

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Friday**

No School - Teacher Inservice

Saturday: Oral Interp at Watertown



**Marshall Lane takes the ball and gains a few yards in the quarterfinal game with Sioux Falls Christian last night.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



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• BATH, SD •

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**605-380-1717**  
[www.shawnschultzconstruction.com](http://www.shawnschultzconstruction.com)

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

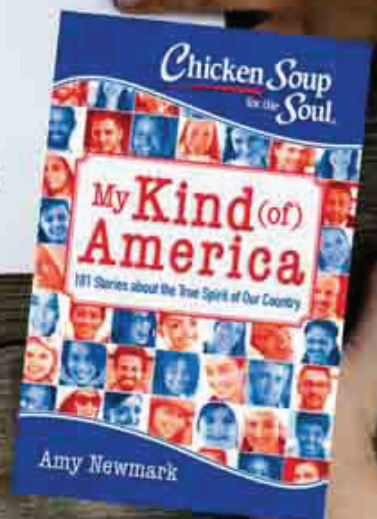
**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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"What is shared  
in common is  
infinitely more  
significant  
than what  
apparently  
divides."

-Dave Mearns



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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

0913.1005

## GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

Fifteen members of the Groton Kiwanis Club attended last Wednesday's noon dinner meeting.

New president, Reed Litch; presided.

Thank you's were read from 4- H club members, for the support to their projects; and from the city of Groton, for donations to the Octoberfest.

Roger Rix was called upon for an update on the annual Kiwanis sponsored Snow Queen and talent show, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5. There are eighteen queen candidates.

Michelle Mullenburg has been very helpful with preparations.

Larry Schelle was program leader, and introduced four members of the GHS robotics team. Noah Tullis, Tanner McGannon, Isaac Smith, and Hunter Monson gave a great demonstration of the robot they built. Jim Lane is their leader. Students in grades 6-12 can join the team.

Lee Schinkel is next week's program leader

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## Doeden scores all 14 points in Groton's quarterfinal game

Jonathan Doeden rushed for 70 yards and one touchdown, had 41 yards receiving and one touchdown and had nine tackles in Groton Area's quarterfinal football game with Sioux Falls Christian Thursday night. Sioux Falls Christian advances to the semifinals with a 48-14 win over the Groton Area Tigers.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls; Bahr Spray Foam & Construction; Blocker Construction; Doug Abeln Seed Company; Erickson Insurance Agency; Groton Dairy Queen; Groton Ford; Groton Post #39; James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen; Jim of All Trades; Johnson Agency; Lori's Pharmacy; Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass; Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.; Producer's Hybrids - John Wheeting; Professional Management Services; S & S Lumber; Subway of Groton and the Touchdown sponsor was Cheri's on Main. Make sure you tell the sponsors "Thank You" and that you patronize them as well.

Groton Area finishes the season with a 6-4 record and Sioux Falls Christian continues on at 9-1.

The Chargers scored first but Groton Area scored and it was 8-6 with the Chargers leading. Sioux Falls Christian would then score five more touchdowns and Groton Area would score the final touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The game was played at Bob Young Field at the University of Sioux Falls.

Jonathan Doeden had a 41 yard pass from Marshall Lane and he scored on a 47 yard run and ran in the PAT.

**First Downs:** Groton Area 8, SF Christian 24.

**Rushing:** Groton Area 26-141 (Jonathan Doeden 5-70 1TD, Marshall Lane 16-45, Seric Shabazz 3-5, Darien Shabazz 2-21). SF Christian 24-410 (Parker Nelson 26-224, Dawson Mulder 9-79, Jacob Just 12-51, Tyler VanHassen 4-29, Talon Horan 1-24).

**Passing:** Groton Area - Marshall Lane - completed 2 of 8 for 56 yards, 1 touchdown. SF-Christian - Jacob Just - completed 2 of 2 for 10 yards.

**Receivers:** Groton Area: Jonathan Doeden 1-41 1 TD, Seric Shabazz 1-15. SF Christian: Mitchell Goodban 2-10.

**Defense:** Groton Area: Brandon Keith 15, Seric Shabazz 9, Jonathan Doeden 9. SF Christian: Talon Horan 6.

**Peyton Johnson gets his foot on the ball as the Tigers kickoff after scoring a touchdown.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

**Fumbles:** None  
**Penalties:** Groton Area: 4-33, SF Christian 2-10.



**Jonathan Doeden is surrounded by three Charger players, but he eludes all three of them to break free and to score a touchdown. The Chargers are Tyler Van Horsen (34), Will Garnaas (9) and Dawson Mulder (42).** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



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The Groton Area Tiger defense is all lined up. Pictured are Andy Rintala (11) and Marshall Lane (10) in back; in the middle are Darien Shabazz (33), Seric Shabazz (24), Brandon Keith (32), Jonathan Doeden (6) and Lucas Hinman (17); and in front are Peyton Johnson (58), Brandyn Anderson (60), Grady O'Neill (54) and Austin Jones (18). (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Brandyn Anderson gets ready to snap the ball with linemen Luke Thorson (64) and Wyatt Locke (55) flanking him. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Darien Shabazz (33) and Andy Rintala (11) fake to have the ball as Jonathan Doeden runs the other way with it. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

## 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**

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**The cheerleaders of both sides meet and greet each other before the game started.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



**The Sioux Falls Christian football team invited the Groton Area football team into the huddle after the game for a time of prayer.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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## Today in Weather History

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales.

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



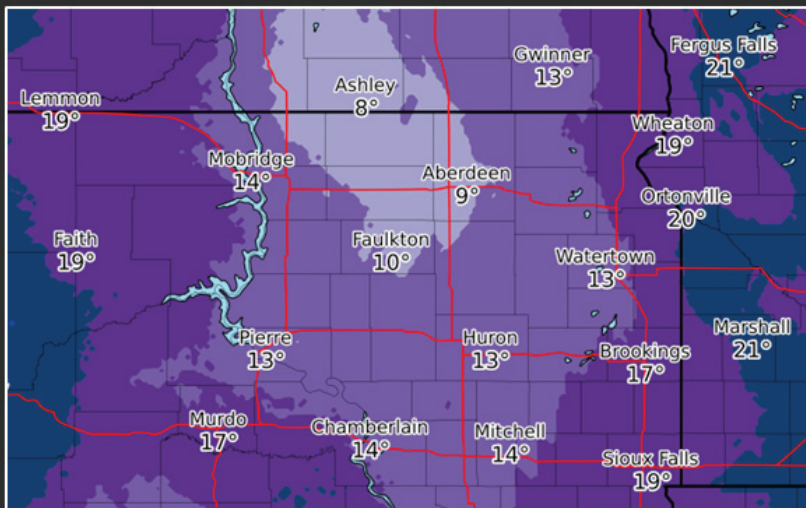
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Decreasing Clouds and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain
High: 39 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 41 °F

## Winds Diminishing Today

Highest Winds This Morning  
In Eastern SD and Western MN



**Cold Tonight**

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 10/27/2017 5:42 AM Central

Published on: 10/27/2017 at 5:46AM

Gusty northwesterly winds will diminish from west to east today as a high pressure builds into the region. With mostly clear skies and light winds tonight, lows will plummet to the single digits and teens.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 55.3

Low Outside Temp: 28.8

High Gust: 46

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1983

Record Low: 10° in 1919

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.81

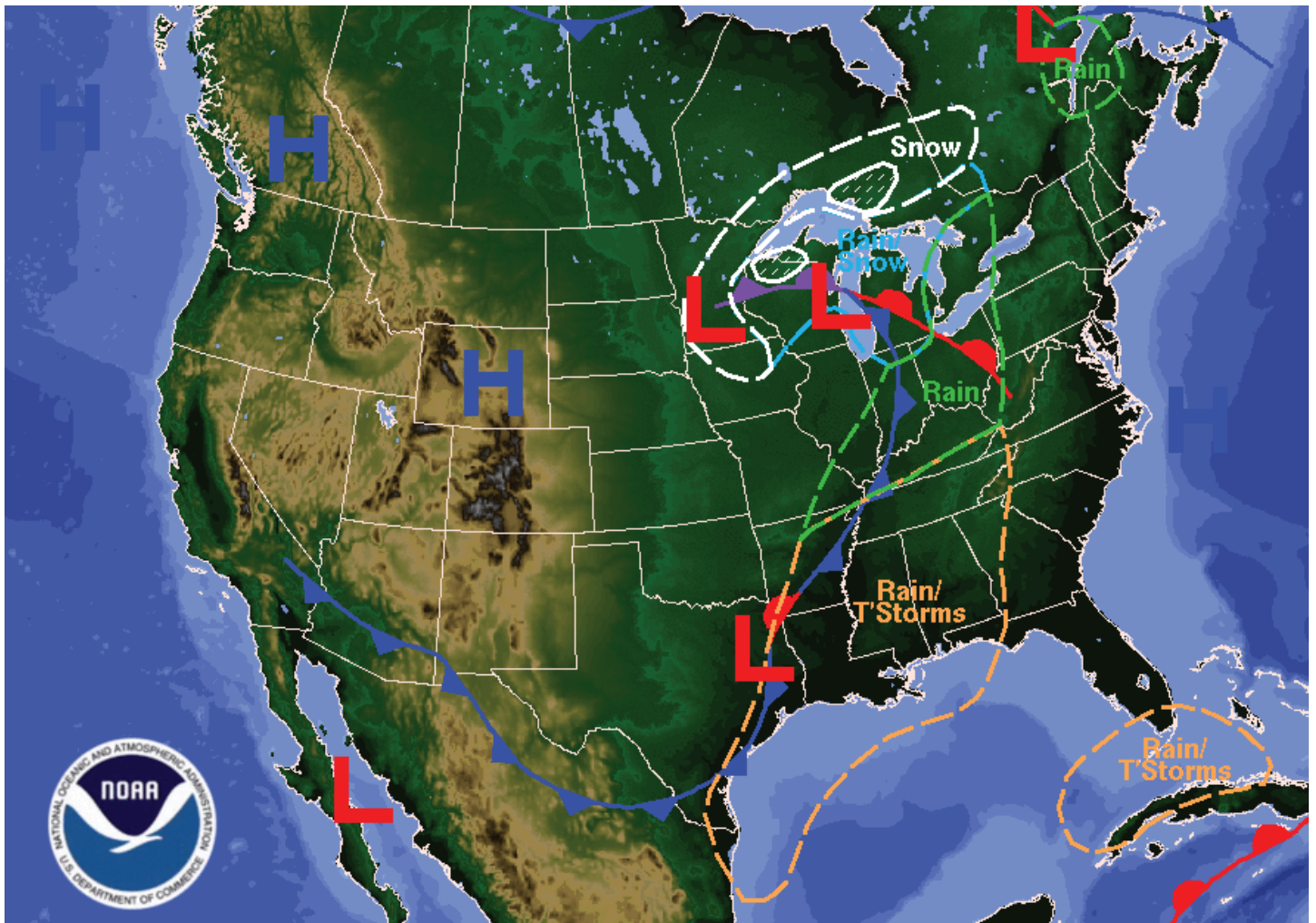
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 20.29

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:27 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Oct 27, 2017, issued 4:52 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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## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Getting lost is something that comes naturally to me. At times I feel as though I was born with no sense of direction or the ability to use a compass.

Once, while driving my sons to a birthday party, they could sense I didn't know where I was going. As I looked at the slip of paper in my hand that contained an address, I looked from side to side at a four-way stop sign, not knowing what to do next. My youngest son said, "Are we lost yet, Dad?" He knew if I wasn't I soon would be. His confidence was inspiring!

Fortunately, a police officer on a motorcycle saw me looking at the piece of paper and offered to help me. With compassion he asked, "May I help you, Sir?" Of course I said, "Yes," and with a great sign of relief gave him the address of the party. He gave me careful and complete instructions. Then, looking at me and realizing I had no idea what he was talking about said with great compassion, "Never mind. Follow me, I'll get you there."

And it worked. In a few moments I looked at the name and address on the mail box and knew that I had arrived at my destination safely.

In the maze of life with its constant confusion and complex choices we often need help. David said, "I cling to You; Your right hand upholds me." Jesus, realizing our lost condition said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Follow me."

God keeps those safe who follow His directions.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the directions we find in Your Word that provide us a map for life's journey. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 63:8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

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## 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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Wisconsin hunter survives being shot in South Dakota**

FORESTBURG, S.D. (AP) — A Wisconsin man survived being shot in the nose while pheasant-hunting in South Dakota.

South Dakota's Department of Game, Fish and Parks says the 73-year-old man was shot in the left nostril by another hunter in his group on Sunday afternoon on private land near Forestburg.

The Daily Republic reports that the man was taken to a Mitchell hospital. He received stitches and was discharged that evening.

Authorities didn't release the man's name.

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

### **Perdue tours South Dakotas, touts improving soil health**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says replenishing and sustaining soil health is a priority for him.

The American News reports Perdue toured the prairie pothole landscape in northeast South Dakota on Thursday. He said using soil health as a basis for federal farm payments might be a way to encourage farmers to employ more sustainable land practices.

Perdue says improvements in genetics and technology can help farmers improve soil health, which can increase their crop yields.

Perdue also met with Natural Resources Conservation Service staff from South Dakota and North Dakota, with improving the wetland determination process a main topic. Farmers have long been critical of the process.

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

### **Additional tow-plows make snow clearing more efficient**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Snow plowing in the Black Hills this winter season just got more efficient.

The state Department of Transportation is adding three tow-plows to its winter fleet of snow clearing equipment, with one each going to Rapid City, Custer and Yankton.

Tow-plows are pulled behind regular blade trucks, allowing two lanes of highway to be cleared of snow simultaneously. The Rapid City Journal reports the state says the tow-plows save about \$1.65 per mile.

The department has about 400 plow trucks that operate from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. clearing snow.

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

### **2019 Mitchell Corn Palace murals to honor the military**

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — For one year, Mitchell's biggest tourist attraction will serve as a monument to the military.

City officials say the theme of the 2019 corn murals on the Corn Palace will be "A Salute to the Military." Specific designs will be released later.

The Corn Palace bills itself as the world's only palace dedicated to the commodity. It features murals made of hundreds of thousands of ears of corn and draws about 200,000 tourists each year.

Director Scott Schmidt says the military theme is timely given the recent christening of the USS South Dakota submarine.

The Daily Republic reports that it will be the first time since 1916 that the Corn Palace will feature a

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military theme.

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

## Wildlife center admits 43rd bald eagle patient this year

WAYNESBORO, Va. (AP) — Hunters using lead ammunition are posing real harm to bald eagles.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia has admitted its 43rd bald eagle patient of the year, a grim record for single-year admissions during the center's 35-year history.

Officials say nearly 70 percent of the eagles admitted had measurable amounts of lead in their blood. Six had lead levels too high for the center's in-house lead analyzer to measure.

Bald eagles can ingest small fragments of lead ammunition as they scavenge deer carcasses or other animals that have been shot. A lead fragment the size of a grain of rice can kill a bald eagle.

The center has been encouraging hunters to stop using lead-based ammunition.

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### PREP FOOTBALL

#### Class 11AAA

#### Quarterfinal

Brandon Valley 35, Rapid City Stevens 17

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 21, Aberdeen Central 14

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 30, Watertown 16

Sioux Falls Washington 56, Rapid City Central 24

#### Class 9AA

#### Quarterfinal

Gregory 24, Wolsey-Wessington 8

Irene-Wakonda 42, Garretson 28

Kimball/White Lake 30, Bon Homme 6

Miller/Highmore-Harrold 40, Arlington/Lake Preston 24

#### Class 11AA

#### Quarterfinal

Harrisburg 27, Huron 8

Mitchell 41, Sturgis Brown 12

Pierre 35, Brookings 14

#### Class 9A

#### Quarterfinal

Britton-Hecla 32, Canistota/Freeman 20

Corsica/Stickney 54, Timber Lake 0

Howard 34, Avon 0

Warner 53, Lyman 0

#### Class 11A

#### Quarterfinal

Dakota Valley 58, Pine Ridge 0

Madison 43, Tea Area 0

Milbank 55, Todd County 0

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St. Thomas More 21, Dell Rapids 20

Class 9B

Quarterfinal

Castlewood 54, Wall 0

Colman-Egan 30, Faulkton 14

Colome 52, Harding County 0

Sully Buttes 56, Burke/South Central 0

Class 11B

Quarterfinal

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 18, Winner 8

Sioux Falls Christian 48, Groton Area 14

Sioux Valley 46, Aberdeen Roncalli 0

Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 60, Red Cloud 6

## **EPA: Michigan should boost water safety in Flint, statewide**

**By JOHN FLESHER, AP Environmental Writer**

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Staff and funding shortages and poor data management are preventing Michigan environmental regulators from making sure that state residents have safe drinking water, federal officials said Thursday.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said deficiencies in Michigan's drinking water operations aren't limited to Flint, notorious for lead contamination of its system for 18 months starting in spring 2014. Investigations primarily blamed the state Department of Environmental Quality, which failed to require anti-corrosion pipeline treatments when the city changed its water source.

In its newly released report, the EPA evaluated the statewide effectiveness of Michigan's safe drinking water program. The study was based largely on examination of the state environmental department's files from October 2013 through September 2015, when the Flint crisis was at its height.

The review "revealed a number of significant challenges," the report said. Among them: too little money, too few people, and inadequate reporting and management of electronic data.

"Staff departures and retirements have caused a significant loss in expertise and technical knowledge ... which presents a threat to the future implementation of an effective program," the report said, adding that the department "must focus on obtaining long-term sources of funding."

Water data management is "inefficient and antiquated," the report said, and efforts to fix the problem have been hampered by concentration of information technology staff into "a broad agency department without drinking water expertise."

"Laboratory reporting is very inefficient," it said, urging the department to make better use of electronic data systems.

The department also failed to require full compliance with its lead and copper pollution rule and sometimes did not report instances when lead content exceeded standards, the report said. State officials must make sure violation notices are issued and the public informed, it said.

Tiffany Brown, spokeswoman for the Michigan department, said the audit raised issues that were two years old, many of which have been addressed.

But the department "will use the recommendations indicated in the report to further improve the Drinking Water Program to better ensure the public's health and safety," Brown said.

Michigan is among the states that have their own drinking water rules, which must be at least as stringent as the federal government's. EPA periodically assesses how well the states are performing. Agency officials visited the state department's Lansing office in April 2016.

Their report was based on a review of documents for 25 of more than 10,000 regulated public water

systems in Michigan, including Flint's.

It echoed previous findings that the Flint crisis resulted partly from the state department's "failure to properly oversee and manage" the city's switch from the Detroit water system to the Flint River in April 2014.

The river water was not treated to prevent corrosion, enabling lead to leach from old pipes and fixtures. The contamination caused elevated lead levels in children's blood and left residents to use filtered or bottled water for drinking and bathing. Water quality has greatly improved since the city resumed using Detroit water in 2015, experts said.

Follow John Flesher on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/johnflesher>

## Ho-Chunk Nation dismissed from casino expansion lawsuit

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A federal judge has sided with the Ho-Chunk Nation and its casino expansion plans in a lawsuit filed by the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe.

U.S. District Judge James Peterson has dismissed Ho-Chunk from the lawsuit. The Stockbridge-Munsee sued the Ho-Chunk and the state over the Ho-Chunk's plans to expand its casino in Shawano County, which is located near another gambling hall run by the Stockbridge-Munsee.

The Journal Sentinel reports Peterson says the Stockbridge-Munsee waited too long to challenge the Ho-Chunk and should have sued in 2008 when the Ho-Chunk casino first opened. The Stockbridge-Munsee said Thursday it will appeal the ruling.

Peterson says he'll rule later on the Stockbridge-Munsee's claim against the state. The tribe says regulators were not holding the Ho-Chunk to the terms of its casino agreement with the state.

Information from: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, <http://www.jsonline.com>

## Vinatieri ready to take next step on NFL's scoring list

By MICHAEL MAROT, AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Adam Vinatieri grew up in small-town South Dakota hoping for a chance to play in the NFL.

He never dreamed his career would last this long, come with so many accomplishments or allow him to keep adding chapters to his football legacy well into his 40s.

It seemed as unfathomable then as it does today. Yet, here in Week 8 of his 22nd NFL season, the longest-tenured player in the league and the last vestige of NFL Europe is too busy crossing off items on his to-do list to ponder retirement.

"I don't put a limit on it anymore," Vinatieri said when asked about playing next season. "I'm feeling good now, so hopefully I can play next year, and if I'm still feeling good next year, we'll see after that."

While the Indianapolis Colts (2-5) have struggled, their 44-year-old kicker has continued to excel.

Though Vinatieri has missed two extra points getting acclimated to a new long snapper and a new holder, he is 12 of 13 on field goals, has scored 45 points and is on pace for an unprecedented 20th 100-point season — even without Andrew Luck playing a down.

Former punter Pat McAfee often explained the key to Vinatieri's success was his passion for working out, a concept he's been fine-tuning since he entered the league in 1996.

But keeping track of exactly where Vinatieri fits on the list of greatest kickers is becoming a full-time job.

This week, the focus is on his pursuit of Gary Anderson, who is second on the league's career scoring list (2,434 points). Vinatieri needs 12 points to pass him and 23 to move within double digits of career scoring leader Morten Andersen (2,544).

Vinatieri's next chance comes Sunday at Cincinnati (2-4) and he can't wait after not making an appearance in last week's 27-0 loss to Jacksonville.

"It'd be pretty cool," Vinatieri said. "At the beginning of this year, I knew with a good season, I could get one (Anderson) and if I have another good year, I could get the second one. So it's in the back of



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your mind.”

Milestones have become the defining feature of Vinatieri’s career.

He’s played in five Super Bowls, won four and delivered the winning kicks in two. He also missed tackles on Desmond Howard and Devin Hester, who returned his kickoffs for scores in the big game.

But the more memorable kicks may have been the two he made to beat Oakland in the AFC championship game, the “Tuck Rule Game,” just before New England’s first Super Bowl win.

And it’s not easy keeping track of the scoring charts.

Already this season, Vinatieri has passed Andersen for most field goals from 20 to 29 yards (176); Anderson for second in career regular-season wins (203); George Blanda for No. 3 in field goal attempts (642); Jason Hanson for No. 5 in games played (328); and three weeks ago, Vinatieri made his 10th winning kick in overtime, a league record.

He’s also closing in on others.

Vinatieri needs 24 field goals to pass Andersen (565) for No. 1 all-time, and seven more regular-season wins would break Blanda’s record (209).

Not bad for the great, great grandson of Gen. George Custer’s bandmaster.

Vinatieri attended South Dakota State, got his first taste of pro football in Amsterdam, and made enough of an impression on Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells to land an NFL job.

It didn’t take him long to prove why he’s the best clutch kicker in league history.

“You put your hands up, it’s going in,” receiver T.Y. Hilton said after Vinatieri’s 51-yard field goal beat San Francisco. “Our job once we got the ball back was to get him in range. We got him in his sweet spot and he nailed it.”

Just like he’s done for more than two decades.

And if Vinatieri gets his way, he’s not going to stop until he finishes with the most unimaginable record of all: top scorer in NFL history.

“I’ve met both of them, I’ve spent a little time with them but not a lot,” Vinatieri said, in reference to Anderson and Andersen. “I always looked up to them as a kicker. I mean how can they not be your heroes? I remember Morten and Gary retired after something like 24 or 25 years, and just thinking I couldn’t believe it.”

Notes: Center Ryan Kelly (knee/pelvis), safety Darius Butler (ankle) and nose tackle Al Woods (knee) were limited in practice Thursday. All three are starters. ... Backup safety T.J. Green (hamstring) also did limited work. ... Linebacker John Simon (stinger) and cornerback Rashaan Melvin (concussion) missed their second straight practice Thursday. ... Quarterback Jacoby Brissett (right thumb) and linebacker Anthony Walker (hamstring) were full participants at practice. ... Indy has claimed center Dillon Day off waivers from Denver, giving it depth after Kelly couldn’t finish Sunday’s game.

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

## Wind Cave park workers thin bison herd

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Workers at South Dakota’s Wind Cave National Park are rounding up bison to thin the herd, give inoculations and pull tail hairs for genetic analysis.

Wind Cave bison genes have been handed down undiluted since a handful of diverse ancestors from the Bronx Zoo arrived at the park in 1913, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Today, Wind Cave bison have 10 genetic variations that experts haven’t seen anywhere else. The park is sending some younger bison to parks in other states to spread them out.

Trucks will carry 2-year-olds and yearlings to Arizona, Washington, Indiana and Kansas later this week. Bison too old or too young will return to the park’s prairie.

The bison’s lineage will remain intact even for the descendants of those traveling to Arizona’s Raymond Wildlife Area or Kansas’ Smokey Valley Ranch. Should disease wipe out the bison, a genetically identical herd could be quickly repopulated, said Greg Schroeder, the park’s chief of resource management.

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"They're good producers," he said, adding that the park removes 130 to 160 bison every two years to maintain the population near 550, which is what Wind Cave can support.

Officials with northwest Indiana's Nature Conservancy Kankakee Sands prairie restoration project said they're counting on bison to eat a lot of grass. Project member Ted Anchor said tall grass crowds out shorter species that thrived when bison manicured the lands.

"A prairie without bison isn't a prairie," Anchor said.

Shelly Shepherd with the Arizona Game and Fish Department said the unique genetics of the Wind Cave herd attracted the state's interest.

"The pure bison lineage is a great opportunity for us," she said.

Shepherd said the Raymond Wildlife Area will use the Wind Cave bison to replace an earlier bison herd that had cattle genes.

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

## **Kansas community fights becoming a 'chicken town' and wins**

**By JOHN HANNA, Associated Press**

TONGANOXIE, Kan. (AP) — When Shannon Reischman takes in the sweeping view from the big hill behind her in-laws' farmhouse outside the northeastern Kansas town of Tonganoxie, she sees a rural oasis that's an easy commute to Kansas City-area jobs.

Tyson Foods Inc. looked at the bedroom community of about 5,300 people and saw a good place to build a \$320 million chicken-processing plant. And when the Springdale, Arkansas-based agribusiness giant announced its plans in early September, residents such as Reischman were quick to mobilize. But they weren't on social media to court the company. They used their posts to organize protests to drive Tyson away.

Two weeks after the announcement, local officials withdrew their support. Tyson put its plans for Tonganoxie on hold and, while emphasizing that it has not abandoned them altogether, it is considering other options.

Industry and state officials are a bit mystified that any community would turn away 1,600 jobs. Kansas is still trying to attract the plant, but in another town.

"We don't want to be a chicken town," said Reischman, a 36-year-old mother of four who lives on a 10-acre (4-hectare) farm.

She and her neighbors see their already growing community as economically stable enough. They didn't want it overcome by environmental problems, newly crowded schools and heavy truck traffic.

Reischman said she was sure that from the big hill with the countryside view, her family would be able to smell the Tyson operation, but, "That's honestly the least of our concerns."

The lesson for Tyson, state officials and the meat-processing industry was that they haven't been active enough in recent years in defending the industry and the economic benefits of value-added agricultural development. They said the internet gives opponents of projects easy access to negative information and an ability to spread it much more quickly than in the past.

"Oftentimes, we allow the activists to dictate the playing field, and then we kind of react to it," said Chris Young, executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors.

Tyson says it's looking to build its first chicken-processing plant in more than 20 years to keep up with consumer demand. Company and state officials believed thousands of workers in the area would find the starting pay of \$13 to \$15 an hour attractive and say critics are overstating the potential environmental and community problems.

While Tyson doesn't have a chicken-processing plant in Kansas, it has operations in six communities in the state with about 5,700 workers. They include a distribution center in Olathe and a food-processing plant in Kansas City, Kansas, both within 30 miles (50 kilometers) of Tonganoxie.

Tonganoxie's opposition followed similar resistance last year to a proposed Prestage Farms hog-processing plant in Mason City in north-central Iowa, and a Lincoln Premium Poultry chicken-processing plant in

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Nickerson, Nebraska, outside Omaha. In those cases, each company chose a new location in the same region after resident protests.

A big part of the problem in Tonganoxie was the secrecy surrounding Tyson's plans, which bred skepticism and increased residents' anger. Reischman and others said they found out about the project on TV the night before the announcement.

Tyson and state and local officials had been quietly working together for weeks on what was code-named "Project Sunset." State Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Heather Lansdowne said state officials assumed that local leaders being receptive to the project reflected residents' view.

Gov. Sam Brownback and Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer were involved in efforts to attract the plant to Kansas at least by mid-June, their office calendars show.

Tonganoxie-area resident Jen Peak, a leader of the anti-Tyson group, questioned whether Tyson and state officials grasped that the community is economically strong enough to be selective about development.

It is home to an orthopedic shoe manufacturer, a firm that helps develop medical devices and an outdoor paving-stone maker.

"The entire community was just underestimated," the 40-year-old Peak said. "I guess this is a lesson to them, going forward, to know the area that you're trying to move into."

Nondisclosure agreements during negotiations with local and state officials are common for a publicly traded company such as Tyson, company spokesman Worth Sparkman said.

Brownback has since acknowledged that leaders of any Kansas community wanting to attract the plant moving forward "need to step up publicly."

"I think that's a better way to go at it," the Republican said.

With Tyson examining other options, officials in Sedgwick County in the Wichita area, in Cloud County in north-central Kansas, and in the southeastern Kansas town of Coffeyville have confirmed publicly that they're pursuing the project.

All three of the other sites are at least 130 miles (210 kilometers) from Tonganoxie. There's opposition in Sedgwick County, where residents have mobilized through a Facebook group.

The Tonganoxie project's opponents mobilized quickly through social media. Within two days of the plant announcement, an anti-Tyson group on Facebook had 3,400 members — several hundred more people than the total registered voters inside the city. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended a town hall meeting that prompted area legislators to announce their opposition.

Opponents said because Tonganoxie is a Kansas City-area bedroom community, it's not desperate for jobs paying \$13 to \$15 an hour. Leavenworth County's median household income of nearly \$64,000 is about 22 percent higher than the state's.

Tonganoxie's population has nearly doubled since 2000.

"Professionals live out here that have their jobs and their companies and their careers," said Kirk Sours, 57, the longtime manager of the Red Angus cattle-raising Tailgate Ranch outside Tonganoxie. "This location is a perfect commuting distance for those folks."

While the possibility that immigrants would fill the jobs fueled opposition in the Nebraska chicken-processing plant fight, critics of the Tonganoxie project said they weren't concerned about who would do the work but whether their pay would be enough to justify the potential problems.

"If someone was going to come in and build a factory and pay 30 bucks an hour, I don't think you'd have much resistance," said Eric Thompson, director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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Follow John Hanna on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna> .

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## **Inmate at South Dakota penitentiary arrested in attack**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An inmate at the South Dakota State Penitentiary is accused of trying to kill a Department of Corrections employee.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Thursday that 25-year-old Kevin Christopher Tripp has been arrested by complaint on charges of attempted first-degree murder and aggravated assault.

The charges stem from an incident at the penitentiary on Monday where Tripp allegedly attacked the employee.

The case is being investigated by the state Division of Criminal Investigation and prosecuted by the attorney general's office.

## **Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials**

**By The Associated Press**

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Oct. 26

State should not abandon GEAR UP program

Now that Gear Up is managed by Black Hills State University after the Mid-Central Educational Cooperative debacle, the state wants to quit on the Native American high school students the federal program aims to help.

In 2011, the state received a seven-year grant award from the Department of Education to help Native Americans prepare for college and the opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty that plagues tribal members, who are among the poorest in the nation. It ends in 2018 and state officials say they do not intend to seek an extension.

Most South Dakotans were unaware of GEAR UP until a Mid-Central official killed his wife and four children, set their home on fire and then took his own life in September 2015. In that aftermath of the tragedy, the revelations also have been grim.

GEAR UP funds were squandered in numerous ways and the state Board of Education's oversight was inadequate even though some board members received consulting contracts for a program that never bothered to measure student progress.

Today, three Mid-Central employees await trial for felony charges, while a handful of lawmakers demand that state employees involved with GEAR UP be compelled to testify before a legislative committee investigating the affair. In fact, \$1.4 million remains missing of the nearly \$11 million the state received from 2011 to 2015.

Yet despite hearing concerns about the program's management and subsequent audits that raised questions about the nonprofit's fiscal actions, state officials never publicly disputed the validity of the program before Mid-Central was notified in 2015 that it was losing its contract.

In the spring of 2016, the Board of Education awarded the GEAR UP contract to Black Hills State University, a logical home for a program that seeks to encourage students to attend college.

Since then, the new team of GEAR UP administrators has hired regional coordinators and school consultants to work with 26 schools in 14 school districts and on seven reservations to help students prepare for ACT tests and mentor youth who could be the first in their families to attend college. In June, a 21-day camp will be held at BHSU campus for students in grades 8 to 11. It will be "like practice college," said Murray Lee, a program administrator. Last June, 101 students went to the camp. Mini-camps were held for students in grades 5 to 7.

But despite these early successes, the Board of Education has no apparent interest in continuing the program, which begs the question of what's changed?

Clearly, the same needs that existed in 2011 still exist today among the Native American population, and it is the federal government that is paying for a program utilized by 40 states. It is just as clear that the Board of Education fell short in its oversight responsibilities, which culminated in a tragedy that has brought additional scrutiny to its past performance. Is that the reason to walk away from it?

In a recent column published on this page, Gov. Daugaard wrote about his efforts to continue work

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started by Gov. George T. Mickelson, who declared 1990 a "Year of Reconciliation" in a bid to improve relations between Natives and non-Natives in this state.

If the Daugard administration abandons this program without giving Black Hills State University the opportunity to make it meaningful and successful, it will be a step back from Mickelson's goal while denying youth who did nothing wrong.

American News, Aberdeen, Oct. 26

Governor candidates support open records, but is there a catch?

We were thrilled earlier this month to hear two of our candidates for governor — Democrat Billie Sutton and Republican Marty Jackley — say they would support more openness in South Dakota government.

In fact, Sutton, as a state senator, is proposing draft legislation that would make public additional government records such as officials' correspondence, calendars and telephone call records. Jackley, in response, said, as governor, he would support such legislation if it passed through the Legislature. (Jackley's GOP primary foe, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, would not yet commit to supporting such legislation.)

Sutton is setting himself apart from the pack as an advocate against corruption and darkness in state government.

Jackley is continuing his advocacy of open government; he has been instrumental in pushing for greater transparency through the open government task force.

Making open correspondence, phone records and calendars would add an incredibly important layer of transparency. Other states allow these open records, to the benefit of citizens.

We do not want to be discouraging, but other foibles in recent and not-so-recent memory show us the pitfalls of sunshine in South Dakota.

If such legislation as Sutton is suggesting passed here:

How long would these records be open?

It would be great if they were open in perpetuity. Think of how handy that would have been in the cases of EB-5 or GEAR UP, both of which only came to a head after years of apparent mismanagement or malfeasance.

South Dakota law establishes a board that authorizes destruction of government records. Reporter Bob Mercer earlier this year reported that state law says:

"No record may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by any agency of the state unless it is determined by majority vote of the board that the record has no further administrative, legal, fiscal, research, or historical value."

And each state agency, Mercer wrote, recommends how long those records should be kept.

Seems a lot of discretion given to the very agencies the "sunshine" would apply to.

What definitions would eliminate openness?

Words are important.

We at the newspaper know this, but it became even more clear to us last week.

After a robbery was reported at a local business in the 600 block of Sixth Avenue Southeast, we asked Aberdeen police what business it was.

Citing Marsy's Law, South Dakota's victim's rights regulations, police Capt. Eric Duven could not identify the business by name, as it is considered a "victim."

In Marsy's Law in the state constitution, the term "victim" means "a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed."

A person.

However, Aberdeen City Attorney Ron Wager said that South Dakota Codified Law 22-1-1(31) gives the state's definition of "person": "any natural person, unborn child, association, limited liability company, corporation, firm, organization, partnership, or society."

What linguistic time bombs are hiding in our laws that would make any open-government legislation

ineffective?

What would override openness?

We already know what flimsy rationale in law allows public bodies to go behind closed doors in executive session: to discuss personnel, discipline of a student, pending litigation or contractual matters, preparing for contract negotiations, and competitive reasons for businesses.

And we know how almost any topic can fit into one of those broad categories.

If a public body goes into executive session to talk "personnel," and they discuss phone records or transcripts, would those documents then get locked away? Calendars, datebooks, emails?

In response to the idea of legislative action on open records, Gov. Dennis Daugaard, through his chief of staff Tony Venhuizen, said that "He believes that a person who is in the fishbowl acts differently, and the apparent transparency is not genuine," according to the Associated Press.

That's not a bad thing. If there is behavior or process going on in Pierre that would disappear if officials knew they were always on the record, then maybe those folks should act differently.

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Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Oct. 25

Combining regulations is best for drone use

The rapidly-growing use of drones in the United States is causing all levels of government to scramble to establish rules of use.

Drones are unmanned aircraft, sometimes as small as a lightweight toy, or as large as a military weapon used in overseas battles. The electronic technology has advanced quickly, while the cost has dropped dramatically.

In South Dakota and Lake County, drones are used in agricultural applications, aerial photography, law enforcement, education, entertainment and more. Some companies are testing package delivery by drones.

Safety and privacy issues are the top concerns of citizens, public officials and agencies. Yet we can imagine the confusion and noncompliance if every state, county and city created its own regulations, on top of Federal Aviation Administration rules.

So we were glad to see there could soon be some coordination among all these entities when rules are established. The federal Office of Science and Technology Policy is working to link FAA rules with city, county and state requirements. Currently, the FAA has full authority over airspace at any altitude, although most everyone agrees a one-size-fits-all policy is not appropriate.

Ultimately, experts expect there to be five to 10 "model" regulatory outlines that could be adopted by local governments. They all would have approval of the FAA and be designed to prevent collisions among drones, manned aircraft, tall structures, power lines and so on. Two accidents have occurred in the last month between a drone and a manned aircraft, one in New York and one near Quebec City in eastern Canada. There were no injuries in either accident.

We're glad to see coordination among rulemakers, and we urge them to adopt and communicate rules quickly to protect public safety.

## **Kentucky engineer picked to head surface mining agency**

**By DYLAN LOVAN, Associated Press**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Trump administration has nominated the head of a Kentucky engineering firm to run the federal agency that regulates and cleans up former surface mines.

Steve Gardner, president and chief executive officer of Lexington consulting and engineering firm ECSI, has been nominated for the top job at the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a release that Gardner is "highly regarded in the mining industry for his extensive experience and insight."

"Steve will help Interior take the proper steps forward to ensure American energy dominance is achieved, while also being a responsible steward of American lands," Zinke said Thursday.

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The mining agency is responsible for establishing the program to reclaim surface coal mining operations by restoring the natural environment altered by blasting and surface mining. It was created by the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Gardner, a longtime coal industry advocate, has served on the University of Kentucky's Mining Engineering Foundation and the Kentucky Geological Survey. In 2014, he penned an opinion piece in the Lexington newspaper that was critical of the surface mining office and EPA during the Obama administration.

"Many in Environmental Protection Agency have shown a disingenuous attitude and demonstrated hidden agendas," Gardner wrote, "many times cooperating with environmental activists, showing clear conflicts of interest while reinterpreting longstanding regulatory policy and retroactively changing rules."

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said in a release Thursday that Gardner's nomination is a "welcome relief" to the coal industry.

Environmentalists criticized Gardner's lack of experience as a government regulator and defense of mountaintop removal mining, a controversial mining technique that alters landscapes with blasting and dumping into valleys.

"Throughout his career, Steven Gardner has shown he will always take the side of the coal industry," Erin Savage with Appalachian Voices said in a statement. "He is not the director Appalachian communities need to protect and advance their future."

Gardner's consulting company, which he has run since 1983, specializes in natural resources, energy, mining, environmental issues and sensitive land use issues.

## Long-time friends recall fishing adventures

By NATHAN SUMMERS, The Daily Reflector of Greenville

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Joe Albea's earliest childhood memories of the Tar River are the many times his mother told him to stay away from it.

It is the same for lifelong friend, business associate and fishing buddy Tommy Harrington. Luckily, they both disobeyed their moms at some point.

The two have spent their lives fishing and filming the Tar-Pamlico system, and no one could likely match their combined knowledge of its complex web of creeks and bays, unique landmarks and diverse fish and fishermen. The duo helped to launch a state outdoors institution with the UNC-TV series "Carolina Outdoor Journal" that has now cast lines across North Carolina for 24 seasons.

Albea's face has become synonymous with Carolina angling in that time, and Joe Albea Productions is still based in Greenville despite the show's long-standing statewide popularity.

Albea is also a staunch conservationist, having played a major role in defeating the U.S. Navy's proposed Outlying Landing Field in the northeastern part of the state, as well as proposed paper and ethanol plants on the Roanoke River, all of which would have affected local fish and bird populations.

But a day of fishing his home river or even having lunch with him is an experience with a man who is humble about his accomplishments, dedicated to the friends and family who have helped him get where he is and quietly competitive and even a little sarcastic when it comes to fishing.

"Everybody always wants to know, 'When are you going to let me come on your show and fish with you?'" Albea said recently. "And I always ask them, 'Can you catch a fish?'"

As Albea himself has learned, when the cameras are rolling and show deadlines are a factor, that is often a vital question. It is not a matter, he said, of taking an entire day to catch one, but to catch many within the inevitable time constraints of TV and to make it entertaining to boot.

For 24 years, Albea has been working to master that outwardly simple yet undoubtedly difficult task. His collection of shows is a comprehensive tour of the Tarheel State that seemingly has left no stream's stone unturned and no fish ignored.

When given the choice, though, Albea has usually sided with being in his hometown. Similarly, even with the almost constant lure of more and bigger fish found in the river when it changes from the Tar to the Pamlico in Washington, Albea is quick to defend the Tar as a top-flight fishery all its own.

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"The Tar has always had fish. A lot of people kind of turn their nose up to it," said Albea, named in 2012 as the Sportsman of the Year by North Carolina Sportsman Magazine. "That's where my earliest experience in fishing happened. And I remember fondly going down to Chicod Creek on Friday afternoons after school or Saturday mornings. We'd fish for shad and people would be dipping (nets) for herring."

Best friends in the biz

Albea's friendship with Harrington dates back at least four decades and is largely based in both of their former careers as wildlife still photographers. Both went in different directions in their working lives, but to sit with them now is to see that not much has changed in their friendship other than the ever-increasing numbers of fish they have caught together.

Albea got his start as what he described as a stringer for Franc White on the long-standing Southern Sportsman TV series in the mid-1970s. He worked as White's cameraman, shooting roughly 50 shows while honing his skills in video and film production.

"During that time I was doing some outdoor writing, and we'd go out on trips then I'd write about it," he said. "That's where I got my first exposure to moving pictures. (White) was shooting in 16mm film (on what Albea said were WWII-era cameras), and my whole career spans, dating back to film, all the way to HD."

In the late '80s, Albea started his own video company and began trotting the globe filming — two African safaris and eight Alaskan treks were among his journeys. But no amount of miles quelled his passion for fishing his home state, so when Albea first began thinking of doing his own show he needed experienced, trustworthy anglers.

In short, he needed people he knew could catch a fish. That's where Harrington came into the fold. Some of the earliest episodes of Carolina Outdoor Journal, in fact, featured Harrington, whose own accomplishments as a photographer include the covers of such outdoor mega-magazines as Field & Stream and Outdoor Life.

Since they initially worked on the show together in 1989, Carolina Outdoor Journal has logged 250 episodes in standard format and 177 more since switching to HD.

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The technology it takes Albea to make a successful fishing show has changed, but both men readily agree that the fishing itself has changed a lot too.

Harrington, 66, spent a great deal of his boyhood at his uncle's cabin in the woods next to Hardee Creek near the modern day Port Terminal boat ramp. He said it was there he first learned to hunt and fish.

"My daddy taught me how to shoot a rifle there and we cooked fish stews there," said Harrington, adding that he vaguely remembers excitedly carrying cane poles up the path of his family's farm in the mornings to fish in ponds as a tiny child. His uncle had a flat-bottom boat, and Harrington remembers taking it solo into the murky twists and turns of Hardee Creek, helping to instill a lifelong passion for the waters of eastern North Carolina.

"I couldn't go out in the river," Harrington said. "That was off-limits. But in that creek, you could catch all the bream, all the crappie, white perch and a rock or a bass every now and then that you wanted. Fishing was great."

Like Albea, Harrington went from fishing off the bank to buying his first boat. Then he began exploring the entire system with a fishing rod in hand — Tranters Creek, Blounts Creek, Goose Creek and beyond, and his life changed. He later became a tournament bass angler.

"If you don't talk fishing to me, I'm gone," Harrington said, contending that the fishery's cherished striped bass population, now mostly stocked fish, is as high as he has seen it in recent years, but he agrees with the prevailing belief that the average fish has shrunk substantially over time.

It is a far cry, he said, from the 6- to 8-pound average rockfish he said once were common. He said netting practices, including some done by his uncle, began rapidly depleting the native striper population, especially erasing the older, bigger fish. The science on the subject substantiates that claim.

Both men talked about their early forays into fishing the Tar in the late '50s and early '60s, and of the once-legendary herring runs up the river and into the creeks.

Albea recalled short piers set up for netting the fish en masse and doing just that as a high school



student. Harrington said the now possibly endangered herring once were so plentiful they were sold for a penny apiece during the annual run.

Albea said it was local custom to smoke the fish right along the river banks, creating a scene likely never to be seen again.

Perhaps those memories are in the back of Albea's mind as he relentlessly pursues the state's underwater wildlife and tries to keep the spotlight on preserving it. Maybe they are what make him so steadfastly loyal to his home fishery.

With me riding in the back seat of his truck with Harrington riding shotgun on our way to an unforgettable late-October fishing day on the Pamlico, Albea recounted his trip to Florida earlier in the week for a prominent lure company's annual retreat.

He had quite an experience, including catching one of the Sunshine State's most sought-after trophies, a snook, while he was there. But now he was back home, headed out for another day of fishing with Harrington, and he proclaimed eastern N.C. "a world-class fishery."

"I wouldn't leave here to retire there," Albea added as he steered the truck toward the Pamlico.

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Information from: The Daily Reflector, <http://www.reflector.com>

## **PUC says Enbridge must disclose Line 3 oil spill projections**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Enbridge Energy must publicly disclose its projections for potential oil spills from its proposed Line 3 replacement pipeline across northern Minnesota, regulators decided Thursday.

The modeling data set includes the probability of large spills at seven water crossings. Enbridge submitted it to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the project's environmental impact statement but had the agency redact the data from the public version of the document, citing trade secrets and security reasons. Enbridge said the data could be used by "bad actors" intent on damaging the pipeline, thus threatening the nearby environment.

But the Public Utilities Commission voted 3-0, with two commissioners absent, to release the spill information. The commissioners agreed with an administrative law judge who determined that the data should be public and that the information is not likely to cause a security threat, the Star Tribune reported.

Calgary, Alberta-based Enbridge is seeking PUC permission to replace the portion of its aging Line 3 pipeline that crosses northern Minnesota. The pipeline, built in the 1960s, runs at just over half its original capacity for safety reasons. The pipeline begins in Alberta, clips a corner of North Dakota, then crosses Minnesota to Enbridge's terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. Construction on the project, which would cost \$7.5 billion overall, is already underway in Canada and Wisconsin.

The replacement would follow much of Line 3's current corridor, although Enbridge wants to use a more southerly new route across much of northern Minnesota that would cross the Mississippi River headwaters and the pristine lake country where Ojibwe bands harvest wild rice and hold treaty rights.

Environmentalists and tribal groups are fighting the project, and tensions are rising.

The PUC canceled two public hearings that had been scheduled for Thursday in St. Cloud, citing "logistical and safety issues" after protesters cut short a hearing on the project in Duluth last week. And a judge in Clearwater County this month took the unusual step of allowing four climate change protesters involved in closing valves on two Enbridge pipelines near Clearbrook last year to use a "necessity defense" in their upcoming trials.

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Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>

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## Alabama business shuts down amid state lawsuit over gambling

DECATUR, Ala. (AP) — A north Alabama business must close until a judge rules on a lawsuit claiming it operates illegal gambling machines, a decision the state cited Thursday as a move toward ending illegal games.

A court order filed late Wednesday said River City Entertainment in Lacey Springs and the state had reached an agreement while a judge considers claims that the business operates illegal electronic gambling machines.

Under the order by Morgan County Circuit Judge Steven Haddock, the business must stay closed until a hearing or a decision on whether the machines are legal. No hearing date was set.

Attorney General Steve Marshall called the order a step toward ending illegal gambling in Alabama.

"We are confident that our prosecution of this case will shed the light on the illegal activities at River City Entertainment and prove the claims we made in our complaint," Marshall said in a statement.

An attorney representing River City Entertainment didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment Thursday. Company officials have denied doing anything illegal.

The state sued River City Entertainment and several other establishments earlier this month. Targeting operations in five counties, the lawsuits were the latest shot in the state's long-running legal battle over slot machine-lookalikes with displays that make them appear nearly identical to games at Las Vegas casinos and other places.

Alabama law forbids casino games including slot machines but allows bingo in some counties. Casino operators have argued their computerized machines legally play rapid-fire electronic bingo, and the displays and chimes are only for ambiance.

Casino representatives said the lawsuits threaten the jobs of the hundreds of people who work at the gambling establishments while the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, which offer similar games, remain under no threat of closure.

## Alabama business shuts down amid state lawsuit over gambling

DECATUR, Ala. (AP) — A north Alabama business must close until a judge rules on a lawsuit claiming it operates illegal gambling machines, a decision the state cited Thursday as a move toward ending illegal games.

A court order filed late Wednesday said River City Entertainment in Lacey Springs and the state had reached an agreement while a judge considers claims that the business operates illegal electronic gambling machines.

Under the order by Morgan County Circuit Judge Steven Haddock, the business must stay closed until a hearing or a decision on whether the machines are legal. No hearing date was set.

Attorney General Steve Marshall called the order a step toward ending illegal gambling in Alabama.

"We are confident that our prosecution of this case will shed the light on the illegal activities at River City Entertainment and prove the claims we made in our complaint," Marshall said in a statement.

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## Grandchildren inspire farmer to grow giant pumpkins

By JENNIFER GARDNER, Charleston Gazette-Mail

FORT GAY, W.Va. (AP) — Six-year-old Max Shilot has a lot of faith in his grandpa, faith much bigger than a pumpkin seed — for that matter, bigger than your average pumpkin. It's the kind of faith that breaks state records.

In 2014, when Max visited the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival, he zeroed in on several prized, orange bundles of joy — the giant pumpkin display.

Though his grandfather, Robert Cyrus, had never actually grown a giant pumpkin, Max knew beyond the shadow of all doubt that he could. He was so sure of it, Max convinced a grower at the festival to send him the giant pumpkin seeds.

In February 2015, the giant gourd seeds arrived and Cyrus, never one to disappoint his family, began his research on how to grow them. He spoke to as many giant pumpkin growers as he could, and took notes of their methods.

"You find out quickly that everyone has a different opinion of how to grow them," Cyrus said. "I thought 'I'll try some of them and see what works.'"

In April 2015, he planted those first seeds and in October, the results proved Max was right. Cyrus' 1,061-pound pumpkin took first place at the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival in Milton.

For a lot of folks, that's where this story would end. But Robert Cyrus is a bit of a perfectionist. So he went home, pondered what worked and what didn't, and began the process all over again. There was some unfortunate trial and error involved — more on that in a moment. But first, the good news.

Last month he not only won first place at the 2017 Pumpkin Festival, but his massive 1,407-pound entry also set a state record.

His pumpkins create a sense of wonder, but he said, "there's no secret to growing them." There is, however, some low-tech science involved.

Once Cyrus pots the pumpkin seeds, he is careful to protect the plants from pollination by the wrong fruit — a small pumpkin. He covers the bloom of the pumpkin with a styrofoam cup and hand pollinates them, crossing female and male blooms.

Then, "it will take off and you're on your way."

Cyrus babies the giant gourds. He waters, prunes and sprays them, but says he doesn't do anything unique to help them grow fast. There's fertilizer involved, they're protected by a tarp on rainy days and he monitors them several times throughout the week, watching for rotten spots to develop. In the hottest months, Cyrus' pumpkins will grow 25 pounds a day before he carefully chooses when to cut them from the vine.

Last year, he did not compete in the Pumpkin Festival because his giant pumpkin broke — it developed a crack that grew and split the gourd wide open. This can happen when the pumpkin grows too fast. This year, he cut his record-breaker from the vine in September because the vine was developing an infection. Cyrus estimates it weighed about 1,400 pounds at the time, and better than just big, it was also a bright, beautiful color. That's not always the case.

"I would say I got lucky on the orange part," Cyrus said. "There wasn't anything I could have done to make it do that."

Were it not for the infection, Cyrus said, the gourd would have grown even bigger.

Before the festival, he hauled the pumpkin to a weigh-off in Guston, Kentucky. That was no easy task — he wrapped eight straps around the gourd, joined them by a chain, and with the chain attached to a tractor bucket, he lifted and set it onto a trailer. The beauty weighed in at 1,421.5 pounds. It won third place and the "Howard Dill Award" for being the prettiest pumpkin.

By the time his pumpkin competed in the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival, it had lost weight through dehydration and was down to 1,407 pounds.

Still, it won first place, and Max was filled with pride and joy.

Jerry Stout of Weston purchased Cyrus' pumpkin for \$1,000 and now displays it at his produce stand

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on Route 33.

"He took it up there to let people enjoy it," Cyrus said. "I couldn't have thought of anything better than to see it go up there."

Unlike most giant pumpkin growers, Cyrus' competitive edge is not what drives him to grow a bigger and better pumpkin each year.

His grandkids, especially Max, are amazed by the "larger than life" gourds.

"The leaves were taller than them. Barefoot and walking through there, they said, 'Pap, it's a rainforest,'" Cyrus laughed. "They get a big kick out of that, which is why I do it."

Max claimed one of the pumpkins out of the patch this year. His weighed in at 1,064 pounds and won third place at the Pumpkin Festival.

"He was tickled," Cyrus grinned.

Information from: The Charleston Gazette-Mail, <http://wvgazettemail.com>.

## High school quartet develops business plan

By JOHN BAILEY, Hickory Daily Record

HICKORY, N.C. (AP) — Except for Sir Isaac Newton, great ideas don't normally just hit you on the head. For most, it takes countless hours of brainstorming, research and work, and for those who don't give up, the reward is usually an idea worthy of sharing with the world.

In the case of the Challenger Early College High School team of Valerie Stiltner, Cedric Clyburn, Karlina Ho and Chanler Watts, the idea earned them a finalist spot in this year's Catawba County Chamber of Commerce's Edison Project.

Their idea is called FarmToHome, and the plan is to bring produce from local farmers in the Catawba County area and deliver it straight to local customer's homes. It's been as much of a learning opportunity as a business opportunity for the students.

"The real world experience this project has given us is unbelievable, and being at Challenger Early College and having great mentors has really allowed us to take our education to another level," the group's CEO Cedric Clyburn said.

The annual Edison Project Entrepreneurial Competition is a celebration and recognition of the entrepreneurial spirit of the Greater Hickory Metro, according to [catawbachamber.org/Edison-project](http://catawbachamber.org/Edison-project).

Each of this year's finalists will pitch their idea to a financial panel of bankers, venture capitalists and angel investors from across the state and will submit their business plan to be reviewed and judged.

On Nov. 13, the competition will conclude with a final pitch to an audience of community members at Market on Main in Hickory (5:30-7:30 p.m.), which kicks off Global Entrepreneurship Week presented by Lenoir-Rhyne University in November.

The finalists compete for an economic incentive in the amount of \$10,000 for first place, \$5,000 for second place, and \$3,000 for third place.

This is the second year Challenger Early College High School at Catawba Valley Community College has had a team make it as a finalist in the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce's Edison Project.

"As a school, we are already dedicated to all our students having access to soft skills and business skills, but they are just a small subset of today's teaching," Challenger Principal Heather Benfield said. "We're trying to get students ready to go out and be good employees. This is taking those who are interested to the next level of employability."

The principal has seen students, who were afraid to get up and talk in front of a class, go on to become a SkillsUSA presenter.

"We've seen them come up with ideas that are truly based on the needs of the local community. It's been a unique opportunity for them to grow," Benfield said.

This year's Challenger team already has a track record of winning over supporters for their concept. They won this year's SkillsUSA North Carolina championship in entrepreneurship and finished eighth in

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the national competition.

CVCC Small Business Center Director Jeff Neuville and Dean for the School of Business, Industry and Technology Gary Muller have been the team's advisers the past year and worked with the group through the college's Shark Tank competition, the SkillsUSA program and the Edison Project.

"Our advice to the FarmToHome team has been to understand who their target market is and what will motivate them to buy from FarmtoHome instead of their competition," Muller said via email. "The experience will be invaluable to them no matter what career path they decide to follow. I believe their confidence will grow dramatically by being a part of this challenging competition."

The team's Marketing Vice President Chanler Watts grew up on a farm, and his grandfather was a successful farmer in the community.

"The idea just clicked. Someone said what if we just delivered fresh produce because there are a lot of farmers in the area," Watts said. "Plus, I think we wanted to embody the heritage of where we came from."

They all liked the idea of creating something that would help support community outreach among local businesses.

After the group had their idea, the real work started. The team began thinking about how the logistics would work, what the marketing would look like and what the financials would need to be just to take their idea from pages of text in a proposal to the doors of actual customers.

Valerie Stiltner, vice president of operations for the group, said the experience opened her eyes to what her parents go through owning their own business.

"I've heard from my parents how businesses can struggle and this helped me realize some of this stuff is really hard," Stiltner said. "It made me want to commend my parents more and also gave me more self-awareness of all the things that go into having a business."

Karlina Ho is the group's vice president of finance. Her mother works as an accountant, and Ho had a similar reaction to seeing what her mom does compared to what she learned to do for her role with the team.

"Being able to apply my mother's knowledge of finance and mine together was great," Ho said.

Pooling their talents and backgrounds, the group created a 35-page business plan to present during the SkillsUSA competition and to the Edison Project board.

It contains information on ownership, products and services, market analysis, marketing plan, management and operations, and financial.

"Each one of those things have more specifics like sample marketing and advertising materials," Clyburn said.

Information from: The Hickory Daily Record, <http://www.hickoryrecord.com>

## **Kansas to auction off 40 surplus bison from Maxwell Refuge**

CANTON, Kan. (AP) — The state of Kansas will auction off 40 surplus bison at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in mid-November.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism says the auction will be held Nov. 15 at the 2,500-acre (1000-hectare) refuge about 6 miles (10 kilometers) north of Canton.

The department says the bison will be more than a year old and tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis.

The auction will involve 10 2-year-old bulls, four cows, eight yearling heifers, eight yearling bulls, five heifer calves and five bull calves.

## **License revoked for driver who killed 3, injured 5**

ALCESTER, S.D. (AP) — The woman behind the wheel of a car that struck a group of people, killing three outside an Alcester nursing home, has pleaded guilty to a reckless driving charge.

Eighty-one-year-old Patricia Berg appeared in Union County court Thursday where a judge revoked her license for a year and fined her \$120. KSFY-TV reports that when the judge asked Berg if she had anything

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to say she simply replied "I'm just very sorry."

Berg pulled into the Alcester Care and Rehab Center last July and stepped on the gas instead of the brakes causing her car to strike residents and staff who were outside for a physical therapy session. Five others were injured.

The misdemeanor charge against Berg carried a possible 30 days in jail, a \$500 fine or both.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

## Minnesota deer opener: More deer but disease tests required

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — There are more deer in Minnesota this fall, which should lead to greater success for hunters when the state's firearms deer season opens Saturday, Nov. 4.

But the isolated reappearance of chronic wasting disease has led the Department of Natural Resources to impose mandatory testing in some areas for the opening weekend to determine if the illness remains a threat.

Here's a look at Minnesota's upcoming firearms deer season :

### HARVEST FORECAST

Three consecutive mild winters and three years of tight hunting restrictions helped Minnesota's deer population rebound. DNR wildlife chief Paul Telander is predicting that hunters will kill around 200,000 deer this season, which would be well above last year's 173,213 and close to the 20-year average of 205,959.

Regional wildlife managers say the deer birth rate was high this spring, with many twin births, indicating that does came through the winter in good health. The population has reached or exceeded the DNR's goals across most of Minnesota, except for some parts of the state's northeast and southeast. That has allowed the agency to relax its regulations, though they still vary across the state's 130 permit areas.

"We are looking forward to a better deer season," said Craig Engwall, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

Minnesota has nearly 500,000 firearms deer hunters. Their success rate last year was 32 percent. The DNR says 70 percent of the deer killed during gun season are shot on the first three or four days of the season.

### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

The reappearance of chronic wasting disease, or CWD, in Minnesota last fall led the DNR to impose mandatory testing in parts of north-central, central and southern Minnesota for the opening weekend.

In central and north-central Minnesota, the agency wants to determine whether the fatal brain disease has spread to wild deer from captive deer on two infected farms in Crow Wing and Meeker counties. Wild deer in those areas aren't known to have the disease, said Erik Hildebrand, the DNR's CWD project coordinator, but wildlife managers want to make sure so they can react aggressively if it does turn up.

They also want to determine if the disease has spread any further in a pocket of southeastern Minnesota, the only place in the state where it's been found among wild deer since 2010. Eleven deer shot in the Lanesboro and Preston areas tested positive last fall and winter.

All hunters in the 21 affected permit areas must take their deer to sampling stations where DNR staffers will remove the neck lymph nodes for testing. The DNR's goal is 3,600 samples in north-central Minnesota, 1,800 in central Minnesota and 1,800 in southeastern Minnesota.

While the disease isn't known to infect people, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, citing new research, now recommends that hunters strongly consider having their animals tested in areas where the disease is known to be present. Hunters who take deer outside the surveillance areas can pay to have the lymph nodes tested by the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Testing one sample costs \$45. Each additional sample in a batch costs \$35.

### THE GOVERNOR'S OPENER

Grand Rapids is hosting the 15th annual Minnesota Governor's Deer Hunting Opener. It's the second

time that the northern Minnesota community has hosted the event.

The festivities begin Thursday, Nov. 2, at Timberlake Lodge, including a seminar with DNR officials and a banquet. Gov. Mark Dayton is expected to appear at the banquet, as usual, but he doesn't normally head into the woods on the opener because he's not a deer hunter.

#### COMING UP

The DNR will release a draft of its first-ever comprehensive statewide deer management plan in early 2018. It's meant to be a big-picture approach in contrast to the agency's past practice of setting local population goals without such an overarching strategy.

The agency says the plan will outline key concepts for managing the state's deer herd, such as the process for setting population goals, as well as outreach efforts.

"It's hard now to know what the plan will be because it's still a work in progress," said Engwall, who sits on a citizens committee that's been advising the DNR on the plan for nearly a year. He said hunters want to see more transparency and have more input in setting things like harvest goals.

Follow Steve Karnowski on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/skarnowski>

## 2 Dakota Access protesters sentenced to jail in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A North Dakota man and a Rhode Island woman are the first people to be sent to jail for protesting the Dakota Access pipeline.

Sixty-four-year-old Mary Redway and 27-year-old Alexander Simon were convicted Oct. 19 of misdemeanor disorderly conduct during the protests in North Dakota.

Redway, of Providence, Rhode Island, was sentenced to four days in jail and Simon to 18 days. Simon comes from Fort Yates, North Dakota, but The Bismarck Tribune reports he's teaching in New Mexico.

The Water Protector Legal Collective says the sentences show the judge's bias because similar protest-related cases tried by other judges have resulted in suspended jail sentences or jail time offset by time served. The judge disputes that.

Protests against the pipeline resulted in 761 arrests from August 2016 to February 2017.

## Nearly 5 million gallons of sewage spills in North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Nearly 5 million gallons (19 million liters) of sewage has spilled into a creek in North Carolina.

Local media reported Charlotte's water system said the spill occurred when a tree broke a 36-inch (1 meter), underground pipe after storms Monday.

The water system says the spill flowed into Mallard Creek near the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

Crews have controlled the leak but said it could take two to three days to repair the pipe.

Health officials say the spill does not pose any immediate threat to downstream drinking water or recreational waters.

Crews at a sewage treatment plant noticed a reduced flow of material into the plant Tuesday and traced the system upstream until they found the broken pipe.

The Charlotte Observer reported it's the largest spill since 2003.

## More than half of Alaska petroleum reserve up for oil bids

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced it will be accepting oil exploration bids for more than half of the land on a Northern Alaska petroleum reserve that's the size of Indiana.

The bureau's announcement on Wednesday is the largest lease sale to be offered in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Alaska's Energy Desk reported.

A total of 900 tracts are up for bid, compared with the 145 tracts offered last year.

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The land up for lease was guided by industry interest in the past. But earlier this year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke directed the bureau to maximize the amount of reserve land available for lease.

The reserve saw a spike in interest from the oil industry last year, which was spurred by a series of oil discoveries around the northeast part of the reserve.

Alaska's congressional delegation praised the announcement, while environmental groups said the reserve should not be "plundered without restraint."

"The (reserve) was always intended for development, not to be locked away in perpetuity like the previous administration attempted," Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young said.

President Barack Obama's administration decided to mark portions of the reserve off-limits to leasing, citing the protection of bird and caribou habitat. Donald Trump's administration is reviewing those marked areas.

"We need a thoughtful, careful approach that emphasizes responsible development and recognizes that some places are simply too special to drill," said Nicole Whittington-Evans of the Wilderness Society.

The lease sale is scheduled for Dec. 6.

## Judge resentences tax-evading prosecutor to probation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has resentenced a former South Dakota state's attorney convicted of tax evasion to five years of probation.

The Rapid City Journal reports that U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken ruled that the original prison sentence he imposed was illegal. Viken on Wednesday resentenced 48-year-old Ken Orrock for evading businesses taxes.

He had previously ordered Orrock to complete 12 months in prison by serving the time on weekends over 3 1/2 years. Viken had crafted the unusual sentence so that Orrock could maintain his business, pay back the Internal Revenue Service and help care for his special needs son.

But Viken in an order earlier in October invalidated that sentence after the federal Bureau of Prisons said it can only implement intermittent confinement of up to a year.

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

## Catalan regional parliament passes motion for independence

By ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Catalonia's regional parliament passed a motion Friday to establish an independent Catalan Republic, voting to secede from Spain after an acrimonious debate that saw opposition lawmakers walk out in protest before the vote.

The vote in Barcelona came after Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy delivered an impassioned speech in Madrid, urging the country's Senate to grant his government special constitutional measures that would allow it to take control of Catalonia's autonomous powers and halt the region's independence bid.

The vote was approved with 70 in favor of independence, 10 against and two blank ballots in Catalonia's 135-member parliament.

Rajoy immediately called for calm despite the vote, which Spain is deeply set against. No country in the world has expressed support for independence for Catalonia, a region in northeastern Spain that has 7.5 million people.

"I call on all Spaniards to remain calm. The rule of law will restore legality to Catalonia," he said on Twitter.

Separatist lawmakers in the regional parliament erupted in applause and chants when the chamber's main speaker, Carme Forcadell, announced the passing of a motion to declare the region's independence.

The lawmakers stood to chant the Catalan official anthem, joined by dozens of guests. Regional President Carles Puigdemont and his vice president, Oriol Junqueras, exchanged congratulatory embraces and handshakes following the ballot.



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Outside, thousands who had gathered near the parliament building to call for independence cheered, with some dancing and raising glasses after seeing the vote and the counting live on a giant screen.

The motion that passed calls for beginning an independence process that includes drafting Catalonia's new top laws and opening negotiations "on equal footing" with Spanish authorities to establish cooperation.

Hours earlier in Madrid, Rajoy made his case for measures to keep Spain unified. The conservative leader, who received sustained applause before and after his speech, told the chamber that Spain was facing a challenge not seen in its recent history.

What is happening in Catalonia is "a clear violation of the laws, of democracy, of the rights of all, and that has consequences," he said.

Rajoy said his government's first move would be to dismiss Puigdemont and his regional ministers if the Senate approves the Spanish government's use of Article 155 of the Constitution in a vote later Friday.

The special measures, he said, were the only way out of the crisis, adding that Spain wasn't trying to take away liberties from the 7.5 million Catalans but instead trying to protect them.

Rajoy says the measures to take over Catalan affairs are aimed at restoring order and has promised to call a new regional election once that is achieved.

If Rajoy's measures are granted, it will be the first time in four decades of democratic rule that the national government in Madrid would directly run the affairs of one of Spain's 17 semi-autonomous regions, a move that will likely fan the flames of the Catalan revolt.

Rajoy's conservative Popular Party has an absolute majority in the Senate, thus guaranteeing the approval of his proposals. But he has also sought support from the country's main opposition parties. It will then be up to the government when to implement the measures taking over the Catalan government.

Catalonia represents a fifth of Spain's gross domestic product and polls show its people roughly evenly divided over independence.

In Barcelona before the vote, about 500 mayors of Catalan towns chanted "independence!" and raised their ceremonial wooden staves in a hall inside the regional parliament.

The proposal that was approved had been submitted by the ruling Catalan Together for Yes coalition and their allies in the far-left CUP party. It states that "we establish the Catalan Republic as an independent and sovereign state of democratic and social rule of law."

"Today is the day that many Catalans' long-held desire will be fulfilled, but tomorrow the cruel reality will set in with the Spanish state armed with its interpretation of Article 155," the former speaker of the Catalan parliament Joan Rigol i Roig, told The Associated Press. "We can only hope that the conflict remains in the political realm."

The independence move was opposed by all opposition lawmakers in the prosperous region.

Carlos Carrizosa, spokesman for the pro-union Citizens party, the leading opposition party in Catalonia's parliament, ripped a copy of the proposal into pieces during the debate ahead of the vote.

"With this paper, you leave those Catalans who don't follow you orphaned without a government. And that's why Citizens won't let you ruin Catalonia," he said. "Today is a sad, dramatic day in Catalonia. Today is the day that you (secessionists) carry out your coup against the democracy in Spain."

Marta Ribas of the leftist Catalonia Yes We Can party said "two grave errors" were being committed Friday.

"First, the Article 155 which will take away our rights and impact all the country. But it is a grave error to respond to that barbarity with an even bigger error," she said. "The unilateral declaration of independence won't protect us against Article 155, you will only make the majority of people suffer."

Before the parliament session, large crowds of independence supporters gathered outside in a Barcelona park, waving Catalan flags and chanting slogans in favor of a new state.

"I am here today because we will start the Catalan Republic," said 68-year-old protester Jordi Soler. "Madrid is starting with total repression — and there is no longer any (other) option."

Puigdemont scrapped hopes of a possible end to the political deadlock on Thursday when he opted not to call an early election and halt the drift toward independence.

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Giles reported from Madrid. Elena Becatoros and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona contributed.

## Coalition announces cease-fire between Baghdad, Kurds

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — A cease-fire was reached Friday between Baghdad and Iraq's Kurdish minority temporarily halting clashes that followed a controversial vote on Kurdish independence last month, according to the U.S.-led coalition.

The coalition was informed of the cease-fire Friday morning and coalition officials are encouraging both sides to ensure "it's not just temporary," Col. Ryan Dillon told the Associated Press.

Clashes broke out earlier this month when federal forces retook the disputed city of Kirkuk and other areas outside the autonomous Kurdish region that the Kurds had seized from the Islamic State group. IS conquered those areas after sweeping across the country in 2014. Most of the Kurdish forces withdrew without a fight, but reports of low-level clashes continued and tensions remained.

The Kurdish referendum on support for independence was held in September in the three provinces that make up the Kurds' autonomous zone, as well as in a string of territories claimed by Baghdad, but at the time controlled by Kurdish forces.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi demanded the annulment of the vote and the transfer of border control and other infrastructure to federal forces.

Kurdish officials offered this week to "freeze" the results of the vote, but al-Abadi rejected the offer Thursday.

The cease-fire comes after more than two weeks of mostly minor clashes and warnings from the coalition that the dispute was distracting from the fight against the Islamic State group.

The coalition said Iraqi and Kurdish troop movements and skirmishes stretched its intelligence and surveillance assets. Drones that previously kept watch over IS have been diverted to flashpoints in the disputed areas.

Dillon said Thursday the infighting had also hindered the movement of military equipment and supplies to forces battling IS in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Iraqi forces are currently fighting against IS in the last pocket of territory the group holds in western Anbar province along the border with Syria.

## US economy grew at 3 percent rate in July-September quarter

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, bolstered by business investment, grew at a solid annual rate of 3 percent in the third quarter. It marks the first time in three years that growth has hit at least 3 percent for two consecutive quarters.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that the July-September advance in the gross domestic product — the country's total output of goods and services — followed a 3.1 percent rise in the second quarter. It was the strongest two-quarter showing since back-to-back gains of 4.6 percent and 5.2 percent in the second and third quarters of 2014.

The economy accelerated this summer despite the impact of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which many private economists believe shaved at least one-half percentage point off growth.

The third quarter performance was certain to be cited by President Donald Trump, who pledged during last year's campaign that his economic program would boost growth from the anemic 2.2 percent averages seen since the country emerged from the Great Recession in mid-2009. Trump during the campaign said his policies of tax cuts, deregulation and tougher enforcement of trade laws would achieve growth of 4 percent or better, though his first budget projects growth hitting 3 percent in the coming years.

Private economists believe even 3 percent annual gains will be hard to achieve for an economy facing a slowdown in productivity and an aging workforce.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the stronger-than-expected report showed that the hurricanes ended up having "little lasting impact on the economy."

He said he was looking for growth of 2.1 percent this year and assuming that the Trump administration

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is successful in getting at least a modest tax cut measure through Congress, growth in 2018 could accelerate to 2.5 percent. But he said continued increases in interest rates by the Federal Reserve will likely trim growth to just 1.5 percent in 2019.

Harvey made initial landfall in Texas on Aug. 25, and Irma hit Florida on Sept. 10. The government said while various activities from oil and gas refineries in Texas to farming in Florida were affected, it could not break out an estimate of how much the hurricanes had decreased growth.

However, private economists have estimated that the storms sapped anywhere from one-half percentage point to 1 percentage point from growth. Analysts believe much of the lost output will recover as rebuilding begins.

The 3 percent growth rate for third quarter GDP and the 3.1 percent increase in the second quarter followed a much weaker 1.2 percent increase in the first quarter.

In the third quarter, consumer spending slowed slightly to 2.4 percent from a sizzling 3.3 percent in the second quarter. The slowdown was offset to some extent by a strong 8.6 percent gain in business investment in equipment and an increase in business rebuilding of inventories, which added 0.7 percentage point to third quarter growth.

Other areas of the report showed weakness. Government spending fell for a third straight quarter, dropping 0.1 percent. Residential construction fell at a 6 percent rate following a 7.3 percent rate of decline in the second quarter. But trade added 0.4 percentage point to growth as exports grew at a 2.3 percent rate while imports fell 0.8 percent.

Many analysts believe growth in the current quarter will come in around 2.7 percent.

The House on Thursday gave approval to a Republican-proposed budget that would provide for \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade. Administration officials have said the tax cuts will spur faster growth and the faster growth will erase much of the cost of the tax cuts. Democrats and many private economists have challenged that forecast.

## AP Interview: SEAL wants Bergdahl dishonorably discharged

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Former Navy SEAL James Hatch, whose career as a commando ended when he was shot while searching for Bowe Bergdahl, said his feelings toward the Army sergeant have gone from "I would like to kill him" to thanking the soldier's lead attorney for working so hard to defend him.

Hatch, who testified this week at Bergdahl's sentencing hearing on charges he endangered comrades by leaving his post in Afghanistan in 2009, has had eight years to think about the nighttime raid that ended with insurgent AK-47 spray ripping through his leg.

Sent home, he sank into a depression he nearly didn't survive. Through therapy, charity work with dogs and a cathartic book-writing process, his thinking has evolved on more than a few things — including Bergdahl's fate.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the retired senior chief petty officer said he's still angry at Bergdahl but doesn't envy the military judge who must decide his punishment after sentencing resumes Monday.

### FROM RAGE TO PEACE

"It has gone from 'I would like to kill him' to 'he should go to jail forever,' to where I'm at now, which is far more peaceful. Having spoken to others who are aware of more of the details of his walking off, and his treatment once he was captured, I am very happy that I do not have to choose what happens to him," Hatch said.

Still, he said, it's important that Bergdahl not receive an honorable discharge.

"The most important thing to me personally is that I would hope that he would be dishonorably discharged, and therefore ineligible for the benefits that veterans that have served with honor are eligible for," Hatch said.

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Bergdahl faces up to life in prison after pleading guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy for leaving his post in Afghanistan in 2009, but the military judge has wide leeway to determine a sentence.

Hatch said he wants Bergdahl to have a fair hearing, and appreciates the hard work of all involved — even the defense. He had a cordial encounter with Bergdahl's lead attorney, Eugene Fidell, at breakfast in the hotel where both were staying this week.

"I shook his hand, and I said: 'Thank you for being a good American and taking care of that kid even though I don't care for him,'" he said. According to Hatch, after the two chatted awhile, Fidell "put his arm around me and said: 'Hey, your fly is open.'"

"How can you hate a guy like that?" Hatch said.

Fidell said his interactions with Hatch have been pleasant, calling him a patriot who sacrificed for the country.

"I think it would be wonderful if, after the case is over, Senior Chief Hatch and Sgt. Bergdahl could sit down one on one," Fidell said. "I know Sgt. Bergdahl would like to do that."

## FINDING PURPOSE

During testimony, Hatch spoke stoically about his own wound during a July 2009 search mission and the 18 surgeries he's had. But he cried when discussing the military dog, Remco, who died in the same barrage of gunfire. Hatch credits the dog's handler, another member of his team, with helping to save his life.

"I knew going into that line of work that was a possibility. That dog didn't have a clue," he told AP, explaining his strong emotions. "It is incumbent upon us to protect them. They provide us with their senses and their courage, but they don't understand bullets. We failed. I, in particular, I failed to protect that dog."

Another military dog, Spike, is the namesake of a nonprofit group Hatch started to support military and law enforcement canines. Hatch was Spike's handler when that dog died on a mission in Iraq.

Hatch, now 50, said the inspiration for Spike's K9 Fund came out of a dark time in the months after he returned wounded from the 2009 mission to find Bergdahl.

"I just was washing down my pain meds with booze," he said. "I wanted to be a zombie and I didn't want to be alive anymore."

Police in Norfolk, Virginia were called to his house because he was suicidal and "acting a fool with a gun," he said. Officers called men Hatch had served with, who helped get him treated for depression. As a thank you, he helped raise money for the care of a police dog. Now, his charity — which he refers to as "my purpose"— also helps with medical expenses for families who take in retired military dogs.

Writing a book about his life, due out in 2018, with a longtime friend has also been therapeutic.

"It's one thing to go to a psychologist or a social worker and talk to them about things that are troubling you right now," said Hatch, who grew up in Utah. "It's another thing entirely when you're doing it with someone who's known you for 15 years through many of the big trials, so that you have a backstop about where those emotions may have come from."

Follow Drew at [www.twitter.com/jonldrew](http://www.twitter.com/jonldrew)

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. TRUMP DELAYS RELEASE OF SOME JFK FILES

The president cites "potentially irreversible harm" to national security if he were to allow all records to come out now.

### 2. WHO STRESSES DIPLOMACY AT DMZ

Visiting the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis says diplomacy is the answer to ending the nuclear crisis with the North, not war.

### 3. FATHER'S TRAGIC TALE OF EXODUS

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Alam Jafar survives but his wife and children perish at sea, as Bangladesh authorities say 28 boats carrying Rohingya refugees have capsized in its waters since August, killing at least 184 people.

#### 4. SPAIN ON TENTERHOOKS

Prime Minister Rajoy says that the special powers the central government wants to impose aren't meant to take away liberties of Catalans but to protect them as Catalonia's parliament resumes debating its response to Madrid.

#### 5. DRIFTERS FOUND AT SEA

Two Honolulu women and their dogs have been rescued in the Pacific Ocean by the U.S. Navy five months after they left.

#### 6. WHERE TURNOUT WAS VERY LOW AMID VIOLENCE

Only one-third of registered voters have cast ballots in presidential elections in Kenya boycotted by the main opposition group.

#### 7. NO-GO RUSSIANS

The State Department has at last compiled a list of Russians who may soon become off-limits to anyone who wants to avoid U.S. sanctions.

#### 8. FORMER NAVY SEAL RECONSIDERS

The feelings of James Hatch, whose career as a commando ended when he was shot while searching for Bowe Bergdahl, have gone from rage to peace.

#### 9. ROCK 'N' ROLLING WITH THE FLOW

Dr. John, Aaron Neville and Irma Thomas carry the city's musical torch after the death of New Orleans legend Fats Domino.

#### 10. HOUSTON BACK UNDER A ROOF

The World Series moves indoors to Houston for Game 3 with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Astros tied at one each. Minute Maid Park is known as big place for hitters.

## Trump calls for liberation from 'scourge' of drug addiction

By JILL COLVIN and CARLA K. JOHNSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In ringing and personal terms, President Donald Trump has pledged that "we will overcome addiction in America," declaring opioid abuse a national public health emergency and announcing new steps to combat what he described as the worst drug crisis in U.S. history.

Trump's declaration, which will be effective for 90 days and can be renewed, will allow the government to redirect resources in various ways and to expand access to medical services in rural areas. But it won't bring new dollars to fight a scourge that kills nearly 100 people a day.

"As Americans we cannot allow this to continue," Trump said in a speech Thursday at the White House, where he bemoaned an epidemic he said had spared no segment of society, affecting rural areas and cities, rich and poor and both the elderly and newborns.

"It is time to liberate our communities from this scourge of drug addiction," he said. "We can be the generation that ends the opioid epidemic."

Deaths have surged from opioids, which include some prescribed painkillers, heroin and synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, often sold on the nation's streets.

Administration officials said they also would urge Congress, during end-of-the year budget negotiations, to add new cash to a public health emergency fund that Congress hasn't replenished for years and contains just \$57,000.

But critics said Thursday's words weren't enough.

"How can you say it's an emergency if we're not going to put a new nickel in it?" said Dr. Joseph Parks, medical director of the nonprofit National Council for Behavioral Health, which advocates for addiction treatment providers. "As far as moving the money around," he added, "that's like robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi said, "Show me the money."

Trump's audience Thursday included parents who have lost children to drug overdoses, people who have

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struggled with addiction, first responders and lawmakers.

Trump also spoke personally about his own family's experience with addiction: His older brother, Fred Jr., died after struggling with alcoholism. It's the reason the president does not drink.

Trump described his brother as a "great guy, best looking guy," with a personality "much better than mine."

"But he had a problem, he had a problem with alcohol," the president said. "I learned because of Fred."

Trump said he hoped a massive advertising campaign, which sounded reminiscent of the 1980s "Just Say No" campaign, might have a similar impact.

"If we can teach young people, and people generally, not to start, it's really, really easy not to take 'em," he said.

It's a path taken by previous presidents, including Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, all of whom tried to rally the nation to confront drug abuse but fell short of solving the problem. Some people have become hooked on opioids after being prescribed pain killers by doctors after injuries or surgery.

As a presidential candidate, Trump had pledged to make fighting addiction a priority. Once in office, Trump assembled a commission, led by Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, to study the problem. The commission's interim report argued an emergency declaration would free additional money and resources, but some in Trump's administration disagreed.

"What the president did today was historic and it is an extraordinary beginning set of steps to dealing with this problem," Christie told reporters at the White House after the speech.

Some also faulted the White House for not issuing a wider emergency declaration to deal with the crisis.

As a result of Trump's declaration, officials will be able to expand access to telemedicine services, including substance abuse treatment for people living in rural and remote areas. Officials will also be able to more easily deploy state and federal workers, secure Department of Labor grants for the unemployed, and shift funding for HIV and AIDs programs to provide more substance abuse treatment for people already eligible for those programs.

Trump said his administration would also be working to reduce regulatory barriers, such as one that bars Medicaid from paying for addiction treatment in residential rehab facilities larger than 16 beds.

Trump said one specific prescription opioid, which he described as "truly evil," would be withdrawn immediately from the market. White House spokesman Hogan Gildey later said he was referring to the painkiller Opana ER. That drug was pulled from the market in July at the Food and Drug Administration's request following a 2015 outbreak of HIV and hepatitis C in southern Indiana linked to sharing needles to inject the pills.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said Trump's effort falls far short of what is needed and will divert staff and resources from other vital public health initiatives.

"Families in Connecticut suffering from the opioid epidemic deserve better than half measures and empty rhetoric offered seemingly as an afterthought," he said in a statement. He argued, "An emergency of this magnitude must be met with sustained, robust funding and comprehensive treatment programs."

Trump tempered expectations even as he projected hope.

"Our current addiction crisis, and especially the epidemic of opioid deaths, will get worse before it gets better. But get better it will," he said.

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AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson reported from Chicago. Associated Press writers Dake Kang in Cleveland and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Lauran Neergaard and Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed to this report.

## JFK Files: Thousands released but Trump holds back others

By CALVIN WOODWARD and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has blocked the release of hundreds of records on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, bending to CIA and FBI appeals, while the National Archives came out Thursday night with a hefty cache of others.

"I have no choice," Trump said in a memo, citing "potentially irreversible harm" to national security if he were to allow all records to come out now. He placed those files under a six-month review while letting 2,800 others come out, racing a deadline to honor a law mandating their release.

The documents approved for release and made public late Thursday capture the frantic days after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination, during which federal agents madly chased after tips, however thin, juggled rumors and sifted through leads worldwide.

They include cables, notes and reports stamped "Secret" that reveal the suspicions of the era — around Cubans and Communists. They cast a wide net over varied activities of the Kennedy administration, such as its covert efforts to upend Fidel Castro's government in Cuba.

For historians, it's a chance to answer lingering questions, put some unfounded conspiracy theories to rest, perhaps give life to other theories.

Despite having months to prepare for disclosures that have been set on the calendar for 25 years, Trump's decision came down to a last-minute debate with intelligence agencies — a tussle the president then prolonged by calling for still more review.

The delay sparked a round of finger-pointing among agencies and complaints that Trump should have released all records.

Roger Stone, a sometime Trump adviser who wrote a book about his theories on the assassination, urged Trump to review personally any material that government agencies still want to withhold. Trump should at least "spot check" any extensive redactions to make sure agencies are not "dabbling in acts of criminal insubordination," Stone said in a statement.

As for the unreleased documents, Trump will impress upon federal agencies that "only in the rarest cases" should JFK files stay secret after the six-month review, officials said.

In the meantime, experts will be poring through a mountain of minutiae and countless loose threads in search of significant revelations.

In the chaotic aftermath of the assassination, followed two days later by the murder of the shooter, Lee Harvey Oswald while in police custody, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover vented his frustration in a formerly secret report found in the files. It opened: "There is nothing further on the Oswald case except that he is dead."

But, reflecting on Oswald less than an hour after he died, Hoover already sensed theories would form about a conspiracy broader than the lone assassin.

"The thing I am concerned about, and so is (deputy attorney general) Mr. Katzenbach, is having something issued so we can convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin," he said.

He also reported: "Last night we received a call from our Dallas office from a man talking in a calm voice and saying he was a member of a committee organized to kill Oswald."

Hoover said he relayed that warning to Dallas police and was assured Oswald would be sufficiently protected. Oswald was shot dead the next day by Jack Ruby.

A document from 1975 contains a partial deposition by Richard Helms, a deputy CIA director under Kennedy who later became CIA chief, to the Rockefeller Commission, which was studying unauthorized CIA activities in domestic affairs. Commission lawyers appeared to be probing for information on what foreign leaders might have been the subject of assassination attempts by or on behalf of the CIA.

A lawyer asks Helms: "Is there any information involved with the assassination of President Kennedy which in any way shows that Lee Harvey Oswald was in some way a CIA agent or agent" — here the document ends, short of his answer.

Among the files is a more than 400-page document that appeared to describe people being monitored

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as potential threats to Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Officials described one such person this way: "Subject participated in pickets against JFK in 1961. Allegedly trained in guerrilla tactics & sabotage. Considered very dangerous by those who know him. Has visited USA & Cuba. Considered armed and dangerous."

Some suspicions missed the mark badly.

One document describes a person who sent a letter to Johnson in December 1963 stating "you're doomed." The document says: "Interviewed 1/23/64; friendly. Said letter was a joke. Not dangerous. Attending 5th grade."

The collection also discloses a Sept. 14, 1962, meeting of a group of Kennedy's senior aides, including brother Robert, the attorney general, as they discussed a range of options against Castro's communist government.

The meeting was told the CIA would look into the possibility of sabotaging airplane parts that were to be shipped to Cuba from Canada. McGeorge Bundy, JFK's national security adviser, cautioned that sensitive ideas like sabotage would have to be considered in more detail on a case-by-case basis.

Much of Thursday passed with nothing from the White House or National Archives except silence, leaving unclear how the government would comply with a law requiring the records to come out by the end of the day — unless Trump was persuaded by intelligence agencies to hold some back.

White House officials said the FBI and CIA made the most requests within the government to withhold some information.

Trump ordered agencies that have proposed withholding material related to the assassination to report to the archivist by next March 12 on which specific information meets the standard for continued secrecy.

That standard includes details that could cause "harm to the military defense, intelligence operations, law enforcement or conduct of foreign relations," Trump wrote in his order. The archivist will have two weeks to tell Trump whether those recommendations validate keeping the withheld information a secret after April 26.

The full record will still be kept from the public for at least six months — and longer if agencies make a persuasive enough case for continued secrecy.

The collection includes more than 3,100 records — comprising hundreds of thousands of pages — that have never been seen by the public. About 30,000 documents were released previously — with redactions.

Whatever details are released, they're not expected to give a definitive answer to a question that still lingers for some: Whether anyone other than Oswald was involved in the assassination.

The Warren Commission in 1964 concluded that Oswald had been the lone gunman, and another congressional probe in 1979 found no evidence to support the theory that the CIA had been involved. But other interpretations, some more creative than others, have persisted.

<https://interactives.ap.org/jfk-documents/>

Associated Press writers Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston and Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

## **AP Explains: Some JFK documents remain under wraps for now**

**By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — The public is getting a look at thousands of secret government files related to President John F. Kennedy's assassination, but hundreds of other documents will remain under wraps for now.

The government was required by Thursday to release the final batch of files related to Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. But President Donald Trump delayed the release of some of the files, citing security concerns.

Experts say the publication of the last trove of evidence could help allay suspicions of a conspiracy — at



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least for some.

"As long as the government is withholding documents like these, it's going to fuel suspicion that there is a smoking gun out there about the Kennedy assassination," said Patrick Maney, a presidential historian at Boston College.

What to expect from the files:

## HOW MANY FILES ARE THERE AND HOW CAN I SEE THEM?

The last batch of assassination files included more than 3,100 documents — comprising hundreds of thousands of pages — that have never been seen by the public. About 30,000 documents were released previously with redactions. The National Archives released more than 2,800 documents on its website Thursday evening. But Trump delayed the release of the remaining files after last-minute appeals from the CIA and FBI. Trump cited "potentially irreversible harm" to national security if he were to allow all the records out now and placed those files under a six-month review. Officials say Trump will impress upon federal agencies that JFK files should stay secret after the six-month review "only in the rarest cases."

## WHY ARE THEY BECOMING PUBLIC NOW?

President George H.W. Bush signed a law on Oct. 26, 1992, requiring that all documents related to the assassination be released within 25 years, unless the president says doing so would harm intelligence, law enforcement, military operations or foreign relations. The push for transparency was driven in part by the uproar in the wake of Oliver Stone's 1991 conspiracy-theory filled film "JFK."

## WHAT DO THE FILES SHOW?

Scholars stress that it will take weeks to mine the documents for potentially new and interesting information.

But the files show federal agents madly chasing after tips in the days after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination and juggling rumors and leads worldwide. The materials also cast a wide net over varied activities of the Kennedy administration, such as its covert efforts to upend Fidel Castro's government in Cuba.

One document details efforts to interview people who may have seen Kennedy's killer, Lee Harvey Oswald, while he was traveling to Mexico before the assassination.

Another file describes individuals being monitored as potential threats, including a person who sent a letter to the president in December 1963 that said "you're doomed." After an interview with that person, an official wrote: "Said letter was a joke. Not dangerous. Attending 5th grade."

## WILL THERE BE ANY BOMBSHELLS?

JFK experts believe the files will provide insight into the inner workings of the CIA and FBI. But the chances of a bombshell are slim, according to the judge who led the independent board that reviewed and released thousands of the assassination documents in the 1990s. The files that were withheld in full were those the Assassination Records Review Board deemed "not believed relevant," Judge John Tunheim of Minnesota told The Associated Press. But Tunheim said it's possible the files contain information the board didn't realize was important two decades ago.

## Pentagon chief Mattis stresses diplomacy in Korean crisis

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — On his first visit to the tense but eerily quiet frontier between North and South Korea as U.S. secretary of defense, Jim Mattis conveyed the message he hopes will win the day: Diplomacy is the answer to ending the nuclear crisis with the North, not war.

He made the point over and over - at the Panmunjom "truce village" where North literally meets South; at a military observation post inside the Demilitarized Zone, and in off-the cuff comments to U.S. and South Korean troops.

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"We're doing everything we can to solve this diplomatically - everything we can," he told the troops after alighting from a Black Hawk helicopter that had ferried him to and from the border some 25 miles north of central Seoul.

"Ultimately, our diplomats have to be backed up by strong soldiers and sailors, airmen and Marines," he added, "so they speak from a position of strength, of combined strength, of alliance strength, shoulder to shoulder."

At Panmunjom, where the armistice ending the Korean war was signed in July 1953, Mattis quoted Secretary of State Rex Tillerson as saying, "Our goal is not war." The aim, he said, is to compel the North to completely and irreversibly eliminate a nuclear weapons program that has accelerated since President Donald Trump took office.

Despite unanimous condemnation by the U.N. Security Council of the North's missile launches and nuclear tests, "provocations continue," Mattis said.

As Mattis arrived at Panmunjom alongside South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo, a small group of apparent tourists watched from the balcony of a building on North Korea's side of the line that marks the inter-Korean border. Uniformed North Korean guards watched silently as Mattis and Song stood just yards away.

Atop Observation Post Ouellette, where he could see deep into North Korea and hear their broadcast taunts of the South, Mattis listened to Song recount some of the history of the 1950-53 Korean war in which thousands of Americans and perhaps more than a million Koreans died in a conflict that remains officially unsettled.

"It reminds us that we fought together in very difficult times, and we stick together today," Mattis said inside a Demilitarized Zone of craggy terrain, millions of landmines and ghost-like reminders of the war.

The U.S. has about 28,500 troops based in South Korea and has maintained a military presence there since the Korean War ended.

Mattis's counterpart, Song, gave the former four-star Marine general the lay of the land, noting that the North has 342 long-range artillery pieces aimed at Seoul, among other weapons. That's a threat that cannot be defended against, Song said, so Washington and Seoul must come up with "new offensive concepts" to be able to eliminate the artillery before it can be used, should war break out.

Mattis called the North "an oppressive regime that shackles its people, denying their freedom, their welfare and their human dignity in pursuit of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery in order to threaten others with catastrophe."

He noted that earlier this week in the Philippines, he and Song joined Southeast Asian defense ministers in committing to a diplomatic solution to the North Korea problem, even though Pyongyang and its young leader, Kim Jong Un, show no interest in negotiations.

Two other developments Thursday showed the U.S. intention to continue building diplomatic and economic pressure on Pyongyang. The Trump administration imposed sanctions on 10 North Korean officials and organizations over human rights abuses and censorship, including a diplomat in China accused of forcing North Korean asylum seekers home.

Meanwhile, a rare military exercise involving three of the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier strike groups was being planned for next month in the Asia Pacific, a U.S. official said. The likely exercise would happen around the time that Trump travels to the region, including to Seoul.

The three Navy carriers and the ships that accompany them are currently thousands of miles apart in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. But they are moving through the region and could be closer together in weeks.

Trump entered office declaring his commitment to solving the North Korea problem, asserting that he would succeed where his predecessors had failed. His administration has sought to increase pressure on Pyongyang through U.N. Security Council sanctions and other diplomatic efforts, but the North hasn't budged from its goal of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal, including missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

On Saturday, Mattis will be joined by Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in annual consultations with South Korean defense officials. They are expected to admonish North Korea, vow to strengthen allied defenses, and discuss prospects for eventually giving South Korea wartime control of its own forces.

## Thailand grieves in elaborate final goodbye to King Bhumibol

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — With solemn faces and outright tears, Thais said farewell to their king and father figure with elaborate funeral ceremonies that cap a year of mourning and are steeped in centuries of tradition.

Smoke rose just before midnight Thursday from the spectacularly ornate crematorium built in the year since King Bhumibol Adulyadej died. On Friday morning, his son, current King Maha Vajiralongkorn, participated in a religious ceremony to move his father's ashes to special locations for further Buddhist rites. Thai television broadcast pictures of Vajiralongkorn bathing Bhumibol's relics — charred bones — and placing them in golden reliquary urns.

The five-day funeral began Wednesday with Vajiralongkorn performing Buddhist merit-making rites. On Thursday, a ceremonial urn representing Bhumibol's remains was transferred from Dusit Maha Prasad Throne Hall to the crematorium in somber processions involving thousands of troops, a golden palanquin, a gilded chariot and a royal gun carriage.

The urn, placed under a nine-tiered white umbrella and accompanied by a palace official, was hoisted into the main chamber of the golden-spired crematorium as monks chanted, traditional instruments wailed and artillery fired in the distance. The king then climbed the red-carpeted steps to light candles and incense in honor of his father.

On a day designated a public holiday in the kingdom, tens of thousands of mourners dressed all in black watched the processions from streets in Bangkok's royal quarter and millions more saw broadcasts aired live on most TV stations and shown at designated viewing areas across the country.

Before dawn, 63-year-old Somnuk Yonsam-Ar sat on a paper mat in a crowd opposite the Grand Palace. Her granddaughter slept in her lap and her husband rested his head against a metal barrier. The family came from the coastal province of Rayong, where they run a food stall.

Somnak waved a fan to cool herself but said she was not tired.

"I feel blessed to be able to sit here, and be part of this," she said. "It's an important day for us."

Bhumibol's death at age 88 on Oct. 13, 2016, after a reign of seven decades sparked a national outpouring of grief. Millions of Thais visited the throne hall at the Grand Palace to pay respects.

Deceased Thai royals have traditionally been kept upright in urns during official mourning. But Bhumibol, who spent much of his early life in the West, opted to be put in a coffin, with the royal urn placed next to it for devotional purposes.

The ceremonial urn was at the center of Thursday's processions, including one led by the current king when the golden container was placed upon the Great Victory Chariot. Built in 1795 and made of gilded and lacquered carved wood, the chariot has been used to carry the urns of royal family members dating to the start of the Chakri dynasty.

As the chariot, pulled by hundreds of men in traditional red uniforms, passed the mourners lining the parade route, they prostrated themselves, pressing their folded hands and head on the ground in a show of reverence.

In the evening, a symbolic cremation was witnessed by royalty and high-ranking officials from 42 countries. Orange-robed monks chanted Buddhist prayers to bless Bhumibol's spirit as the official guests waited to offer sandalwood flowers at the crematorium built to represent mystical Mount Meru, where Buddhist and Hindu gods are believed to dwell.

Bhumibol's ashes and relics will be transferred to the Grand Palace and the Temple of The Emerald Buddha for further Buddhist rites, and on the final day of the funeral, they are set to be enshrined in spiritually significant locations.

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The funeral is by design an intensely somber event, but also rich in history and cultural and spiritual tradition.

The adulation Bhumibol inspired was fostered by palace courtiers who worked to rebuild the prestige of a monarchy that lost its mystique and power when a 1932 coup ended centuries of absolute rule by Thai kings.

That effort built a semi-divine aura around Bhumibol, who was protected from criticism by a draconian law that mandates prison of up to 15 years for insulting senior royals.

But he was also genuinely respected for his development projects, personal modesty and as a symbol of stability in a nation frequently rocked by political turmoil, though his influence waned in his final years.

Thais have braved tropical heat and torrential monsoon rains to secure street-side vantage points to witness the funeral.

Thousands of police and volunteers were on hand to ensure order and entry into the historic royal quarter was tightly controlled to eliminate the faint possibility of protest against the monarchy or military government.

An activist was detained earlier this week after writing on Facebook that he planned to wear red clothing on the day of Bhumibol's cremation, a color associated with support for elected governments ousted in coups in 2006 and 2014.

## Fireworks factory fire in Indonesia kills 47, mostly women

By TATAN SYUFLANA, Associated Press

TANGERANG, Indonesia (AP) — Investigators Friday were trying to determine the cause of an explosion and fire at a fireworks factory near Indonesia's capital that killed at least 47 people, mostly young female workers unable to escape.

Survivors told authorities the fire started from the factory's drying section, where finished fireworks are dried, many under the sun, before they are distributed and sold. Witnesses heard a huge explosion about 10 a.m. Thursday, followed by smaller blasts that echoed across the residential neighborhood on the outskirts of Jakarta as orange flames jumped from the building and columns of black smoke billowed.

As investigators tried to piece together what happened, relatives crushed by grief went to a police hospital's morgue in eastern Jakarta Friday morning to identify loved ones. Officials said all of the bodies were burned beyond recognition.

"The condition of the corpse were hard to recognize ... can only be identified through DNA and dental data," said Umar Shahab, who heads medical and health division at the Jakarta Police.

Tangerang police chief Harry Kurniawan said 46 injured people were being treated at three hospitals.

The death toll could rise as many of those who escaped suffered extensive burns, said Nico Afinta, general crimes director at Jakarta police. He said bodies were found piled at the rear of the building.

Police said 103 people were working at the factory and 10 are still unaccounted for. Some or all of those 10 may not have come to work Thursday or suffered only minor injuries and didn't seek medical attention, said Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono.

A local resident told Indonesia's MetroTV he saw police and residents smash through a wall of the factory so trapped workers could escape. Some of the victims were burning as they ran out, he said.

"The fire began with a strong explosion like a bomb," Benny, who goes by one name, told the TV channel.

Kurniawan said police didn't want to speculate on the cause of the fire until the investigation was completed. "We are now questioning intensively witnesses, including the factory owner and manager," the police chief said.

A worker who escaped the fire said the staffers were mostly women employed on a casual basis.

Mumun, who goes by one name, told Indonesia's TVOne she started working at the factory a few weeks ago and was paid 40,000 rupiah (\$3) a day.

"I lost so many friends. I couldn't help. Everybody just ran for safety," she said, weeping.

Another survivor, Ahmad Safri, said the workers had poor working conditions in a sweaty warehouse with

noisy engines, but he denied workers were locked inside when the fire spread. "Many panicking workers run to wrong direction... maybe to a generator room that was locked," Safri said.

He said some workers seemed like young women and teenagers, but he was not sure if any were underage.

Minister of Manpower Hanif Dhakiri said his department would investigate the allegations some workers were underage.

The factory is next to a residential area in Tangerang, a city in Banten province on the western outskirts of Jakarta. It had been operating for less than two months, Kurniawan said.

"Factory owners or anyone who neglects and violates safety rules should be held legally responsible," Kurniawan told reporters.

MetroTV, quoting a local official, said although the factory had a permit, its proximity to a residential area was against regulations.

Safety laws are inconsistently enforced or even completely ignored in Indonesia, a poor and sprawling archipelago nation where worker rights are often treated as a lower priority than economic growth and jobs.

## **Cuba presents detailed defense against sonic attack charges**

**By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba on Thursday presented its most detailed defense to date against U.S. accusations that American diplomats in Havana were subjected to mysterious sonic attacks that left them with a variety of ailments including headaches, hearing problems and concussions.

In a half-hour, prime-time special titled "Alleged Sonic Attacks," Cuban officials attempted to undermine the Trump administration's assertion that 24 U.S. officials or their relatives had been subjected to deliberate attacks by a still-undetermined culprit. Many officials reported being subjected to loud, grating noises before falling ill. The U.S. has not accused Cuba of carrying out the attacks, but says that Cuba has not met its obligation to protect diplomats on its territory.

The television special pointed out what it alleged was a lack of evidence for the U.S. accusations. It argued the United States had failed to show that such attacks had actually occurred because it had not given Cuba or the public access to the testimony or medical records of U.S. officials who reported attacks, despite three visits to Cuba by U.S. investigators in June, August and September.

"The members of the U.S. delegation said they don't have evidence that confirms that these reported attacks occurred, and brought up that there was no working theory about the cause of the health problems reported by their diplomats," the program's narrator said.

The narrator said Cuba had undertaken an exhaustive investigation ordered by "the highest government authorities," a clear reference to President Raul Castro. Cuba did not possess any technology capable of carrying out a sonic attack and importing it was prohibited by law, according to the special.

"Its entering the country could only take place illegally," the narrator said.

The creators of the report interviewed neighbors of the affected diplomats who said they had not heard any strange sounds or suffered any symptoms, which the special presented as another purported weakness in the U.S. allegations. It said security around U.S. diplomats' homes had been dramatically increased.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment at length on the Cuban critique, saying Thursday that, "the safety and wellbeing of American citizens is our top priority ... We are continuing our investigation into the attacks, and the Cuban government has told us they will continue their efforts as well."

The U.S. has cut staffing at its Havana embassy by 60 percent in response to the incidents, expelled Cuban diplomats from the embassy in Washington, issued a travel warning for Americans going to Cuba and stopped issuing visas for Cubans in Havana. The measures have sent U.S.-Cuba relations plummeting from a high point under President Barack Obama and cut into the increasingly important flow of tourists to Cuba, whose economy went into recession last year for the first time in more than two decades.

Thursday night's special did not present an alternate explanation for the facts presented by U.S. officials, with one significant exception. Officials with Cuba's Interior Ministry said that U.S. investigators had presented them with three recordings made by presumed victims of sonic attacks and that analysis of the

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sounds showed them to be extremely similar to those of crickets and cicadas that live along the northern coast of Cuba.

"It's the same bandwidth and it's audibly very similar," said Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Molina, a telecommunications specialist with the Interior Ministry. "We compared the spectrums of the sounds and evidently this common sound is very similar to the sound of a cicada."

The program's narrator said that unnamed "North American researchers" had found that some cicada and cricket noises could be louder than 90-95 decibels, enough to produce hearing loss, irritation and hypertension in situations of prolonged exposure.

Cuba said it had reported its findings on the similarity of the recordings to cricket sounds, and the U.S. had not responded.

The special's narrator said U.S. diplomats continued to travel around Cuba after the incidents began to be reported, and there were requests for dozens of visas for visits by friends and family, something the narrator said undermined U.S. allegations that the diplomats were not being kept safe in Cuba.

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

## Q&A: Why wiping of Georgia elections server matters

By FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

Election reform activists sued Georgia officials on July 3 demanding its highly questioned statewide elections system be immediately retired. Four days later, technicians at Kennesaw State University, which administers the state's elections, destroyed a key piece of evidence — wiping clean an elections management server.

The server, holding data on Georgia's 6.7 million voters and files used to stage elections, had been exposed on the open internet for at least six months until early June. A security expert, Logan Lamb, first alerted officials to the gaping vulnerability in August 2016 but it had gone unpatched.

### WHY PRESERVE THE DATA?

It's necessary to know whether the server might have been hacked and the outcome of last November's election and a special House of Representatives vote on June 20 altered. Data on the server included passwords used by county officials to access elections management files.

### HOW DID THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LEARN OF THE DATA DESTRUCTION?

It obtained an Oct. 18 email written by an assistant state attorney general to lawyers in the case. The AP also was given 180 pages of email exchanges of election administrators obtained in an open records request. The documents confirmed the irretrievable deletion not just of the main server but also of two backups on Aug. 9.

### WHO ORDERED THE SERVER WIPED?

Secretary of State Brian Kemp — a Republican running for governor in 2018 — oversees Georgia's elections and is the main defendant. On Thursday, he blamed the wipe on "the undeniable ineptitude" of Kennesaw State's elections center. His spokeswoman told the AP that Kemp's office did not order the destruction and did not know of it beforehand.

Kennesaw State officials have not responded to the AP's request to know who ordered the server wiped or why they did not keep an image before deleting its data.

Emails in the open records request show that a senior university engineer instructed technicians to wipe the server's hard drives. The university's press office said in a statement Thursday that the instruction followed "standard operating procedures."

The Atlanta FBI, which made an image of the server when it temporarily took custody in March, would not say whether it retained that copy — or whether it has done a forensic examination to determine whether the server was accessed by hackers and had files altered.

The state attorney general's office, Kemp's lawyer in the case, notified the court Wednesday of its intent to subpoena the FBI for the image.

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## WAS IT A CRIME TO DESTROY THE DATA?

That's not clear. The plaintiffs' local attorney sent an email July 10 to the defendants' lawyers reminding them of their obligation to preserve electronic evidence. The case was later transferred from state to federal court. A Republican state representative, Scot Turner, called Thursday for a criminal investigation. It appears no judge was asked for an order mandating the preservation of evidence. So the defendants could not be held in contempt of court.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Legal briefs are due Oct. 30, after which Presiding Judge Amy Totenberg will weigh their motion to dismiss the case. Meantime, Georgia's legislature has begun discussing replacing the state's 15-year-old elections system with modern equipment that includes an auditable paper trail at an estimated cost of at least \$100 million.

On Nov. 7, Conyers, Georgia, a city near Atlanta, will test new equipment that produces a paper trail in its local elections.

Frank Bajak on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/fbajak>

## Markets Right Now: Tech jumps, but indexes are mixed

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest on developments in financial markets (All times local):

9:40 a.m.

Stocks are mixed at the open thanks to solid quarterly earnings from technology companies as Microsoft, Intel and Alphabet.

Investors also cheered a report Friday that showed the U.S. economy grew by a stronger than expected 3 percent in the third quarter.

Microsoft rose 7.9 percent and Alphabet, Google's parent company, jumped 5.8 percent. Online retailer Amazon soared 9.2 percent.

But major stock indexes were mixed as energy companies lost ground. Chevron lost 3.5 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 6 points or 0.2 percent, to 2,567.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 38 points, or 0.2 percent, to 23,363. The Nasdaq composite is up 71 points, or 1 percent, to 6,629.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2017. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 27, 1947, "You Bet Your Life," a comedy quiz show starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. (It later became a television show on NBC.)

On this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.

In 1880, Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee.

In 1886 (New Style date), the musical fantasy "A Night on Bald Mountain," written by Modest Mussorgsky (MOH'-dest muh-SAWRG'-skee) and revised after his death by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, was performed in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1922, the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place.

In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first black of-

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ficer to achieve that rank in the USAF. Walt Disney's first television program, titled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

In 1980, opera star Beverly Sills gave her last public performance during a farewell gala at New York's Lincoln Center.

In 1992, Petty Officer Allen Schindler, a gay U.S. Navy sailor, was beaten to death near Sasebo Naval Base in southwestern Japan by shipmate Terry Helvey, who pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0.

Ten years ago: Despite significant dissent in the ranks, United Auto Workers members narrowly passed a four-year contract agreement with Chrysler LLC. The Boston Red Sox took a 3-0 World Series lead with a 10-5 win over the Colorado Rockies in Denver.

Five years ago: The eastern United States braced for high winds, torrential rains, power outages and even snow from Hurricane Sandy, which was headed north from the Caribbean toward a merger with two wintry weather systems. The San Francisco Giants, with a 2-0 victory, took a three-games-to-none lead in the World Series against the Detroit Tigers.

One year ago: A jury in Portland, Oregon, delivered an extraordinary blow to the government in a long-running battle over the use of public lands when it acquitted all seven defendants, including group leader Ammon Bundy, who were involved in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in 2014. Law enforcement officers dressed in riot gear evicted protesters from private land in the path of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, dramatically escalating a monthslong dispute over Native American rights and the project's environmental impact. Twitter announced it was cutting about 9 percent of its employees worldwide.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Nanette Fabray is 97. Actor-comedian John Cleese is 78. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 77. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 75. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 71. Country singer-musician Jack Daniels is 68. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 68. Author Fran Lebowitz is 67. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 66. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 66. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 65. Actor Peter Firth is 64. Actor Robert Picardo is 64. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 61. Singer Simon Le Bon is 59. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 53. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 51. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 50. Actor Sean Holland is 49. Actor Channon Roe is 48. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 40. Actor David Walton is 39. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 39. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 33. Actress Christine Evangelista is 31. Actor Bryan Craig is 26. Actor Troy Gentile is 24.

Thought for Today: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." — President James Madison (1751-1836).