



A worker from Dakota Traffic Services begins to pull the Road Closed signs off the road as traffic is no longer detoured from SD37 going through Groton. SD37 was opened to general traffic at 6:41 p.m. yesterday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Region VB in Groton

The semifinal regional volleyball match will be held in Groton Thursday night starting at 7 p.m. The match will feature Groton Area and Milbank as Milbank defeated Webster Area last night, 3-0, to advance to the match. The winner of Thursday's match will advance to the Sweet 16. The matches will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.



**605.290.1535**  
custom homes | remodels | additions

**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**

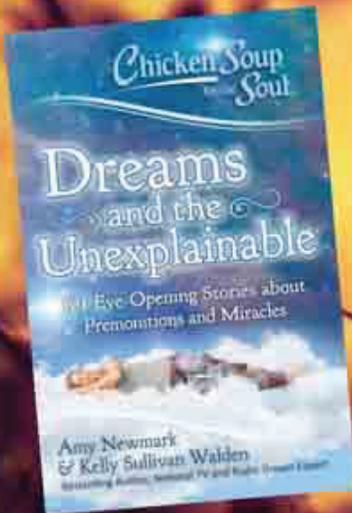
## Marching Band to Disney World

Band Director Austin Fordham received word on Wednesday that Groton's application to march in the Disney World Park Epcot was accepted. They will be going on their trip this spring.

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 1- Marching Band to Disney World
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
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- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
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“Serendipity  
is the faculty of  
finding things we did  
not know we were  
looking for.”

-Glauco  
Ortolano



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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

Roger Rix, treasurer; gave his end of the year report, with a sound financial gain.

Roger also reported on the upcoming annual Kiwanis sponsored Snow Queen and Talent contest, set for Saturday, Nov. 4, 7:00 pm, at GHS.

A monetary donation was given to the GHS robotics team.

Lee Schinkel was program leader, and introduced Dez Yeigh, GHS music teacher. Dez then introduced four of her piano students, namely, Emily Clark, Kamryn Fliehs, Emily Thompson, and Anne Marie Smith. Each student presented several piano selections.

Next week's program leader is Steve Simon, followed by Kiersten Sombke.



**Bruce Schroeder of the South Dakota Department of Transportation (right) talks with Wade Boltjes of Dakota Traffic Services. They go over the final details before opening SD37 to general traffic.** (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

# SD37 is open!

**by Paul Kosel, Groton Daily Independent**

The \$5 million renovation project for SD37 and US12 going through Groton has reached its major completion mark as SD37 was opened to general traffic at 6:41 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, right on schedule. US12 was open to general traffic in the last part of August. The project began the first part of April.

The project included new LED lights for SD37 and US12, a new turning lane on US12 for south and north bound traffic onto SD37, new storm sewers for SD37 along with curb and gutter and a new asphalt road. In addition, about 1.5 miles of new sidewalk was installed along SD37.

The Safe Routes to School grant became part of the major project with the cross walk being moved from Fourth Avenue to Fifth Avenue across SD37.

The intersection of the highways have new three-way control lights and a push button has been installed for pedestrians to cross the highway.

The new LED lights on US12 will be installed in January. The original plan called to reuse the original poles, but when they were taken down, they were found to be rusty and not usable; thus, a change order was done. The new poles will not arrive until January.

There will be more work to be done in the spring near the intersection and a new project going north out of Groton on SD37 will be done next year.

One of the unique things that happened this summer was weekly meetings that were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM to help keep local residents informed of the progress on the project.

## Today in Weather History

November 2, 1961: A snowstorm began in western South Dakota and spread to the remainder of the state on November 2nd, ending late on the 2nd in the extreme east. Snowfall was relatively minimal, with 1 to 3 inches falling over most of the central and eastern parts of the state, but the storm was accompanied by winds of 40 to 50 mph in eastern South Dakota. Also, temperatures fell rapidly with the passage of a cold front with 24-hour changes of 40 to over 50 degrees. Huron dropped from 73 on the 1st to 21 only 24 hours later, a 52-degree drop.

### 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.

November 2, 1972: Freezing rain caused up to 2 inches of ice to form on trees, bushes, wires, cars, and buildings. Many trees and utility lines were downed. Some of the greatest damage occurred from Tulare to Redfield and Doland and from Troy to Sisseton, in Spink, Brown, Day, Grant and Roberts Counties. Also, heavy snow up to 20 inches fell in south central South Dakota. Some snowfall amounts include; 5.2 inches in Huron; 10 inches in Wessington Springs; 12 inches in Platte; 12.5 in Bonesteel and 19.5 inches in Gregory.

November 2, 1997: A strong low-pressure system over the Great Lakes produced winds of 50 to near 60 mph over much of northern and central South Dakota. The strong winds overturned half of an unsecured double-wide trailer in Fort Pierre. In McLaughlin, high winds damaged a catwalk at the McLaughlin livestock auction. Half of the 400-foot walkway was tipped over by the winds. The strong winds, along with six-foot waves, destroyed an 85-year old 40 x 75-foot dance hall located on Medicine Lake, 15 miles northwest of Watertown. In Aberdeen, brick from a top portion of an abandoned building collapsed. There were also widespread reports of tree limbs blown down.

1743: Benjamin Franklin's "eclipse hurricane" unlocked the key to storm movement. Ben Franklin, at Philadelphia, PA was prevented from viewing a lunar eclipse in a north-east rainstorm, but his brother, who was in Boston, saw it, though the rain began an hour later.

1992: Another infamous November Great Lakes Storm brought windy conditions to Minnesota's Lake Superior shoreline. 70 mph winds caused waves to crash over 130-foot walls along the shore.

## Death Notice: Medora Quiggle

Medora Quiggle, 95, of Groton passed away Tuesday, October 31st at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	30% → 70% Chance Snow then Snow Likely	60% Snow Likely	20%   20% Slight Chance Wintry Mix then Slight Chance Rain	50% Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy
High: 38 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 35 °F



## Snow Potential Friday

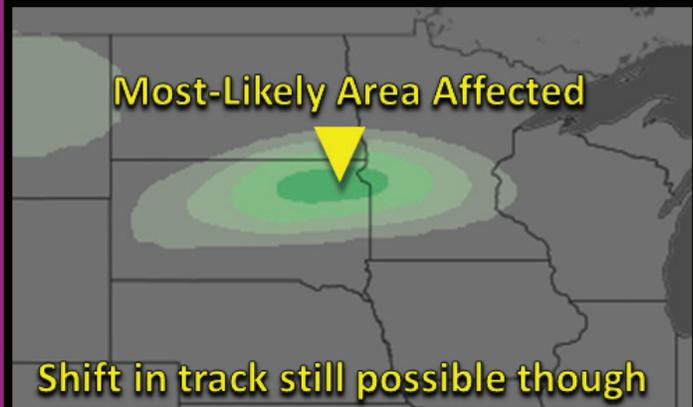


Band Of Snow Develops Mid Day

Moves Northeast By Evening

2-4 Inch Accumulations Possible

Highs Today: 30s & Low 40s



Shift in track still possible though  
[www.weather.gov/ABR/winter](http://www.weather.gov/ABR/winter)



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 11/2/2017 5:25 AM Central

Published on: 11/02/2017 at 5:44AM

Dry conditions are expected today with highs in the 30s and low 40s, however a system is headed our direction for Friday. This is expected to generate a band of snowfall with accumulations generally from 2 to 4 inches, with little if any outside of this feature. There is still some uncertainty over where the snow will set up, but it looks like northeast South Dakota has the best chance.

# Groton Daily Independent

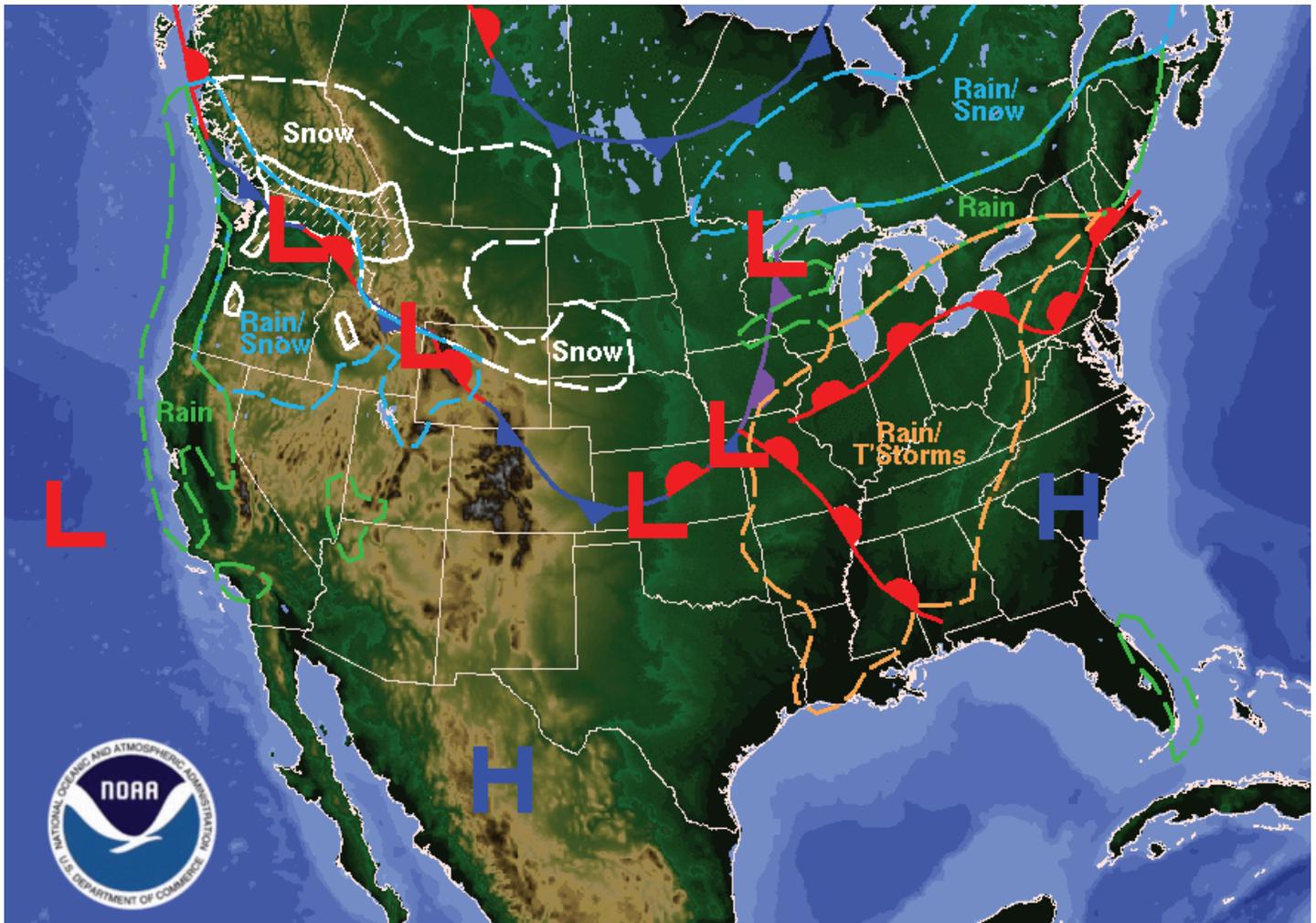
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 42.0 at 2:25 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 29.8 at 8:19 AM**  
**High Gust: 28 mph at 1:46 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 78° in 1903**  
**Record Low: 0° in 1911**  
**Average High: 48°F**  
**Average Low: 26°F**  
**Average Precip in Nov: .06**  
**Precip to date in Nov: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 20.53**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.47**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:18 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:16 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Nov 02, 2017, issued 4:38 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**  
**Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)**  
**Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)**  
**Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)**  
**Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)**

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## HE RULES FOREVER

He who created all things rules everything! Kingdoms that were once great and powerful can no longer be found on a map. Nations that were once feared and wealthy are now weak and impoverished. Countries that once were respected are now looked upon as failures.

God has been, is and always will be the Creator-Ruler.

His sovereignty began when the universe began and kingdoms, nations and countries were in existence according to His divine plan. He reigned before time began and will continue to reign even when clocks cease to tick. "He rules forever by His power."

His eyes are never closed as He watches over every nation. Deeds that show compassion and deeds that are cruel do not escape His careful observation. Though He is invisible to us, nations are not invisible to Him. He is aware of every citizen in every country and carefully records the actions of the rulers and leaders. "His eyes watch the nations," wrote the Psalmist.

The rebellious and unrighteous, the godless and the god-restricting will not escape His judgment. No nation has ever succeeded when they have rebelled against God, His laws or His truth. Nations sin, people sin and God warns them and waits for them to repent.

If they repent He spares His judgment and voids the punishment that is rightfully theirs because of their sin. But when nations continue to sin they will collapse from within or be destroyed from without.

Only nations who have honored God have survived.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that our nation will repent and return to our heritage that once followed Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 66:7 He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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## News from the Associated Press

### **CSX, state reach settlement on fuel spill from derailment**

COVINGTON, Va. (AP) — Railroad company CSX Corp. has reached a settlement with Virginia environmental regulators over a derailment in Covington that sent fuel into the Jackson River.

The Roanoke Times reports that as part of a consent order with the Department of Environmental Quality, CSX will pay a fine of \$2,125. The company also will conduct monthly river monitoring and submit reports four times a year to the state.

The derailment happened in October 2016 in a rail yard. A hole was punched in a fuel tank, and about 1,700 gallons of diesel fuel spilled.

The newspaper says no fish were killed, but regulators noted a discolored sheen on the water's surface. The enforcement action won't be final until the end of a public comment session, which runs through Nov. 15.

CSX has headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida.

Information from: The Roanoke Times, <http://www.roanoke.com>

### **Reward of up to \$5,000 for help finding killer of pelican**

BAY MINETTE, Ala. (AP) — An animal rights group is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for killing a pelican in Alabama found with black electrical tape wrapped around its beak and a rope wrapped around one wing and its feet.

Authorities are investigating but have yet to make an arrest, which prompted the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to offer the reward. PETA Vice president Colleen O'Brien is urging anyone with information to contact Alabama Ecological Services at 251-441-5787.

The dead bird was found on Pelican Point in Baldwin County the weekend of Oct. 14.

The federal Fish and Wildlife Service says that Brown and American White pelicans are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes actions such as taking, buying or selling the animals illegal.

## **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Dakota Cash

09-10-11-14-24

(nine, ten, eleven, fourteen, twenty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$31,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$48 million

Powerball

03-06-19-26-44, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2

(three, six, nineteen, twenty-six, forty-four; Powerball: one; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$52 million

## **US moves to end ban on new uranium mining near Grand Canyon**

By PAUL DAVENPORT, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. officials said Wednesday they have proposed ending the Obama administration's ban on new uranium mining leases on public land outside Grand Canyon National Park.

The Forest Service proposed the change in response to President Donald Trump's executive order for federal agencies to eliminate restrictions on energy production.

The Trump administration has moved to unravel former President Barack Obama's environmental regulations aimed at curbing climate change.

"Adoption of this recommendation could reopen lands to mineral entry pursuant to the United States mining laws facilitating exploration for, and possibly development of, uranium resources," according to a report last week by the Forest Service's parent agency, the Department of Agriculture.

The Oct. 25 report also said it's in the national interest "to promote the clean and safe development of America's vast energy resources." Nuclear power plants use uranium as fuel.

Conservationists are decrying the Forest Service's move, saying past uranium mining in the region has polluted soils, washes, aquifers and drinking water.

"The Forest Service should be advocating for a permanent mining ban, not for advancing private mining interests that threaten one of the natural wonders of the world," said Amber Reimondo, energy program director of the Grand Canyon Trust based in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Grand Canyon Trust officials said there will be a public comment period on the issue, but it's unclear when that process will begin. The decision will be finalized and implemented after that with little or no room for appeal, the officials said.

In 2012, then-Interior Department Secretary Ken Salazar banned new hard rock mining for 20 years on more than 1 million acres of national forest and Bureau of Land Management land near the Grand Canyon. He said he was acting to protect a "priceless American landscape."

The ban did not affect existing mining claims in the region.

## **Animal rights groups sue Minnesota fur farm over gray wolves**

LAKEVILLE, Minn. (AP) — Two animal rights groups have filed a lawsuit alleging that a fur farm and petting zoo near Minneapolis is breeding, neglecting and killing gray wolves.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Lockwood Animal Rescue Center filed the lawsuit on Sept. 29 against Teresa Petter, who owns Fur-Ever Wild in Lakeville, the Star Tribune reported.

They allege that Petter is breaking federal law by breeding gray wolf puppies as a petting zoo attraction and that she kills wolves that get too old and sells their fur.

Petter denied the accusations Tuesday, saying the allegations in the lawsuit "are absolutely whacked."

"I don't even know how people can have that much imagination," she said.

Petter said she's not violating the Endangered Species Act because her animals are wolf-dog hybrids, excluding them from federal law that protects gray wolves. She also said the fur she uses only comes from wolves that die naturally or are euthanized for aggression.

The groups contend that Petter previously claimed her animals were full-blooded wolves. They say she also made similar claims in government documents, on her website and on signs around her property.

"My observations confirmed that they were in fact gray wolves and not hybrids of any kind," said Matthew Simmons, director of operations at Lockwood, of his visit to the farm last fall. "I based this observation on my 10 years of experience handling wolves and wolf-dogs on a regular basis."

The groups also claim that the "broad purpose" of the federal protection is to save wolf-dog hybrids as well as pure-blood wolves.

The lawsuit seeks an injunction barring Petter from keeping wolves. A hearing on the injunction request hasn't been scheduled.

## Attorney general wants independent holder for nuke money

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson wants a judge to appoint an independent official to oversee all the money collected by two utilities related to a pair of abandoned nuclear plants.

Wilson filed a motion Wednesday asking for the receiver to protect ratepayers. He wants the official to be in charge of the money South Carolina Electric & Gas and Santee Cooper currently have in the bank and will collect for the project, including a \$2 billion settlement by the reactors' builder, Westinghouse/Toshiba.

Chief Justice Don Beatty assigned one judge — York County's John Hayes III — to oversee all pretrial matters for several lawsuits against the utilities, including the one Wilson is involved with.

Wilson says he will be at Hayes' hearing next Wednesday in York County.

## Oklahoma trial delayed in toddler's drowning death case

MCALESTER, Okla. (AP) — A trial for an Oklahoma man who's facing a first-degree murder charge in the 2015 drowning death of his daughter has been delayed until early next year.

Devin Sizemore's trial was scheduled to begin in November at the Pittsburg County Courthouse in McAlester, according to court records.

The continuance comes as attorneys make legal arguments as to whether the child's death occurred on Native American land and whether the defendant should be tried by the federal government instead of the state, the McAlester News-Capital reported.

Officers who responded to the scene and testified at a preliminary hearing said Sizemore was standing in the middle of the pond in Krebs when they arrived on July 15, 2015. They said the toddler was floating face-down about 20 yards from the 22-year-old.

Officer Jack Suter also testified that Sizemore lunged at him before he was cuffed.

After the preliminary hearing, a District 18 judge ordered Sizemore bound over for district court trial arraignment on the murder charge and bound over for trial on a second felony count of assault and battery in Suter.

Defense attorney Matthew Sheets filed court documents that said both Sizemore and his daughter were members of the Choctaw Nation. He argued that Pittsburg County is part of the Choctaw Nation and that the case should therefore be tried in federal court.

District 18 District Attorney Chuck Sullivan said Sizemore should be tried in state court.

A gag order barring the defense and prosecution from commenting on the case has been issued.

An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 14 and pre-trial motions are expected on Dec. 20. The trial is now set to begin Jan. 8.

Information from: McAlester News-Capital, <http://www.mcalesternews.com>

## Rapid City fugitive apprehended after lengthy standoff

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A fugitive wanted in several gun-related incidents in Rapid City was apprehended after a 4 ½-hour standoff at a mobile home park.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says 23-year-old Saul Crowe was arrested Tuesday night, after authorities used an explosive on a door at the home.

Crowe suffered what was described as minor injuries when a police dog was used to subdue him. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Several area residents were evacuated during the standoff, and nearby Western Dakota Tech was placed on lockdown as a safety precaution.

Crowe was wanted by both local and federal authorities.

## **Audit urges changes to Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A state audit is urging changes to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, saying years of mismanagement and lack of leadership have led to financial problems and deteriorating infrastructure.

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale says the 82,000 city customers are “all too familiar” with the problems, which he said at times have endangered public health.

The audit of operations from January 2014 through the end of June detailed more than 3,500 pipe breaks since the beginning of that period, about 2.5 breaks per day, and DePasquale said the system gets no money for about half of the clean water it produces due, in part, “to leaky pipes that cannot be located.”

Although water storage facilities and other equipment need replacement, the authority has been investing just 15 percent of what is needed in upgrades and repairs, he said.

“This lack of capital improvement investment contributes to the deteriorating infrastructure that continues to fail routinely, forcing whole neighborhoods to boil their water,” DePasquale said.

DePasquale also cited a 40-year agreement under which the authority provides the city with as much as 600 million gallons (2 billion liters) of free water worth millions of dollars each year. The authority doesn’t even know how much water the city uses because there is no complete list of city-owned properties receiving it and only 10 percent of city-owned properties have water meters, he said.

The city leases its water and sewer system to the quasi-governmental authority. The authority’s seven-member board is appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council.

In a statement, board chairwoman Debbie Lestitian called the audit “thorough and thoughtful.”

“The board will consider and act on many of these recommendations as we guide PWSA toward becoming the utility Pittsburgh expects and deserves,” she said.

Interim Executive Director Robert A. Weimar said the audit “sheds light on the historical and structural conditions that have placed PWSA in a difficult position today.” He said officials were working “to stabilize infrastructure, invest in needed capital improvements, and adding to our leadership team who is committed to advancing the organization.”

Mayor Bill Peduto said the audit confirmed many things that have long concerned him about the authority’s operations, debt and infrastructure, adding that “deep and fundamental changes are necessary.” The Democrat’s administration has sparred previously with the authority and a firm that had a management contract with the authority from mid-2012 through 2015.

Peduto said his administration would consider the recommended changes on city funding and free water the city receives from the authority “especially if such funds are put back into the authority’s infrastructure needs.”

## **West Virginia again approves Mountain Valley Pipeline**

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia environmental regulators on Wednesday lifted their suspension of the permit for building the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which would carry natural gas down the center of the state.

The pipeline would extend south for 195 miles (315 kilometers) in north-central West Virginia through 11 counties to the Virginia state line and nearly 110 miles (175 kilometers) through six counties in that state.

West Virginia’s Department of Environmental Protection first issued the water quality certification in March, which followed public hearings and review of the projected impact on the state’s waters.

In June, five citizen groups asked a federal appeals court to overturn the state approval. In September, the DEP vacated its approval to re-evaluate the application and determine whether it complied with the federal Clean Water Act.

Secretary Austin Caperton, who heads the department, said Wednesday that as a result of the review and public comments, it has changed its approach. “Our agency developed a revised strategy that will better utilize the state storm water permit to provide significantly stronger safeguards for the waters of West Virginia,” he said.

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The state also has decided chosen to waive its individual certification for the pipeline under the federal Clean Water Act. The DEP noted that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently reissued its nationwide permit, with provisions that are specific to West Virginia, saying it will allow for better enforcement capabilities and enhanced protection for West Virginia waters.

Two weeks ago, a divided The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted its approval.

Environmentalists said the state agency is failing to do its duty.

"This action suggests that DEP does not believe in the laws, including the anti-degradation policy, that it is charged with enforcing," said Derek Teaney, senior attorney at Appalachian Mountain Advocates. "It also makes you wonder whether DEP intends to give the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the other ill-conceived pipeline project it is currently reviewing, the same free pass it has just given to MVP."

Two weeks ago, a divided Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved both the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley natural gas pipelines, which would both start in West Virginia, carrying gas from the Appalachian basin to U.S. markets. The 600-mile (965-kilometer) Atlantic Coast pipeline would extend almost 100 miles (160 kilometers) through five counties in West Virginia, then cross Virginia and bend through eastern North Carolina.

Prominent business and political leaders in all three affected states back the projects, saying they will lower energy costs and boost economic development. But opponents, including environmental groups and landowners, say the projects will infringe on property rights, damage pristine areas and commit the region to fossil fuels for decades.

## Viewfinders unveil Tennessee fall colors for the colorblind

By JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — Even when the rugged expanses of the Great Smoky Mountains were bursting with their famous fall colors, they always looked dull black and tawny to Lauren Van Lew from the 3,590-foot-high (1,090-meter) perch of Mount Harrison.

For the 20-year-old Van Lew, who has been colorblind her whole life, some colors have just been left to the imagination. She loves painting, but her wife Molly has to help her pick and mix colors.

Last week, however, when Van Lew visited the scenic mountaintop again and looked through a special viewfinder, for the first time she saw yellows, oranges and reds exploding across the landscape.

"Red was the biggest difference. I mean, I can't describe it," said Van Lew, who lives in Sevierville, Tennessee. "It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my life. That red, it's just gorgeous. It's incredible."

She wondered, "How do you see like that all of the time?"

The colorblind viewfinder installed atop the Ober Gatlinburg resort by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development will be one of three in the state that debut Wednesday, letting people gaze upon colors that they may have never seen before. The other two viewfinders are at scenic areas of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area near Oneida, and at the westbound Interstate 26 overlook near Erwin in Unicoi County.

Although the technology isn't new — eyeglasses that let colorblind people see colors are already available — state officials believe this is the first time it's been incorporated into a viewfinder, at a cost of \$2,000 apiece, to help people with red-green color deficiencies. How crisply the viewfinders display new colors can vary from person to person among the 13 million or so people in the country with color deficiencies.

State tourism officials invited people to try it out last Thursday at Ober Gatlinburg, bringing them up by ski-lift, but left the details somewhat vague to maintain the element of surprise. A crew filmed their reactions for marketing material.

Their first glimpses drew tears, smiles and faces stunned by wonder and awe.

"My heart just started beating fast," said Todd Heil, who generally sees a lot of green. "I felt like crying, man. Too many people around."

Amber McCarter works in real estate, so part of her pitch is the fall foliage that drapes the Great Smoky Mountains, even though she can't entirely see it herself. The viewfinder gave her a firsthand look of the

views she's been selling.

"It's like, if you want to go see a show somewhere, you don't want to hear from somebody whose family went. You want to hear from somebody who actually went," the 22-year-old said.

For Van Lew, nothing looks the same now. It can be a little disheartening to know what she's been missing. But the possibility of tapping into a long unseen world of vibrant color is uplifting, she added.

"It's going to enable more people to experience the beauty that we live in, that I didn't know we lived in," she said.

## Big Island authorities plan crackdown on agricultural theft

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — Authorities on the Big Island are cracking down on agricultural theft by attempting to eliminate the market for stolen produce.

In a meeting with agricultural officials and farmers Friday, Hawaii County Prosecutor Mitch Roth unveiled a plan to increase market monitoring and utilize the legally required paper trail in an effort to curb the theft, West Hawaii Today reported .

"My goal is not to arrest anybody," Roth said. "My goal is to educate people so we don't have a market for stolen goods."

The first step of the effort was kicked off in September when the county hired a full-time agricultural investigator. The investigator will be tasked with watching farmers markets and roadside stands where the stolen commodities are often sold.

Brooks Wakefield, who operates a family farm with her husband, said the theft of fruit and coffee costs her thousands of dollars each year. She said vendors will buy from the thieves and sell the products at a lower price than what the legitimate farmers and vendors can offer.

"There are peaks and valleys, but overall it's getting worse over the years," Wakefield said.

Under Hawaii law, the sale of any agricultural commodity must be accompanied by a certificate describing the product and indicating the seller, owner, buyer, origin and destination. Vendors buying a certain amount of produce must also get a copy of the seller's identification card. Authorities plan to use this paper trail to make it more difficult for thieves.

Roth said that when authorities have cracked down on the theft in the past, crime rates plummeted.

Information from: West Hawaii Today, <http://www.westhawaii.com>

## Prosecutors urge public safety law change amid meth problem

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say a panel meant to evaluate the success of a 2013 public safety law in South Dakota needs to factor in the state's growing methamphetamine problem.

The Public Safety Improvement Act is aimed at reducing incarcerations for nonviolent offenders, the Argus Leader reported . Prosecutors and law enforcement officials said Tuesday that the law's Improvement Council should make revisions to better deal with meth users and traffickers.

The suggestions come in response to an increasing number of meth-related arrests across South Dakota in the last year. Minnehaha County data show arrests for meth possession, use and trafficking increased by more than 40 percent in the first nine months of this year compared to the same period the year before.

"I think we need to go back to the table and see what we need to do," said Aaron McGowan, state's attorney for the county. "We have to get a handle on this meth epidemic."

Some officials encouraged tougher consequences for drug dealers and meth users who are arrested and later re-offend.

"We have to aggressively deal with those who are dealing this dangerous drug to our citizens. We have to have consequences if you're on some level of probation or parole and you got right back to using that drug," said Mike Milstead, the sheriff of Minnehaha County.

The council will consider whether a law change could help address the problem, said Laurie Feiler, the council's chair and deputy secretary of the Department of Corrections.

"That was not really a variable when we were considering SB 70 (the law)," she said. "They're complex problems, there's not an easy solution to this."

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

## Suspect in reservation slaying signs new plea agreement

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of two defendants accused of killing a woman on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has signed a new plea agreement with federal prosecutors.

A federal judge in July invalidated guilty pleas for Elizabeth LeBeau and Fred Quiver, who accused each other of strangling 24-year-old Emily Bluebird with an electronics cord in January 2016. Bluebird's body was found on the reservation several weeks after her death following a search by volunteers.

The Rapid City Journal reports LeBeau's new plea deal states that she and Quiver strangled Bluebird together. The agreement calls for LeBeau to plead guilty to second-degree murder and accessory to murder. A plea hearing wasn't immediately scheduled.

It's not clear if Quiver will also enter into a new plea agreement, or if he will go to trial.

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

## Court upholds approvals of 3 projects to export natural gas

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld Energy Department decisions approving three projects to export liquefied natural gas, a boost for the Trump administration's strategy to increase energy production and promote exports.

The Sierra Club was seeking to overturn approvals of export terminals in Maryland, Louisiana and Texas, saying the projects would increase air and water pollution and contribute to global warming.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said in a unanimous opinion that the Energy Department fulfilled its legal obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. The court said its decision was similar to a ruling in August when it upheld approval of a separate export terminal in Texas.

Liquefied natural gas, or LNG, is natural gas chilled to liquid form for shipment on tanker ships.

Charlie Riedl, executive director of the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, an advocacy group that promotes natural gas exports, said he hopes the decision "will put an end to the unnecessary and costly challenges by Sierra Club that delay LNG projects" across the country.

"The facts are clear and the court agrees: The regulatory review process for U.S. LNG projects provides a thorough review of both operational and environmental impacts before being approved," Riedl said.

Exporting natural gas helps the U.S. economy and enhances geopolitical stability in countries that receive natural gas, such as Japan, China, South Korea and Argentina, Riedl said.

Nathan Matthews, a Sierra Club attorney, said expanding exports of gas produced by the drilling technique known as fracking inevitably increases air and water pollution. Fracking involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rocks to allow oil and gas to flow. Fracking has led to a boom in natural gas production but raised widespread concerns about possible groundwater contamination and even earthquakes.

Matthews said it was disappointing that the court declined to hold the Energy Department "accountable for doing a real analysis that takes the costs for American communities into account," through increased pollution and emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Dominion Energy's export terminal in Cove Point, Maryland, is scheduled to open in the coming weeks. Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass facility in Louisiana opened last year. And Cheniere's project in Corpus Christi, Texas, is due to open next year.

The projects, along with a fourth export terminal in Freeport, Texas, all were approved by the Obama administration.

This story corrects the name of the appeals court.

## Sioux Falls woman sues retail company over gray blue skin

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman is suing a diet supplement company alleging one of their products turned her skin grayish blue.

The lawsuit filed by Sandra Chrans says she started taking NutraSilver in 2011 to treat skin conditions. In 2016 Chrans says certain areas of her body, including her face, neck, arms and hands, started to turn grayish blue. A plastic surgeon advised her to stop taking the supplement.

The Argus Leader says the lawsuit names Beneficial Solutions, the Nevada company that makes NutraSilver and its founder, Russell Altman.

The Sioux Falls woman is seeking damages for injuries, pain, mental anguish and medical expenses. Altman did not immediately respond to a phone message and email seeking comment on the lawsuit.

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

## Dakotas nonprofit urges people to get health coverage early

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Dakotas nonprofit is urging people who buy their own health insurance to sign up early during the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period that started Wednesday.

The enrollment window for 2018 health coverage through the federal marketplace runs until Dec. 15. This year's sign-up period is six weeks shorter than last year's.

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas CEO Shelly Ten Napel said in a statement that community health centers and their health care partners are working to inform people that coverage and financial help are available.

She said people who plan to renew or enroll in a health plan should get prepared and sign up early to ensure coverage. Counselors and navigators are ready to help people sign up, Ten Napel said.

"With a shortened enrollment period and steep cuts at the federal level for marketing and outreach efforts, it is critical that we spread the word about open enrollment and arm South Dakotans with the information they need to enroll, apply for financial assistance and seek enrollment support," she said.

The nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation said that for the 2017 open enrollment period, over 21,000 people in North Dakota and more than 29,000 people in South Dakota selected a marketplace plan.

## Suu Kyi visits Myanmar region torn by Rohingya conflict

By ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Aung San Suu Kyi made her first visit as Myanmar's leader Thursday to the conflict-torn region where more than half a million Rohingya Muslims have fled state-led violence that has spiraled into Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

Her visit to Rakhine state comes as Suu Kyi is under intense international scrutiny for her response to the exodus, which the U.N. has called "ethnic cleansing," and as her government said it is working on a plan to repatriate those who fled to Bangladesh.

Suu Kyi arrived in the state capital, Sittwe, in the morning and headed to restive northern Rakhine where many Rohingya villages were located. During a 2015 election campaign, she visited southern Rakhine, where there hasn't been much conflict.

"The state counselor just arrived but she is heading to Maungdaw, northern Rakhine, with the state officials," said Tin Maung Swe, a deputy director of the Rakhine government, using Suu Kyi's official title.

Government spokesman Zaw Htay would not release Suu Kyi's plans for the trip until later because of

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security concerns.

More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when security forces in Buddhist-majority Myanmar began what they called "clearance operations" in response to deadly attacks on police outposts by insurgents. The campaign has included the burning of Rohingya villages and alleged widespread rights violations.

Fleeing Rohingya have described arson, rape and shootings by Myanmar soldiers and Buddhist mobs that left them no option but to make the dangerous and sometimes deadly journey through jungles and by sea to Bangladesh.

The exodus has slowed at some points but has not stopped.

On Thursday morning, at least 2,000 terrified and starving Rohingya huddled in rice paddy fields near one border crossing on the Naf river. They had waited for more than 24 hours for permission to enter Bangladesh and spent the night in the muddy fields.

The global image of Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, has been damaged by the crisis and she has come under intense criticism to do more to end the violence and condemn those responsible. Several fellow peace prize winners have publicly condemned Suu Kyi for what they see as her apparent indifference to the plight of the Rohingya.

Though Suu Kyi has been the de facto head of Myanmar's civilian government since her party swept elections in 2015, the former political prisoner is limited in her control of the country by a constitution written by the military junta that ruled Myanmar for decades. The military has effective veto power over all legislation and controls key ministries including those overseeing security and defense.

The military is in charge of operations in northern Rakhine, and ending them is not up to Suu Kyi.

Even when Suu Kyi has spoken on the issue, she has drawn criticism. In a September speech, her first public comments after the current crisis began, she asked for patience from the international community and suggested the refugees were partly responsible, saying more than half of the Rohingya villages had not been destroyed by the violence.

Suu Kyi faces a potential domestic backlash if she speaks on behalf of the Rohingya, who have been the target of anti-Muslim rhetoric. Many people agree with the official government stance that there is no such ethnicity as Rohingya and that those in the country have illegally migrated from Bangladesh.

Though Rohingya first arrived generations ago, they were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

Myanmar's backers globally have also had to tread carefully, not wanting to undermine Suu Kyi's weak civilian government at a time when the country is just emerging from decades of authoritarian rule. Still, countries such as the U.S. have warned Myanmar about potential repercussions if it doesn't address the crisis, including the risk of attracting international terrorists, scaring off investment, and ultimately stunting its transition to democracy.

The government said Tuesday that it is ready to repatriate Rohingya who had fled, but blamed Bangladesh for slowing the process.

"We are ready to accept the refugees and to start a verification and scrutiny process, but we have not reached an agreement with the Bangladeshi authorities for repatriation," said Zaw Htay, the government spokesman.

He said those who could prove they were residents of Myanmar would be allowed to return. Many Rohingya have no identity documents.

Ali Hossain, a top government administrator in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, said Wednesday that Bangladesh is doing "more than enough" to help the refugees, and placed the blame for delays in the repatriation process on Myanmar.

"Myanmar is talking about repatriation but more and more people are still being forced to come to Bangladesh," he said. "There is a situation in Myanmar. We know that, the whole world knows that."

"Bangladesh is not playing any tricks here. We are doing our best," he said.

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## 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. 'FELT GOOD ABOUT WHAT HE HAD DONE'

Authorities say the suspect in a deadly truck rampage was inspired by the Islamic State group's online videos and plotted his New York City attack for two months.

2. HOUSE GOP READY TO UNVEIL TAX PLAN

The proposal makes major changes yet is looking to preserve current tax rules for retirement accounts and retain a top income-tax rate for million-dollar earners.

3. RUSSIAN HACKERS HAD WIDER SCOPE

The cyber breach that upended the U.S. presidential election also targeted thousands of other entities of interest to the Kremlin, a digital hit list obtained by the AP finds.

4. WHAT EMOTIONS TRUMP'S UPCOMING VISIT TO ASIA IS INSPIRING

Fear, resignation, indignation, morbid curiosity — even, according to one South Korean politician, feelings of national disgrace.

5. EX-TRUMP AIDES DUE BACK IN COURT FOLLOWING INDICTMENT

Paul Manafort, who led the campaign for several months last year, will appear in Washington's federal court with co-defendant and business associate, Rick Gates.

6. SUU KYI VISITS MYANMAR REGION TORN BY ROHINGYA CONFLICT

The Nobel Peace laureate is headed to where the Muslim minority have fled state-led violence that has spiraled into Asia's worst refugee crisis in decades.

7. CIA RELEASES 470,000 MORE FILES FROM 2011 BIN LADEN RAID

Never-before-seen video of the al-Qaida leader's son and potential successor exhibits the first public look at Hamza bin Laden as an adult.

8. BERGDAHL PENALTY PHASE NEARING A CONCLUSION

Closing arguments are expected as soon as today for the Army sergeant convicted of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy in Afghanistan in 2009.

9. FINANCIAL WORLD AWAITS ANNOUNCEMENT ON FED CHOICE

All signs suggest that Trump's pick is Jerome Powell, a member of the Fed's board, to replace Janet Yellen when her term ends in February.

10. FROM LAUGHINGSTOCK TO LIFT OFF

MVP George Springer and the Houston Astros win the first World Series championship in their 56-year history by romping past the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in Game 7.

## Catalan politicians quizzed in Spain rebellion case

By CIARAN GILES and ARITZ PARRA, Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's National Court in Madrid was questioning ousted Catalan government members Thursday in an investigation into possible rebellion charges for having declared the region's independence, while a parallel Supreme Court session for six Catalan lawmakers was suspended for a week.

Twenty regional politicians, including fired regional government president Carles Puigdemont, were called to appear after the chief prosecutor demanded they be charged with rebellion, sedition and embezzlement following the Catalan parliament's declaration of secession Oct. 27. The crimes are punishable by up to 30 years in prison under Spanish law.

The group summoned includes Puigdemont's 13-member former Cabinet and six parliamentary board members.

Puigdemont, who traveled to Belgium with some of his ex-Cabinet members, remained in Brussels along with four of his former ministers. Their failure to appear before the court could trigger arrest warrants and an extradition petition.

Puigdemont's No. 2, Catalan ex-vice president Oriol Junqueras, was the first to arrive at the National

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Court. He went in accompanied by lawyers, passing by dozens of journalists, and declined to answer questions. The National Court procedures began with the appearance of former Catalan regional government spokesman Jordi Turull, followed by Josep Rull, who had handled the region's territorial affairs.

But a corresponding session in the Supreme Court for six regional parliament members, including Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell, one of the leading figures of the pro-independence movement in Catalonia for many years, was suspended until Nov. 9 following a request by the lawmakers' lawyers.

Spain took the unprecedented step of seizing control of Catalonia following the declaration and later sacked the regional Cabinet, dissolved the regional parliament and called a new regional election for Dec. 21.

Puigdemont said he and several of his former ministers went to Brussels earlier this week for "freedom and safety." Four of the ex-ministers remained in Brussels with him while the others returned and were to be appearing in court.

About two dozen politicians and elected officials from Catalan separatist parties had gathered at the gates of the Supreme Court in a show of support.

"If the question is if in Spain you can trust the judicial system, my answer is no," said Artur Mas, a former president of the Catalan government. "From the personal point of view and also for my personal experience, I don't think that there are all the guarantees to have a fair trial."

Assumpcio Lailla, a former lawmaker with Catalonia's Democrats party, said she had traveled to Madrid joining around 100 other politicians and elected officials to show support to those investigated in the rebellion probe.

"This is an unjust situation in which they are being investigated for facilitating democracy," she said. "I don't understand how Europe can look away from democracy."

The supporters greeted some of the lawmakers that are being questioned Tuesday at the Supreme Court cheering and shouting: "Freedom, Freedom" and "we are not afraid."

Across the street, half a dozen protesters with Spanish flags were stopped by police. They shouted at the Catalan politicians, "cowards" and "to jail, to jail."

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Paolo Santalucia in Madrid, and Elena Becatoros in Barcelona, contributed to this report.

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A previous version of this story has been corrected to show that the first name of the ex-lawmaker from the Democrats party is Assumpcio, not Assumptio.

## **Feds: Truck attack suspect said 'he felt good about' rampage**

**By COLLEEN LONG and LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The suspect in a deadly truck rampage was inspired by the Islamic State group's online videos and plotted his New York City attack for two months, renting a truck ahead of time to practice turning it, federal authorities said in a criminal complaint bringing terrorism charges against the Uzbek immigrant.

Sayfullo Saipov chose the attack date to target Halloween crowds, according to the criminal complaint. And after his trail of terror was halted by a police bullet, he asked to display the Islamic State group's flag in his hospital room, saying "he felt good about what he had done," authorities said.

Brought to court in a wheelchair, Saipov was held without bail on charges that could bring the death penalty. Separately, the FBI was questioning people who might have information about his actions before the attack, including a second Uzbek man.

The charges against Saipov, 29, came just a day after the attack near the World Trade Center killed eight people. Investigators in multiple states raced to retrace Saipov's steps and understand his motivations, which they said were illuminated by a note he left by the truck: "Islamic Supplication. It will endure." The phrase "it will endure" commonly refers to the Islamic State group, and Saipov had a cellphone loaded with the group's propaganda, an FBI agent said in the criminal complaint.

Handcuffed and with his legs shackled, Saipov nodded his head as he was read his rights in a brief court

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proceeding that he followed through a Russian interpreter. Outside court, his appointed lawyer, David Patton, said he hoped "everyone lets the judicial process play out."

"I promise you that how we treat Mr. Saipov in this judicial process will say a lot more about us than it will say about him," Patton said.

The FBI released a poster saying it was looking for one of Saipov's associates, Mukhammadzair Kadirov, only to announce less than 90 minutes later that it had found him. A law enforcement official said Kadirov was a friend of Saipov's and may not have any role in the case. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A married father of three and former commercial truck and ride-hailing driver, Saipov began planning an attack a year ago and settled on a truck assault a couple of months ago, according to the criminal complaint.

During the last few weeks, Saipov searched the internet for information on Halloween in New York City and rented a truck to practice turns. He chose a route along a lower Manhattan highway and initially hoped to continue to hit more pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge, the complaint said.

Ultimately, Saipov sped down a bike path on a riverfront esplanade in a rented truck for nearly a mile Tuesday, running down cyclists and pedestrians, before crashing into a school bus, authorities said. He was shot after he jumped out of the vehicle brandishing two air guns and yelling "God is great!" in Arabic, they said. Knives were found in a bag he was carrying.

In the past few years, the Islamic State group has exhorted followers online to use vehicles, knives or other close-at-hand means of killing people in their home countries. England, France and Germany have all seen deadly vehicle attacks since mid-2016.

Saipov's court appearance came just hours after President Donald Trump said he would consider sending Saipov to the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba — an idea the White House reinforced by saying it considered Saipov to be an "enemy combatant." Detainees at Guantanamo accused of supporting militants have faced military tribunals, rather than trials in the U.S. legal system.

By afternoon, though, Saipov was in federal court facing charges that include providing material support to a terrorist group. Trump's administration could, at least in theory, still send the suspect to the U.S. base in Cuba later, though such a step would be unprecedented.

Late Wednesday night, the president took to Twitter to say that Saipov should get the death penalty.

Trump also has called for eliminating the 1990s visa lottery program that Saipov used to come to the U.S. in 2010.

John Miller, deputy New York police commissioner for counterterrorism, said Saipov had never been the subject of a criminal investigation by the FBI or New York police, but appears to have links to people who have been investigated. He wouldn't elaborate.

The attack killed five people from Argentina, one from Belgium and two Americans, authorities said. Twelve people were injured.

City leaders vowed New York would not be intimidated and said Sunday's New York City Marathon would go on as scheduled, with increased security.

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Associated Press writers Dake Kang in Stow, Ohio; Jennifer Peltz, Tom Hays, Karen Matthews and Kiley Armstrong in New York; Deepti Hajela and Wayne Parry in Paterson, New Jersey; Shawn Marsh in Trenton, New Jersey; Tamara Lush in Tampa, Florida; Ben Fox in Miami; Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles; and Michael R. Sisak in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## Russia hackers had targets worldwide, beyond US election

By **RAPHAEL SATTER, JEFF DONN and JUSTIN MYERS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hackers who upended the U.S. presidential election had ambitions well beyond Hillary Clinton's campaign, targeting the emails of Ukrainian officers, Russian opposition figures, U.S. defense contractors and thousands of others of interest to the Kremlin, according to a previously

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unpublished digital hit list obtained by The Associated Press.

The list provides the most detailed forensic evidence yet of the close alignment between the hackers and the Russian government, exposing an operation that stretched back years and tried to break into the inboxes of 4,700 Gmail users across the globe — from the pope's representative in Kiev to the punk band Pussy Riot in Moscow.

"It's a wish list of who you'd want to target to further Russian interests," said Keir Giles, director of the Conflict Studies Research Center in Cambridge, England, and one of five outside experts who reviewed the AP's findings. He said the data was "a master list of individuals whom Russia would like to spy on, embarrass, discredit or silence."

The AP findings draw on a database of 19,000 malicious links collected by cybersecurity firm Secureworks, dozens of rogue emails, and interviews with more than 100 hacking targets.

Secureworks stumbled upon the data after a hacking group known as Fancy Bear accidentally exposed part of its phishing operation to the internet. The list revealed a direct line between the hackers and the leaks that rocked the presidential contest in its final stages, most notably the private emails of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta.

The issue of who hacked the Democrats is back in the national spotlight following the revelation Monday that a Donald Trump campaign official, George Papadopoulos, was briefed early last year that the Russians had "dirt" on Clinton, including "thousands of emails."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the notion that Russia interfered "unfounded." But the list examined by AP provides powerful evidence that the Kremlin did just that.

"This is the Kremlin and the general staff," said Andras Racz, a specialist in Russian security policy at Pazmany Peter Catholic University in Hungary, as he examined the data.

"I have no doubts."

## THE NEW EVIDENCE

Secureworks' list covers the period between March 2015 and May 2016. Most of the identified targets were in the United States, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia and Syria.

In the United States, which was Russia's Cold War rival, Fancy Bear tried to pry open at least 573 inboxes belonging to those in the top echelons of the country's diplomatic and security services: then-Secretary of State John Kerry, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, then-NATO Supreme Commander, U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, and one of his predecessors, U.S. Army Gen. Wesley Clark.

The list skewed toward workers for defense contractors such as Boeing, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin or senior intelligence figures, prominent Russia watchers and — especially — Democrats. More than 130 party workers, campaign staffers and supporters of the party were targeted, including Podesta and other members of Clinton's inner circle.

The AP also found a handful of Republican targets.

Podesta, Powell, Breedlove and more than a dozen Democratic targets besides Podesta would soon find their private correspondence dumped to the web. The AP has determined that all had been targeted by Fancy Bear, most of them three to seven months before the leaks.

"They got two years of email," Powell recently told AP. He said that while he couldn't know for sure who was responsible, "I always suspected some Russian connection."

In Ukraine, which is fighting a grinding war against Russia-backed separatists, Fancy Bear attempted to break into at least 545 accounts, including those of President Petro Poroshenko and his son Alexei, half a dozen current and former ministers such as Interior Minister Arsen Avakov and as many as two dozen current and former lawmakers.

The list includes Serhiy Leshchenko, an opposition parliamentarian who helped uncover the off-the-books payments allegedly made to Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort — whose indictment was unsealed Monday in Washington.

In Russia, Fancy Bear focused on government opponents and dozens of journalists. Among the targets

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were oil tycoon-turned-Kremlin foe Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who spent a decade in prison and now lives in exile, and Pussy Riot's Maria Alekhina. Along with them were 100 more civil society figures, including anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny and his lieutenants.

"Everything on this list fits," said Vasily Gatov, a Russian media analyst who was himself among the targets. He said Russian authorities would have been particularly interested in Navalny, one of the few opposition leaders with a national following.

Many of the targets have little in common except that they would have been crossing the Kremlin's radar: an environmental activist in the remote Russian port city of Murmansk; a small political magazine in Armenia; the Vatican's representative in Kiev; an adult education organization in Kazakhstan.

"It's simply hard to see how any other country would be particularly interested in their activities," said Michael Kofman, an expert on Russian military affairs at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington. He was also on the list.

"If you're not Russia," he said, "hacking these people is a colossal waste of time."

## WORKING 9 TO 6 MOSCOW TIME

Allegations that Fancy Bear works for Russia aren't new. But raw data has been hard to come by.

Researchers have been documenting the group's activities for more than a decade and many have accused it of being an extension of Russia's intelligence services. The "Fancy Bear" nickname is a none-too-subtle reference to Russia's national symbol.

In the wake of the 2016 election, U.S. intelligence agencies publicly endorsed the consensus view, saying what American spooks had long alleged privately: Fancy Bear is a creature of the Kremlin.

But the U.S. intelligence community provided little proof, and even media-friendly cybersecurity companies typically publish only summaries of their data.

That makes the Secureworks' database a key piece of public evidence — all the more remarkable because it's the result of a careless mistake.

Secureworks effectively stumbled across it when a researcher began working backward from a server tied to one of Fancy Bear's signature pieces of malicious software.

He found a hyperactive Bitly account Fancy Bear was using to sneak thousands of malicious links past Google's spam filter. Because Fancy Bear forgot to set the account to private, Secureworks spent the next few months hovering over the group's shoulder, quietly copying down the details of the thousands of emails it was targeting.

The AP obtained the data recently, boiling it down to 4,700 individual email addresses, and then connecting roughly half to account holders. The AP validated the list by running it against a sample of phishing emails obtained from people targeted and comparing it to similar rosters gathered independently by other cybersecurity companies, such as Tokyo-based Trend Micro and the Slovakian firm ESET.

The Secureworks data allowed reporters to determine that more than 95 percent of the malicious links were generated during Moscow office hours — between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The AP's findings also track with a report that first brought Fancy Bear to the attention of American voters. In 2016, a cybersecurity company known as CrowdStrike said the Democratic National Committee had been compromised by Russian hackers, including Fancy Bear.

Secureworks' roster shows Fancy Bear making aggressive attempts to hack into DNC technical staffers' emails in early April 2016 — exactly when CrowdStrike says the hackers broke in.

And the raw data enabled the AP to speak directly to the people who were targeted, many of whom pointed the finger at the Kremlin.

"We have no doubts about who is behind these attacks," said Artem Torchinskiy, a project coordinator with Navalny's Anti-Corruption Fund who was targeted three times in 2015. "I am sure these are hackers controlled by Russian secret services."

## THE MYTH OF THE 400-POUND MAN

Even if only a small fraction of the 4,700 Gmail accounts targeted by Fancy Bear were hacked success-

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fully, the data drawn from them could run into terabytes — easily rivaling the biggest known leaks in journalistic history.

For the hackers to have made sense of that mountain of messages — in English, Ukrainian, Russian, Georgian, Arabic and many other languages — they would have needed a substantial team of analysts and translators. Merely identifying and sorting the targets took six AP reporters eight weeks of work.

The AP's effort offers "a little feel for how much labor went into this," said Thomas Rid, a professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

He said the investigation should put to rest any theories like the one then-candidate Donald Trump floated last year that the hacks could be the work of "someone sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds."

"The notion that it's just a lone hacker somewhere is utterly absurd," Rid said.

Donn reported from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Myers reported from Chicago. Chad Day, Desmond Butler and Ted Bridis in Washington, Frank Bajak in Houston, Lori Hinnant in Paris, Maggie Michael in Cairo and Erika Kinetz in Shanghai contributed to this report. Novaya Gazeta reporters Nikolay Voroshilov, Yana Surinskaya and Roman Anin in Moscow also contributed.

Satter, Donn and Myers can be reached at:

<http://raphaelsatter.com>, <https://twitter.com/jadonn7> and <https://twitter.com/myersjustinc>

Editor's Note: Satter's father, David Satter, is an author and Russia specialist who has been critical of the Kremlin. His emails were published last year by hackers and his account is on Secureworks' list of Fancy Bear targets.

## House GOP set to unveil tax overhaul; keeps retirement rules

By MARCY GORDON and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are set to unveil their far-reaching tax overhaul Thursday, making major changes yet looking to preserve current tax rules for retirement accounts popular with middle-class Americans and to retain a top income-tax rate for million-dollar earners.

GOP negotiators scrambled this week to finalize details of the first major revamp of the tax system in three decades. Though working furiously, they missed a self-imposed Wednesday deadline as top Republicans batted down rumors that the public rollout could be delayed until next week.

The legislation is a longstanding goal for Capitol Hill Republicans who see a once-in-a-generation opportunity to clean up an inefficient, loophole-cluttered tax code. But there is lingering opposition from northeastern Republicans fearful of losing a cherished deduction for state and local taxes and anxiety among other rank-and-file lawmakers over emerging details.

Senior GOP lawmakers confirmed the decision to retain existing rules on 401(k) accounts, which came after assurances from President Donald Trump that they would not be changed. Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, had hoped to reduce 401(k) contribution limits, in part to generate new tax revenues in the near term to finance the cuts to income tax rates.

Another lawmaker cautioned that the decision might still change. The lawmakers required anonymity because the tax panel was trying to keep its deliberations secret until the tax measure is released.

Influential conservative Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., dismissed proposed retirement changes as a "non-starter," adding "that's what most of middle-income America uses as their nest egg."

Brady said the panel hoped to meet Trump's goal of a cut in the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent but allowed that the change would not be permanent because of arcane Senate rules.

Republicans and Trump argue that sharply cutting tax rates for businesses improves U.S. economic competitiveness, but the possibility of letting the lower corporate rates expire is rankling some longtime advocates who say the uncertainty could limit its boost to the economy.

The ambitious timetable calls for passing the complex measure in the House by Thanksgiving.

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"Failure is not an option," said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y.

The emerging plan would retain the Clinton-era 39.6 percent income tax rate for the wealthiest earners. But for that highest bracket, the tax writers were considering raising the minimum level of income to \$1 million for couples or families from the current \$470,000 — a change that would reduce tax revenue.

Trump weighed in Wednesday on Twitter: "Wouldn't it be great to Repeal the very unfair and unpopular Individual Mandate in ObamaCare and use those savings for further Tax Cuts for the Middle Class. The House and Senate should consider ASAP as the process of final approval moves along. Push Biggest Tax Cuts EVER."

The idea of repealing the individual mandate has been pushed by Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, but was dismissed by key GOP leaders since it would add political complications to an already difficult task of crafting a tax bill that can pass the House and Senate.

"I think tax reform is complicated enough without adding another layer of complexity," said No. 2 Senate Republican John Cornyn of Texas. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., a participant in the talks as a member of the tax-writing panel, said there was insufficient support among committee Republicans to include it in the bill.

GOP leaders still struggled to win over lawmakers from New York and New Jersey, many of whom are opposed to repealing a lucrative deduction for state and local taxes that benefits their states more than others.

A potential compromise involved a \$10,000 cap to the deduction for local property taxes while repealing the deduction for income taxes.

"I view the elimination of the deduction as a geographic redistribution of wealth, picking winners and losers," said Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., who represents eastern Long Island. "I don't want my home state to be a loser, and that really shouldn't come as any surprise."

The plan outline released last month by Trump and Republican leaders called for shrinking the number of tax brackets from seven to three or four, with respective tax rates of 12 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent and a category still to be determined. The tax system would be simplified, and most people would be able to file their returns on a postcard-sized form.

The plan calls for nearly doubling the standard deduction used by most average Americans to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for families, and increasing the per-child tax credit. In addition to slashing the corporate tax rate, it also seeks to repeal inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates, a big break for the wealthy.

Meadows, the chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, said he was worried about eligibility limits that could prevent some businesses from taking advantage of a lower 25 percent tax rate.

"How as a Republican can we pick winners and losers that way? I mean it makes absolutely, certifiably no sense," Meadows said.

Trump set an aggressive timetable for the legislation and predicted a grand signing ceremony before Christmas at "the biggest tax event in the history of our country."

Democrats have repeatedly complained the plan was too favorable to business and the wealthy, and contradicted Trump's rhetoric of bringing tax relief and economic benefit to the stressed middle class.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## Under pressure, social media giants acknowledge meddling

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In three exhaustive hearings this week, executives from Facebook, Twitter and Google acknowledged that their platforms were used by Russia to try and create division over such disparate issues as immigration, gun control and politics. House investigators released a trove of Facebook and Twitter ads that showed just how extraordinary the cyber intrusion was.

The companies' admissions and disclosures gave congressional investigators one of their first real wins in the Russia probes. They have been frustrated by delays — and overshadowed by special counsel Rob-

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ert Mueller — since they launched probes into Russian interference in the 2016 election earlier this year. Initially dismissive of Russia's threat, all three companies have pledged improvements since lawmakers ramped up pressure and called them to testify.

It's unclear what next steps Congress will take. The top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, has co-sponsored legislation that would bring political ad rules from TV, radio and print to the internet. Warner calls it "the lightest touch possible," but many Republicans have been lukewarm.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, said he thinks such advertising regulations for social media are "inevitable," but noted that many of the fixes will come down to the companies' own social responsibility.

"Congress isn't going to prescribe an algorithm, so there are limits to what we can feasibly do," Schiff said after his committee's hearing Wednesday.

The few dozen ads, seen by vast sums of people, encouraged street demonstrations against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and fostered support and opposition to Bernie Sanders, Muslims, gays, blacks and the icons of the Civil Rights movement.

The ads underscore how foreign agents sought to sow confusion, anger and discord among Americans through messages on hot-button topics. U.S. intelligence services say the Russian use of social media was part of a broad effort to sway the 2016 presidential election in favor of Trump. Mueller is investigating whether the Kremlin worked with the Trump campaign to influence the election.

Many of the ads also show careful targeting, with messages geared toward particular audiences. One ad, aimed at those with interests in civil rights and their leaders, highlights a man who claims to be Bill Clinton's illegitimate son. Another video parodying Trump was targeted at blacks who also are interested in BlackNews.com, HuffPost Politics or HuffPost Black Voices.

In preparation for hearings this week, Facebook disclosed that content generated by a Russian group, the Internet Research Agency, potentially reached as many as 126 million users. Company executives said that going forward they would verify political ad buyers in federal elections, requiring them to reveal correct names and locations. The site will also create new graphics where users can click on the ads and find out more about who's behind them.

But that did not prevent hours of questioning during two days of hearings, with lawmakers expressing exasperation at the seeming inability to thwart foreign intervention.

At one point, Sen. Al Franken put his head in his hands after he couldn't get all the companies to commit to not accepting political ads bought with foreign currency. Several ads touting Facebook pages called "Back the Badge," "Being Patriotic," "Blacktivist," "South United" and "Woke Blacks" were labeled as being paid for in rubles using Qiwi, a Moscow-based payment provider that aims to serve "the new generation in Russia" and former Russian republics, according to the company's website.

"Google has all knowledge that man has ever developed," the Minnesota Democrat said. "You can't put together rubles with a political ad and go like, 'Hmmm, those data points spell out something pretty bad?'"

Besides the ads released by lawmakers on the House intelligence committee, Democrats on the panel also released four tweets from RT, a Russian state-sponsored television network, and nearly 3,000 Twitter handles active during the final months of the election.

Taken together, they show how actual news events and stories helped shape surreptitious Russian messaging.

One advertisement cited a real October 2016 news story — about a gunman's battle with Boston police officers — then used it to attack Hillary Clinton as "the main hardliner against cops" and to promote Trump as the candidate who can "defend the police from terrorists."

Three of the tweets referenced Clinton, including one that linked to an RT story about the release of a batch of hacked emails from her campaign chairman, John Podesta.

Some 34,000 Trump supporters were shown an ad calling for Clinton's removal from the ballot, citing "dynastic succession of the Clinton family" as a breach of core principles laid out by the Founding Fathers. Clicking on it took Facebook users to a petition at WhiteHouse.gov.

Though U.S. intelligence officials believe the social media effort was aimed at aiding Trump, there are

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other indications it was intended to sow general divisions.

One ad promoted a Nov. 12 anti-Trump rally in New York City, titled "Not My President." Large anti-Trump rallies actually did take place around the country that day in major American cities. That doesn't mean the Russian accounts planned the events, but rather that they were piggybacking on existing protests and promoting them to like-minded people.

Associated Press writers Chad Day in Alexandria, Virginia, Ryan Nakashima in Menlo Park, California, Barbara Ortutay in New York and Matt O'Brien in Cambridge, Massachusetts contributed to this report.

## Ex-Trump aides due back in court following indictment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former campaign chairman for President Donald Trump is due back in court along with his business associate.

Paul Manafort, who led the campaign for several months last year, will appear Thursday afternoon in Washington's federal court with co-defendant Rick Gates.

Special counsel Robert Mueller announced an indictment Monday that charges the men with money laundering and other financial crimes.

They were placed on home confinement during an initial court appearance.

Prosecutors disclosed additional details about their wealth in a court filing Tuesday, saying Manafort has provided different accounts of his assets and that he has three different passports.

Besides Manafort and Gates, prosecutors have revealed a guilty plea from a campaign adviser named George Papadopoulos, who admitted lying to the FBI about foreign contacts during the campaign.

## Financial world awaits Trump's announcement on Fed choice

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a search more public than any before in the Federal Reserve's more than a century of history, President Donald Trump is prepared Thursday to name his choice to lead the Fed. All signs suggest that Trump's pick is Jerome Powell, a member of the Fed's board, to replace Janet Yellen when her term ends in February.

"I think you'll be extremely impressed by this person," Trump told reporters Wednesday.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said this week that Powell was Trump's leading choice. Trump had earlier indicated that his selection had come down to Powell, who has served on the Fed's board since 2012, Yellen herself and John Taylor, a Stanford University economist.

If Trump does choose Powell, it would mean he had decided against offering a second term to Yellen, who has drawn widespread approval for her performance and is the first woman to lead the Fed. Powell, 64, is seen as a safe pick, someone who supported the cautious approach to interest rate hikes that Yellen has pursued in her nearly four years as chair and who would likely deviate little from it himself.

In Powell, Trump also has the chance to strike a middle ground between sticking with Yellen, a Democrat whom President Barack Obama chose as Fed chair, and Taylor, who was critical of the Fed's response to the 2008 financial crisis and would have raised rates more aggressively than Yellen's Fed has.

A lawyer by training, Powell amassed a fortune as an investment manager and would likely please Wall Street. He would also mark a turning of the page from Obama's choice for the Fed post — something that holds appeal to Trump, who has made clear his desire to break sharply with the past administration.

In an interview last week, Trump alluded to his desire to put his own stamp on the Fed, saying of Yellen in an interview with the Fox Business Network: "You like to make your own mark, which is maybe one of the things she's got a little bit against her, but I think she is terrific."

A decision against nominating Yellen for a second four-year term would make her the first Fed leader since the end of World War II not to be offered a second term after completing a first. It would also break the pattern of the past three Fed chairs, who were first nominated by the president of one party and then

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re-nominated by the president of the opposing party.

On Wednesday, the Fed announced it was keeping its benchmark rate unchanged but hinted that it's preparing to resume raising rates modestly in light of a consistently solid economy. In a statement after its latest policy meeting, the Fed left its key rate in a low range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent. It's expected to raise rates for the third time this year when it next meets in December.

Though Powell would be the first Fed leader in nearly four decades to lack an advanced degree in economics, associates say he's devoted much time since joining the board to schooling himself in monetary policy from the Fed's stable of economists. He is well-liked inside the central bank and would be expected to bring a crucial ability to build consensus.

The Fed leader's job is considered the government's top economic policy post. The chairman has only one vote on the Fed's committee of board members and regional bank presidents who set interest rates. But the chairman's position is critical to achieving consensus.

The central bank's power derives from its ability to raise and lower the federal funds rate, the benchmark that banks use to set consumer and business loans. If the Fed succeeds in managing rates, it can achieve its two policy goals — maximum employment and stable inflation. If it errs, it can inadvertently trigger high inflation or an economic downturn. Under Yellen, the unemployment rate has reached a 16-year low of 4.2 percent. But inflation has remained chronically below the Fed's 2 percent target.

Trump has conducted his search for a Fed leader in an unusually open manner, with reporters kept apprised of Trump's string of interviews with the finalists. Besides Powell, Yellen and Taylor, they included Kevin Warsh, a former board member, and Gary Cohn, Trump's top economic adviser.

During the weeklong search, Trump often publicly discussed the process in interviews. Recently, he asked a group of Republican senators for a show of hands on the person they favored. It was far different from the approach of past administrations, which held interviews and discussions privately, with few hints of who was being considered.

Though Powell's stance on rates would likely deviate little from Yellen's go-slow approach, he might be marginally more favorable toward easing some of the stricter financial rules that took effect after the 2008 financial crisis. Trump has complained that those rules have been too restrictive.

If Powell does prove more inclined to ease some regulations, he would have an ally on the board in Randal Quarles, a Trump nominee who has become the Fed's first vice chairman for supervision — a position from which he can lead the effort to loosen regulations.

The seven-member board has three other vacancies, thereby providing Trump with additional ways to put his imprint on the central bank.

## Astros win 1st World Series crown, top Dodgers 5-1 in Game 7

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — From laughingstock to lift off.

George Springer and the Houston Astros rocketed to the top of the baseball galaxy Wednesday night, winning the first World Series championship in franchise history by romping past the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in Game 7.

Playing for a city still recovering from Hurricane Harvey, and wearing an H Strong logo on their jerseys, the Astros brought home the prize that had eluded them since they started out in 1962 as the Colt .45s.

"I always believed that we could make it," All-Star slugger Jose Altuve said. "We did this for them."

For a Series that was shaping up as an October classic, Game 7 quickly became a November clunker as Houston scored five runs in the first two innings off Yu Darvish. Hardly the excitement fans felt during the Cubs' 10-inning thriller in Cleveland last fall.

Well, except for everyone wearing bright orange. Back in Houston, a huge crowd filled Minute Maid Park to cheer as fans watched on the big video board, and the train whistle wailed when it was over.

"We're coming home a champion, Houston," Springer said after accepting the World Series MVP trophy named this year for Willie Mays.

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Star shortstop Carlos Correa turned the party into a proposal. After doing a TV interview, he got down on one knee and asked girlfriend Daniella Rodriguez, a former Miss Texas USA, to marry him.

"Yes?" he said, putting a ring on her finger as she cried.

Altuve, one of four holdovers from a club that lost an embarrassing 111 times in 2013 after switching from the NL to the AL, and this collection of young stars silenced Dodger Stadium from the get-go, taking a 5-0 lead in the second inning.

Altuve was in perfect position for the final out, a grounder by Corey Seager to the 5-foot-6 second baseman.

"I caught the last out for the Houston Astros to become a world champion. It was a groundball to me, I threw to first, and I think it was the happiest moment of my life in baseball," Altuve said.

The Astros streamed from the dugout and bullpen to go wild, tossing their gloves in the air. A thousand or so fans crowded behind the first base dugout, chanting "Hou-ston! Hou-ston!"

Later, some little Astros kids ran around the outfield grass dressed in Halloween outfits. Their dads, meanwhile, were putting on championship hats and shirts.

At last, they had completed the ascent some predicted after a rebuilding club purged payroll and stripped down to bare bones a few years back.

Famously, now, there was the Sports Illustrated cover in 2014 — after Houston had lost more than 100 games for three straight seasons — that proclaimed: "Your 2017 World Series Champs" and featured a picture of Springer in a bright Astros jersey.

On the other side, ace Clayton Kershaw and several Dodgers leaned against the dugout railing, watching the Astros celebrate. Los Angeles led the majors with 104 wins and a \$240 million payroll, and rallied to win Game 6, yet it didn't pay off for part-owner Magic Johnson and his team.

"Obviously, this one hurts," manager Dave Roberts said. "And like I told the guys, when you put everything, every ounce of your being into something and you come up short, it hurts. And it's supposed to hurt."

Normally a starter, Charlie Morton finished up with four stellar innings of relief for the win.

"We held down a really tough lineup," Morton said. "For my teammates, for the city of Houston, it's just unbelievable."

Springer led off the evening with a double against Darvish, and soon it was 2-0.

Springer hit his fifth homer — tying the Series mark set by Reggie Jackson (1977) and matched by Chase Utley (2009) — when he connected for a record fourth game in a row, making it a five-run lead.

That was plenty for Houston manager A.J. Hinch. He pulled starter Lance McCullers Jr. soon after the curveballer crazily plunked his fourth batter of the game, and began a parade of four relievers that held the lead.

Throughout the postseason, Hinch and the unconventional Astros overcame a shaky bullpen by using starters in relief.

"I knew yesterday I didn't have much," said McCullers, the Game 3 winner. "I knew I didn't have much to give other than to gut it out as long as I could."

In a dramatic Series marked by blown leads and late rallies, when Houston twice outlasted the Dodgers in extra innings, McCullers did enough.

Forever known for their space-age Astrodome, outlandish rainbow jerseys and a handful of heartbreaking playoff losses for stars like Nolan Ryan, Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio, these Astros will be remembered as champions, finally, in their 56th season.

The club that wears a star on its hat also filled out the Texas trophy case. Teams from the Lone Star State had won most every major crown — the Super Bowl, NBA and NHL titles, championships in college football, and men's and women's hoops — except the World Series.

Built on the skills of homegrown All-Stars Dallas Keuchel and more, helped by veteran offseason acquisitions such as Brian McCann and 40-year-old Carlos Beltran, who won his first ring, and boosted by the slick trade for ace Justin Verlander, general manager Jeff Luhnow oversaw the team's resurgence.

Houston won 101 times this year to take the AL West, then won Games 6 and 7 at home in the AL

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Championship Series against the New York Yankees. The Astros joined the 1985 Royals as the only clubs to win a pair of Game 7s in the same year.

When it was over, Bagwell and Biggio posed for pictures together with the World Series trophy.

For the Dodgers, the quest to win a Series for the first time since 1988 fell short.

Kershaw provided four shutout innings of relief for Los Angeles, but it was too late. What the Dodgers really needed was a better starter than Darvish, someone more like the lefty who tossed out a ceremonial first ball: the great Sandy Koufax.

Acquired from Texas on July 31 for these big games, Darvish lasted 1 2/3 innings in both his World Series starts — the two shortest of his career.

"This pain is going to stay in me for a while," the four-time All-Star said through a translator.

After Springer lined a leadoff double, Alex Bregman hit a bouncer that first baseman Cody Bellinger threw past Darvish for an error, allowing a run to score. Bregman aggressively stole third and scored on Altuve's grounder, and it was 2-0 after eight pitches.

A double by Marwin Gonzalez helped set up perhaps McCullers' biggest contribution, a slow grounder for his first pro RBI. Springer followed with a no-doubt, two-run drive into the left-center field bleachers.

That was the Series-most 25th homer in a Major League Baseball season that set a record for home runs. It was easily enough for the Astros to offset pinch-hitter Andre Ethier's RBI single in the Los Angeles sixth.

Only once have the Dodgers clinched a crown at home, that coming in 1963 when Koufax outpitched Yankees star Whitey Ford to finish a sweep. They've never won Game 7 of the Fall Classic at their own park, dating more than a century ago to their days on the streets of Brooklyn as the Trolley Dodgers.

As pockets of Houston fans got louder and louder in the later innings, the crowd at Dodger Stadium was left to repeat the sad, but hopeful cry that used to echo in Brooklyn: Wait till next year.

Just 106 days until pitchers and catchers report to spring training.

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

## The Hackers' Hit List

By The Associated Press

JOHN KERRY

Secretary of state under President Barack Obama, Democratic presidential nominee in 2004, former U.S. senator from Massachusetts.

Kerry was the target of at least five phishing emails between June and December 2015, when he was secretary of state.

COLIN POWELL

Secretary of state under President George W. Bush, national security adviser under President Ronald Reagan, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His leaked emails made headlines when they were published by DCLeaks in September 2016.

Powell was targeted by a phishing email in June 2015.

WESLEY CLARK

Commander in chief of U.S. European Command, candidate for Democratic presidential nomination in 2003.

Target of as many as a dozen phishing emails from April to December 2015 at his Gmail address.

PETRO POROSHENKO

President of Ukraine, businessman, moved country toward closer relations with the West, presided over a war against Russian-backed separatists that began in 2014.

Targeted repeatedly by Fancy Bear from April to September 2015.

MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY

Former Russian oil tycoon who was once one of the country's richest men, imprisoned in 2003 on politically driven charges of fraud and tax evasion, released in 2013 and flown out of the country, now a

resident of Switzerland and promotes democratic reform in Russia.

Was targeted as many as 13 times from March to December 2015.

MARIA "MASHA" ALEKHINA

Russian political activist, member of protest punk rock group Pussy Riot, convicted in 2012 of hooliganism and released from prison in 2013.

Target of three phishing emails from March to April 2015 at her Gmail address.

## Truck attack suspect is charged with terrorism offenses

By COLLEEN LONG and JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors brought terrorism charges Wednesday against the Uzbek immigrant accused in the truck rampage that left eight people dead, saying he was spurred to attack by the Islamic State group's online calls to action and picked Halloween because he figured streets would be extra crowded.

Even as he lay wounded in the hospital from police gunfire, Sayfullo Saipov asked to display the Islamic State group's flag in his room and said "he felt good about what he had done," prosecutors said in court papers.

Saipov, 29, was brought to court in a wheelchair to face charges that could bring the death penalty. Handcuffed and with his legs shackled, Saipov nodded his head repeatedly as he was read his rights in a brief court proceeding that he followed through a Russian interpreter. He was ordered held without bail.

Outside court, his appointed lawyer, David Patton, said he hoped "everyone lets the judicial process play out."

"I promise you that how we treat Mr. Saipov in this judicial process will say a lot more about us than it will say about him," Patton said.

Late Wednesday, President Donald Trump took to Twitter to say that Saipov should get the death penalty.

Meanwhile, the FBI was questioning a second person from Uzbekistan, 32-year-old Mukhammadzoiir Kadirov. A law enforcement official said Kadirov was a friend of Saipov's and may not have any role in the case. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Prosecutors said Saipov had 90 videos and 3,800 photos on one of his two cellphones, many of them ISIS-related pieces of propaganda, including images of prisoners being beheaded, shot or run over by a tank.

Saipov left behind knives and a note, in Arabic and English, that included Islamic religious references and said, "Islamic Supplication. It will endure," FBI agent Amber Tyree said in court papers. "It will endure" commonly refers to ISIS, Tyree said.

Questioned in his hospital bed, Saipov said he had been inspired by ISIS videos and began plotting an attack about a year ago, deciding to use a truck about two months ago, Tyree said.

During the last few weeks, Saipov searched the internet for information on Halloween in New York City and for truck rentals, the agent said. Saipov even rented a truck on Oct. 22 to practice making turns, and he initially hoped to get from the bike path across lower Manhattan to hit more pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge, Tyree said.

He even considered displaying ISIS flags on the truck during the attack but decided it would draw too much attention, authorities said.

John Miller, deputy New York police commissioner for intelligence, said Saipov "appears to have followed, almost exactly to a T, the instructions that ISIS has put out."

In the past few years, the Islamic State has exhorted followers online to use vehicles, knives or other close-at-hand means of killing people in their home countries. England, France and Germany have all seen deadly vehicle attacks since mid-2016.

A November 2016 issue of the group's online magazine detailed features that an attack truck or van should have, suggested renting such a vehicle, and recommended targeting crowded streets and outdoor

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gatherings, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, a militant-monitoring agency.

Carlos Batista, a neighbor of Saipov's in Paterson, New Jersey, said he had seen the suspect and two friends using the same model of rented truck several times in the past three weeks.

It was not clear whether Saipov had been on authorities' radar. Miller said Saipov had never been the subject of a criminal investigation but appears to have links to people who have been investigated.

In Tuesday's attack, Saipov drove his speeding truck for nearly a mile along a bike path near the World Trade Center, running down cyclists and pedestrians, then crashed into a school bus, authorities said. He was shot in the abdomen after he jumped out of the vehicle brandishing two air guns, one in each hand, and yelling "God is great!" in Arabic, they said.

The attack killed five people from Argentina, one from Belgium and two Americans, authorities said. Twelve people were injured; nine remained hospitalized in serious or critical condition.

Trump called Argentine President Mauricio Macri on Wednesday to offer his condolences. Trump tweeted that he spoke to Macri "about the five proud and wonderful men" who were killed.

A press statement from the Argentine presidential office said that during the call, Macri reaffirmed his belief that governments must work together strongly against the "scourge of fundamentalist terrorism."

Earlier Wednesday, Trump called for eliminating the 1990s visa lottery program that Saipov used to come to the U.S. in 2010, and the Republican president said he would consider sending Saipov to the Guantanamo Bay detention center — an idea the White House reinforced by saying it considered Saipov to be an "enemy combatant."

Hours later, Saipov was charged in federal court with providing material support to a terrorist group and committing violence and destruction of motor vehicles, resulting in death. Trump's administration could, at least in theory, still send the suspect to the U.S. base in Cuba later, though such a step would be unprecedented.

"There's no legal impediment to that," said Bryan Broyles, the former deputy chief defense counsel for the Guantanamo military commissions.

On the morning after the bloodshed, city leaders vowed New York would not be intimidated and said Sunday's New York City Marathon, with 50,000 participants and some 2 million spectators anticipated, will go on as scheduled, with increased security.

Runners and cyclists who use the popular bike path were diverted from the crime scene by officers at barricades.

"It's the messed-up world we live in these days," said Dave Hartie, 57, who works in finance and rides his bike along the path every morning. "Part of me is surprised it doesn't happen more often."

The slight, bearded Saipov is a legal, permanent U.S. resident. He lived in Ohio and Florida before moving to New Jersey around June, authorities said.

Birth records show he and his wife had two daughters in Ohio, and a neighbor in New Jersey said they recently had a baby boy.

Saipov was a commercial truck driver in Ohio. He also has worked as an Uber and Lyft driver.

In Ohio, Saipov was an argumentative young man whose career was falling apart and who was "not happy with his life," said Mirrakhmat Muminov, a fellow truck driver from heavily Muslim Uzbekistan.

"He had the habit of disagreeing with everybody," Muminov said.

He said he and Saipov would sometimes argue about politics and world affairs, including Israel and Palestine. He said Saipov never spoke about ISIS, but he could tell his friend held radical views.

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Associated Press writers Dake Kang in Stow, Ohio; Tom Hays, Larry Neumeister, Karen Matthews and Kiley Armstrong in New York; Deepti Hajela and Wayne Parry in Paterson, New Jersey; Shawn Marsh in Trenton, New Jersey; Ben Fox in Miami; Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles; and Michael R. Sisak in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## Studio cuts ties to director Ratner after harassment report

By JAKE COYLE and LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood's widening sexual harassment crisis has ensnared a prominent film director after six women — including actress Olivia Munn — accused Brett Ratner of sexual misconduct in a Los Angeles Times report on Wednesday.

Playboy Enterprises quickly distanced itself from Ratner as his attorney denied the allegations and late Wednesday Warner Bros. severed ties with the director, whose expired first-look deal with the studio will not be renewed, according to a person with knowledge of the decision who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The reverberations also reached back 32 years as Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman came forward to apologize for allegedly sexually harassing a 17-year-old intern in 1985.

Writer Anna Graham Hunter alleged in a Wednesday column in The Hollywood Reporter that the now 80-year-old actor groped her on the set of TV movie "Death of a Salesman" and "talked about sex to me and in front of me."

Hoffman issued a statement Wednesday, apologizing for "anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am."

Munn also complained about on-set behavior, alleging that while visiting the production of Ratner's "After the Sunset" in 2004, he masturbated in front of her in his trailer. Munn described the incident, without naming Ratner, in a 2010 collection of essays.

Ratner's lawyer issued a statement Wednesday in which he said the director "vehemently denies the outrageous derogatory allegations" and is "confident that his name will be cleared once the current media frenzy dies down and people can objectively evaluate the nature of these claims."

Ratner directed the "Rush Hour" film series, "Red Dragon," "X-Men: The Last Stand" and "Tower Heist."

According to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity, Ratner will no longer occupy rented office space on the company's lot in Burbank, Calif. He has also been taken off of the adaptation of Donna Tartt's novel "The Goldfinch," which he had previously been set to produce.

Ratner's production company, RatPac Entertainment does have a financing deal with the studio that will continue until March 2018. The \$450-million co-financing agreement was signed in 2013 and it remains unclear whether that will be renewed or not. It has encompassed much of Warner Bros.'s output, including "Wonder Woman," "It" and "Justice League."

A Warner Bros. representative declined comment.

Ratner had previously said he would step away from work with Warner Bros. for an unspecified amount of time. "I don't want to have any possible negative impact to the studio until these personal issues are resolved," Ratner said.

Playboy Enterprises has shelved any of its projects that involved Ratner, including working on a biopic of Hugh Hefner, which was to star Jared Leto. "We are deeply troubled to learn about the accusations against Brett Ratner. We find this kind of behavior completely unacceptable," according to a statement.

"Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins, who presented Ratner an award at the Jewish National Fund dinner on Saturday, wrote on Twitter on Wednesday that she was disturbed by the accusations. She added that had never witnessed or been aware of any misconduct by Ratner.

Ratner and Hoffman become the latest Hollywood figures to face allegations of misusing their power to harass actresses, a list that now includes producer Harvey Weinstein and writer-director James Toback. Harassment allegations have also been levied against actors Kevin Spacey and Jeremy Piven.

The crisis has widened to other areas of entertainment and media, including country music. Kirt Webster, a major country music publicist who has represented high profile clients like Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Kid Rock and Hank Williams Jr., had denied accusations that he sexually assaulted an aspiring country singer.

A former singer named Austin Rice says Webster groped his genitals, kissed him, made him strip naked and sexually assaulted him in 2008.

His firm, Webster Public Relations, on Wednesday changed its name to Westby Public Relations and is

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being run by senior vice president Jeremy Westby. A statement from the company said Webster is "taking time away from the business to focus on the egregious and untrue allegations."

Police in Beverly Hills on Tuesday announced they have launched criminal investigations over complaints received about Weinstein and Toback. Weinstein also is being investigated for sexual assault or rape by police in Los Angeles, New York and London.

Weinstein has denied engaging in any non-consensual sexual contact. His representative, Sallie Hofmeister, had no comment on the Beverly Hills investigation. The department said late Tuesday that it was investigating Weinstein and Toback after receiving "multiple complaints," although the department did not specify the nature of the complaints.

Weinstein has been fired from the company he co-founded and is suing The Weinstein Co. in Delaware seeking access to his personnel file and his emails. The company noted in a legal filing Wednesday that Weinstein is contesting his firing in private arbitration. The company is also asking a judge to reject Weinstein's request to fast-track the case.

Dozens of women, including actresses Selma Blair and Rachel McAdams, have alleged that Toback sexually harassed or assaulted them.

Toback has denied the allegations. He does not have a representative to field inquiries about the criminal investigation.

Repercussions have been swift after allegations against Weinstein surfaced. Weinstein lost memberships in several organizations after initial reports of sexual harassment were published and Netflix suspended production on its final season of "House of Cards" on Tuesday amid allegations star Spacey made a sexual advance on actor Anthony Rapp in 1986 when he was 14.

The decision to pause production Tuesday came before a second actor leveled allegations against Spacey. Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos wrote on his Facebook page that he encountered Spacey at the bar of London's Old Vic Theatre, where Spacey was artistic director from 2004-15, and the actor tried to fondle him against his will.

Cavazos declined an interview request. Representatives for Spacey said he's "taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment. No other information is available at this time."

In a statement Tuesday, the theater expressed "deep dismay" at the allegations and said "inappropriate behavior by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable."

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Bahr reported from Los Angeles. AP Television Writer Lynn Elber in Los Angeles, AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy in New York and Berenice Bautista in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## House GOP's evolving tax bill leaves retirement plan intact

By **MARCY GORDON** and **ANDREW TAYLOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans would leave intact current tax rules on retirement accounts popular with middle class Americans and maintain a top income tax rate for million-dollar earners as negotiators scrambled to finalize the first major overhaul in three decades.

The legislation is a long-standing goal for Capitol Hill Republicans who see a once-in-a-generation opportunity to clean up an inefficient, loophole-cluttered tax code. But there is lingering opposition from northeastern Republicans fearful of losing a cherished deduction for state and local taxes and anxiety among other rank-and-file lawmakers over emerging details.

Senior GOP lawmakers confirmed the decision to retain existing rules on 401(k) accounts, which came after assurances from President Donald Trump that they would not be changed. Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, had hoped to reduce 401(k) contribution limits, in part to generate new tax revenues in the near term to finance the cuts to income tax rates.

Another lawmaker cautioned that the decision might still change. The lawmakers required anonymity because the tax panel is trying to keep its deliberations secret until the tax measure is released Thursday. Influential conservative Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., dismissed proposed retirement changes as a "non-

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starter," adding "that's what most of middle-income America uses as their nest egg."

Brady said the panel hoped to meet Trump's goal of a cut in the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent but allowed that the change would not be permanent because of arcane Senate rules.

Republicans and Trump argue sharply cutting tax rates for businesses improves U.S. economic competitiveness, but the possibility of letting the lower corporate rates expire is rankling some longtime advocates who say the uncertainty could limit its boost to the economy.

Top Republicans vowed to release the measure on Thursday after missing a self-imposed Wednesday deadline and dismissed rumors that the unveiling might be further delayed. The ambitious timetable calls for passing the measure in the House by Thanksgiving.

"Failure is not an option," said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y.

The emerging plan would retain the Clinton-era 39.6 percent income tax rate for the wealthiest earners. But for that highest bracket, the tax writers were considering raising the minimum level of income to \$1 million for couples or families from the current \$470,000 — a change that would reduce tax revenue.

Trump weighed in Wednesday on Twitter: "Wouldn't it be great to Repeal the very unfair and unpopular Individual Mandate in ObamaCare and use those savings for further Tax Cuts for the Middle Class. The House and Senate should consider ASAP as the process of final approval moves along. Push Biggest Tax Cuts EVER."

The idea of repealing the individual mandate has been pushed by Republican Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, but was dismissed by key GOP leaders since it would add political complications to an already difficult task of crafting a tax bill that can pass the House and Senate.

"I think tax reform is complicated enough without adding another layer of complexity," said No. 2 Senate Republican John Cornyn of Texas. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., a participant in the talks as a member of the tax-writing panel, said there was insufficient support among committee Republicans to include it in the bill.

GOP leaders still struggled to win over lawmakers from New York and New Jersey, many of whom are opposed to repealing a lucrative deduction for state and local taxes that benefits their states more than others.

A potential compromise involved a \$10,000 cap to the deduction for local property taxes while repealing the deduction for income taxes.

"I view the elimination of the deduction as a geographic redistribution of wealth picking winners and losers," said Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., who represents eastern Long Island. "I don't want my home state to be a loser, and that really shouldn't come as any surprise."

The plan outline released last month by Trump and Republican leaders in Congress called for shrinking the number of tax brackets from seven to three or four, with respective tax rates of 12 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent and to be determined. The tax system would be simplified, and most people would be able to file their returns on a postcard-sized form.

The plan calls for nearly doubling the standard deduction used by most average Americans to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for families, and increasing the per-child tax credit. In addition to slashing the corporate tax rate, it also seeks to repeal inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates, a big break for the wealthy.

Meadows said he was worried about eligibility limits that could prevent some businesses from taking advantage of a lower 25 percent tax rate.

"How as a Republican can we pick winners and losers that way? I mean it makes absolutely certifiably no sense," Meadows said.

The president set an aggressive timetable for the legislation and predicted a grand signing ceremony before Christmas at "the biggest tax event in the history of our country."

Democrats have repeatedly complained the plan was too favorable to business and the wealthy and contradicted Trump's rhetoric of bringing relief and economic benefit to the stressed middle class.

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show the current corporate tax rate is 35 percent not 39 percent.

## Newly disclosed Facebook ads show Russia's cyber intrusion

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A trove of Facebook ads made public Wednesday by Congress depicts Russia's extraordinary cyber intrusion into American life in 2016 aimed at upending the nation's democratic debate and fomenting discord over such disparate issues as immigration, gun control and politics.

The ads, seen by vast numbers of people, encouraged street demonstrations against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and fostered support and opposition to Bernie Sanders, Muslims, gays, blacks and the icons of the Civil Rights movement.

The few dozen ads, a small sampling of the roughly 3,000 Russia-connected ones that Facebook has identified and turned over to Congress, were released amid two consecutive days of tough and sometimes caustic questioning by House and Senate lawmakers about why social media giants hadn't done more to combat Russian interference on their sites.

The ads underscore how foreign agents sought to sow confusion, anger and discord among Americans through messages on hot-button topics. U.S. intelligence services say the Russian use of social media was part of a broad effort to sway the 2016 presidential election in favor of Trump. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether the Kremlin worked with the Trump campaign to influence voters.

Many of the ads show careful targeting, with messages geared toward particular audiences. One ad, aimed at those with an interest in civil rights and their leaders, highlights a man who claims to be Bill Clinton's illegitimate son. Another video parodying Trump was targeted at blacks who also are interested in BlackNews.com, HuffPost Politics or HuffPost Black Voices.

Though officials at Facebook and other social media giants were initially reluctant to acknowledge Russian success on their sites in swaying popular opinion, company leaders have struck a different tone in recent weeks and disclosed steps to Congress they say are intended to prevent future meddling by foreign agents.

In preparation for hearings this week, Facebook disclosed that content generated by a Russian group, the Internet Research Agency, potentially reached as many as 126 million users. Company executives said that going forward they would verify political ad buyers in federal elections, requiring them to reveal correct names and locations. The site will also create new graphics where users can click on the ads and find out more about who's behind them.

But that did not prevent hours of questioning during two days of hearings, with lawmakers expressing exasperation at the seeming inability to thwart foreign intervention.

At one point during a hearing Tuesday, Sen. Al Franken shook his head after he couldn't get all the companies to commit to not accepting political ads bought with foreign currency. Several ads touting Facebook pages called "Back the Badge," "Being Patriotic," "Blacktivist," "South United" and "Woke Blacks" were labeled as being paid for in rubles using Qiwi, a Moscow-based payment provider that aims to serve "the new generation in Russia" and former Soviet republics, according to the company's website.

"Google has all knowledge that man has ever developed," the Minnesota Democrat said. "You can't put together rubles with a political ad and go like, 'Hmmm, those data points spell out something pretty bad?'"

Besides the ads released by lawmakers on the House intelligence committee, Democrats on the panel also released four tweets from RT, a Russian state-sponsored television network, and more than 2,700 Twitter handles active during the final months of the election campaign.

Taken together, they show how actual news events and stories helped shape surreptitious Russian messaging.

One advertisement cited a real October 2016 news story — about a gunman's battle with Boston police officers — then used it to attack Hillary Clinton as "the main hardliner against cops" and to promote Trump as the candidate who can "defend the police from terrorists."

Three of the tweets referenced Clinton, including one that linked to an RT story about the release of a

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batch of hacked emails from her campaign chairman, John Podesta. Another featured a video of Clinton falling while getting into a van. "What impact will this stumble have on #Hillary's campaign?" it read.

Some 34,000 Trump supporters were shown an ad calling for Clinton's removal from the ballot, citing "dynastic succession of the Clinton family" as a breach of core principles laid out by the Founding Fathers. Clicking on it took Facebook users to a petition at WhiteHouse.gov. Another, seen by more than 15,000 people and getting some 1,300 clicks, equated Clinton with President Barack Obama's "anti-police and anti-constitutional propaganda."

Though U.S. intelligence officials believe the social media effort was aimed at aiding Trump, there are other indications it was intended to sow general divisions.

One ad promoted a Nov. 12 anti-Trump rally in New York City, titled "Not My President." Large anti-Trump rallies actually did take place around the country that day in major American cities. That doesn't mean the Russian accounts planned the events, but rather that they were piggybacking on existing protests and promoting them to like-minded people.

Lawmakers said some Russia-linked ads, including one from an account purporting to be linked to the Tennessee Republican Party, were shared not only by ordinary Americans, but by members of the Trump campaign and administration, including Trump's son Donald Jr. and White House counselor Kellyanne Conway.

Not all of Russia's activity was intended to intervene in the election, said Salve Regina University professor James Ludes, who has written on Russia's influence on the United States.

The ads on divisive issues such as race and gun ownership — or even organizing opposing rallies across the street from each other — are meant to "attack political cohesion" and make Americans turn against one another, he said.

"It's not intended to benefit once candidate or another per se, but raise political temperature," Ludes said. "Make us feel like we are coming apart at the seams."

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Associated Press writers Chad Day in Alexandria, Virginia, Ryan Nakashima in Menlo Park, California, Barbara Ortutay in New York and Matt O'Brien in Cambridge, Massachusetts contributed to this report.

## **CIA releases 470,000 more files from bin Laden raid**

**By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Never-before-seen video of Osama bin Laden's son and potential successor was released Wednesday by the CIA in a trove of material recovered during the May 2011 raid that killed the al-Qaida leader at his compound in Pakistan.

The video offers the first public look at Hamza bin Laden as an adult. Until now, the public has only seen childhood pictures of him.

In recent years, al-Qaida has released audio messages from Hamza bin Laden. And to mark a recent anniversary of 9/11, al-Qaida superimposed a childhood photo of him over a photo of the World Trade Center. He is expected to rise to prominence in the jihadist movement and is being closely watched as the rival Islamic State organization suffers setbacks in the Middle East.

One hourlong video shows Hamza bin Laden, sporting a trimmed mustache but no beard, at his wedding. He is sitting on a carpet with other men. A man chanting Quranic verses can be heard in the background. Sporting a traditional white headdress, he verbally accepts his marriage to his bride "on the book of God and the example of the prophet. Peace be upon him."

"Takbeer!" the others shout, marking his marriage with a kind of religious hooray.

It was the fourth trove of documents, images and computer files recovered during the raid of bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Earlier materials were released in May 2015, March 2016 and in January of this year.

The CIA said the nearly 470,000 additional files offer insights into the inner workings of the terrorist or-

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ganization responsible for 9/11 and detail its clashes with the Islamic State group, a spin-off of al-Qaida's operation in Iraq. They also shed light on hardships that al-Qaida faced at the time of bin Laden's death.

Included is a 228-page, handwritten personal journal of bin Laden and about 79,000 images and audio files, including practice reels of public speeches. Also released were home videos and more than 10,000 video files, including the one of Hamza bin Laden's wedding.

After shouts of congratulations, the video moves to another location where the groom and others are sitting on a red carpet dotted with bowls of bananas and apples, bottles of cola, sweets and tea. The groom smiles nervously, revealing his dimples. Osama bin Laden is not seen, but a man notes that the "father of the groom, the prince of the mujahedeen" is overjoyed about his son's marriage and his happiness will "spread to all the mujahedeen."

At one point, a man stands up and offers a lengthy quiz on the history of Koranic verse, largely for the benefit of young boys in the group who compete to answer the questions. Red heart-shaped balloons decorate the room and in a second video of the wedding, the boys play a rough game of indoor soccer while the adults cheer.

Also included in the material is information about how al-Qaida planned to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and the network's work to spread its message through Western media; the group's effort to exploit the Arab uprisings in 2011; bin Laden's quest to keep his organization together amid disagreements over beliefs and operational tactics; and the organization's work to burnish its image with fellow Muslims amid negative media.

There are still materials that have not yet been released. The CIA said this includes materials that are sensitive to national security; those protected by copyright; pornography; malware; and blank, corrupted and duplicate files.

Not all the material, however, was of a serious nature. There was a video known as "Charlie bit my finger!" depicting a boy and his baby brother who bit his finger. There also were YouTube videos about crochet, including "How to Crochet a Flower."

And bin Laden's video collection included "Antz," a 1990s animated adventure comedy about an ant colony, "Chicken Little" and "The Three Musketeers." Also in the collection were "Where in the World is Osama bin Laden" and several National Geographic programs: "Kung Fu Killers," "Inside the Green Berets" and "World's Worst Venom."

## Thai junta firmly in command after year of mourning for king

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's military government has emerged from the year of official mourning for King Bhumibol Adulyadej with a firm grip on power and in no apparent rush to hold elections it has repeatedly delayed during the four years since its coup.

The five days of solemn and choreographed spectacle for Bhumibol's funeral last month was a mostly unblemished propaganda triumph for the junta that underlined its primacy and the sidelining of political parties.

After a reign of seven decades, Bhumibol's death in October last year at age 88 was anticipated with trepidation by many Thais who feared greater instability without a traditional unifying figure.

In reality, Bhumibol's power to sway events was more mythic than actual, particularly as his health faded in the last decade. Even so, the junta and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha have burnished their image and stocked up on public goodwill by presiding calmly over an anxious period, said Kevin Hewison, an emeritus professor of Asian studies at the University of North Carolina.

"There was talk of a succession crisis, violence and all sorts of things but none of it happened," said Hewison.

"All the political parties look disorganized and not prepared for an election," he said. "The military has got the whip hand."

Thailand, the top tourist destination in Southeast Asia and a long-standing U.S. ally, has suffered more

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than a decade of upheaval, including two coups, as its conservative establishment struggled to stifle a grassroots political revolution fostered by the electoral success of billionaire businessman Thaksin Shinawatra. His leadership was marred by corruption and human rights abuses and he now lives abroad in exile, but the political earthquake he unleashed with policies aimed at improving the lot of the country's poor rural majority continues to reverberate.

Prayuth's latest vague promise for elections is November 2018, but the junta's ban on political activities remains in place and major parts of the legal and administrative groundwork for elections, required by Thailand's new constitution, are still not completed.

The current military rulers are determined to avoid what they consider the mistakes made by the generals that ousted Thaksin in 2006 but didn't eradicate his political machine.

Thaksin's rural and working class "Red Shirt" supporters easily won every election held in the following decade, putting the military and other traditional arbiters of power in Thailand on the back foot. This time, the junta hopes to create a "very muffled democracy" that deprives the winning party or electoral coalition of a real ability to govern, said David Streckfuss, a scholar specializing in Thailand.

The constitution put in place under the junta government is likely to prevent any political party from gaining a majority and whatever coalition emerges is likely to have a prime minister imposed from outside, said Chaturon Chaisaeng, a former deputy prime minister and leading figure in the Thaksin-allied Pheu Thai party that was ousted in a 2014 coup.

"They are rules that are very undemocratic. Extremely undemocratic," he said. "The elections that will take place will not mean as much as elections do in other countries."

The latest chapter in the decadelong struggle between Thailand's ruling classes and grassroots democrats unfolded in September when former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the younger sister of Thaksin, fled the country to evade prison.

Yingluck, ousted in the 2014 coup and derided by her many critics in Thailand as a bumbling proxy for her exiled brother, was accused of negligence in instituting a money-losing rice subsidy program and sentenced to five years in prison. A top minister in her government was sentenced to 42 years in prison and is appealing. Many influential Red Shirt activists and organizers have been cowed by government pressure.

In a sign Prayuth feels under no pressure to cede power, he is already threatening to prolong the ban on political activities by referring to his dissatisfaction with a lack of calm and order in society.

"The red heart is barely beating at the moment," said Hewison.

Prayuth's government does crave international respectability but that impulse to quickly hold elections has lessened with the administration of President Donald Trump apparently unwilling to lean too heavily on its Thai ally at a time of growing Chinese influence in Southeast Asia.

Critics of the junta also currently seem willing to accept the diluted democracy it may eventually get around to offering.

Chaturon said the Pheu Thai party is likely to contest elections though it hasn't made a formal decision yet.

Worawut Wichaidit, a spokesman for the anti-junta group United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, said having an election is better than even if the new government is hamstrung.

"This unelected government has been in power for almost four years now and we all see that the country's economy is disastrous. The rich are extremely satiated and poverty is everywhere," he said.

Streckfuss, who is based in Thailand's northeast, said an election next year would open the possibility for wider political debate than at present.

However, changes to the junta's democracy-limiting constitution would be impossible without major upheaval, he said.

The military has "tamped down, talked down, stamped down" the democratic politics of the past decade but the long-standing tensions between the haves and have-nots of Thailand's economic development will not go away, he said.

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Associated Press writer Kawewit Kaewjinda contributed to this report.

Follow Wright on Twitter at [twitter.com/@stephenwrightAP](https://twitter.com/stephenwrightAP)

## Georgia attorney general quits defense in server wiping case

By FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

The Georgia attorney general's office will no longer represent the state's top elections official in an elections integrity lawsuit filed three days before a crucial computer server was quietly wiped clean.

The lawsuit aims to force Georgia to retire its antiquated and heavily questioned touchscreen election technology, which does not provide an auditable paper trail.

The server in question was a statewide staging location for key election-related data. It made headlines in June after a security expert disclosed a gaping security hole that wasn't fixed for six months after he first reported it to election authorities. Personal data was exposed for Georgia's 6.7 million voters, as were passwords used by county officials to access files.

The assistant state attorney general handling the case, Cristina Correia, notified the court and participating attorneys Wednesday that her office was withdrawing from the case, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. Spokeswoman Katelyn McCreary offered no explanation and said she couldn't comment "on pending matters."

Secretary of State Brian Kemp, the main defendant, is running for governor in 2018 and his campaign said in a statement emailed to the AP that the attorney general's office has a conflict of interest and cannot represent either Kemp's office or the state elections board. Campaign spokesman Ryan Mahoney said in a text message that the conflict stems from "too many co defendants with potential differences in strategy, approach, etc."

The secretary of state's office had said in an earlier statement that the law firm of former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes would represent Kemp and other state election officials. It made no mention of a conflict of interest.

The campaign statement quoted Mahoney as saying: "There is no scandal or vast conspiracy. This is a tasteless nothingburger cooked up by liberal activists who know their lawsuit is nothing short of stupid."

Both Kemp and state Attorney General Chris Carr are Republicans. Barnes is a Democrat.

The server's data was destroyed July 7 by technicians at the Center for Elections Systems at Kennesaw State University, which runs the state's election system, Correia informed attorneys in the case in an Oct. 18 email. Twelve days earlier, she had informed the same group of attorneys that the data on the server was wiped on March 17, the same day it was returned to the Center for Elections Systems at Kennesaw State University by the FBI after a probe into the security incident. No one at the state attorney general's office has explained Correia's source for the apparently erroneous information on timing. The AP obtained both emails.

KSU email records obtained by the AP last week in an open records request say the server data was destroyed July 7.

The erased hard drives are central to the lawsuit because they could have revealed whether Georgia's most recent elections were compromised by hackers. Russian interference in U.S. politics, including attempts to penetrate voting systems, has been an acute national preoccupation since last year.

It's not clear who ordered the server's data irretrievably erased.

Kemp has denied ordering the data destruction or knowing about it in advance. His office's general counsel issued a two-page report Monday claiming Kennesaw State officials followed "standard IT practices" in wiping the server that "were not undertaken to delete evidence." It said it first learned of the wiping of the main election server on Oct. 24, when the AP first asked about it.

In a public statement on the server wiping two days later, Kemp's office decried the KSU's wiping of the server as reckless, inexcusable and inept.

The report released Tuesday says "current indications are" that the FBI retains an image of the server that it made in March when it investigated the security hole. The FBI has not responded to AP inquiries

on whether it still has that image or has performed a forensic examination to determine whether data on the server might have been altered by hackers.

Executive Director Marilyn Marks of the Coalition for Good Governance, a plaintiff in the case, called the attorney general's office's withdrawal from the legal defense shocking but not unexpected.

She accused Kemp of hiding the facts of the case — perhaps even from the state attorney general's office. "There have been multiple conflicting stories of how and when the evidence on the servers was destroyed."

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

Submit a confidential tip: <https://www.ap.org/tips/>

## California family missing in Brazilian jungle found safe

By AMANDA LEE MYERS and STAN LEHMAN, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A California couple and their two daughters who had been missing since Sunday when pirates attacked their boat in the Amazon River delta area have been found alive.

Except for insect bites and scratches, Adam and Emily Harteau and their 3- and 7-year-old daughters were in good condition and will spend the night in a hospital in the small city of Breves, not far from where they were found, law enforcement officials in Brazil's northern jungle state of Para said Wednesday.

The Harteaus were headed to Breves when gunmen boarded the boat they were on and forced it to go to the city of Porto dos Dias, said Sergio Chene, a spokesman for Para's Public Safety Department.

Their crew and passengers were held hostage for several hours and stripped of their personal belongings before the pirates fled, Chene said. When police arrived there was no sign of the Harteaus.

Police found the van the family had been using in their journey abandoned in the jungle.

It's unclear how the family escaped the assailants.

Colby Guillory, a Los Angeles resident acting as a family spokesman, said friends and relatives think the Harteaus decided to flee the boat to get away from the pirates and have been walking in the jungle since.

"Me knowing Adam, he probably took it upon himself to save his family," Guillory said. "We just know that sometime between pirates overtaking the boat and leaving the boat, (the Harteaus) went missing. We think they jumped."

When Guillory heard his good friends were safe he said he began "super excited ugly-crying."

"We just can't wait to have them home," he said.

Adam Harteau's brother, Keith Harteau, told The Associated Press earlier that the attack happened as the family was on its way to move back to California. They were set to arrive in Los Angeles on Nov. 15.

Keith Harteau said the couple wanted to be closer to home and for their girls to be near their family.

"It was their time to get a little bit of foundation," he said.

He said Emily Harteau grew up in Sacramento and Adam grew up in Juniper Hills in the San Gabriel Mountains just northeast of Los Angeles.

The Harteaus had recently been living in the southern Brazil city of Florianopolis. They have been using a website to document their journey around South America, which began in 2012 as a plan to travel to Patagonia in their Volkswagen van and return to California one year later.

But the Harteaus fell in love with South America and have been there since after they "decided to embrace a future unknown and the rewards of slow travel," according to their site, which says Adam is an artist and Emily a fashion designer.

They wanted their site to "serve as a modern family portrait, as they shed their robes of comfort to re-examine the American Dream."

"They hope to inspire others to create, eat well, spend quality time together, and adventure into their own great backyards," the site says.

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Myers reported from Los Angeles.

## **CSX, state reach settlement on fuel spill from derailment**

COVINGTON, Va. (AP) — Railroad company CSX Corp. has reached a settlement with Virginia environmental regulators over a derailment in Covington that sent fuel into the Jackson River.

The Roanoke Times reports that as part of a consent order with the Department of Environmental Quality, CSX will pay a fine of \$2,125. The company also will conduct monthly river monitoring and submit reports four times a year to the state.

The derailment happened in October 2016 in a rail yard. A hole was punched in a fuel tank, and about 1,700 gallons of diesel fuel spilled.

The newspaper says no fish were killed, but regulators noted a discolored sheen on the water's surface. The enforcement action won't be final until the end of a public comment session, which runs through Nov. 15.

CSX has headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida.

Information from: The Roanoke Times, <http://www.roanoke.com>

## **Asian markets mixed as market await next Fed leader**

**By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed on Thursday as investors were waiting for the announcement on the next Federal Reserve leader, shrugging off results of a Fed meeting that met their expectations. Some markets were pressured by investors locking in profit from recent gains.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 added 0.2 percent to 22,458.30 while South Korea's Kospi fell 0.2 percent to 2,551.94 as investors took a breather from the latest streak of winning. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index inched up 0.1 percent to 28,620.16. Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.3 percent to 3,384.15. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was flat at 5,939.40. Stocks in Singapore were lower but elsewhere in Southeast Asia, they were higher.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Market participants are waiting for the nomination of the next Fed chair to assess future monetary policy shifts," said Margaret Yang Yan, a market analyst at CMC Markets in Singapore. "Current Fed governor Jerome Power is believed to be the most promising candidate, who will likely bring certainty and consistency to the rate hike path."

FED WATCH: The Federal Reserve kept its interest rates steady at their low levels as widely expected and upgraded their views on the U.S. economy saying that the world's largest economy is rising "at a solid rate," a term stronger than "moderate" rate used in September. The phrase strengthened the views that the Fed was due to hike interest rates in December. President Donald Trump is expected to name the successor to Fed Chair Janet Yellen later in the day.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished mixed on Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 0.2 percent to 2,579.36. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.3 percent to 23,435.01. But the Nasdaq composite fell 0.2 percent to 6,716.53. The small-cap Russell 2000 index lost 0.7 percent to 1,492.78.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 2 cents to \$54.32 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$54.30 per barrel on Wednesday, down 8 cents. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 9 cents to \$60.58 per barrel in London. It fell 45 cents to \$60.49 on Wednesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 114.22 Japanese yen from 113.71 yen late Tuesday. The euro dipped to \$1.1620 from \$1.1651, and the British pound fell to \$1.3249 from \$1.3282.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 2, the 306th day of 2017. There are 59 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 2, 1947, Howard Hughes piloted his huge wooden flying boat, the Hughes H-4 Hercules (desisively dubbed the "Spruce Goose" by detractors), on its only flight, which lasted about a minute over Long Beach Harbor in California.

On this date:

In 1795, the 11th president of the United States, James Knox Polk, was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

In 1865, the 29th president of the United States, Warren Gamaliel Harding, was born near Marion, Ohio.

In 1867, Harper's Bazaar magazine was first published under the title "Harper's Bazar."

In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued a declaration expressing support for a "national home" for the Jews in Palestine.

In 1936, the British Broadcasting Corp. inaugurated "high-definition" television service from Alexandra Palace in London.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman surprised the experts by winning a narrow upset over Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1950, playwright George Bernard Shaw, 94, died in Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, England.

In 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

In 1986, kidnappers in Lebanon released American hospital administrator David Jacobsen after holding him for 17 months.

In 1992, movie producer Hal Roach died in Los Angeles at age 100.

In 2000, American astronaut Bill Shepherd and two Russian cosmonauts, Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, became the first residents of the international space station.

Ten years ago: British college student Meredith Kercher, 21, was found slain in her bedroom in Perugia, Italy; her roommate, American Amanda Knox and Knox's Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito (rah-fy-EHL'-ay soh-LEH'-chee-toh), were later convicted of killing Kercher, but both were later exonerated. (Rudy Guede (GAY'-day), a petty criminal who was convicted separately in the case, remains imprisoned.) Choreographer Igor Moiseyev, who transformed folk dance into a legitimate art, died in Moscow at age 101.

Five years ago: Four days before Election Day, President Barack Obama accused Mitt Romney of scaring voters with lies, while the Republican challenger warned grimly of political paralysis and another recession if Obama reclaimed the White House. The New York City Marathon was canceled when Mayor Michael Bloomberg reversed himself and yielded to mounting criticism that it was no time to be running a race in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

One year ago: Ending a championship drought that had lasted since 1908, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, defeating the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in extra innings at Progressive Field. Des Moines Police Sgt. Anthony Beminiio and Urbandale Officer Justin Martin were shot and killed while sitting in their patrol cars in separate attacks about 2 miles apart; suspect Scott Michael Greene later pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder and was sentenced to consecutive life prison terms. Garth Brooks was named entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jay Black (Jay and the Americans) is 79. Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 79. Actress Stefanie Powers is 75. Author Shere (shehr) Hite is 75. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 72. Actress Kate Linder is 70. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 60. Actor Peter Mullan is 58. Singer-songwriter k.d. lang is 56. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 54.

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Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 53. Actress Lauren Velez is 53. Actor Sean Kanan is 51. Actor David Schwimmer is 51. Christian/jazz singer Alvin Chea (Take 6) is 50. Jazz singer Kurt Elling is 50. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is 50. Rock singer-musician Neal Casal is 49. Rock musician Fieldy is 48. Actress Meta Golding is 46. Rock singer-musician John Hampson (Nine Days) is 46. Actress Marisol Nichols is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Timothy Christian Riley (Tony Toni Tone) is 43. Rapper Nelly is 43. Actor Danny Cooksey is 42. Rock musician Chris Walla is 42. Actress Reshma Shetty is 40. Country singer Erika Jo is 31. Actor-singer Kendall Schmidt is 27.

Thought for Today: "If I have done any deed worthy of remembrance, that deed will be my monument. If not, no monument can preserve my memory." — Agesilaus (uh-JEHS'-uh-LAY'-uhs) II, King of Sparta (c. 444-360 B.C.)