the Security Council last month it was "a brutal, sustained campaign to cleanse the country of an ethnic minority."

But that's as far as the administration has gone as it prepares for President Donald Trump's first trip to the region next month.

U.S. lawmakers have pushed for the administration to use the term without qualification. Earlier this month, Patrick Murphy, a senior U.S. diplomat for Southeast Asia, described it as a "human tragedy" as he was grilled by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He will testify again Tuesday.

According to the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, "ethnic cleansing" isn't recognized as an independent crime under international law, unlike crimes against humanity and genocide. It surfaced in the context of the 1990s conflict in the former Yugoslavia, when a U.N. commission defined it as "rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove persons of given groups from the area."

Before the latest exodus, roughly 1 million Rohingya lived in Myanmar. The Buddhist majority believes they migrated illegally from Bangladesh, although many Rohingya families have lived in Myanmar for generations. They were stripped of their citizenship in 1982.

Sarah Margon, Washington director for Human Rights Watch, said a U.S. "ethnic cleansing" determination "is long overdue," but should only be a first step.

"Even if the U.S. government does get there, the real question is what concrete response is there going

to be?" she said.

Starting in 2012, the Obama administration lifted long-standing sanctions against Myanmar to reward its shift from military rule. The transition culminated in 2015 elections and a civilian government led by Suu Kyi. U.S. officials who are focused on Asia policy remain leery of punishing Myanmar for fear it could undermine Suu Kyi's efforts and push her country away from the United States and closer to rivals such as China.

Officials say the recent violence has prompted the U.S. administration to reverse a policy of waiving visa restrictions and allowing members of Myanmar's military and their families to visit here. The State Department also announced Monday that all units and officers involved in the operations in Rakhine were ineligible for U.S. assistance, and it has rescinded invitations for senior Myanmar security forces to attend U.S.-sponsored events.

Some lawmakers say that's hardly enough. More than 40 House members wrote to Tillerson last week to seek "significant actions to stop the ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya. Twenty-one senators wrote to Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., urging multilateral sanctions against specific senior Myanmar military officials.

Sen. Ben Cardin, the Foreign Relations Committee's top Democrat, says the Rohingya are facing not just "ethnic cleansing," but "genocide." The U.N. defines that term as the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. Already, two years ago, Yale Law School argued there was "strong evidence that genocide is being committed."

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Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

## Trump plans lunch with GOP senators as focus turns to taxes

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is planning lunch with GOP senators after sparring with several of them, as congressional Republicans turn to overhauling the tax code.

It will be Trump's first appearance as president at Senate Republicans' regular Tuesday policy lunch at the Capitol. The gathering has the potential for awkward moments, because it follows spats between Trump and GOP senators such as John McCain of Arizona and Bob Corker of Tennessee, as well as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

McConnell and Trump had a joint news conference last week to announce they had smoothed things over and underscore their common focus on taxes. But Trump's comments at that event spawned the controversy over his treatment of fallen U.S. troops, underscoring how the president's lack of discipline repeatedly takes the White House off-message, a continuing frustration for members of Congress.

Nonetheless, Republicans and the Trump administration are determined to get tax legislation into law this year, and all sides seem to think they can unite around that goal.

No. 3 Senate Republican John Thune of South Dakota said he hopes to hear Trump "drive home the message that he wants to be a partner, a constructive partner that helps us get accomplishments that help everybody."

"If you have people who are running for re-election next year, whether it's a House member or one of the senators who's up this year, I think the best thing you can go back and talk about is that you got results," Thune added. "And I think that to the degree the president delivers that message it will be very well received by Republican senators."

Corker, who is retiring, recently suggested that Trump's undisciplined rhetoric about international affairs could lead to World War III, leading an angry Trump to dismiss him as "Liddle Bob Corker." McCain implicitly criticized Trump on Monday, though not by name, for getting a draft deferment during Vietnam for bone spurs in his foot. And Trump spent much of August lashing out at McConnell and blaming him for the Senate's failure to pass legislation to repeal and replace "Obamacare."

The tax plan crafted by Trump and Republican leaders calls for steep tax cuts for corporations and potentially for individuals. It would double the standard deduction used by most Americans, shrink the

number of tax brackets from seven to three or four, and repeal inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates. But crucial details of the plan have yet to be worked out, notably what income levels would fit with each tax bracket.

## China lifts Xi's status to most powerful leader in decades

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The ruling Communist Party on Tuesday formally lifted Xi Jinping's status to China's most powerful ruler in decades, setting the stage for the authoritarian leader to tighten his grip over the country while pursuing an increasingly muscular foreign policy and military expansion.

The move to insert Xi's name and dogma into the party's constitution alongside the party's founders came at the close of a twice-a-decade congress that gathered the country's ruling elite alongside rank-and-file party members. It not only places him in the first rank, with past leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, but also effectively makes any act of opposing him tantamount to an attack on the party itself.

"The Chinese people and nation have a great and bright future ahead," Xi told party delegates as the meeting came to a close after delegates approved the addition of Xi's ideology of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" to the party charter.

"Living in such a great era, we are all the more confident and proud, and also feel the heavy weight of responsibility upon us," he said.

The concept Xi has touted is seen as marking a break from the stage of economic reform ushered in by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s and continued under his successors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao; Xi has spoken of China emerging into a "new normal" of slower, but higher quality economic growth. The placement of Xi's thought among the party's leading guidelines also comes five years into his term — earlier than his predecessors.

"In every sense, the Xi Jinping era has begun in earnest," said Zhang Lifan, an independent political commentator in Beijing. "Only Mao's name was enshrined in the party ideology while he was still alive. We're opening something that hasn't been broached before."

For centuries, Chinese emperors were accorded ritual names that signaled either they were successors in a dynastic line or the founders of an entirely new dynasty. What Xi accomplished this week was a modern equivalent of the latter, Zhang said.

"He wants to join that pantheon of leaders," he said.

Despite being elevated to the status of both a political and theoretical authority in the party, Xi still lacks the broad popular support of the Chinese public that Mao had enjoyed, said Zhang Ming, a political analyst in Beijing who recently retired from a prestigious university.

"This (elevation) is a result of the party's political system and not of the sincere support of the people's hearts," Zhang Ming said. "If he can achieve that, he would become Mao."

Xi has described his concept as central to setting China on the path to becoming a "great modern socialist country" by midcentury. This vision has at its core a ruling party that serves as the vanguard for everything from defending national security to providing moral guidance to ordinary Chinese.

He has set the target date of 2049, the People's Republic's centenary, for the establishment of a prosperous, modern society. China has the world's second-largest economy and legions of newly wealthy urban residents, but raising living standards for millions of people continues to be a challenge.

Zhang Ming, the retired professor, said the goals Xi laid out were lofty but mostly mere rhetoric. "These goals have nothing to do with the people but are just jargon that people shouldn't take seriously," Zhang said. "It is not important for him to achieve these goals, just as long as his power reaches its peak."

The move came at the close of the 89 million-member party's national congress at Beijing's hulking Great Hall of the People, where nearly 2,300 delegates gathered to elect the party's leading bodies and hear reports.

Although the delegates nominally have the power to vote on candidates, all choices are carefully vetted



and the outcomes decided by negotiations among the top leaders.

The constitution was also amended to include references to the party's "absolute" leadership over the armed forces, which have been modernizing rapidly under Xi, and a commitment to promote Xi's signature foreign policy and infrastructure initiative known as "One Belt, One Road." That initiative seeks to link China to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond with a sprawling network of roads, railways, ports and other economic projects.

Delegates also elected a 204-member Central Committee, roughly 70 percent of whom are newcomers. The committee holds its first meeting Wednesday morning, after which the new 25-member politburo and its Standing Committee — the apex of Chinese political power — will be announced.

Five of the seven members of the current Standing Committee were left off the list of new Central Committee members, as was expected under the party's unwritten retirement age of 68.

That includes close Xi ally Wang Qishan, who led the party's much-feared anti-corruption agency that has investigated well over 1 million party members over the past years, bringing down two former top generals and a one-time member of the Standing Committee.

Wang's retirement ends a long career that saw him called on to help set up China's first investment bank, deal with the outbreak of SARS in Beijing and assist in organizing the 2008 Summer Olympics in the Chinese capital.

Along with civilian turnover, the military has also seen a considerable infusion of new blood. Seven of the 11 members of the Central Military Commission headed by Xi are expected to be newly appointed, including one of its two vice chairmen.

Meanwhile, the number of women on the Central Committee remains static at 10, though it's still not clear how many, if any, will make it onto the Politburo, where two have been sitting. No woman has ever made it onto the Standing Committee, a sharp contrast to elsewhere in the region such as Taiwan and Hong Kong where women have been elected leaders.

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Associated Press writers Gerry Shih and Gillian Wong contributed to this report.

## Women on trial visit scene of attack on North Korean scion

By EILEEN NG and ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

SEPANG, Malaysia (AP) — The two women accused of killing the half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were taken back to the scene of the crime on Tuesday as their murder trial moved from the courtroom to the Malaysian airport for a three-hour inspection tour under heavy police guard.

The judge, prosecutors, defense lawyers and representatives of the women's home countries were escorted inside the Kuala Lumpur airport by heavily armed police on a tour meant to give the court a better perspective of events as they unfolded.

Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam appeared subdued at the start of the tour, which took a break about an hour later when Aisyah became emotional. She was seen sobbing quietly. She and Huong were given water to drink and when the tour resumed, both were being pushed around in wheelchairs.

Aisyah's lawyer Gooi Soon Seng said the women, who were wearing heavy bulletproof vests and handcuffed, were given wheelchairs because they complained of exhaustion.

High Court Judge Azmi Ariffin visited the check-in kiosk in the budget terminal where the two women allegedly smeared VX nerve agent onto Kim Jong Nam's face on Feb. 13. The judge followed the path Kim walked to the airport clinic seeking help and retraced the movement of the two women, who were seen on security footage rushing to restrooms afterward to wash their hands.

Security videos of the murder were shown at the trial earlier this month and "the exercise today is to see for ourselves the actual locations and which cameras recorded the scenes," Gooi said.

"I believe the visit to the crime scene will help strengthen the prosecution's case because it will allow the judge to follow the women's trail and understand why they took that path," prosecutor Wan Shaharuddin

Wan Ladin told The Associated Press before the tour began.

Police clad in black uniforms, many carrying rifles and wearing masks, formed a security ring around the group as they toured the busy airport for more than three hours. Officials said the trial will return to the courtroom on Wednesday, with the cross examination of the police investigating officer.

Huong and Aisyah, who have pleaded not guilty, are the only suspects detained in the brazen assassination of Kim, an outcast from North Korea's ruling family who lived abroad in virtual exile for years. Their defense lawyers have said the women were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a TV show.

Prosecutors contend the women's conduct showed that they knew they were handling poison.

South Korea's spy agency has claimed the attack was part of a carefully set plot by Kim Jong Un to kill a brother he reportedly never met. Kim Jong Nam was not known to be actively seeking influence over his younger brother but had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic rule and because he was the eldest son of the late leader Kim Jong Il he could have been seen as a potential rival to Kim Jong Un.

Since the trial opened Oct. 2, witnesses have testified that Kim died from acute VX poisoning and that the banned chemical agent was found on his face and clothing and on the women's clothing and on Huong's fingernail clippings. A chemical weapon expert has also told the court that VX can be safely removed by careful washing within 15 minutes of exposure.

## Angry soldier's widow says Trump didn't know husband's name

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A fallen soldier's angry widow joined the stormy dispute with President Donald Trump on Monday over his response to her husband's death, declaring that his failure to remember the soldier's name in last week's condolence call "made me cry." He retorted that the call was "very respectful" and her accusation about her husband's name simply wasn't true.

Though Trump refused to let the new round of complaints go unanswered, he steered clear of the insults he exchanged last week with a congresswoman who had overhead the sympathy call.

The president spoke in public at two events during the day — including his awarding of the military Medal of Honor to a Vietnam-era Army medic — and made no mention of the case of Sgt. La David Johnson, one of four soldiers killed Oct. 4 in a firefight with militants tied to the Islamic State group in Niger.

In addition to criticizing Trump, Myeshia Johnson, the sergeant's widow, also complained bitterly that she had not been able to see her husband's body.

"I need to see him so I will know that that is my husband," she said. "I don't know nothing, they won't show me a finger, a hand."

A Pentagon spokeswoman said the military often may make a recommendation on viewing but that soldiers' bodies are prepared and turned over to the family and its funeral director. The final decision on viewing is up to them, said spokeswoman Laura Ochoa.

Myeshia Johnson spoke for the first time in the dispute on ABC's "Good Morning America." In the interview, she supported critical statements last week by Rep. Frederica Wilson, who had been in the car with the widow and other relatives when Trump phoned.

"Yes, the president said that 'he knew what he signed up for, but it hurts anyway.' And it made me cry 'cause I was very angry at the tone of his voice and how he said he couldn't remember my husband's name," Johnson said.

The president answered on Twitter soon after the interview aired, saying: "I had a very respectful conversation with the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, and spoke his name from beginning, without hesitation!"

At the Pentagon, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said an investigation has still to resolve questions about the Oct. 4 firefight. They include whether the U.S. had adequate intelligence and equipment for its operation, whether there was a planning failure and why it took two days to recover Johnson's body.

Besides Johnson's family, members of Congress are demanding answers. Last week, Sen. John McCain,

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R-Ariz., threatened a subpoena to accelerate the flow of information.

The row over Trump's call began last week when Wilson, a Florida Democrat, accused Trump of being callous in the conversation and Trump responded that Wilson's account was fabricated.

But Johnson backed Wilson's account, saying that the congresswoman was a longtime friend and listened on a speakerphone in the car with family members.

Said Johnson on Monday: "I heard him stumbling on trying to remember my husband's name, and that's what hurt me the most, because if my husband is out here fighting for our country and he risked his life for our country why can't you remember his name."

The continuing dispute drew criticism from McCain, who spent more than five years in a Vietnamese prison. He said on "The View" Monday: "We should not be fighting about a brave American who lost his life."

Confusion over what happened in Niger has dogged Trump, who was silent about the deaths for more than a week.

Asked last Monday about that silence, Trump credited himself with doing more to honor the military dead and console their families than any of his predecessors. His subsequent boast that he reaches out personally to all families of the fallen was contradicted by interviews with family members, some of whom had not heard from him.

Questions about Trump's responses continued Monday. The family of Capt. Ben Cross of Bethel, Maine, who was one of three Marines killed in an MV-22 Osprey crash in August off the coast of Australia, received a letter from Trump on Friday, a day after his brother called out Trump.

The timing of the letter indicated "it was obviously done in an attempt to repair the political damage," said Ryan Cross. "We think he was going through the motions."

The administration has 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.

A White House official said Monday that the controversy did force a look at the overall outreach efforts and prompted letters that in some cases had been held up for bureaucratic reasons.

Rep. Wilson criticized the condolence call beginning last Tuesday. She continued to assail Trump, and he fired off insulting tweets, calling her "wacky" and accusing her of secretly listening.

Johnson declined to directly address Trump on Monday. Asked if she had a message for the president, she replied: "No. I don't have nothing to say to him."

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Associated Press writer David Sharp contributed from Portland, Maine.

## US general lays out Niger attack details; questions remain

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. special forces unit ambushed by Islamic militants in Niger didn't call for help until an hour into their first contact with the enemy, the top U.S. general said Monday, as he tried to clear up some of the murky details of the assault that killed four American troops and has triggered a nasty political brawl.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that the American people and the fallen soldiers' families deserve answers about the deadly ambush in the west African nation. But he said he still lacks many of the details about how the attack unfolded, and he asked for patience as the military investigation continues.

Dunford's description of the incident, however, underscored how long the mid-morning attack dragged on, and that it was many hours before the wounded and killed were evacuated. He said that "within minutes" after the unit called for assistance, a U.S. drone was moved into position overhead, providing surveillance and full-motion video. He declined to say if it was armed, but said it did not fire.

Another hour went by before French fighter jets arrived, but the wounded weren't taken out until later in the afternoon when French helicopters arrived along with additional Niger troops. The bodies of the

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three Green Berets who were killed were evacuated that evening, he said.

"I make no judgment as to how long it took them to ask for support," Dunford said. "I don't know that they thought they needed support prior to that time. I don't know how this attack unfolded. I don't know what their initial assessment was of what they were confronted with."

A battle-hardened commander, Dunford recalled situations when, "you're confronted with enemy contact, your initial assessment is you can deal with that contact with the resources that you have."

He added that under the military's rules, U.S. forces only accompany Niger troops on missions in that area when "the chances of enemy contact are unlikely." But he also agreed that it is an inherently dangerous area, and U.S. forces are there as part of a training and advising mission to help local Niger forces learn to deal with the various al-Qaida and IS-linked groups operating in the region.

Dunford acknowledged that nearly three weeks after the attack, many questions remain. They include whether the U.S. had adequate intelligence, equipment and training, did they have an accurate assessment of the threat in that area, how did they become separated in the fight and why did it take so long to recover the body of Sgt. La David Johnson, who was missing for two days before his body was found by Niger troops and turned over to the U.S.

He said the 12-member Army special forces unit accompanied 30 Nigerien forces on a reconnaissance mission to an area near the village of Tongo Tongo, about 85 kilometers north of the capital on Oct. 3. They ended up spending the night there, and when they were returning to their base the next morning, they encountered about 50 enemy fighters traveling by vehicle, carrying small arms and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Dunford said the White House was notified by the operations center when it became clear that at least three U.S. forces had been killed, and more direct notifications were made when officials realized that Johnson was missing. When he received the call about Johnson, Dunford said he made a "20-second" call to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and got immediate approval to bring the "full weight of the U.S. government to bear" in order to locate the missing soldier.

Independent of the events surrounding the attack, Johnson's death and his family's ordeal have become a major political dispute. After Johnson's body was returned to the U.S., President Donald Trump credited himself with doing more to honor the dead and console families than any of his predecessors.

Then, Johnson's aunt said Trump showed "disrespect" to his family as he telephoned to extend condolences. In an extraordinary White House briefing, John Kelly, the former Marine general who is Trump's chief of staff, shot back at Trump's critics, and the president continued the criticism over the weekend.

Members of Congress are also demanding answers. Last week, Sen. John McCain, the Republican chairman of the Armed Services Committee, even threatened a subpoena to accelerate the flow of information from the administration.

Asked about the congressional complaints, Dunford said that if lawmakers believe they aren't getting enough information, "then I need to double my efforts to provide them with information."

He said the military will try to wrap up its investigation into the incident as quickly as possible. The FBI is also investigating, but that probe likely focuses on counterterrorism, and any information or intelligence related to threats to the U.S.

Dunford defended the broader American mission in Niger. He said U.S. forces have been in the country intermittently for more than two decades. Currently, some 800 U.S. service members are supporting a French-led mission to defeat the Islamic State, al-Qaida and Boko Haram in West Africa.

"We are back to conducting operations as normal," he said. "Our intent is to continue operations there and continue to train, advise, assist our partners."



## Study: NYC could see bad flooding every 5 years

By FRANK ELTMAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Within the next three decades, floods that used to strike the New York City area only once every 500 years could occur every five years, according to a new scientific study released just days before the fifth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy.

The study, performed by researchers at several universities and published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, primarily blames the predicted change on sea-level rise caused by global warming.

"This is kind of a warning," said Andra Garner, a Rutgers University scientist and study co-author. "How are we going to protect our coastal infrastructure?"

The researchers based their analysis on multiple models that factored in predictions for sea level rise and possible changes in the path of future hurricanes.

Many of the models had a dose of good news for the nation's largest city: Climate changes may mean that storms are more violent, but are also likely to swing further off-shore, meaning storm surge heights aren't likely to increase substantially through 2300.

However, rising sea levels could mean that floods of 7.4 feet (2.25 meters) or more that struck the New York city area roughly once every 500 years before 1800, and which occur roughly every 25 years now, could happen once every five years between 2030 and 2045.

Researchers made no recommendations on what public officials or others should do to prepare.

"The idea is this kind of study we hope will provide information that people making those kinds of decisions can use," Garner said. "We know that when Sandy hit in 2012, of course, subways, tunnels flooded, power was knocked out, parts of the city were just really devastated so studies like this provide some warning."

Other researchers included scientists from Penn State University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The researchers said there is scientific consensus that global sea level will rise in the coming centuries, although it is not certain how high. They cautioned that sea-level rise at New York City could exceed 8 feet by the end of the century if, in a high-emissions future, the West Antarctic ice sheet rapidly melts.

The study expects about 5 inches to 11 inches (12.7 centimeters to 27.9 centimeters) of sea-level rise likely in New York City between 2000 and 2030.

The study examined sea level rise through the year 2300.

"I think the study is valid, but year 2300 is a long way off," said Billy Sweet, an oceanographer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who was not involved in it. "What is more certain is the amount of sea level rise likely to occur in the next 50 to 100 years or so and that storm surges from nor'easters and hurricanes will continue to pose a risk for New York City."

Hurricane Sandy merged with two other weather systems into an unusual storm that devastated the oceanfront coastline and caused catastrophic flooding in New York and cities in New Jersey on Oct. 29, 2012. It was blamed for at least 182 deaths and \$65 billion in damage in the U.S.

State and city officials in New York say they are planning numerous projects to guard against future flooding, including fortifying utilities and transit facilities, and note other projects are still in the design stage.

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This story has been corrected to reflect estimated sea level rise of 5 inches to 11 inches is between 2000 and 2030, not 2000 and 2300.

## Senate advances \$36.5 billion disaster relief package

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Monday gave a preliminary OK to a \$36.5 billion hurricane relief package that would provide Puerto Rico with a much-needed infusion of cash and keep the federal flood insurance program from running out of money to pay claims.

The 79-16 procedural vote set the stage for a final vote, most likely Tuesday.

The measure also provides \$18.7 billion to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency's rapidly dwindling emergency disaster accounts. On Monday, FEMA announced more than \$500 million in aid to Puerto Rico, including \$285 million to help restore power and water services to the devastated island. An additional \$16 billion would permit the financially troubled federal flood insurance program to pay an influx of Harvey-related claims.

But the bill rejects requests from the powerful Texas and Florida congressional delegations for additional money to rebuild after hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Florida Democrat Bill Nelson, whose state's citrus industry endured significant losses during Irma, sought to add \$3 billion in immediate agriculture assistance to the measure, but was denied by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who said money for crop losses would be in subsequent aid measures.

Senate passage on Tuesday would send the measure to President Donald Trump for his signature.

There was urgency to move the measure swiftly — rather than add more money to it at this time — because the government's disaster response and flood insurance reserves are running out. Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont said that would happen "in a matter of days" without action.

Still, members of the Texas and Florida delegations in Congress are unhappy because the measure failed to address extensive requests for additional hurricane rebuilding money. Texas, inundated by Harvey in August, requested \$19 billion, while Florida sought \$27 billion.

"I'm pretty disappointed with what the House sent over," Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn said last week. But later, after speaking to both Trump and White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, Cornyn said he was promised that the White House would issue another disaster aid measure next month for Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. A fourth, and perhaps final, measure is likely to anchor a year-end spending bill.

"The victims of these hurricanes can continue to count on our support," said McConnell said.

Up to \$5 billion of the measure's total could be used to assist Puerto Rico's central government and various municipalities that are suffering unsustainable cash shortfalls as Maria has choked off revenues and strained resources. An additional \$150 million would help Puerto Rico with the 10 percent match required for FEMA disaster relief.

More than one-fourth of the island's residents don't have potable running water and only 17 percent have electricity, according to FEMA. Just 392 miles of Puerto Rico's 5,073 miles of roads are open. Conditions in the U.S. Virgin Islands are bad as well, with widespread power outages.

But Trump last week graded his response to the Puerto Rico disaster a 10 on a scale of 10.

"President Trump seems more concerned about claiming credit for a job well done than the actual situation on the ground deserves, particularly in Puerto Rico," Leahy said. "This is the hard part of governing," he added. "We dig in for the long haul, we stop patting ourselves on the back."

The measure currently before the Senate contains \$577 million for wildfires in the West that forced agencies to tap other reserves for firefighting accounts and FEMA money.

Republicans delayed action last year on modest requests by President Barack Obama to combat the Zika virus and help Flint, Michigan, repair its lead-tainted water system. But they are moving quickly to take care of this year's alarming series of disasters, quickly passing a \$15.3 billion relief measure last month and signaling that another installment is coming next month.

Damage is still being assessed and final cost estimates for recovering and rebuilding from this year's hurricane season are not in yet. Some House conservatives are becoming restive at the high price tag for the disasters, which come as the deficit is growing.

## At long last, Dodgers ace Kershaw pitches in World Series

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In the Twilight Zone of October, the clock turns back at Dodger Stadium. To the mound, to the moments that defined World Series champions. Orel Hershiser, steely and standing tall. Fernando Valenzuela, eyes to the sky. The great Sandy Koufax, the very picture of pitching.

And that brings us to Game 1 on Tuesday night, when the Los Angeles Dodgers host the Houston Astros. Up on the bump, on baseball's biggest stage, we finally get to see Clayton Kershaw.

About time, right?

Kershaw has done most everything an ace can accomplish — three Cy Young Awards, five ERA crowns, three strikeout titles, a seven-time All-Star who's also won an MVP trophy and thrown a no-hitter.

Now, against a backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains majestic at sunset, the lefty and his Dodgers make their pitch for the ultimate prize.

"I think that's the final piece for him," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Said Kershaw: "Who knows how many times I'm going to get to go to the World Series? I know more than anybody how hard it is to get there. So, I'm definitely not taking this one for granted."

To those Kershaw plays with, he's got nothing left to prove. A model of consistency, the Dodgers see him as money every time he takes the mound.

It seems almost like an insult to many, in fact, to suggest anything otherwise.

Yet there is that one nagging set of stats that can't be overlooked: 6-7 with an unsightly 4.40 ERA in the playoffs.

Now, it's no shame to struggle in the postseason. All-Stars Chris Sale, Corey Kluber and Max Scherzer all got banged around this month.

Hall of Famers Greg Maddux, Randy Johnson and Tom Glavine, for all of their many accolades, each had losing records in the postseason. Those guys also helped pitch their teams to championships.

"You remember watching. You remember who went to the World Series," Kershaw said.

Kershaw has excelled at times in October.

He hung tough in Washington last season in the deciding Game 5 of the NL Division Series, earning his only big league save.

He threw six sharp innings last week in the clincher at Wrigley Field to dethrone the Cubs in the NL Championship Series. That made him 2-0 with a 3.63 ERA in three postseason starts this year, although he was tagged for four home runs in a win over Arizona.

But a truly signature moment, that's still missing. His opponent in the World Series opener, Astros lefty Dallas Keuchel, already has a couple.

Keuchel won the AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium two years ago with six shutout innings. He won the opener of this year's ALCS, tossing seven brilliant innings vs. the visiting Yankees.

Kershaw, as always, is eager to get going.

"There's always butterflies," he said before Monday's workout at Dodger Stadium. "I think this time is when the butterflies and anxiousness is more so. Once you throw the first pitch it all goes away, at least for me."

As for soaking in the atmosphere, that's not his style. Not right now.

"I think I'm just going to try to win tomorrow and I'll let it sink all in when we win. And if we don't do that, I'll let it sink in when we lose," he said.

Kershaw is 3-2 against the Astros, dating to when they were a National League team. Houston star Jose Altuve is 6 for 15 lifetime off a pitcher known for his sharp slider and pinpoint fastball.

"He's got every weapon you would fear," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "He's got some hardware on his shelf at home."

At 29, Kershaw could walk away after this Series and head straight to Cooperstown. He's 144-64 with a 2.36 ERA overall after going 18-4 with a 2.31 ERA this year.

"All the individual stuff is great, but at the end of the day I just want to win a World Series," he said last

week, adding with a smile, "If we win, I might retire, so I might just call it a career."

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

## Venezuela opposition governors take oath before assembly

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Four of the five opposition governors recently elected in Venezuela took an oath Monday before leaders of the all-powerful, pro-government constitutional assembly, reversing an earlier refusal and underlining fractures in the opposition.

The small ceremony in Caracas came less than a week after the opposition governors boycotted a swearing-in event at the constitutional assembly's chamber. Throughout the campaign, opposition candidates said they would never yield to socialist President Nicolas Maduro's demand that any newly elected governor take an oath and "submit" before the constitutional assembly.

Opposition leaders and dozens of foreign governments consider the assembly unconstitutional.

After initially refusing the oath, the opposition governors pressed their local legislative councils to swear them into office, as the Venezuelan constitution dictates. But the constitutional assembly, which has ruled with virtually unlimited powers since being elected in July, decreed that local councils could not swear any governor into office before they first took an oath before the assembly.

The move put the governors in a tight spot: Continue to refuse and risk losing their offices or be sworn in at the cost of caving in on a firmly held position.

Images released by the government on Twitter showed the newly elected governors of Anzoategui, Merida, Nueva Esparta and Tachira state holding up their right hands during a ceremony with Delcy Rodriguez, the assembly's president and one of Maduro's fiercest allies.

The elected governor of Zulia, Juan Pablo Guanipa, refused to participate, leaving up in the air what will happen in Venezuela's largest state.

On Twitter, two of the sworn-in opposition governors appeared to defend their decision. Tachira Gov. Laidy Gomez said the "humiliation of a leader" can be a means of achieving freedom. Anzoategui Gov. Antonio Barreto said that in order to resolve the nation's crisis they were making "the biggest of sacrifices."

While some supporters emerged online to defend them, both governors were met with an onslaught of criticism from disappointed Venezuelans.

"Traitor!!!!!" one woman angrily wrote.

According to the Electoral Council, opposition candidates won just five of the 23 governorships up for grabs in Oct. 15 elections that the opposition had been projected to dominate.

Opposition leaders are disputing the results, claiming the Electoral Council committed fraud through a series of maneuvers designed to give government-backed candidates an edge. In Bolivar state, the Democratic Unity Roundtable has presented evidence of possible ballot tampering.

Andres Velasquez, the opposition's candidate for governor in Bolivar, said the four opposition governors who took the oath deserve "full repudiation" by Venezuelans.

The squabbling over the oath seemed certain to sow further discord among members of the opposition, who have struggled to put forward a united message since the regional elections. While thousands of Venezuelans frustrated with their nation's triple-digit inflation, high crime and food shortages participated in four months of protests earlier this year, more recently the opposition has struggled to mobilize supporters.

Official election results show thousands in opposition strongholds did not participate in the vote.



## New York attorney general launches probe of Weinstein Co.

By DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced a civil rights investigation on Monday into The Weinstein Co. following sexual harassment and assault allegations against its co-founder, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

As part of the investigation, the prosecutor's office issued a subpoena seeking company records on harassment complaints and legal settlements to determine whether any civil rights and anti-discrimination laws were broken.

"No New Yorker should be forced to walk into a workplace ruled by sexual intimidation, harassment or fear," said Schneiderman, a Democrat. "If sexual harassment or discrimination is pervasive at a company, we want to know."

The New York City-based company fired Weinstein on Oct. 8 after The New York Times and The New Yorker exposed allegations of sexual assault and harassment spanning decades.

More than three dozen women, including Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie, have publicly accused the entertainment mogul of abuse. Weinstein has denied allegations of nonconsensual sex.

A woman who answered the phone in The Weinstein Co.'s media relations office said the company had no comment on the subpoena or news of the investigation.

One of Weinstein's former assistants in London, Zelda Perkins, spoke to the Financial Times about what she said was repeated sexual harassment toward her. Weinstein walked around nude in front of her, asked her to be in the room when he bathed and the producer would often try to pull her into bed when she went into his room to wake him up.

She told the paper she split a £250,000 settlement with another woman who she claimed was sexually assaulted by the producer.

Perkins told the paper for a story published Monday that she was required to sign a non-disclosure agreement — a copy of which she was not allowed to keep.

"I want to publicly break my non-disclosure agreement," she said. "Unless somebody does this there won't be a debate about how egregious these agreements are and the amount of duress that victims are put under. My entire world fell in because I thought the law was there to protect those who abided by it."

She sought legal advice after a colleague, who she did not name in the story, told her Weinstein sexually assaulted her at the Venice Film Festival in 1998.

Perkins, who had declined comment to The Associated Press through her current employer, said the settlement agreement called for Weinstein to undergo counseling and called for a harassment reporting procedure to be set up at Weinstein's then-company, Miramax.

Emails seeking comment from the Walt Disney Co., which owns Miramax, and Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister were not immediately returned. Hofmeister has said Weinstein denies all allegations of non-consensual sex.

Police in Los Angeles, New York City and London are also investigating Harvey Weinstein over allegations of sex abuse in those cities.

The Oscar winner was expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and the Producers Guild of America has started the process of expelling him.

The allegations have prompted calls in Albany to use the power of the state to crack down on harassment. Democratic Assemblywoman Nily Rozic of Queens proposed legislation that would make designers, photographers, retailers and others liable for harassment experienced by models.

Another lawmaker, Democratic Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal of Manhattan, proposed legislation that would make companies ineligible for state tax incentives if they fail to address chronic harassment problems in the workplace.

Also Monday, ABC News said Ashley Judd will talk to anchor Diane Sawyer for Judd's first TV interview since the actress-activist went public with allegations against Weinstein. The interview will air Thursday on ABC News platforms including "Good Morning America" and "Nightline."

Judd has described an incident two decades ago in which she said he invited her to his hotel room, greeted her wearing a bathrobe and asked if she would watch him shower.

"Good Morning America" aired an interview with Matt Damon and George Clooney on Monday where both acknowledged they were aware of allegations Weinstein had slept with actresses, but not that he had assaulted them. Clooney described him in the interview as "a predator."

"I knew he was an (expletive)," Damon said. "He was proud of that. ... I knew he was a womanizer. I wouldn't want to be married to the guy, but it's not my business really. But this level of criminal sexual predation is not something that I ever thought was going on."

In more Weinstein fallout, a fired Nickelodeon producer facing allegations of sexual harassment expressed regret over his behavior. Chris Savino, creator of the animated series "The Loud House," posted the apology Monday on his Facebook page.

"I am deeply sorry and I am ashamed," he wrote. "Although it was never my intention, I now understand that the impact of my actions and communications created an unacceptable environment."

Savino has been accused of sexual harassment by up to 12 women, according to the website Cartoon Brew, which reports on animation industry news.

Last week, Nickelodeon said it took allegations of misconduct seriously and that Savino was no longer working with the children's TV channel.

AP Television Writers Frazier Moore in New York and Lynn Elber and Film Writer Lindsey Bahr in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

## Trump shoots down retirement limit to pay for GOP tax cuts

By MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump shot down a possible approach for raising revenue to finance tax cuts in politically must-do legislation for the Republicans, promising Monday the popular 401(k) retirement savings program will be untouched.

Still, the head of the House's tax-writing committee indicated that changes to the 401(k) structure may still be on the table as Republicans push an ambitious timetable to get tax legislation written. Asked about the issue, Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Kevin Brady said: "I don't want to get ahead of the committee. That will all be part of the tax reform bill."

And in response to whether Trump's tweet changes in any way what the panel was planning to do, Brady replied only, "no."

Republicans are scrambling to find new revenue sources to pay for anticipated tax cuts exceeding \$1 trillion. A proposal to eliminate the widely-used federal deduction for state and local taxes has run into heavy opposition from GOP House members from high-tax states, threatening the enactment of tax legislation that Republicans deem essential to retaining their majority in next year's elections.

Trump pledged in a tweet there will be "no change" to tax incentives for the 401(k) retirement programs.

The No. 2 Republican in the Senate, Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas, said he's "sympathetic" to Trump's opposition to curbing 401(k)s because "we don't want to discourage people from saving."

But he cautioned against ruling out ideas at this stage of the legislative process. "I do think we need to be careful because there are going to be a lot of different trial balloons, and what counts is how you put all this together," Cornyn said.

The plan crafted by Trump and Republican leaders calls for steep tax cuts for corporations and potentially individuals, a doubling of the standard deduction used by most Americans, shrinking the number of tax brackets from seven to three or four, and the repeal of inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates. The child tax credit would be increased and the tax system would be simplified; most Americans would be able to file their income taxes on a postcard, according to the plan.

Crucial details of the plan have yet to be worked out, notably what income levels would fit with each tax bracket.

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With the possibility of the state and local deduction being at least partly preserved, some Republican lawmakers were considering limiting the amount workers could save in 401(k) retirement accounts.

"It was a trial balloon and it crashed," said Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute. "They're struggling to find legitimate offsets" for tax cuts.

"Everyone has been promised they are going to be better off with tax reform and that's really hard to do in a fiscally responsible way," Riedl said.

Employees' earnings from defined-contribution retirement plans such as 401(k)s aren't taxed until retirement; pay-ins by both employers and employees also receive tax-preferred status. That cost the government \$82.7 billion in lost revenue in the recent budget year ending Sept. 30, 2016 — a potentially juicy target for Republican tax-cutters.

With 55 million U.S. workers holding some \$5 trillion in their 401(k) accounts, the plans have become a touchstone of retirement security for the middle class.

"This has always been a great and popular middle class tax break that works, and it stays!" Trump tweeted. "There will be NO change to your 401(k)."

Appearing with Ivanka Trump in Pennsylvania, U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza echoed the president, telling the audience the retirement plans "will not be touched."

Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., the chairman of the House Budget Committee, said of the Trump-rejected proposal on retirement plans: "There are still some dials that do have to be turned. This is a major effort and when you dial one thing you have to look at another."

House Republicans will be working to pass a budget this week so they can turn their attention to the tax overhaul. Trump warned Sunday that action on tax reform is crucial to avoiding political failure in 2018. He'll work to rally support for the plan at the Capitol Tuesday at a lunch with Senate Republicans.

Trump personally implored House GOP members on a conference call to swiftly adopt the budget that was passed last week by the Senate, with the hope of clearing the way for what he described as historic tax cuts.

Trump told the lawmakers they were on the verge of doing something historic, according to one Republican official, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss publicly what was intended as a private update for members.

Another GOP aide familiar with the conversation said Trump told the members again and again that the party would pay a steep price in next year's midterm elections if it failed to pass his plan.

The Senate last week passed a budget plan that includes rules that will allow Republicans to get tax legislation through the Senate without Democratic votes or fear of a Democratic filibuster. House Republicans signaled Friday they would simply accept the Senate plan to avoid any potential delay on the tax measure.

Republicans are desperate to rack up a legislative win after a series of embarrassing failures despite the party controlling both chambers of Congress and the White House. Topping the list: their stalled attempts to pass legislation repealing and replacing "Obamacare." If tax overhaul legislation doesn't pass, many in the party fear a complete rout in 2018.

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AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner and AP writers Jill Colvin, Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## Kelly on O'Reilly: Abuse, shaming of women has to stop

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly took on her former Fox News Channel colleague Bill O'Reilly in blunt terms on Monday, revealing she had gone to her bosses to complain about O'Reilly's behavior and saying the size of a newly revealed \$32 million settlement of harassment charges made by a Fox analyst was "jaw-dropping."

O'Reilly responded, in part, by posting a copy of a thank you note Kelly had sent to him for a gift given at a baby shower.

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The New York Times reported that O'Reilly had agreed to the \$32 million deal to set aside allegations that include a nonconsensual sexual relationship with former Fox analyst Lis Wiehl, bringing to six the number of harassment settlements involving him. The deal was reached a month before O'Reilly signed a contract extension and three months before O'Reilly was fired because of publicity about the cases against him. O'Reilly has said he's done nothing wrong.

More than just an embarrassment that Fox had hoped was in its rear-view mirror, the story could have costly consequences. Fox's parent company, 21st Century Fox, is awaiting a decision by British regulators regarding its purchase of the Sky satellite television company, and the issue of Fox News' management is being considered.

Kelly, on her NBC show Monday, refuted O'Reilly's claims that no one had complained about him, saying Fox "was not exactly a friendly environment" for women who had stories to tell about abuse.

She said she went to Fox leaders Bill Shine, who has since resigned, and Jack Abernethy, who is now president of Fox News Network, after her memoir was published last November with her anger about O'Reilly's suggestion that people who complained about their treatment at Fox were disloyal. Kelly had written in her book about alleged harassment by Fox's one-time leader Roger Ailes.

"Perhaps he didn't realize the kind of message his criticism sends to young women across the country about how men continue to view the issue of speaking out about sexual harassment," Kelly said she wrote to her bosses.

O'Reilly's attitude of "shaming women into shutting the hell up about harassment on the grounds that it will disgrace the company" is precisely how Fox got into the mess it was in, she said. Later Monday, she posted a copy of the email she sent to her bosses. "You've got a hell of a guy hosting that 8 p.m. hour," she wrote.

Kelly said she was told O'Reilly would be spoken to and, hours later, he said on the air that people who don't like what is happening in the workplace should leave or go to human resources. She said it's clearly not just Fox that handles the issue of harassment badly.

"This must stop," she said. "The abuse of women, the shaming of them, the threats, the retaliation, the silence of them after the fact — it has to stop."

O'Reilly and Kelly's shows once ran back-to-back on Fox's prime lineup. Now those time slots are filled by Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity. O'Reilly, speaking Monday on the radio program hosted by another ex-Fox colleague, Glenn Beck, said he found Kelly's comment incomprehensible.

"I don't know why Megyn Kelly is doing what she's doing," he said. "I helped her dramatically in her career."

His website posted notes penned to O'Reilly by Kelly in 2009 and 2012. In one, she thanks O'Reilly for publicizing a book written by her husband. In the other, she thanks him for the "darling body suit and snuggly" given at a baby shower. "You've become a dear friend (no matter what you say) and I'm grateful to have you in my life," she wrote in the note.

O'Reilly also posted a note from Gretchen Carlson, whose lawsuit against Ailes led to his downfall. She's been critical of O'Reilly, and of Fox allowing Hannity to bring him back on the air for an interview recently. In the undated note to O'Reilly, she wrote, "thank you for being my friend."

Carlson's response on Twitter to the note: "So what. Still paid \$32M."

"If you still want to think I'm a bad guy, go ahead," O'Reilly told Beck. He said the Times' story about the Wiehl case was designed to get keep him out of the marketplace.

"This is an attack on an American citizen, me, for political purposes," he said. "It has done enormous damage to me and my family. It is a horror show and should never happen in this country."

On her show, Kelly said she's still being victimized by Fox. She said Fox's powerful public relations chief Irena Briganti is "known for her vindictiveness" and "to this day, she pushes negative articles on certain Ailes accusers, like the one you are looking at right now."

Briganti was not at work Monday. 21st Century Fox issued a statement saying Briganti was "a valued colleague and she has our full support."

Kelly also interviewed former Fox anchor Juliet Huddy on her show. Huddy, who appeared with her lawyer



Doug Wigdor, also settled harassment claims against O'Reilly, and said she wrestled with the idea of signing non-disclosure agreements. The one she signed prevented Huddy from giving any details about her case against O'Reilly. She said she struggled with the concept, knowing that it would help other women who feel abused if they knew there were others out there like them.

Huddy said she still isn't working in the broadcast business after leaving Fox.

## McCain critiques Trump without labeling him 'draft dodger'

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. John McCain left no doubt Monday that he was thinking of President Donald Trump as he criticized the draft system during Vietnam for forcing low-income Americans to serve while the wealthy could avoid war with a doctor's note.

McCain, a former Navy pilot and prisoner of war, stopped short of labeling Trump a "draft dodger" for getting five draft deferments. But the senator's comments came with Trump already immersed in controversy over how he honors U.S. troop deaths, and underscored the remove between the billionaire president and the military system he now controls as commander in chief.

McCain's criticism also continued a long-running clash between the two men on the eve of a visit by Trump to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to court Senate GOP votes for his tax plan, a meeting that could contain more than a few awkward moments.

"I don't consider him so much a draft dodger as I feel that the system was so wrong that certain Americans could evade their responsibilities to serve the country," McCain said on ABC's "The View." He was being pressed about comments in a C-SPAN interview aired Sunday where he lamented that the military "drafted the lowest income level of America and the highest income level found a doctor that would say they had a bone spur."

One of Trump's deferments came as a result of a physician's letter stating he suffered from bone spurs in his feet. Trump's presidential campaign described the issue as a temporary problem.

McCain, meanwhile, spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967. Yet during last year's presidential campaign Trump said McCain was not a war hero because "I like people who weren't captured."

The senator made clear during Monday's interview that he had been referring to Trump in making his C-SPAN comments. When one of the hosts remarked that people thought he was talking about Trump because the president had sought a medical deferment, McCain interjected, "More than once, yes."

McCain was asked to describe his relationship with the president. "Almost none" he simply said.

The six-term Arizona lawmaker, battling brain cancer at age 81, made his appearance on "The View" in honor of his daughter Meghan McCain's birthday. She recently joined the daytime talk show as one of its panel of co-hosts. The White House declined to comment on McCain's remarks.

The tacit criticism reflected the ongoing tension between Trump and McCain, which began during last year's campaign and has flared on and off. Trump responded furiously when McCain's "no" vote sunk Senate efforts to repeal and replace "Obamacare" earlier this year.

And last week, in a speech in Philadelphia, McCain questioned "half-baked, spurious nationalism" in America's foreign policy. Trump lashed out, insisting he would fight back and "it won't be pretty."

That prompted McCain to retort: "I have faced tougher adversaries."

The senator burst into sustained laughter on Monday when one of the hosts mentioned Trump's threats and asked McCain, "Are you scared?"

After he stopped laughing, McCain said, "I mentioned that I had faced greater challenges."

"Let's stop insulting each other. Let's start respecting each other," McCain recommended.

The back-and-forth between the president and McCain stands as the latest skirmish between the two Republican Party heavyweights and another example of Trump tangling with GOP senators who could make or break his agenda in Congress.

Trump in recent weeks has feuded with Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker and Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell, although the president joined with the Kentucky senator at the White House last week to publicly declare they were on the same page. Both Corker and McCain could be critical to the success or failure of the president's push to overhaul the tax system.

During Trump's presidency, McCain has questioned the president's immigration policies and warned him against cozying up to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The senator also criticized Trump in August for saying that both white nationalists and counter protesters were responsible for violent clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia.

McCain insisted in a tweet at the time that "there's no moral equivalency between racists & Americans standing up to defy hate and bigotry" and the president should say so.

The senator underwent surgery in mid-July to remove a 2-inch (51-millimeter) blood clot in his brain after being diagnosed with an aggressive tumor called a glioblastoma. It's the same type of tumor that killed Sen. Edward M. Kennedy at age 77 in 2009 and Beau Biden, son of then-Vice President Joe Biden, at 46 in 2015.

## IS came with a hit list, left Syria town in a trail of blood

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State militants came into the Syrian town with a hit list. By the time they left three weeks later, more than 70 civilians had been killed — shot or beheaded, their bodies dumped in farms and ditches.

The apparent revenge killings in the town of Qaryatayn underscore the ability of the extremists to inflict heavy losses even when they're in retreat — and portend more violence as they fight to hang on to their last strongholds in Syria.

News of the gruesome slayings began to emerge late Sunday, after IS militants were driven out by advancing government troops.

Terrified residents said they watched the slaughter from their windows or in the streets.

One former resident said his surviving family members walked for miles to find cell phone coverage so they could tell him of the deaths of his uncle, two cousins and a fourth relative. Another uncle remains missing.

"They came into town with a hit list," said Abdullah AbdulKarim, adding that 35 of the 50 militants who overran the town late last month were originally from Qaryatayn. He said the militants accused many of their victims of collaborating with the government but many others were also caught in the revenge killing.

"Our curse is from within us," he said, speaking to The Associated Press from northern Syria, where he fled years ago.

Once a predominantly Christian town known for its ancient monastery, Qaryatayn has changed hands between IS and the Syrian government several times during Syria's civil war. Parts of the 1,500-year-old St. Elian monastery were demolished the first time IS took over the town in 2015 and thousands of its Christian residents fled, fearing the extremist group's brutality.

An AP video, filmed as Syrian government troops recaptured Qaryatayn on Saturday, showed several bodies lying in the streets. In the video, a town resident said IS "monsters" killed more than 100 people, including soldiers and civilians.

"These are people who don't know God, they don't know anything. They killed children and women with knives, they beat women, broke their arms," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity out of fear for his own safety.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it had documented the killings of at least 128 people in Qaryatayn, including at least 12 killed by government forces on suspicion of aiding the IS militants.

AbdulKarim and Mohamed Hassan, an activist who runs the Palmyra Network News, put the death toll at 75 civilians, saying many more remain unaccounted for.

"It seems it was mostly revenge," Hassan said.

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Another activist network, the Palmyra Coordination Committee, released the names of 67 civilians who were confirmed killed and said the number was likely to rise. It said at least 35 of the dead were found dumped inside a ditch.

Talal Barazi, the governor of Homs province, said IS "terrorized" residents for three weeks, adding that most of the dead were townspeople who were government employees or were affiliated with Syria's ruling Baath party.

He said at least 13 residents remained missing and six bodies had not been identified.

IS militants relied on Qaryatayn's strategic location to defend another of their bastions, the historic city of Palmyra. With Russian backing, Syrian government troops regained control of Qaryatayn in April 2016. But IS, facing major setbacks in Syria and Iraq, launched a new offensive on the town in late September and recaptured it.

AbdulKarim said during the three weeks that IS controlled the town, the militants went door to door looking for people they accused of collaborating with the Syrian government.

He said his uncle, who was a local mayor, and two cousins were shot after they were taken to an undisclosed location.

"They took people to show them bodies dumped in an open area to let them know they were killed, but also to terrorize the public," AbdulKarim said. He said the extremists barred residents from burying their dead.

He said the advancing government troops also killed civilians, but residents were too afraid to report the government killings.

AbdulKarim and the Observatory said the militants took Qaryatayn's police chief, his wife and other security personnel as hostages to negotiate their exit after government troops encircled the town. About 200 militants evacuated the town, before government forces marched in, they said.

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Associated Press writer Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed to this report.

## Hundreds attend Mass for slain reporter in Malta

By **STEPHEN CALLEJA**, Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Hundreds of people attended a Mass in Malta to celebrate an investigative journalist who was killed by a car bomb, and the archbishop prayed Monday that the nation would seek to promote a culture of "integrity and honesty."

Maltese Archbishop Charles Scicluna celebrated Mass in Daphne Caruana Galizia's memory in a small chapel a few hundred meters (yards) from where her rental car was blown up as she drove near her home. It began the same hour that she died on Oct. 16.

Many at the Mass had to remain outdoors because there was no more room inside the church in Bidnija, a rural area of olive groves and farms where she lived.

Her husband and three sons, meanwhile, appeared instead at a court hearing Monday in a libel case brought by Malta's economy minister after she alleged that he had been to a brothel in Germany while on government business.

Minister Chris Cardona, who wasn't in court, has denied the allegation and the case was postponed.

Since libel cases in Malta don't end after a person's death but are passed on to heirs, her family risks a fine as high as 11,000 euros (\$13,000) if the ruling goes against the journalist.

Although an autopsy was performed last week, the body of the 53-year-old journalist is still in the custody of authorities as part of the investigation into the car bombing. No funeral date has been announced.

In his homily, Scicluna said his "solemn appeal today is that we be not afraid."

"What happened last week was intended to make us fear an unknown force of evil," the archbishop said. "We pray for Daphne and her family and for our island, that we may promote a culture of solidarity, integrity and honesty."

Writing for several publications in the tiny Mediterranean archipelago nation, as well as the author of a

highly-followed blog, Caruana Galizia included in her targets local criminal organizations, politicians, businessmen and other powerful figures.

Many sued, and dozens of lawsuits were pending when she was killed.

She exposed local links in the Panama Papers leak, especially offshore companies that she alleged were held by Maltese figures, including the wife of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. The Muscats denied they held an offshore account. Caruana Galizia had alleged it was opened so top figures from Azerbaijan could move money through it.

One of her more recent probes involved the trafficking of contraband oil with the help of Libyan militias from a refinery in Libya. Italian prosecutors in Sicily two days after her death announced they had broken up a trafficking scheme that sent black market fuel to Italy and other European countries with the help of Maltese suspects and boats positioned off Malta.

Among those at the church service was the president of the Italian Parliament's anti-Mafia commission. Commission members on Monday began a two-day fact-finding visit to the island, a mission scheduled before the car bombing.

The anti-Mafia lawmaker, Rosy Bindi, told reporters that Malta has been of interest to the commission "for some time" because of drug trafficking, gambling and migrant trafficking.

"Many top Italian Mafia figures do business on this island," Bindi said, without venturing on opinion about who might be behind the journalist's killing.

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Frances D'Emilio contributed from Rome.

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Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

## Stephen Hawking's Ph.D thesis goes online, website crashes

LONDON (AP) — Cambridge University has put Stephen Hawking's doctoral thesis online, triggering such interest that it crashed the university's website.

Completed in 1966 when Hawking was 24, "Properties of Expanding Universes" explores ideas about the origins of the universe that have resonated through the scientist's career.

The university says the thesis was already the most-requested item in its online repository. It was free to download Monday to mark Open Access Week. The website was intermittently inaccessible during the day as it struggled to handle to the interest.

Hawking said he hoped making his thesis available to all would "inspire people around the world to look up at the stars and not down at their feet; to wonder about our place in the universe and to try and make sense of the cosmos."

## The thrill is gone ... Sears-Whirlpool split after 100 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears will no longer sell Whirlpool appliances, ending a business relationship that dates make more than 100 years.

In a note sent to its stores last week, Sears said that Whirlpool was making demands that would've made it difficult to sell its appliances at a competitive price.

Sears has been ravaged by new competition for years, however, from stores like Home Depot and also from Amazon.com and other online retailers.

The end to the partnership is effective immediately and includes the larger appliances and small kitchen appliances of Whirlpool subsidiaries like Maytag, KitchenAid and Jenn-Air.

Sears said that it would sell off the remainder of its Whirlpool inventory. Its stores will now only sell its Kenmore products and other brands like LG, Samsung, GE, Frigidaire, Electrolux and Bosch.



## What to know about 401(k) plans amid talk of tax change

By STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The 401(k) may be in Washington's crosshairs.

Congress is looking for ways to raise revenue as part of a tax overhaul plan, and one of the methods reportedly under consideration is to curtail how much pretax money workers can contribute to their 401(k) and similar accounts. Such a move would strike at a way that tens of millions of Americans use to save for retirement.

The suggestion has already run into some resistance, even if it isn't an official policy proposal. President Donald Trump said Monday in a tweet that "There will be NO change to your 401(k). This has always been a great and popular middle class tax break that works, and it stays!"

Here's a look at how prevalent the 401(k) has become and how it's used:

**HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN A 401(K)?**

About 55 million Americans, who altogether have more than \$5 trillion invested in the plans, according to the Investment Company Institute, a trade group representing mutual funds.

Roughly \$19 of every \$100 in U.S. retirement assets is in a 401(k) account. A decade ago, \$17 of every \$100 was in a 401(k). The rest is in pension funds, Individual Retirement Accounts, annuities and other investments.

**WHY ARE 401(k)s SO IMPORTANT?**

U.S. households are increasingly in charge of saving for their own retirements.

Traditional pensions, which pay out a set amount to retirees, are growing closer to extinction. Plus, the retirement of the baby boomers is straining the Social Security trust fund, which is expected to run dry in 2034.

Enter the 401(k) account, which Congress created in 1978. It allows workers to set aside some of their pay and avoid paying even a cent of taxes on it until making withdrawals in retirement. By that time, savers may be making less in income than in their working years, which would mean they pay lower income-tax rates.

One of the big benefits of a 401(k) is that it can make saving automatic. Deductions get taken out of each paycheck. A growing number of employers are also automatically enrolling their workers into a 401(k) program and even automatically increasing their contribution rate each year, in hopes of setting workers up for better retirements.

**HOW ARE 401(K) ACCOUNTS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RETIREMENT PLANS?**

They allow workers to save more each year for retirement, on a tax-deferred basis. This year, for example, workers can set aside up to \$18,000 in contributions. Workers aged 50 and over can contribute up to \$24,000.

By comparison, the annual limit for tax-deferred contributions in an IRA is \$5,500, or \$6,500 for people aged 50 and above.

**HOW BIG IS THE TYPICAL 401(K)?**

The average balance for a 401(K) was \$97,700 at the end of June, according to Fidelity, which looked at 15 million participants in 22,200 plans. That's a record, and the totals have been rising as the stock market continues to climb and workers set aside more of their pay.

Workers contributed an average of \$5,850 to their 401(k) in the 12 months through June, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Proposals have reportedly discussed capping the annual pretax amount as low as \$2,400.

The average IRA balance is slightly larger, at \$100,200, according to Fidelity.

**ARE THERE ANY DOWNSIDES TO A 401(K)?**

The menu of available investments isn't always the best. Workers have filed numerous lawsuits in recent

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years against their employers, alleging that the 401(k) plan offers only funds that charge too-high fees or that have poor track records.

Even if good options are available, many workers feel uncomfortable making investment choices. That's one reason employers have been steering many workers into target-date retirement funds. These all-in-one mutual funds shift from risky investments toward safer ones as the targeted year of retirement approaches.

## ARE 401(K) PLANS JUST FOR THE RICH?

No, but the rich can get the most benefit. Higher-income workers are able to set aside more of their pay in a 401(k) account than lower-income workers for the simple reason that they have more to save.

But an additional benefit is that the dollars that higher-income workers are deducting from their taxable income would have been taxed at a higher rate than contributions made by lower-income workers. In other words, the tax benefit of a \$1,000 contribution is worth more for a higher-income worker than one made by a worker who is several tax-bracket rungs below.

## WHY WOULD CONGRESS CONSIDER THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Washington is hoping to cut income-tax rates across the board, but the only way to do that without sending the national debt skyrocketing even higher is to raise revenue elsewhere.

By curtailing the amount of 401(k) contributions that are tax deferred, Congress would be able to reap some of those dollars now rather than waiting to tax them when they're withdrawn decades in the future.

## Choices: Amazon says it got 238 entries for 2nd headquarters

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon will be sorting through 238 proposals from cities and regions in the United States, Canada and Mexico that are hoping to land the company's second headquarters and the investment it'll bring.

The online had retailer kicked off its hunt for a second home base in September, promising 50,000 new jobs and construction spending of more than \$5 billion. Proposals were due last week, and Amazon made clear that tax breaks and grants would be a big factor in deciding what entry prevails.

Amazon.com Inc. did not specify which cities or metro areas applied, but many of the location have made their interest public. The company said Monday the proposals came from 43 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as well as three Mexican states and six Canadian provinces.

In a tweet, the company said it was "excited to review each of them."

Besides looking for financial incentives, Amazon had stipulated that it wanted to be near a metropolitan area with more than a million people; be able to attract top technical talent; be within 45 minutes of an international airport; have direct access to mass transit; and be able to expand that headquarters to as much as 8 million square feet in the next decade.

But that didn't stop some apparent long shots from applying. A bid came from Alaska, according to Amazon, though the entire state has a population below a million.

"Most of the 238 probably lack some of those big-city advantages," said Jed Kolko, the chief economist at job site Indeed. But most places probably could not pass up the chance of getting 50,000 jobs, "even if the odds of winning are low," he said.

Although generous tax breaks and other incentives can erode a city's tax base, Amazon's headquarters could draw even more tech businesses along with their well-educated, highly paid employees.

In New Jersey, Republican Gov. Chris Christie has endorsed Newark's bid, saying the state and the city are planning nearly \$7 billion in tax breaks. Detroit bid organizers have said its proposal offers Amazon the unique chance to set up shop in both the U.S. and Canada. Missouri officials proposed an innovation corridor between Kansas City and St. Louis rather than a single location.

The seven U.S. states that Amazon said did not apply were: Arkansas, Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.

Ahead of the deadline, some cities turned to stunts to try and stand out: Representatives from Tucson, Arizona, sent a 21-foot tall cactus to Amazon's Seattle headquarters; New York lit the Empire State Building orange to match Amazon's smile logo.

The company plans to remain in its sprawling Seattle headquarters and the second one will be "a full equal" to it, founder and CEO Jeff Bezos said in September. Amazon has said that it will announce a decision sometime next year.

Contact Joseph Pisani at <http://twitter.com/josephpisani>

## Kaspersky to open security code, but will it restore trust?

By MATT O'BRIEN, AP Technology Writer

Moscow-based cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab, battered by suspicion of Russian government influence, wants to reassure customers by opening up its software's underlying code for outside review. But security experts and some U.S. politicians say the move is mostly meaningless.

In September, the U.S. government barred federal agencies from using Kaspersky's anti-virus products because of concerns about its ties to the Kremlin and Russian spy operations. News reports have since linked Kaspersky software to an alleged theft of cybersecurity information from the U.S. National Security Agency.

The company has repeatedly denied the allegations and says it's been dragged into the middle of a "geopolitical fight."

Now Kaspersky says it will provide the source code of its software — including software updates and threat-detection rules updates — for independent review and assessment. Outside experts, however, say such a review can only reveal so much, and thus would do little to address concerns of customers and the U.S. government.

"They're trying to salvage their reputation," said Blake Darche, a former NSA worker who is now chief security officer for security firm Area 1. "I don't see how it addresses the allegations against them in any meaningful way."

"This review is a red herring that doesn't address any of the fundamental underlying concerns with Kaspersky products, most significantly, that Russian law enables the Kremlin to monitor data transmissions, including Kaspersky's," U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat and regular Kaspersky critic, said in a statement Monday.

The suspicion has taken a toll on Kaspersky. Shortly after the federal ban, retailers such as Best Buy and Office Depot also stopped selling its consumer security software.

Then news broke in early October that hackers allegedly working for the Kremlin used Kaspersky's software to steal information from a National Security Agency contractor about how the U.S. infiltrates foreign networks and defends against cyberattacks. The company denied involvement.

CEO Eugene Kaspersky said on Twitter on Monday that's he's evaluating contractors who can conduct an independent code review.

By 2020, the company says it plans to open three centers in Europe, Asia and the United States where it says customers, government agencies and concerned organizations will also be able to review its code.

Security researcher Chris Wysopal said he welcomed multiple, independent reviewers, but cautioned that such analyses can provide only a snapshot of how the software works at a given moment in time. Like phone apps and other programs, security software is frequently updated.

"Even with this transparency, there's still a level of trust you have to give the company," said Wysopal, the chief technology officer of Vericode, a part of CA Technologies. "But this is a world we live in. There's a supply chain. We live in a world of dynamic software, constantly updating."

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 24, the 297th day of 2017. There are 68 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 24, 1952, Republican presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower declared in Detroit, "I shall go to Korea" as he promised to end the conflict. (He made the visit over a month later.)

On this date:

In 1537, Jane Seymour, the third wife of England's King Henry VIII, died 12 days after giving birth to Prince Edward, later King Edward VI.

In 1648, the Peace of Westphalia (west-FAY'-lee-uh) ended the Thirty Years War and effectively destroyed the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1861, the first transcontinental telegraph message was sent by Chief Justice Stephen J. Field of California from San Francisco to President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., over a line built by the Western Union Telegraph Co.

In 1931, the George Washington Bridge, connecting New York and New Jersey, was officially dedicated (it opened to traffic the next day).

In 1936, the short story "The Devil and Daniel Webster" by Stephen Vincent Benet was published in The Saturday Evening Post.

In 1939, DuPont began publicly selling its nylon stockings in Wilmington, Delaware. Benny Goodman and His Orchestra recorded their signature theme, "Let's Dance," for Columbia Records in New York.

In 1945, the United Nations officially came into existence as its charter took effect.

In 1962, a naval quarantine of Cuba ordered by President John F. Kennedy went into effect during the missile crisis.

In 1972, Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, who'd broken Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947, died in Stamford, Connecticut, at age 53.

In 1980, the merchant freighter SS Poet departed Philadelphia, bound for Port Said (sah-EED'), Egypt, with a crew of 34 and a cargo of grain; it disappeared en route and has not been heard from since.

In 1992, the Toronto Blue Jays became the first baseball team based outside the U.S. to win the World Series as they defeated the Atlanta Braves, 4-3, in Game 6.

In 2002, authorities apprehended Army veteran John Allen Muhammad and teenager Lee Boyd Malvo near Myersville, Maryland, in the Washington-area sniper attacks. (Malvo was later sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole; Muhammad was sentenced to death and executed in 2009.)

Ten years ago: Rapidly rising Internet star Facebook Inc. sold a 1.6 percent stake to Microsoft Corp. for \$240 million, spurning a competing offer from online search leader Google Inc. The Boston Red Sox flattened the Colorado Rockies in their World Series opener at Fenway, 13-1.

Five years ago: Less than two weeks before Election Day, President Barack Obama set out on a 40-hour campaign marathon through battleground states; Republican Mitt Romney looked to the Midwest for a breakthrough in a close race shadowed by a weak economy. Hurricane Sandy roared across Jamaica and headed toward Cuba, before taking aim at the eastern United States. The San Francisco Giants took the first game of the World Series, 8-3, over the Detroit Tigers, as Pablo Sandoval became the fourth player to hit three home runs in a World Series game.

One year ago: Campaigning in battleground Florida, a defiant Donald Trump blamed his campaign struggles on "phony polls" from the "disgusting" media. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Elizabeth Warren pounded Trump, accusing him of disrespecting women and denigrating U.S. troops assisting Iraqis in their push to retake the city of Mosul. Pop idol Bobby Vee, 73, died in Rogers, Minnesota.

Today's Birthdays: Rock musician Bill Wyman is 81. Actor F. Murray Abraham is 78. Movie director-screenwriter David S. Ward is 72. Actor Kevin Kline is 70. Former NAACP President Kweisi Mfume (kwah-EE'-see oom-FOO'-may) is 69. Country musician Billy Thomas (Terry McBride and the Ride) is 64. Actor



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Doug Davidson is 63. Actor B.D. Wong is 57. Actor Zahn McClarnon is 51. Singer Michael Trent (Americana duo Shovels & Rope) is 40. Rock musician Ben Gillies (Silverchair) is 38. Singer-actress Monica Arnold is 37. Actress-comedian Casey Wilson is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Adrienne Bailon (3lw) is 34. Actor Tim Pocock is 32. R&B singer-rapper-actor Drake is 31. Actress Shenae Grimes is 28. Actress Eliza Taylor is 28. Actor Ashton Sanders (Film: "Moonlight") is 22. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kyla Ross is 21. Actor Hudson Yang is 14.

Thought for Today: "Procrastination is the bad habit of putting off until the day after tomorrow what should have been done the day before yesterday." — Napoleon Hill, American writer (1883-1970).