

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 128 ~ 1 of 52

"The past cannot be changed, forgotten, or erased. However, the lessons learned can prepare you for a brighter future."

-Author Unknown



@chickensoupsoul

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Today's Events

Regional Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central

Family Night at GHS from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Football Awards Banquet at 7 p.m. at the Olive Grove Golf Course

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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East
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Wolves Score a Season High 94 Points in Win over TAMIU

Aberdeen, S.D. – In the 2017-18 regular season home opener, the Northern State University Wolves defeated Texas A&M International 94-53 from Wachs Arena. The Wolves improve to 2-1 overall, handing the Dustdevils their third loss of the season.

The Wolves out-scored the Dustdevils in each of the four quarters, with a game high 29 points in the fourth. Northern shot 55.7 percent from the floor, 56.3 percent from the arc, and 58.3 percent from the foul line. NSU tallied a season high 50 points in the paint and 49 points off the bench. The women out-rebounded TAMIU 46-to-30. The Wolves added 20 points off 18 turnovers and 18 points off 14 offensive boards.

Alayna Johnson led the team in the win and off the bench with a career high 12 points. The freshman averaged 1.7 points per minute, shooting 62.5 percent from the floor. She also added a team leading career high of seven rebounds.

Jill Conrad and Miranda Ristau were second on the team with 11 points each. Conrad led the team with four assists, while Ristau tallied a team leading seven rebounds. Ristau was second on the team shooting 71.4 percent from the floor, while Conrad shot 50.0 percent from the floor.

Alexis Tappe and Anika Fredrick rounded out the Wolves in double figures with ten points each. Fredrick led the team shooting 80.0 percent from the floor, matching her career high set a season ago. Sara Tvedt and Jessi Marti added eight points each. Marti matched the team lead with seven rebounds, while Tvedt notched six of her own.

Gabby Laimer and Tori Mekash followed with six points apiece, while Brynn Flakus and Brianna Kusler rounded out the team total with five points each. Mekash, Marti, and Flakus matched Conrad's total with four assists each, while Tvedt tallied three of her own. Kusler led the team defensively with three steals.

Northern is back in action this Friday and Saturday from the CSU Pueblo Tournament. The Wolves will tip-off with the host Thunder Wolves as 6 p.m. on Friday and the Westminster Griffons at 2 p.m. on Saturday.



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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")**

Weismantel is board VP

Marty Weismantel was elected as the new school board vice president at the meeting held Monday evening. Weismantel fills the void filled when Kelly Kjelden resigned off the board with his move to Aberdeen.

Kristi Peterson was hired as the new assistant business manager. Drake Patterson and Jeremy Weber were approved as volunteer boys' basketball coaches and Parker Kroll, Scott Thorson and Troy Zoellner were all approved as assistant wrestling coaches.

The Groton Area School District met its obligation to fulfill the teacher compensation measure. There were 38 districts in the state that failed to meet both accountability measures.

Superintendent Joe Schwan discussed the school calendar survey that was taken during parent-teacher conferences. He noted that there was a surprisingly frequent positive feedback about the post-Labor day school start this fall. Schwan has not compiled all the results yet. There were 187 surveys representing 305 students that were completed.

Another bus needs a new motor. The new motor with labor could run as high as \$29,000, which is about a third of the cost of a new bus. No decision was made on which way to go for right now.

There are 28 students in the Groton Area School District that are home schooled, according to Schwan. He did say that he has no concerns for these students as they are getting proper instruction. Other districts across the state do not have the same situation. Possible legislation would allow home schooled students to participate in extra curricular activities.

Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke reported that the FFA Creed Speaker group took first place at the CDE in Watertown. One Act Play auditions will be held November 15 at 3:30 p.m. with all students in grades 7-12 invited to audition. A dual credit mandatory meeting will be held November 16 at 2:40 p.m. in the library conference room. FCCLA/FBLA/FFA tote bags are ready and will be available at Family Night scheduled for November 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the GHS Gym.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the tentative plan to start using the new main entrance will be the Monday after Thanksgiving. Students planning to arrive before 8 a.m. and come to the commons area. Breakfast and lunch are now being served in the commons area. Schwan reminded the board that Thanksgiving break begins on Wednesday, Nov. 22 and that the Elementary Christmas Concert is set for December 22 at 1 p.m. in the GHS Gym. There will be no OST after the concert. Schwan reported that there was a record of over \$4,000 worth of sales at the book fair during parent-teacher conferences.

Today in Weather History

November 14, 1997: A strong low-pressure system produced snow and blowing snow, creating near whiteout conditions at times. Six inches of snow fell in the Sisseton foothills by Friday evening in Roberts and eastern Marshall Counties. Strong north winds gusting to near 35 mph, combined with the snow, caused visibilities to fall below one-half mile at times over a large portion of northeast South Dakota during the evening of the 13th and through the 14th. Classes were canceled around Summit because of near-whiteout conditions, while classes were delayed for two hours in Britton. Interstate 29 was closed

just north of the Grant County line for a time after a semi-trailer rolled. Some snowfall amounts include; 6.5 inches in Summit; 6.2 inches in Waubay; 6.0 inches in Roscoe; and 5.0 inches in Sisseton and Wilmot.

1921: During the afternoon hours, thunderstorms brought severe hail to portions of Alabama. The hail stones ranged from about the size of buckshot to as large as a baseball. The largest weighing as much as a pound.

1964 - With the help of a fresh three inch cover of snow, the temperature at Ely, NV, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to establish an all-time record low for the month of November. That record of -15 degrees was later equalled on the 19th of November in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1969: Apollo 12 was launched into a threatening gray sky with ominous cumulus clouds. Pete Conrad's words 43 seconds after liftoff, electrified everyone in the Control Center: "We had a whole bunch of buses drops out," followed by "Where are we going?" and "I just lost the platform." Lightning had stricken the spacecraft. Warning lights were illuminated, and the spacecraft guidance system lost its attitude reference.

1974 - A storm produced 15 inches of snow at the Buffalo, NY, airport, and 30 inches on the south shore of Lake Erie. (David Ludlum)

1986 - An early season cold wave set more than 200 records from the northwestern U.S. to the east coast over a seven day period. For some places it proved to be the coldest weather of the winter season. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - The first major snowstorm of the season hit the Southern and Central Rockies, producing 12 inches at the Brian Head ski resort in Utah overnight. Strong and gusty winds associated with the storm reached 52 mph at Ruidoso NM. In the eastern U.S., the temperature at Washington D.C. soared to 68 degrees, just three days after being buried under more than a foot of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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.


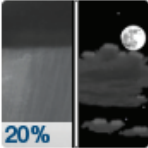





Successful bidder will be required to execute a standard Purchase Agreement and make an earnest money deposit.

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.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Dense Fog	Slight Chance Showers then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Slight Chance Rain	Slight Chance Rain then Partly Sunny
High: 51 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 43 °F

Driving in Fog

Today
50s
Except upper 40s west of the James River



fog exiting east

Slow Down Headlights Stay On Avoid Distractions

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

GRAPHIC CREATED:
11/14/2017 4:47 AM

Published on: 11/14/2017 at 4:52AM

Morning fog will result in a slower morning commute over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Plan ahead, slow down, and keep your headlights on in fog. Early morning visibility a few miles to around 1/4 of a mile will continue through much of the morning hours. www.weather.gov/abr

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 51.9

Low Outside Temp: 35.0

High Gust: 18

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 1905

Record Low: -17° in 2014

Average High: 40°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in Nov: .39

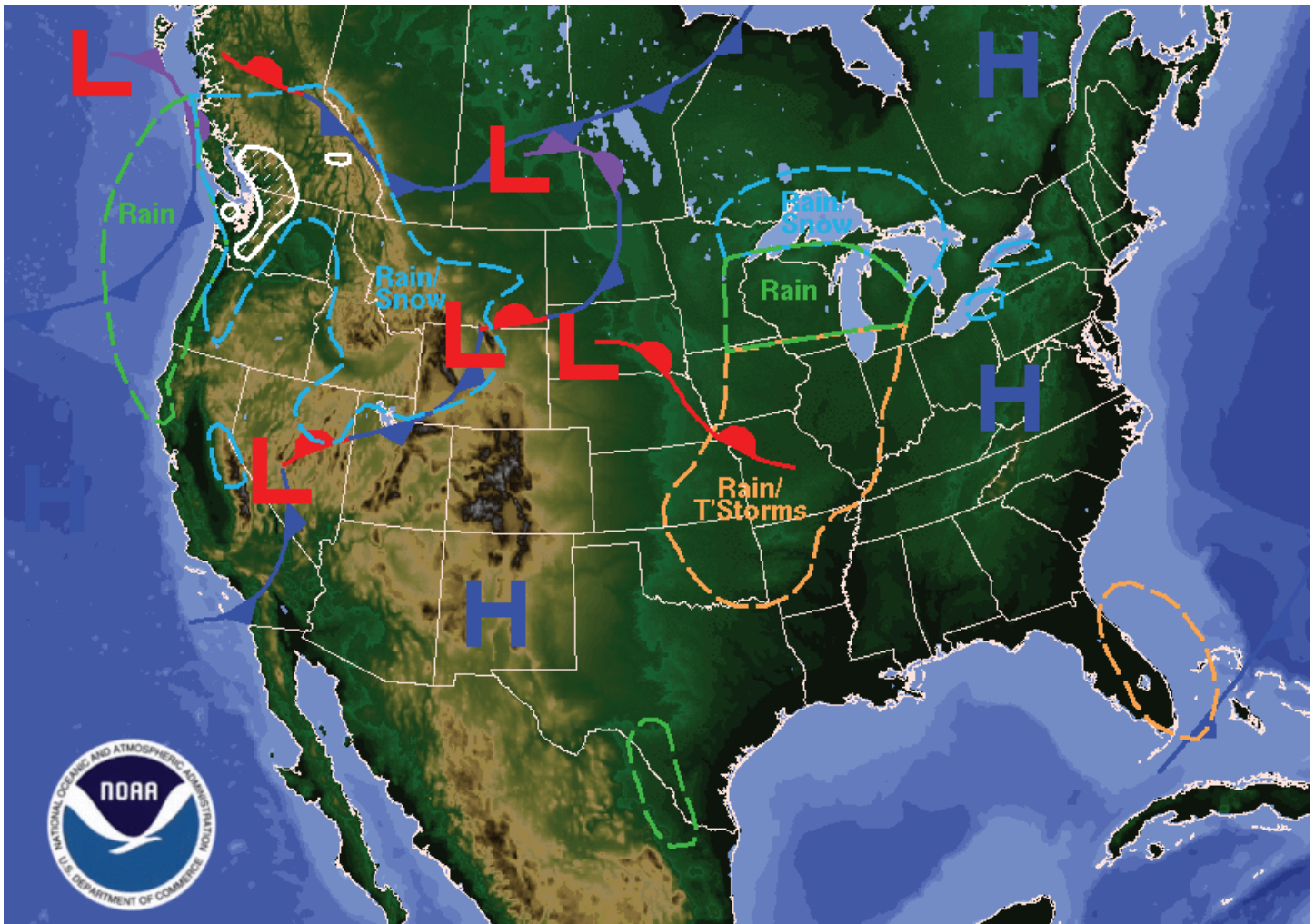
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.86

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 5:04 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:33 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Nov 14, 2017, issued 4:50 AM EST
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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GROWING OLD WITH GOD

Hope is one of the most important words in the vocabulary of many people. It is a word that we hear daily – from many sources for many different reasons. It is used to guard minds and guide lives. Sometimes it gives courage and confidence to people who are on the verge of giving up on life. There are those who have little of this world's goods that have a hope larger than life that one day things will change for them and they will receive all of the "good" things they have wanted from the day they were born. Many people use it to "wish" that something good would happen to them – something out of the ordinary to change the direction of their lives.

But "hope" in Scripture is different from that concept of hope. In God's Word hope is always directed to "some-thing or Someone we can believe in that will eventually come true." It is someThing – God's Word. If God declared it, His Word revealed it and we can believe it because His-story records it accurately. Whatever He said came to pass.

Then there is Someone – God's Son. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." We can believe in and have confidence in Him because what He said about Himself came true. "I will rise again in three days." And again, His-story records it factually and accurately.

A famous heart surgeon once said, "Christians who have hope will find that their hope in God is far more reliable and will do more for them than any medication I can prescribe or any procedure I can perform."

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for a fact-filled faith that gives us the assurance we need to place our hope in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 71:14 As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

Second Virginia county bans hydraulic fracturing

WARSAW, Va. (AP) — A second Virginia county has banned hydraulic fracturing, the process of injecting water and chemicals deep into the ground to loosen trapped gas and oil.

The Free Lance-Star reports the Richmond County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously last Thursday to not allow any type of oil and gas drilling. The board's chairman, F. Lee Sanders, said the county's water supply was the primary impetus for the ban.

The county is bordered by the Rappahannock River, which advocacy group American Rivers ranked as the fifth-most endangered American river, citing fracking's threat to clean drinking water. A small portion of Richmond County is in the Taylorsville basin, where more than 84,000 acres (34,000 hectares) have been leased for possible drilling.

Augusta County became the first Virginia locality to ban fracking, in February.

Information from: The Free Lance-Star, <http://www.fredericksburg.com/>

Cut your own Christmas trees at Land Between Lakes

GOLDEN POND, Ky. (AP) — Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area is offering free Christmas trees to those who want to visit and cut them down.

A statement from Land Between the Lakes says permits and guidelines can be obtained online Nov. 25-Dec. 24 or in person at the administrative office Nov. 25-Dec. 23. Land Between the Lakes is a 170,000-acre (68,798-hectare) recreation area along the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

A permit allows the cutting of one cedar tree less than 10 feet (3 meters) tall anywhere except within sight of the U.S. 68-Kentucky 80 highway, Woodlands Trace National Scenic Byway, cemeteries, nature watch areas, campgrounds and other mowed areas.

Forester Dennis Wilson says cutting down a Christmas tree is a great family tradition and it helps Land Between the Lakes maintain open lands and promote diverse wildlife habitat.

'Super invader' tree hits South, but flea beetle may be hero

By STACEY PLAISANCE, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The tallow tree, a "super invader" with toxic leaves and no natural enemies in North America, is conquering the South.

Overtaking forests from Texas to Florida, tallows grow three times faster than most native hardwoods, and each one casts off 100,000 seeds a year. Controlled burns haven't stopped their spread, nor have herbicide sprays from helicopters. Cutting them down works only when each stump is immediately doused with chemicals. Harvesting them for biofuel remains more a promise than a practical solution.

Some scientists say introducing a flea beetle from the tallow's native habitat in eastern China may be the best alternative.

Yes, they're aware of "nightmare scenarios" with other non-native plants and bugs, environmental scientist Michael Massimi said.

But he also points to success stories, such as the aquatic weevil that munches on giant salvinia, a floating fern from Brazil that had been clogging waterways in Florida and Texas until its insect enemy was brought in. The weevil underwent a similar line of testing through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and like the flea beetle, the weevil spends its entire life-cycle on one plant, he said.

"Importing an organism to help control another organism right off the bat doesn't sound very intuitively smart to do, but it turns out that especially with insects and plants, they've co-evolved over many millions of years, and in a lot of cases, the insect is very host-specific," said Massimi, the invasive species coordina-

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tor for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program along the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

In this case, the flea beetle (*Bikasha collaris*) generally ignores other plants as it eats the roots and leaves of the tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), a host-specific tendency tested on about 150 other plant species in a decade of laboratory work in the U.S. and China, researchers said.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has been working on an environmental impact assessment, which will include a public comment period. If approved, the bugs could be released sometime in 2018. Meanwhile, researchers in Louisiana are studying tallows to gain a better understanding of the beetle's effectiveness once they are let loose.

Benjamin Franklin sent tallow seeds from London to a friend in Georgia in the 1700s, but genetic testing cleared the founding father of blame for the kind of tallows growing so aggressively today — those trees were apparently introduced by federal biologists around 1905, according to research led by Evan Siemann, an evolutionary biologist at Rice University, that was published in *The American Journal of Botany* in 2011.

U.S. Forest Service data show tallow now spreading across 10 states. Its growth nearly tripled in Texas in the last two decades, and increased 500 percent in Louisiana, where its higher tolerance for salinity enables it to crowd out moss-covered bald cypress in swamps and bayous. Populations also are up along the Atlantic coast, from Florida to the Carolinas.

"Tallows take advantage of disturbances," said Nancy Loewenstein, an invasive plant specialist at Auburn University. "Storms, floods, construction sites, logging sites, anything that disrupts the environment will give an invasive like tallow an opportunity to take over."

The help can't come too soon for the keepers of America's suffering forests. Tallows grow into fully mature trees in just three years, far outpacing native maples, oaks, cypress and elms. Their leaves are toxic to some animals, and they cast off litter that changes soil chemistry and disadvantages competitors.

"Chinese tallows are very competitive, and they have no natural predators here like in their native China," said Karan Rawlins, an invasive species specialist at the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health. "Very few if any insects recognize it as a food source, so it has basically become a super invader."

Also known as the popcorn tree and candleberry tree, tallows have been planted widely since their first seeds arrived. Coveted as ornamentals for their vibrant fall foliage, they have seeds encased in small green capsules that split when ripe, revealing a small cluster resembling a puffy kernel of popcorn. Their oils have been used in candle and soap-making, and beekeepers like their bountiful nectar.

But ecologists say they do more harm than good, decreasing the diversity of plants, trees and insects, and weakening the food chain for birds and animals. At least one study found that frog eggs are less likely to hatch into tadpoles in water littered with tallow. And since the seeds don't provide much nutrition, Mas-simi said they're like "junk food" for migrating birds.

It's taken more than a decade to clear tallow from just half the 86-acre Audubon Louisiana Nature Center after floods from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"We still have 40-plus acres that are 95 percent Chinese tallow, so we have a lot of work to do, and it's going to be a long, long haul," said Llewellyn Everage, who directs volunteers and interns at the site. "This is not a quick problem to fix."

S. Dakota downs Bowling Green 88-79 behind Mooney's 26 PTs

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 26 points and handed out five assists and Tyler Hagedorn added 15 points and South Dakota beat Bowling Green 88-79 on Monday.

Carlton Hurst contributed 14 points and nine rebounds for South Dakota (2-0) which trailed 35-34 at halftime. Hagedorn's 3 with 8:28 left to play gave South Dakota a 59-57 lead it wouldn't give up. Later, Mooney made a 3, a jump shot and a layup to extend the lead to 72-61.

Bowling Green (1-1) responded with seven-straight and Dylan Frye's 3 made it 72-68 with 3:57 left. The Falcons never got closer than four points the rest of the way.

Frye led Bowling Green with 23 points, Derek Koch had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Rodrick Caldwell

scored 10.

It's the second time this season a Coyotes team has gotten the better of Bowling Green. South Dakota's football team beat the Falcons 35-27 on Sept. 9.

Michigan governor cites 'significant' concerns over pipeline

By DAVID EGGERT and JOHN FLESHER, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said Monday he had "significant" concerns after the company that operates twin oil pipelines in a Great Lakes waterway told state officials it had found additional gaps in pipeline coating.

The Republican governor criticized Enbridge Inc. after the Canadian company issued an update on inspections and repairs of Line 5, which carries about 23 million gallons (87 million liters) of oil and natural gas across northern Wisconsin and Michigan to refineries in Ontario each day.

"I am no longer satisfied with the operational activities and public information tactics that have become status quo for Enbridge," Snyder said in a statement. "It is vitally important that Enbridge immediately become much more transparent about the condition of Line 5 and their activities to ensure protection of the Great Lakes."

A nearly 5-mile-long segment of the line runs along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac, which connects Lakes Huron and Michigan. That section is divided into two pipes that have been in place since 1953. Enbridge says they are in good condition and monitored closely, but environmentalists contend they are at risk of leaking and want them decommissioned.

The company, based in Calgary, Alberta, has disclosed in recent months that gaps have formed in protective enamel coating on the outside of the pipes. Enbridge acknowledged in October some of its personnel knew about the problem for years but only recently informed the state.

Enbridge said then that eight areas had been found to have coating gaps or calcium carbonate deposits, which indicate places where coating could be thin or missing.

Six have been repaired, according to Guy Jarvis, executive vice president of liquid pipelines and major projects.

But he said additional gaps and calcareous deposits had turned up during inspections of 128 places where anchors have been installed to support the pipelines. All have been examined with a remote underwater vehicle, and divers have looked at 48 of them.

They found three spots of bare steel, plus calcareous deposits at "many of the locations," Jarvis said Monday in a phone conference with reporters. He did not say how many, but state officials briefed separately by the company said a majority of the 48 diver-inspected locations had gaps.

"A year ago, Enbridge said there were no coating gaps in the Straits pipeline," said Valerie Brader, executive director of the Michigan Agency for Energy. "When will we know the full accounting of what Enbridge knows about Line 5?"

Workers removed calcareous deposit samples from 11 places, leaving bare steel that also will need to be fixed, Enbridge said.

"The exact cause of these deposits at these locations will be further assessed in conjunction with the state in the coming weeks," Jarvis said. "We remain confident in the continued safe operation of Line 5 and highlight that no evidence of corrosion on the line was found in any of this work."

Enbridge is scheduled to outline its findings about the pipelines' status, including the condition of protective coating and anchors, during a Dec. 11 appearance before the Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board. State officials said they would bring on "additional technical expertise" to evaluate the company's presentation.

The state plans to release a final report Nov. 20 on options for transporting the oil and natural gas carried by Line 5. A preliminary version listed a number of alternatives, including shutting down the line, keeping it going or replacing it.

Flesher reported from Traverse City, Michigan.

South Dakota farmers wrap up fall harvest after dry week

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Many South Dakota farmers have wrapped up the fall harvest following a mostly dry week.

While temperatures were below average, the weekly crop report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture says minimal precipitation allowed South Dakota farmers to make continued progress in the corn, sunflower and sorghum harvests.

The corn harvest was 82 percent completed, behind 90 percent for both last year's pace and the five-year average.

Sorghum was 83 percent harvested, behind 98 percent last year and an average of 92 percent. Sunflowers were 81 percent harvested, which is equal to the average but behind last year's 92 percent.

More than half of winter wheat is in poor or very poor condition. More than half of South Dakota's pasture and rangeland was rated in poor or very poor condition.

House speaker takes aim at university faculty unions

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's House speaker said Monday that lawmakers will consider legislation to end collective bargaining at the state's public universities.

Republican Rep. Mark Mickelson said he doesn't think collective bargaining "serves the mission of educating our kids." Union contracts cover more than 1,300 staff members at the state's six public universities and at schools for the blind and deaf.

Alan Aldrich, state president of the Council of Higher Education, the faculty labor union, didn't immediately return a telephone message seeking comment from The Associated Press. Past President Bill Adamson told the Argus Leader that it's a "dangerous trend."

"You're not going to attract any good professors," Adamson said.

Sandra Waltman, spokeswoman for the South Dakota Education Association, which is affiliated with the faculty union, said that members can't bargain for salary and benefits. Waltman said the union negotiates on issues such as academic freedom, grievance rights, evaluation and tenure.

"We want faculty to have a say in their working conditions, and this would really limit their voice in what their working conditions look like," Waltman said. "That has an impact on the students' learning conditions."

Paul Turman, vice president for academic affairs with the Board of Regents, said in an email that 8.7 percent of the bargaining-unit faculty in the regental system are dues-paying members of the Council of Higher Education; 28 percent of staff at the two special schools who are dues-paying members.

The Board of Regents doesn't convene next until December and hasn't had an opportunity to react to Mickelson's intention to end collective bargaining, Turman said.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said that the Republican governor hasn't yet reviewed the proposal. Daugaard earlier this year signed a bill that banned collective bargaining at the four technical institutes in right-to-work South Dakota.

Nebraska officials to rule on Keystone XL oil pipeline route

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska regulators plan to announce their decision next week on the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline route across the state.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission will announce its ruling on Monday after spending months evaluating arguments for and against the long-delayed project.

TransCanada's proposed 1,179-mile crude oil pipeline has faced persistent opposition from environmental groups and some landowners. But the project has received needed approvals in the other states between Alberta, Canada, and Nebraska.

TransCanada officials have said their preferred route is the most direct way to transport oil and crosses

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few major bodies of water.

President Donald Trump issued a federal permit for the project in March even though it had been rejected by the Obama administration. Trump said it would create jobs and lead to greater energy independence.

FBI data shows 18 hate crimes logged in South Dakota in 2016

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Eighteen hate crimes were reported in South Dakota last year, with the bulk of victims targeted for their race or ethnicity or sexual orientation.

The FBI released its 2016 hate crime statistics report Monday.

Nationally, there were more than 6,100 hate crimes in 2016, up about 5 percent over the previous year.

The yearly report is the most comprehensive accounting of hate crimes in the U.S. But authorities warn it's incomplete, partly because it's based on voluntary reporting by police agencies.

Of the hate crimes reported in South Dakota, six were based on a victim's race or ethnicity, five were based on sexual orientation and three were based on a victim's disability. There were two crimes motivated by a victim's religion and two by a victim's gender identity.

Walker eliminates Wisconsin's minimum hunting age

By **TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Children of any age can hunt in Wisconsin, after Gov. Scott Walker signed a bill that eliminates the state's minimum age.

Walker quietly signed the Republican bill Saturday, exactly a week before the state's nine-day gun deer hunting was set to open. The law took effect Monday. Kids will have to wait five days before they can start shooting deer, but they can participate in several seasons already underway, including bow deer, pheasant, ruffed grouse, rabbit and squirrel.

A Wisconsin resident must be at least 12 years old to purchase a hunting license or hunt with a gun. However, until now children as young as 10 could participate in a mentored hunt. That program allows the child to hunt with a mentor who is at least 18 and has gone through a hunter safety course or had military training if they're younger than 44. The mentor and student could have only one gun between them, and they had to stay within arm's reach of one another. The new law allows children of any age to participate in a mentored hunt and allows mentor and student to each carry a weapon.

Thirty-four other states have no minimum hunting age. Several groups, including Whitetails Unlimited and the National Rifle Association, registered in favor of the Wisconsin bill. The proposal generated fierce opposition from minority Democrats and child safety advocates. Republicans pushed ahead anyway, saying parents should be allowed to decide whether their children are ready to kill an animal and that the measure will attract more children to hunting.

Rep. Joel Kleefisch, an avid hunter and chairman of the Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee, said Monday that he allowed his 11-year-old daughter to shoot a wild hog on a Michigan game preserve when she was 8. He proudly displayed a video of her squeezing the trigger and a photo of her standing next to the dead pig with her rifle.

"This bill will allow responsible hunters to get kids off the couch and off the electronics and into the woods," Kleefisch said. "There's nothing more exciting than seeing the look on someone's face when they harvest their first animal."

It's unclear how many children under 10 may take to the woods over the next few weeks. State Department of Natural Resources James Dick said he didn't have any data yet on how many mentored hunting licenses had been sold since the law took effect.

Whitetails Unlimited President Jeff Schinkten said he plans to buy his 9-year-old grandson a mentored hunt license, but he doubts many kids will take to the woods under the new law. Most people probably don't even know the law is in effect in time for the gun deer season, he said.

"(The season) will come and go before people realize it," Schinkten said. "(But the law change) will put some extra people in the woods and hopefully the people mentoring them will do their job and stay safe."

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I get it. It scares people that an 8-year-old or a 9-year-old has a high-powered rifle in his hands. But it's been done in other states."

George Meyer, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, said he doubted many children under 10 will take up arms and head out in search of a deer.

"It's new, right before the season," Meyer said. "People already have their hunting plans scheduled. But there will be some people, those who followed the bill."

The federation opposed the bill because of the provision allowing student and mentor to each carry a weapon. Meyer said a mentor engaged in hunting won't pay as much attention to the student.

Jeri Bonavia is executive director of the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort, a group that works to end gun violence that registered against the bill. She said the law could create situations in which parents drive their children to the woods, help them out of their car seats, then hand them a rifle. She said that's not such an outlandish scenario because state law requires children as old as 7 and 8 to use car seats and booster seats.

"Giving a firearm to a child when they can't understand the consequences is just incredibly foolish," she said. "I honestly don't think there are a lot of Wisconsin moms and dads really pushing for this or desiring this, so I don't know if it will be a very common practice. I certainly hope not."

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>

Seminole Tribe puts \$1 million to help anti-casino measure

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Seminole Tribe of Florida is getting behind a push to put an anti-gambling amendment on next year's ballot.

Newly filed campaign finance records show the tribe gave \$1 million in October to the group Voters in Charge, which wants Floridians to pass a constitutional amendment in 2018 that would require voter approval for new casinos.

The Seminoles already operate several casinos in the state and have an agreement that allows them to offer specific types of gambling, including blackjack. But legislators in recent years have considered allowing additional casinos in the state.

Disney is also backing the anti-gambling amendment and has donated nearly \$3 million.

Voters in Charge needs 800,000 valid signatures to make the ballot. So far, officials have verified nearly 400,000 signatures.

South Dakota constitutional amendment creates conflict

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota constitutional amendment that passed last November to provide new protections to crime victims has created conflicts for defense attorneys, law enforcement and county officials.

The statute, named Marsy's Law, has led to several changes in the criminal justice system, including revising the process to release accident reports, which has increased responsibilities for law enforcement officers, the Argus Leader reported .

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety now holds accident reports for three days as a waiting period devised to allow victims to opt in to the new law's privacy protections. The agency also reviews all reports for any Marsy's Law implications and vets every case where a victim asks for their information to not be released.

"What used to be extremely efficient and hands-off by the bureaucracy is now very fact- and labor-intensive," said Jenna Howell, director of the Division of Legal and Regulatory Services.

Out of 16,000 accident reports, a victim has invoked their rights to privacy in less than 10 of the reports,

said agency spokesperson Tony Mangan.

The law also requires law enforcement officers to inform victims of their 19 protections. Attorney General Marty Jackley's office printed cards listing those protections that officers can give to victims.

Officers must also inform victims of the state's automated victim notification system, which provides updates on court dates, hearings and releases over text, email or phone.

Defense lawyers argued that the additional hurdles of victim notification can cause avoidable jail time for their clients. Prosecutors have delayed bond hearings and plea deals by citing victim notification, said Minnehaha County Public Defender Traci Smith.

Smith said a clause intended to protect victims from harassment can stand in the way of defense attorneys' duty to contact victims on their clients' behalf. Smith said a victim's constitutional rights are usurping her clients' constitutional rights.

Experts expect legal fights over the issues.

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

School bus company embezzler gets year in prison

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former employee of a school bus company serving the Sioux Falls School District has been sentenced to a year in prison for stealing more than half a million dollars from her employer.

Authorities say Crystal Neuman began working for School Bus, Inc. in 1998 and started embezzling \$537,000 from the company beginning in 2006 by writing extra checks to herself.

The Argus Leader says Neuman collected \$80,000 from her employee profit-sharing fund the day after she was fired for the embezzlement. School Bus owner Steve Hey said Monday the company could not prevent her from collecting the funds.

Neuman is to report to federal prison Dec. 4.

This story has been corrected to show Neuman collected money from her profit-sharing fund the day after she was fired, not day of.

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

South Dakota legislators want a pay raise

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state legislative panel voted Monday to endorse a measure that would ask voters to give South Dakota lawmakers a significant pay raise.

The Legislature's Executive Board unanimously advanced a plan that would link legislator's pay to the state's median household income. The proposal would ask voters to amend the state constitution to make the change, removing lawmakers' ability to set their own pay for regular legislative sessions.

State lawmakers are paid \$6,000 per session plus a per diem allowance. The measure set to be debated during the 2018 session would set legislators' salaries at one-fifth of the median income. U.S. Census numbers for 2015 show that would mean a raise of 70 percent for the state's 105 lawmakers to nearly \$10,200.

Republican House Speaker Mark Mickelson, a supporter, said low salaries limit the pool of people who can serve as lawmakers to those who are retired or self-employed.

GOP Rep. Craig Tieszen said he's tried to increase legislator pay in the past because "we increasingly lock out people that could well serve but simply can't afford to serve."

A state Legislative Research Council document says that legislators haven't had a salary increase since 1998, although their per diem payments have risen.

Standing Rock casino sees recovery after pipeline protest

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — Finances at a casino run by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe are slowly improv-

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ing, after facing a \$6 million shortfall during the peak of the Dakota Access oil pipeline protest in February.

Blizzards and the protest's closure of the Prairie Knights Casino's main access road led to a decline in visitors and revenue over the end of 2016 and beginning of this year, the Bismarck Tribune reported .

"It's a slow recovery, but it is on the incline," said Tribal Chairman Mike Faith.

The casino funds programs in all eight of the reservation's districts, including food distribution, insurance and bonding, programs for the elderly and veterans, fire and ambulance services, waste management, health programs, and K-12 education, said former Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II.

A 2012 economic development strategy report showed the casino made \$12.6 million in net revenues in 2010 for the tribal government, said Tribal CFO Jerome Long Bottom. He said he wasn't able to share any other information about the casino's earnings.

The casino saw a return in the number of visitors in late October, when 2,000 people attended the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band concert at the casino's pavilion.

"That's the highest we've had for a while," said LaRoy Kingsley, who handles the casino's marketing.

Concerts usually bring between 1,000 and 1,500 people to the venue, said E.J. Iron Eyes, the casino's general manager. He said the casino is getting back to its peak visitor numbers from 2015, and that casino officials started to see an uptick in visitors as soon as the main access road re-opened.

The tribe has also been able to fund much of its programming again, said Iron Eyes.

The casino is now looking to invest in new slot machines in order to keep the venue in mint condition.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Rapid City statues dressed for those in need

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Residents can begin dressing downtown statues in Rapid City in warm winter clothing beginning Wednesday.

From Nov. 15 to March 15, donors can put coats, hats, scarves and other outerwear on the statues so that those who need the clothing will have a warmer winter. Churches, schools and other organizations have joined in randomly placing clothing on statues.

KOTA-TV says that during wintry conditions, the clothing quickly disappears from the statues.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Feds fine Indiana county over Native American gravesite dig

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP) — The U.S. Department of the Interior is fining a central Indiana county for violating a federal law aimed at protecting Native American gravesites.

The fine of about \$6,500 against the Hamilton County Parks Department concerns work by archaeologists from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne at Strawtown Koteewi Park near Noblesville. The Indianapolis Star reports that more than 90,000 artifacts associated with human remains and 200 human bone and teeth samples were unearthed there between 2001 and 2011.

Former Miami of Oklahoma preservation officer George Strack says the excavations were egregious and the fine should be much higher. Strack says the parks department was "let off the hook."

Hamilton County Parks Director Al Patterson says the department has cooperated with federal officials and now has a staff member overseeing archaeological work.

Information from: The Indianapolis Star, <http://www.indystar.com>

Wisconsin governor signs woodchuck hunting bill

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has signed a bill setting up an open season on groundhogs.

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The governor signed the measure on Saturday. The bill removes groundhogs from the state's protected species list and calls on the Department of Natural Resources to establish a year-round hunting and trapping season with no bag limits.

Supporters argue groundhogs, also known as woodchucks or whistle pigs, are plentiful and that their burrowing destroys gardens and undermines building foundations, sidewalks and roads. The Alliance for Animals, the Humane Society of the United States and Midwest Environmental Advocates all have registered in opposition.

A DNR spokesman hasn't responded to an email sent Monday asking when hunting might begin.

South Dakota corn, soybean, sorghum crops forecast down

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Production of corn, soybeans and grain sorghum in South Dakota is expected to be down this year.

The Agriculture Department's latest estimates put South Dakota's corn crop at 788 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year.

Soybean production is expected to be down 1 percent to 252 million bushels, and sorghum production down 10 percent to 14.2 million bushels.

Harvested acres are expected to be up for all three crops, but average yield is forecast to be down after a growing season plagued by drought.

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. WHO MESSAGED WITH WIKILEAKS DURING 2016 CAMPAIGN

In the exchanges, which Donald Trump Jr. released on Twitter, the whistleblower website praises his father's positive comments about their operations and asks Trump Jr. to release his father's tax returns to the site.

2. RESCUERS SEARCH DEBRIS AFTER IRAN-IRAQ QUAKE KILLS MORE THAN 500

Backhoes and heavy equipment are used to dig through the debris of buildings toppled by the 7.3 magnitude temblor, with weeping women crying out to God as aid workers find new bodies.

3. MOORE FINDS SUPPORT WANING AS ANOTHER WOMAN COMES FORWARD

The embattled Senate candidate's support from fellow Republicans is hemorrhaging after a second woman accused the Alabaman of groping her when she was a teenager in the late 1970s.

4. HAILING 'TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF WORK'

Wrapping up his extensive tour of Asia, Trump lauds progress on trade and says he put the world on notice that the "rules have changed" for countries that want to do business with the U.S.

5. 'WEINSTEIN EFFECT' GOES GLOBAL

Nearly half of the "#metoo" mentions have come from outside the U.S., and decades-old sexual harassment and assault allegations have led to the downfall of some of those countries' most powerful men.

6. WHERE THEY'RE CLEARING THE STREETS

Authorities in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad are rounding up beggars ahead of a visit by Ivanka Trump for an international conference.

7. WINERIES EAGER TO MAKE UP LOSSES AFTER CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Vineyards in Napa and Sonoma counties are assessing the impact of smoke and other damage on this year's vintage and persuading tourists to return.

8. RISE IN TEEN SUICIDE, SOCIAL MEDIA COINCIDE

In a study published in Clinical Psychological Science, researchers suggest that cyberbullying and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health.

9. STORE CHAINS MAKING STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Kohl's shoppers can find Amazon devices at some stores. Nike has made some of its sneakers available through Amazon. And Walmart is buying smaller online brands and partnering with Lord & Taylor on the web.

10. THE END. THE APOCALYPSE. A NATIONAL SHAME.

Italian newspapers spared no words in describing the four-time champion's failure to qualify for soccer's World Cup for the first time in six decades.

Rescuers search debris after Iran-Iraq quake kills over 530

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **MOHAMMAD NASIRI**, Associated Press

SARPOL-E-ZAHAB, Iran (AP) — Rescuers on Tuesday used backhoes and heavy equipment to dig through the debris of buildings toppled by a powerful earthquake on the border between Iran and Iraq that killed over 530 people, with weeping women crying out to God as aid workers found new bodies.

The grim work began in earnest again at dawn in the Kurdish town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, which appears to be the hardest hit in the magnitude 7.3 earthquake.

Kermanshah, an almost entirely Kurdish province nestled in the Zagros Mountains that run along the border with Iraq, suffered all of Iran's fatalities from the temblor Sunday night that shook 14 of the country's 31 provinces.

Both rescuers and local residents alike stood atop the remains of apartment complexes Tuesday, looking through the rubble. They used heavy blankets to carry away corpses.

The hospital in Sarpol-e-Zahab was heavily damaged, and the army set up field hospitals, although many of the injured were moved to other cities, including Tehran.

The quake also damaged an army garrison and buildings in the border city and killed an unspecified number of soldiers, according to reports.

There are fears more dead could be in the rubble in Sarpol-e-Zahab and other rural villages of Kermanshah province. Mohammad Ali Monshizadeh, a spokesman for the provincial forensic department, said possibly as many as 150 people were buried by family members after the earthquake in remote villages who had not been counted in the official death toll, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Iran's Red Crescent also said it worried about more bodies in rural villages, though it said the rescue operations in larger towns could end soon.

President Hassan Rouhani arrived in Kermanshah province on Tuesday to see the damage for himself and offer his support to those affected.

"This was a pain for all Iranians," Rouhani said, according to a statement on the presidency's website. "Representing the nation of Iran, I offer my condolences to the people of Kermanshah, and tell them that all of us are behind Kermanshah."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif offered his thanks to foreign countries offering to help but wrote on Twitter: "For now, we are able to manage with our own resources."

Cleric Abdolhossein Moezi, a representative of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who also is touring the area, said there was a need for more relief material and "security." That was echoed by Nazar Barani, the mayor of the town of Ezgeleh, who told state TV on Tuesday his constituency still had a "deep need" for food, medicine and tents. He said 80 percent of the buildings in the town had been damaged by the quake.

Many of the heavily damaged complexes in Sarpol-e-Zahab were part of construction projects under former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The newly homeless slept outside in cold, huddled around makeshift fires for warmth.

The quake killed 530 people in Iran and injured 7,460, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Tuesday. Most of the injuries were minor with fewer than 1,000 still hospitalized, Iran's crisis management headquarters spokesman Behnam Saedi told state TV.

The quake was centered about 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and struck 14.4 miles (23.2 kilometers) below the surface, a somewhat

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shallow depth that can cause broader damage. The quake caused Dubai's skyscrapers to sway and could be felt 1,060 kilometers (660 miles) away on the Mediterranean coast.

Seven deaths occurred in Iraq and 535 people were injured, all in the country's northern, semiautonomous Kurdish region, according to its Interior Ministry.

The disparity in casualty tolls immediately drew questions from Iranians, especially because so much of the town was new.

Sarpol-e-Zahab fell to the troops of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his 1980 invasion of Iran, which sparked the eight-year war between the two countries that killed 1 million people. Though clawed back by Iran seven months later, the area remained a war zone that suffered through Saddam's missile attacks and chemical weapons.

After the war, Iran began rebuilding the town. It also was part of Ahmadinejad's low-income housing project, which aided the Holocaust-questioning hard-liner's populist credentials but also saw cheap construction.

Under the plan dubbed as Mehr or "kindness" in Farsi, some 2 million units were built in Iran, including hundreds in Sarpol-e Zahab. Many criticized the plan, warning that the low-quality construction could lead to a disaster.

"Before its 10-year anniversary, Mehr buildings have turned into coffins for its inhabitants," the reformist Fararu news website wrote Monday.

Rouhani himself said the government would launch an investigation into why the state-constructed buildings so easily toppled.

"The faults and shortcomings in the construction of these buildings should be investigated," he said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. The "government will definitely follow up on these issues and identify the culprits."

Iran sits on many major fault lines and is prone to near-daily quakes. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people. In 2012, a major casualty earthquake killed over 300.

Karimi reported from Tehran, Iran. Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

GOP bill aimed at overhauling taxes to get Trump push

By MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Republicans stake their claim to middle-class rescue in tax cut legislation deemed to carry tax hikes for millions, President Donald Trump plans an in-person appeal to lawmakers as the proposal faces a crucial vote in the House.

Underscoring the sharp political stakes for Trump, who lacks a major legislative achievement after nearly 10 months in office, Trump will meet with House Republicans on Thursday ahead of an expected vote on the tax overhaul legislation.

Promoted as needed relief for the middle class, the House and Senate bills would deeply cut corporate taxes, double the standard deduction used by most Americans, and limit or repeal completely the federal deduction for state and local property, income and sales taxes. Republican leaders in Congress view passage of the first major tax revamp in 30 years as imperative for the GOP to preserve its majorities in next year's elections.

Trump's planned pitch on Capitol Hill, after returning from his Asia trip, was disclosed by a White House official who wasn't authorized to discuss publicly the president's schedule and spoke on condition of anonymity. In the meantime, Trump tweeted into the debate Monday by urging Republican leaders to get more aggressive in the tax legislation. He called for a steeper tax cut for wealthy Americans and the addition of a contentious health care change to the already complex mix.

At the same time, a nonpartisan analysis of the Senate version of the tax overhaul legislation showed it

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actually would increase taxes for some 13.8 million moderate-income American households.

The assessment by Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation emerged as the Senate's tax-writing committee began debating and working through the measure.

Trump's latest tweet injected a dose of uncertainty into the process as the Republicans try to deliver on his top legislative priority. He commended GOP leaders for getting the tax legislation closer to passage in recent weeks and then said, "Cut top rate to 35% w/all of the rest going to middle income cuts?"

That puts him at odds with the House legislation that leaves the top rate at the current 39.6 percent and the Senate bill, with the top rate eased to 38.5 percent.

Trump prodded the lawmakers: "Now how about ending the unfair & highly unpopular individual mandate in (Obama)care and reducing taxes even further?"

With few votes to spare, Republican leaders hope to finalize a tax overhaul by Christmas and send the legislation to Trump for his signature.

The key House leader on the effort, Rep. Kevin Brady, said he's "very confident" that Republicans "do and will have the votes to pass" the measure this week.

Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he doesn't expect major changes to the bill as it moves to a final vote in the House. Still, he said Trump's call for removing the requirement to have health insurance as part of the tax agreement "remains under consideration."

Trump and the Republicans have promoted the legislation as a boon to the middle class, bringing tax relief to people with moderate incomes and boosting the economy to create new jobs.

"This bill is not a massive tax cut for the wealthy. ... This is not a big giveaway to corporations," Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, insisted as the panel had its first day of debate on the Senate measure.

The overhaul will bring "much-needed tax relief to American workers and families," the Utah Republican said.

Hatch downplayed the analysis by congressional experts showing tax increases in 2019 for 13.8 million households earning less than \$200,000 a year. That group, about 10 percent of all U.S. taxpayers, would face tax increases of \$100 to \$500, and there would be bigger increases for some, especially those earning between \$75,000 and \$200,000.

Hatch said "a relatively small minority of taxpayers could see a slight increase in their taxes."

The committee's senior Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, said the legislation has become "a massive handout to multinational corporations and a bonanza for tax cheats and powerful political donors."

The congressional analysts previously found a similar magnitude of tax increases under the House bill.

Neither bill includes a repeal of the so-called individual mandate of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, the requirement that Americans get health insurance or face a penalty. Several top Republicans have warned that including the provision, as Trump wants, would draw opposition and make passage tougher.

Among the biggest differences in the two bills: the House bill allows homeowners to deduct up to \$10,000 in property taxes while the Senate proposal eliminates the entire deduction. Both versions would eliminate deductions for state and local income taxes and sales taxes.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., asked whether the Senate's proposed repeal of the property tax deduction could bring higher taxes for some middle-class Americans, acknowledged there would be some taxpayers who end up with higher tax bills.

"Any way you cut it, there is a possibility that some taxpayers would get a higher rate," McConnell told reporters after a forum in Louisville, Kentucky, with local business owners and employees. "You can't craft any tax bill that guarantees that every single taxpayer in America gets a tax break. What I'm telling you is the overall majority of taxpayers in every bracket would get relief."

Associated Press writers Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, and Kevin Freking and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Rise in teen suicide, social media coincide; is there link?

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — An increase in suicide rates among U.S. teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known.

The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009-15 and results of two surveys given to U.S. high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood included frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published Tuesday in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*.

Data highlighted in the study include:

—Teens' use of electronic devices including smartphones for at least five hours daily more than doubled, from 8 percent in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. These teens were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions than those who reported one hour of daily use.

—In 2015, 36 percent of all teens reported feeling desperately sad or hopeless, or thinking about, planning or attempting suicide, up from 32 percent in 2009. For girls, the rates were higher — 45 percent in 2015 versus 40 percent in 2009.

—In 2009, 58% of 12th grade girls used social media every day or nearly every day; by 2015, 87% used social media every day or nearly every day. They were 14% more likely to be depressed than those who used social media less frequently.

"We need to stop thinking of smartphones as harmless," said study author Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University who studies generational trends. "There's a tendency to say, 'Oh, teens are just communicating with their friends.' Monitoring kids' use of smartphones and social media is important, and so is setting reasonable limits, she said.

Dr. Victor Strasburger, a teen medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico, said the study only implies a connection between teen suicides, depression and social media. It shows the need for more research on new technology, Strasburger said.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when comic books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying 'This is the end of the world.'"

With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said.

"Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.

AP reporter P. Solomon Banda contributed to this story from Littleton, Colorado.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter at @LindseyTanner .

Trump heads home after 'tremendously successful' Asia trip

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Donald Trump headed for home Tuesday following an extensive tour of Asia that he said had been "tremendously successful" and had put the world on notice that the "rules have changed" for countries that want to trade with the U.S.

Trump also teased a "major statement" on trade and the trip later this week at the White House, where he is expected to promote congressional Republicans' plan to overhaul the nation's tax code.

As Air Force One rolled down the runway in Manila, Trump told the reporters traveling with him that "it's been a really great 12 days." And on trade, the president said confidently that U.S. trading partners "will be treating us much differently than before."

"I think the fruits of our labor are going to be incredible, whether it's security of our nations, whether it's security of the world or whether it's trade," Trump said.

Trump, who campaigned for office on a promise to tear up multilateral trade agreements that he said have harmed the U.S., insisted during the nearly two-week trip that multibillion-dollar deficits that favor U.S. trading partners will be reduced to zero, and that trade overall must be fair and mutually beneficial.

"The United States has to be treated fairly and in a reciprocal fashion," he tweeted Tuesday. "The massive TRADE deficits must go down quickly!"

Trump pressed that point on every stop on the grueling tour of Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines, blaming his predecessors for yawning trade imbalances and declaring that the United States will no longer be taken advantage of under his watch.

"We've had a tremendously successful trip," Trump told reporters before departing his third summit of the trip. "Tremendous amounts of work was done on trade."

Trump said \$300 billion in deals had been reached, a sum he predicted would more than triple in a short period of time.

"We explained that the United States is open for trade but we want reciprocal trade. We want fair trade for the United States," he said.

The president also sounded a positive note about Vietnam, saying the country had changed direction and was now buying at least \$12 billion worth of Boeing aircraft.

"The reason I like the Boeing is because it's jobs for the United States," Trump said.

Trump also spoke warmly of the "many good friends" he had made on the trip, including Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Trump praised and joked around Monday with Duterte, who has overseen a bloody crackdown on the illegal drug trade that has featured extrajudicial killings, earning the Filipino leader the condemnation of human rights groups.

Trump did not publicly take Duterte to task for the crackdown. Trump talked instead about their "great relationship."

The White House later said they discussed the Islamic State group, illegal drugs and trade during a private meeting. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights issues were "briefly" discussed. She was contradicted by Duterte's spokesman, who said there was "no mention" of human rights.

Human rights advocates have been alarmed by Duterte's war on drugs, saying it has allowed police officers and vigilantes to ignore due process and take justice into their own hands. Government officials estimate that well over 3,000 people, mostly drug users and dealers, have died in the crackdown. Human rights groups believe the total could be closer to 9,000.

Trump was in the Philippines to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference and the East Asia Summit. He sought during both gatherings to strengthen alliances with Pacific Rim nations over trade and a shared desire for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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Trump Jr. messaged with WikiLeaks during 2016 campaign

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's oldest son released a series of private Twitter exchanges between himself and WikiLeaks during and after the 2016 election, including pleas from the website to publicize its leaks.

Donald Trump Jr.'s release of the messages on Twitter came hours after The Atlantic first reported them Monday. In the exchanges — some of them around the time that the website was releasing the stolen emails from Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman — WikiLeaks praises his father's positive comments about WikiLeaks and asks Trump Jr. to release his father's tax returns to the site.

The revelations are sure to increase calls in Congress to have Trump Jr. testify publicly as part of several committee probes into Russian interference in the 2016 election. And they add a new element to the investigations that have been probing for months whether Trump's campaign colluded in any way with the Russian government.

In an intelligence assessment released last January, the NSA, CIA and FBI concluded that Russian military intelligence provided hacked information from the DNC and "senior Democratic officials" to WikiLeaks. WikiLeaks has denied that Russia was the source of emails it released, including those from Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta.

The private messages released by Trump Jr. show him responding to the WikiLeaks account three times, at one point agreeing to "ask around" about a political action committee WikiLeaks had mentioned. He also asked the site about a rumor about an upcoming leak. The messages began in September 2016 and ran through July.

Trump Jr. downplayed the exchanges as he released them.

"Here is the entire chain of messages with @wikileaks (with my whopping 3 responses) which one of the congressional committees has chosen to selectively leak," he tweeted. "How ironic!"

Trump Jr.'s lawyers had released the exchanges to three congressional committees that have been investigating Russian intervention in the 2016 election and whether there were any links to Trump's campaign.

In a statement, Trump Jr.'s lawyer said thousands of documents had been turned over to the committees.

"Putting aside the question as to why or by whom such documents, provided to Congress under promises of confidentiality, have been selectively leaked, we can say with confidence that we have no concerns about these documents and any questions raised about them have been easily answered in the appropriate forum," said Alan Futerfas.

Futerfas didn't say which forum he was referring to, but Trump Jr. was interviewed behind closed doors by Senate Judiciary Committee staff in September. A person familiar with that meeting said the private Twitter messages were discussed. The person declined to be identified because the transcript of that interview hasn't been made public.

In one message dated Oct. 3, 2016, the WikiLeaks Twitter account sent Trump Jr. an article that included critical comments Clinton had made about WikiLeaks editor Julian Assange and said "it'd be great if you guys could comment on/push this story."

Trump Jr. replied: "Already did that earlier today. It's amazing what she can get away with."

Two minutes later, Trump Jr. sent another message: "What's behind this Wednesday leak I keep reading about?"

Longtime Trump associate Roger Stone had tweeted the day before that on Wednesday, "Hillary Clinton is done," referencing WikiLeaks.

The WikiLeaks Twitter account never responded, but days later WikiLeaks started rolling out Podesta's

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stolen emails. After the emails were released, WikiLeaks sent Trump Jr. a searchable link of the emails. Trump Jr. tweeted that link two days later, on Oct. 14, 2016, The Atlantic noted.

The rest of the messages are one-sided, with WikiLeaks sending Trump Jr. messages through July 2017. They include praise for his father for mentioning them on the campaign trail, a plea to release Trump's taxes to the site and advice on Election Day that Trump should not concede if he lost. One message suggested Trump encourage Australia to appoint Assange as U.S. ambassador.

In July, the Twitter account messaged Trump Jr. to ask him to give the site emails surrounding a meeting he and other Trump associates held with Russians during the campaign. Trump Jr. then released them himself.

Vice President Mike Pence responded quickly to the revelations, issuing a statement through his press secretary that he knew nothing about the situation.

"The vice president was never aware of anyone associated with the campaign being in contact with WikiLeaks," said spokeswoman Alyssa Farah. "He first learned of this news from a published report earlier tonight."

Assange tweeted after The Atlantic report that he couldn't confirm the messages but then defended them after Trump Jr. released them.

"WikiLeaks appears to beguile some people into transparency by convincing them that it is in their interest," Assange tweeted.

Democrats swiftly reacted to the report, saying Trump Jr. should provide more information. California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, says it "demonstrates once again a willingness by the highest levels of the Trump campaign to accept foreign assistance."

Schiff also pointed to Cambridge Analytica, a data firm that worked for Trump's campaign and reached out to WikiLeaks before the election about obtaining emails related to Clinton, according to the company's CEO.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said that panel should subpoena the documents and force Trump Jr. to publicly testify.

"There seems to be no reasonable explanation for these messages," Blumenthal said.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley had said he would call Trump Jr. to publicly testify after the private interview in September. But negotiations over witnesses broke down last month amid disagreements with Democrats on the panel.

The House and Senate intelligence committees are also expecting to interview Trump Jr., but those interviews are expected to be behind closed doors.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Eric Tucker, Chad Day and Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

Sessions facing Congress amid new Russia probe details

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions returns to Capitol Hill on Tuesday amid growing evidence of contacts between Russians and associates of President Donald Trump. And he will be bracing for an onslaught of lawmakers' questions about how much he knew of that outreach during last year's White House campaign.

The appearance before the House Judiciary Committee follows a guilty plea from one Trump campaign aide who served on a foreign policy advisory council that Sessions chaired, as well as statements from another adviser who said he'd advised the then-GOP Alabama senator about an upcoming trip to Russia.

Those details complicate Sessions' effort to downplay knowledge of the campaign's foreign contacts.

Democratic lawmakers already contend the attorney general has not been forthcoming with them and have signaled that questions about the new revelations are likely to dominate what could otherwise have been a routine oversight hearing.

"These facts appear to contradict your sworn testimony on several occasions," Democrats from the

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committee said in a letter to Sessions last week.

Republicans, for their part, may press Sessions on the Justice Department's handling of an investigation into Hillary Clinton's email practices as well as an Obama-era uranium deal that has invited GOP scrutiny.

Sessions, an early Trump backer who led the foreign policy council during the campaign, has been shadowed for months by questions about his own communications with Russians and by contacts of others in the Trump orbit. That issue has been at the forefront of each of his congressional hearings even as Sessions has labored to promote the Justice Department's work and priorities, and Tuesday's appearance is unlikely to be an exception.

At his January confirmation hearing, Sessions told Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., that "I did not have communications" with the Russians during the campaign and said he was "unaware" of contacts between others in the campaign and Russia. Yet he recused himself in March from overseeing the Justice Department's investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin after acknowledging two previously undisclosed encounters with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

He struck a similar note before the Senate Judiciary Committee last month, when he denied knowledge of communications between Russians and Trump campaign officials.

"I did not and I'm not aware of anyone else that did, and I don't believe it happened," Sessions said under questioning, again from Franken.

But that narrative has been challenged by a pair of recent events, most notably a guilty plea from George Papadopoulos, who last month admitted in court to lying to the FBI about his own foreign contacts. He was part of the foreign policy council that Sessions chaired, and the two are among the men in a March 2016 photograph that Trump posted on social media. Charging documents in that case indicate that Papadopoulos told the council "that he had connections that could help arrange a meeting between then-candidate Trump" and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One of the attendees at that meeting, J.D. Gordon, recalled that Sessions quickly "shut him down and said, 'We're not going to do that.'"

Gordon has also said that Papadopoulos went around him and Sessions and that they did not know he had continued to try to arrange such a meeting.

Democratic members of the House Judiciary Committee advised Sessions in a letter last week that they intended to press him on what they said were "inconsistencies" between the attorney general's past statements and the new revelations.

"If, as recent reports suggest, you rejected Mr. Papadopoulos's suggestion that President Trump meet with Vladimir Putin at that March 31 meeting — a fact you appear to have remembered only after Mr. Papadopoulos's account was made public — it seems likely that you were 'aware' of communications between the Russian government and surrogates of the Trump campaign," the letter states.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores declined to comment Monday.

Adding to the questions for Sessions was the release by the House Intelligence Committee last week of a transcript of a private interview with Carter Page, a former foreign policy adviser to the campaign who acknowledged that he had contact with a high-level Russian official while on a trip to Russia last year.

Page told the panel he had informed some members of the Trump campaign about the trip, including Sessions. He said he mentioned in passing to Sessions that he was preparing to visit Russia and Sessions "had no reaction whatsoever."

Associated Press writers Steve Peoples and Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

Republicans continue abandoning Moore after new accusations

By ALAN FRAM and KIMBERLY CHANDLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roy Moore's support from fellow Republicans is hemorrhaging after a second woman accused the Alabaman of groping her when she was a teenager in the late 1970s, the latest setback to his effort to win an open Senate seat that suddenly seems up for grabs.

"I can tell you without hesitation this is absolutely false," Moore said Monday at an abruptly called news

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conference in Gallant, Alabama, after the latest allegations were made. "I never did what she said I did. I don't even know the woman."

The former state Supreme Court judge and outspoken Christian conservative spoke after a tearful Beverly Young Nelson, now 56, detailed new allegations to reporters in an emotional appearance in New York.

One night when she was 16, Moore offered to drive her home from her after-school job at a restaurant in Gadsden, Alabama, she said. Moore, a regular customer, instead parked behind the restaurant and locked the door to keep her inside, squeezing her neck while trying to push her head toward his crotch and trying to pull her shirt off, Nelson said.

"I thought that he was going to rape me," she said.

Moore stopped and as she left the car he warned no one would believe her because he was a county prosecutor, Nelson said. She said her neck was "black and blue and purple" the next morning.

Even before Nelson's news conference, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took a remarkably personal swipe at Moore, based on last week's Washington Post reports of other incidents involving Moore and teen-age girls decades ago.

"I believe the women," said McConnell, R-Ky., marking an intensified effort by leaders to ditch Moore before a Dec. 12 special election that has swung from an assured GOP victory to one that Democrats could conceivably swipe.

Moore fired back at McConnell on Twitter.

"The person who should step aside is @SenateMajLdr Mitch McConnell. He has failed conservatives and must be replaced. #DrainTheSwamp," Moore wrote.

He also signaled he has no intention of ending his candidacy, writing in a fundraising appeal, "I'd be honored to have you in my corner with me while I slug it out with the forces of evil trying to keep me out of Washington."

The exchange between McConnell and Moore underscored the civil war between establishment Republicans worried that candidates like Moore could cost them their Senate majority and hard-right elements who say McConnell is not conservative enough.

Moore has been backed by Steven Bannon, President Donald Trump's former chief White House adviser who is openly seeking GOP Senate challengers who will pledge to dump McConnell. A political committee linked to McConnell spent huge sums unsuccessfully trying to defeat Moore in the GOP's September primary, but Moore defeated incumbent GOP Sen. Luther Strange.

Republicans have discussed having another Republican like Strange stage a write-in candidacy, but Strange told reporters Monday "a write-in candidacy is highly unlikely."

"I made my case during the election," Strange said.

McConnell, who last week said Moore should stand down if the allegations were true, was joined by other Republicans who intensified their opposition to him.

No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn and his Texas Republican colleague, Sen. Ted Cruz, both withdrew their endorsements of Moore. Cory Gardner of Colorado, who heads the Senate GOP's campaign organization, said if Moore is elected, senators should expel him "because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements" of the Senate.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Moore "should not be a United States senator, no matter what it takes." Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who's not seeking re-election after criticizing Trump, said he'd "vote for the Democrat" if he had to choose between Moore and Democrat Doug Jones.

Last week, The Washington Post reported that in 1979 when he was 32, Moore had sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl and pursued romantic relationships with three other teenage girls around the same period. The women made their allegations on the record and the Post cited two dozen other sources.

Moore denied last week molesting the 14-year-old but didn't flatly deny he'd dated teenagers, saying in an interview with conservative talk show host Sean Hannity, "It would have been out of my customary behavior."

Nelson said that before the alleged incident that Moore signed her yearbook. A copy of her statement at the news conference included a picture of what she said was his signature and a message saying, "To

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a sweeter more beautiful girl I could not say, 'Merry Christmas.'"

The tumult comes with Republicans holding a scant 52-48 Senate majority as the GOP rushes to push a massive tax cut through Congress by Christmas. Facing near-certain unanimous opposition by Democrats, Republicans can lose just two GOP senators, and a Democratic pickup in Alabama would narrow their margin of error to one.

Yet a Moore victory would open the party to relentless Democratic attacks in next year's elections.

Jones' campaign released a statement Monday saying: "We applaud the courage of these women. Roy Moore will be held accountable by the people of Alabama for his actions."

Chandler reported from Montgomery, Alabama. Reporter Bruce Schreiner reported from Louisville, Kentucky, and Rhonda Shafner at the AP News Research Center contributed.

FDA approves first digital ingestion tracking system med

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first drug in the United States with a digital ingestion tracking system, in an unprecedented move to ensure that patients with mental illness take the medicine prescribed for them.

The drug Abilify MyCite was developed by Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. The drug Abilify was first approved by the FDA in 2002 to treat schizophrenia, and the ingestible sensor, made by Proteus Digital health, was approved for marketing in 2012. The FDA said in a statement Monday that the digitally enhanced medication "works by sending a message from the pill's sensor to a wearable patch."

"Being able to track ingestion of medications prescribed for illness may be useful for some patients," said Dr. Mitchell Mathis, director of the division of Psychiatry Products in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "The FDA supports the development and use of new technology in prescription drugs and is committed to working with companies to understand how this technology might benefit patients and prescribers."

Green-lighting the new medication, however, came with some caveats. Among them, the FDA said it was important to note that Abilify MyCite's labeling asserts "the ability of the product to improve patient compliance with their treatment regimen has not been shown."

"Abilify MyCite should not be used to track drug ingestion in 'real-time' or during an emergency," the statement said, "because detection may be delayed or may not occur."

In a portion of the statement that appeared to address privacy concerns, the FDA said the wearable patch that comes with the medication "transmits the information to a mobile application so that patients can track the ingestion of the medication on their smart phone. Patients can also permit their caregivers and physician to access the information through a web-based portal."

In a statement issued last May at the time the FDA accepted submission of product for review, Otsuka Pharmaceutical, Ltd. Of Toyko and Proteus Digital, of Redwood City, California, said that "with the patient's consent, this information could be shared with their healthcare professional team and selected family and friends, with the goal of allowing physicians to be more informed in making treatment decisions that are specific to the patient's needs."

The companies said the Proteus Ingestible sensor "activates when it reaches stomach fluids and communicates with the patch."

The FDA said the product is designed for the treatment of schizophrenia, acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with a bipolar disorder and for use as an add-on treatment for depression in adults."

Arrivederci Italy: Azzurri lose World Cup playoff to Sweden

By DANIELLA MATAR, Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Players from both teams slumped to the ground, the Swedes in exhausted ecstasy, the Italians in losers' agony.

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On a starry night in Milan, four-time champion Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades. Sweden advanced for the first time since 2006.

Despite three quarters of possession, Italy was stymied by a goalless draw in the second leg of their playoff on Monday and Sweden prevailed 1-0 on aggregate.

"It's a black moment for our game," Italy midfielder Daniele De Rossi said. "Unfortunately there will be a lot of time to analyze it. The only thing I can say is that we showed few ideas and not much in the way of tactics."

The Sweden players ran over to celebrate with the traveling fans, a sea of joyful yellow at San Siro. The Italians looked on in shock and disbelief or put their head in their hands as though it were too painful to watch.

Many of them were in tears, especially captain and goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, who played what he said was his last international after 20 years between the posts for the Azzurri.

"We all need to look within and find a way to bounce back," defender Giorgio Chiellini said. "We need to get back to the level we deserve to be at."

Italy had failed to qualify for the World Cup just once before, reaching 14 straight since falling short in 1958. The Azzurri did not enter the first World Cup in 1930.

The last major competitions Italy failed to qualify for were the 1984 and 1992 European Championships.

It could have been worse for Italy, as Sweden was denied what looked like two clear-cut penalties for handballs, first by Matteo Darmian and then Andrea Barzagli.

Italy had a penalty appeal of its own waved off by Spanish referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz when Marco Parolo was tripped from behind by Ludwig Augsustinsson.

But the Azzurri struggled to carve out clear chances, and only one of their six shots on target really tested goalkeeper Robin Olsen.

It would be easy to lay the blame squarely on Gian Piero Ventura. The Italy coach will naturally take the lion's share, but the Azzurri's problems run much deeper.

"I want to apologize to the Italian people for the result," Ventura said. "Not for the commitment, and the desire and everything else but for the result."

The rot started long before Ventura took charge.

After winning the World Cup in 2006 for a fourth time, Italy went out at the group stage of the next two editions. It fared somewhat better at the European Championship, reaching the final in 2012 and quarterfinal elimination in 2008 and 2016.

However, Antonio Conte's Italy side overachieved in France last year, when it surprisingly beat Spain in the round of 16 before losing on penalties to world champion Germany.

For a long time, Italy has lacked a creative force, successors to Andrea Pirlo and Francesco Totti of the 2006 side who could change a match with one moment of magic.

Mario Balotelli was the star of Euro 2012 but fell out of favor after Italy's woeful showing at the last World Cup.

The lack of stars in the Italy team is reflected in the Italian league.

Juventus has been a force to be reckoned with in recent years in Europe, where it has reached two out of the past three Champions League finals. But while its defense forms the backbone of the Italy team, its midfield and attack are made up mainly of foreign players.

The Brazilian-born Jorginho was finally handed his competitive debut by Ventura, and the midfielder impressed with some deft passing. Jorginho created Italy's best opportunities with two through balls for Ciro Immobile, who hit the netting from a tight angle from one. Immobile beat Olsen with another but Andreas Granqvist got back for a decisive goal-line clearance.

Alessandro Florenzi was also back following a year out after twice tearing a knee ligament, and the midfielder forced Olsen into his only real save, while a cross of his was also deflected onto the crossbar in the second half.

Meanwhile, the highly rated Lorenzo Insigne surprisingly played only 15 minutes of the playoff, and out

of position.

Those three players are 26 or under and, along with forwards Immobile and Andrea Belotti, could form the spine of a rejuvenated Italy side for several years to come.

Italy will have to go forward without several of its most experienced players. De Rossi also announced he was retiring after the playoff, as did defender Andrea Barzagli.

Remarkably, the 0-0 result was the sixth straight in the playoffs, since Sweden's ultimately decisive goal at home against Italy on Friday.

Find more World Cup coverage at <https://apnews.com/tag/WorldCup>

Sessions open to idea of Clinton Foundation special counsel

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is leaving open the possibility that a special counsel could be appointed to look into Clinton Foundation dealings and an Obama-era uranium deal, the Justice Department said Monday in responding to concerns from Republican lawmakers.

In a letter to the House Judiciary Committee, which is holding an oversight hearing Tuesday, the Justice Department said Sessions had directed senior federal prosecutors to "evaluate certain issues" raised by Republican lawmakers. President Donald Trump has also repeatedly called for investigations of Democrats.

The prosecutors will report to Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and recommend whether any new investigations should be opened, whether any matters currently under investigation require additional resources and whether it might be necessary to appoint a special counsel to oversee a probe, according to a letter sent to Rep. Robert Goodlatte of Virginia, the Judiciary Committee's Republican chairman.

The letter from Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd did not say what specific steps might be taken by the Justice Department to address the lawmakers' concerns, or whether any of the matters Republicans have seized on might already be under investigation by federal authorities.

Any appointment of a new special counsel, particularly in response to calls from members of Congress or from Trump himself, is likely to lead to Democratic complaints about an undue political influence on a department that is supposed to function outside of any partisan sway or demand.

Trump in recent weeks has repeatedly weighed in on department affairs, publicly lamenting that he does not have more direct involvement in its operations and calling on law enforcement scrutiny of Democrat Hillary Clinton, his opponent in the 2016 presidential race, and other Democrats.

He has expressed particular support for investigating the Clinton Foundation and at times has berated his attorney general and suggested his job could be in jeopardy.

"Everybody is asking why the Justice Department (and FBI) isn't looking into all of the dishonesty going on with Crooked Hillary & the Dems..." Trump tweeted earlier this month.

In apparent anticipation of those concerns, Boyd said in the letter that Justice Department "will never evaluate any matter except on the facts and the law."

"Professionalism, integrity and public confidence in the Department's work is critical for us, and no priority is higher," he added.

Sessions said at his January confirmation hearing that he would recuse himself from any investigations involving Clinton given his role as a vocal campaign surrogate to President Donald Trump.

He similarly recused himself from a separate investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia, and in May, the Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel to lead that probe.

House Republicans in recent weeks have launched their own probes into the Obama administration and Clinton's emails.

Some lawmakers have specifically said they want to know more about whether President Barack Obama's Justice Department had been investigating the purchase of American uranium mines by a Russian-backed

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company in 2010.

The agreement was reached while Clinton led the State Department and some investors in the company had relationships with former President Bill Clinton and donated large sums to the Clinton Foundation.

The letter comes one day before Sessions is to appear before the Judiciary panel for a Justice Department oversight hearing. Democrats on the committee have already signaled that they intend to press Sessions on his knowledge of contacts between Russians and aides to the Trump campaign.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

New sex assault allegation hits Moore; he calls it false

By ALAN FRAM and BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second woman emerged Monday to accuse Roy Moore of sexually assaulting her as a teenager in the late 1970s, this time in a locked car, further roiling the Alabama Republican's candidacy for an open Senate seat. Moore strongly denied it, even as his own party's leaders intensified their efforts to push him out of the race.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took a remarkably personal swipe at his party's candidate for a Senate seat the GOP cannot afford to lose. "I believe the women," he said, marking an intensified effort by leaders to ditch Moore before a Dec. 12 special election that has swung from an assured GOP victory to one that Democrats could conceivably swipe.

Moore abruptly called a news conference in Gallant, Alabama, after a tearful Beverly Young Nelson's detailed the new allegations to reporters in New York.

"I can tell you without hesitation this is absolutely false. I never did what she said I did. I don't even know the woman," Moore said.

He signaled he has no intention of ending his candidacy, calling the latest charges a "political maneuver" and launching a fundraising appeal to "God-fearing conservatives" to counter his abandonment by Washington Republicans.

In the latest day of jarring events, McConnell, R-Ky., and Moore essentially declared open war on each other. McConnell said the former judge should quit the race over a series of recent allegations of past improper relationships with teenage girls. No, said Moore, the Kentucky senator is the one who should get out.

Cory Gardner of Colorado, who heads the Senate GOP's campaign organization, said not only should Moore step aside but if he should win "the Senate should vote to expel him because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements of the United States Senate."

Moore, an outspoken Christian conservative and former state Supreme Court judge, fired back at McConnell on Twitter.

"The person who should step aside is @SenateMajLdr Mitch McConnell. He has failed conservatives and must be replaced. #DrainTheSwamp," Moore wrote.

Nelson's news conference came after that exchange and injected a new, sensational accusation in the story.

She said Moore was a regular customer at the restaurant where she worked after school in Gadsden, Alabama.

One night when she was 16, Moore offered to drive her home, she said, but instead parked behind the restaurant and touched her breasts and locked the door to keep her inside. She said he squeezed her neck while trying to push her head toward his crotch and tried to pull her shirt off.

"I thought that he was going to rape me," she said.

Moore finally stopped and as she got out of the car, he warned that no one would believe her because he was a county prosecutor, Nelson said. She said her neck was "black and blue and purple" the next morning and she immediately quit her job.

Nelson said that shortly before that, days before Christmas, she'd brought her high school yearbook to

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the restaurant and Moore signed it. A copy of her statement distributed at the news conference included a picture of what she said was his signature and a message saying, "To a sweeter more beautiful girl I could not say, 'Merry Christmas.'"

Nelson said she told her younger sister about the incident two years later, told her mother four years ago and told her husband before they married. She said she and her husband supported Donald Trump for president.

Last Thursday, The Washington Post reported that in 1979 when he was 32, Moore had sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl and pursued romantic relationships with three other teenage girls around the same period. The women made their allegations on the record and the Post cited two dozen other sources.

Moore has called the allegations "completely false and misleading," but in an interview last week he did not unequivocally rule out dating teenage girls when he was in his early 30s. Asked by conservative radio host Sean Hannity if that would have been usual for him, Moore said, "It would have been out of my customary behavior."

McConnell, speaking Monday at an event in Louisville, Kentucky, said Moore "should step aside" and acknowledged that a write-in effort by another candidate was possible. He said, "We'll see," when asked if the Republican alternative could be Sen. Luther Strange, whom Moore ousted in a September party primary.

But Strange told reporters late Monday "a write-in candidacy is highly unlikely."

"I made my case during the election," Strange said. "So now, it's really going to be up to the people of our state to sort this out."

McConnell's comment pushed him further than he'd gone last Thursday, when he said Moore should exit the race if the allegations were true.

McConnell and Moore have had an openly antagonistic history. Moore was backed during his primary campaign by Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump's former chief White House adviser who is openly seeking GOP Senate challengers who will pledge to dump McConnell. A political action committee linked to McConnell spent heavily but unsuccessfully on Strange's behalf.

Trump, who is traveling in Asia, has told people he wanted to wait to get back to Washington until he weighed in, according to a White House official who would not be named discussing private conversations. Trump is slated to return late Tuesday.

Bannon did not respond to a question Monday night about whether he still supported Moore.

The tumult comes with Republicans holding a scant 52-48 Senate majority as the GOP rushes to push a massive tax cut through Congress by Christmas. Facing near-certain unanimous opposition by Democrats, Republicans can lose just two GOP senators, and a Democratic pickup in Alabama would narrow their margin of error to just one.

On the other hand, a Moore victory would open the party to relentless Democratic attacks in next year's midterm elections, when Republicans will be defending their House and Senate majorities.

No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn and his Texas Republican colleague, Sen. Ted Cruz, both withdrew their endorsements of Moore. Numerous others said he should exit the race.

"He should not be a United States senator, no matter what it takes," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. And Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who's not seeking re-election after criticizing Trump, said he'd "vote for the Democrat" if he were an Alabaman and had to choose between Moore and Democrat Doug Jones.

By Monday afternoon, Moore was showing no signs of folding.

He assured supporters Sunday night at a Huntsville, Alabama, gym that the Post article was "fake news" and "a desperate attempt to stop my political campaign."

He said allegations that he was involved with a minor are "untrue" and the newspaper "will be sued." The former judge also questioned why such allegations would be leveled for the first time so close to the special election in spite of his decades in public life.

Democrats in Washington seemed content to keep their distance from their Jones.

"If they ask us for things, we're going to try to help them, but it's an Alabama race, and the Jones campaign is running it on its own," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

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The Jones campaign released a statement Monday saying: "We applaud the courage of these women. Roy Moore will be held accountable by the people of Alabama for his actions."

Schreiner reported from Louisville, Kentucky. Associated Press writers Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, Steve Peoples in New York and Rhonda Shafner at the AP News Research Center contributed.

Analysis says Senate bill would hike taxes for 13.8 million

By MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Promoted as needed relief for the middle class, the Senate Republican tax overhaul actually would increase taxes for some 13.8 million moderate-income American households, a nonpartisan analysis showed Monday.

The assessment by Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation emerged as the Senate's tax-writing committee began wading through the measure, working toward the first major revamp of the tax system in some 30 years.

Barging into the carefully calibrated work that House and Senate Republicans have done, President Donald Trump called for a steeper tax cut for wealthy Americans and pressed GOP leaders to add a contentious health care change to the already complex mix.

Trump's latest tweet injected a dose of uncertainty into the process as the Republicans try to deliver on his top legislative priority. He commended GOP leaders for getting the tax legislation closer to passage in recent weeks and then said, "Cut top rate to 35% w/all of the rest going to middle income cuts?"

That puts him at odds with the House legislation that leaves the top rate at 39.6 percent and the Senate bill as written, with the top rate at 38.5 percent.

Trump also said, "Now how about ending the unfair & highly unpopular individual mandate in (Obama) care and reducing taxes even further?"

Overall, the legislation would deeply cut corporate taxes, double the standard deduction used by most Americans, and limit or repeal completely the federal deduction for state and local property, income and sales taxes. It carries high political stakes for Trump and Republican leaders in Congress, who view passage of tax cuts as critical to the GOP preserving its majorities at the polls next year.

With few votes to spare, Republican leaders hope to finalize a tax overhaul by Christmas and send the legislation to Trump for his signature.

The key House leader on the effort, Rep. Kevin Brady, said he's "very confident" that Republicans "do and will have the votes to pass" the measure this week.

Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he doesn't expect major changes to the bill as it moves to a final vote in the House. Still, he said Trump's call for removing the requirement to have health insurance as part of the tax agreement "remains under consideration."

Trump and the Republicans have promoted the legislation as a boon to the middle class, bringing tax relief to people with moderate incomes and boosting the economy to create new jobs.

"This bill is not a massive tax cut for the wealthy. ... This is not a big giveaway to corporations," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, insisted as the panel had its first day of debate on the Senate measure.

Hatch also downplayed the analysis by congressional tax experts showing a tax increase for several million U.S. households under the Senate proposal. Hatch said "a relatively small minority of taxpayers could see a slight increase in their taxes."

The committee's senior Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, said the legislation has become "a massive handout to multinational corporations and a bonanza for tax cheats and powerful political donors."

The analysis found that the Senate measure would actually increase taxes in 2019 for 13.8 million households earning less than \$200,000 a year. That group, about 10 percent of all U.S. taxpayers, would face tax increases of \$100 to \$500 in 2019. There also would be increases greater than \$500 for a number of taxpayers, especially those with incomes between \$75,000 and \$200,000. By 2025, 21.4 million households

would have steeper tax bills.

The analysts previously found a similar magnitude of tax increases under the House bill.

Neither bill includes a repeal of the so-called individual mandate of Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, the requirement that Americans get health insurance or face a penalty. Several top Republicans have warned that including the provision, as Trump wants, would draw opposition and make passage tougher.

A key moderate Republican in the Senate said it's too early to say whether including repeal of the insurance mandate would cost her vote on the tax bill. "I'm going to see what the Finance Committee winds up with and what we do on the (Senate) floor," said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

Collins did say she opposed Trump's idea of reducing the top tax rate for the wealthiest earners.

Among the biggest differences in the two bills that have emerged: the House bill allows homeowners to deduct up to \$10,000 in property taxes while the Senate proposal unveiled by GOP leaders last week eliminates the entire deduction. Both versions would eliminate deductions for state and local income taxes and sales taxes.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., asked whether the Senate's proposed repeal of the property tax deduction could bring higher taxes for some middle-class Americans, acknowledged there would be some taxpayers who end up with higher tax bills.

"Any way you cut it, there is a possibility that some taxpayers would get a higher rate," McConnell told reporters after a forum in Louisville, Kentucky, with local business owners and employees. "You can't craft any tax bill that guarantees that every single taxpayer in America gets a tax break. What I'm telling you is the overall majority of taxpayers in every bracket would get relief."

Associated Press writer Bruce Schreiner in Louisville and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report

This story has been corrected to show that the Joint Committee on Taxation is nonpartisan not bipartisan

Quake kills 430 in Iranian border region rebuilt after war

By NASSER KARIMI and AMIR VAHDAT, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Rescuers dug with their bare hands Monday through the debris of buildings felled by an earthquake that killed more than 430 people in the border region of Iran and Iraq, with nearly all the casualties occurring in an area rebuilt after their ruinous 1980s war.

The magnitude-7.3 earthquake struck Sunday at 9:48 p.m. Iran time, just as people were going to bed. The worst damage appeared to be in the Kurdish town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide the two countries.

Residents fled without time to grab their possessions as apartment complexes collapsed into rubble. Outside walls of some buildings were sheared off, power and water lines were severed, and telephone service was disrupted. Residents dug frantically through wrecked buildings for survivors as they wailed. Firefighters from Tehran joined other rescuers in the desperate search, using dogs to inspect the rubble.

The hospital in Sarpol-e-Zahab was heavily damaged, and the army set up field hospitals, although many of the injured were moved to other cities, including Tehran.

The quake also damaged an army garrison and buildings in the border city and killed an unspecified number of soldiers, according to reports.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei immediately dispatched all government and military forces to aid those affected.

Many of the heavily damaged complexes in Sarpol-e-Zahab were part of construction projects under former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The newly homeless slept outside in cold, huddled around makeshift fires for warmth, wrapped in blankets — as were the dead.

The quake killed 430 people in Iran and injured 7,156, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Tuesday. Most of the injuries were minor with fewer than 1,000 still hospitalized, Iran's crisis management

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headquarters spokesman Behnam Saeedi told state TV.

The official death toll came from provincial forensic authorities based on death certificates issued. Some reports said unauthorized burials without certification could mean the death toll was actually higher.

The quake was centered about 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and struck 14.4 miles (23.2 kilometers) below the surface, a somewhat shallow depth that can cause broader damage. The quake caused Dubai's skyscrapers to sway and could be felt 1,060 kilometers (660 miles) away on the Mediterranean coast.

Seven deaths occurred in Iraq and 535 people were injured, all in the country's northern, semiautonomous Kurdish region, according to its Interior Ministry.

The disparity in casualty tolls immediately drew questions from Iranians, especially because so much of the town was new.

Kokab Fard, a 49-year-old housewife in Sarpol-e-Zahab, said she could only flee empty-handed when her apartment complex collapsed.

"Immediately after I managed to get out, the building collapsed," Fard said. "I have no access to my belongings."

Reza Mohammadi, 51, said he and his family ran into the alley following the first shock.

"I tried to get back to pick some stuff, but it totally collapsed in the second wave," Mohammadi said.

Khamenei offered his condolences as President Hassan Rouhani's office said Iran's elected leader would tour the damaged areas Tuesday, which was declared a national day of mourning. Authorities also set up relief camps and hundreds lined up to donate blood in Tehran, though some on state TV complained about the slowness of aid coming.

Sarpol-e-Zahab fell to the troops of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his 1980 invasion of Iran, which sparked the eight-year war between the two countries that killed 1 million people. Though clawed back by Iran seven months later, the area remained a war zone that suffered through Saddam's missile attacks and chemical weapons.

After the war, Iran began rebuilding the town. It also was part of Ahmadinejad's low-income housing project, which aided the Holocaust-questioning hard-liner's populist credentials but also saw cheap construction.

Under the plan dubbed as Mehr or "kindness" in Farsi, some 2 million units were built in Iran, including hundreds in Sarpol-e Zahab. Many criticized the plan, warning that the low-quality construction could lead to a disaster.

"Before its 10-year anniversary, Mehr buildings have turned into coffins for its inhabitants," the reformist Fararu news website wrote Monday.

Seismologist Abdul-Karim Abdullah Taqi, who runs the earthquake monitoring group at Iraq's Meteorological Department, said the main reason for the lower casualty figure in Iraq was the angle and direction of the fault line in this particular quake, as well as the nature of the Iraqi geological formations that could better absorb the shocks.

University of Colorado geological scientist Roger Bilham said earthquakes in the Zagros range, where there are more than 20 different faults, have killed more than 100,000 people in the last 1,000 years.

Because there are so many earthquakes in the region, proper construction is critical, but it "doesn't trickle down to the villages," Bilham said.

In Darbandikhan, Iraq, Amina Mohammed said she and her sons escaped their home as it collapsed around them.

"I think it was only God that saved us," she said. "I screamed to God and it must have been him to stop the stairs from entirely collapsing on us."

Residents were clearing the rubble from the streets of Darbandikhan, about 10 kilometers from the Iranian border.

The quake caused visible damage to a dam at Darbandikhan that holds back the Diyala River.

"There are horizontal and vertical cracks on the road and in the body of the dam and parts of the dam

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sank lower," said Rahman Hani, the director of the dam.

No dams were damaged in Iran, the government in Tehran said.

Halabja, closest to the epicenter, is notorious for the 1988 chemical attack in which Saddam killed some 5,000 people with mustard gas — the deadliest chemical weapons attack ever against civilians.

Turkey dispatched emergency aid to northern Iraq as officials expressed "deep sadness" at the disaster. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said his country acted immediately to provide medical and food aid to northern Iraq.

Kerem Kinik, the Turkish Red Crescent's vice president, told The Associated Press from the Habur border crossing that 33 aid trucks were en route to Sulaimaniyah, Iraq, carrying 3,000 tents and heaters, 10,000 beds and blankets, as well as food.

Relations between Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region and Turkey were strained following the Iraqi Kurds' September independence referendum.

Pakistan also extended condolences for the loss of life and injuries suffered by "our Iranian and Iraqi brethren."

Pope Francis offered prayers for the dead and urged rescue crews to stay strong.

Iran sits on many major fault lines and is prone to near-daily quakes. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people. The last major casualty earthquake in Iran struck in East Azerbaijan province in August 2012, killing over 300.

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Susannah George in Irbil, Iraq; Balint Szlanko and Salar Salim in Darbandikhan, Iraq; Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul; Zazar Khan in Islamabad; Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad; and Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed.

Protesters disrupt US fossil-nuclear event at climate talks

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

BONN, Germany (AP) — Protesters drowned out speeches by White House advisers and business representatives Monday at an event the U.S. government sponsored at the U.N. climate talks in Germany promoting the use of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

About 200 protesters stood up 10 minutes into the event and began singing an anti-coal song to the tune of "God Bless the U.S.A." They were ushered out of the room without further incident.

The event late Monday was the only one the U.S. delegation organized at the ongoing climate talks in Bonn. The American delegates are being closely watched by diplomats from the other 194 nations at the conference because of President Donald Trump's announcement that he wants to quit the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Before the panel event, the governors of Oregon and Washington — Kate Brown and Jay Inslee — said Trump's rejection of climate change was "a dead end."

"What you're going to hear today is essentially Donald Trump trying to sell 8-track tapes in a Spotify streaming world," Inslee told reporters. "That is not going to cut it." Both Oregon and Washington are part of a coalition backing the Paris accord.

George David Banks, a White House adviser who was part of the U.S. panel, said ruling out the use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable sources of energy was only controversial "if we choose to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the reality of the global energy system."

After the singing protesters left, the panel faced largely hostile questions from the audience about the facts and figures presented to support the continued use of fossil fuels.

The event took place as a new report released Monday showed global carbon emissions will reach a record high in 2017, dashing hopes that levels of the heat-trapping gas might have plateaued following three consecutive years when they didn't go up at all.

The talks in Bonn, now in their second week, are intended to hammer out some of the nitty-gritty details for implementing the Paris accord. Participating countries agreed to keep global warming significantly

below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit)

Key topics include how to measure individual countries' efforts, taking stock of what's been achieved so far and setting the new emissions reduction targets needed to reach the Paris goal.

Developing countries also are pushing for rich nations to pay for some of the devastating impacts climate change inevitably is going to have, particularly on poor communities around the world.

Poor nations see the issue of financial compensation, known in U.N. parlance as "loss and damage," as a matter of fairness. They argue that rising sea levels and more extreme weather will hit them disproportionately hard even though they have contributed only a fraction of the carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

Rich countries counter that they are already paying billions of dollars to help developing nations reduce emissions — such as by switching to renewable energy — and to adapt to climate change.

"Without that support forthcoming from the developed countries, there's going to be some real fireworks at the end of this week," said Alden Meyer, strategy and policy director for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an advocacy group in Washington.

Formal decisions on most issues won't be taken until next year's meeting in Poland, but few want to leave progress until the last minute. Green groups said it might fall to leaders to break a deadlock over issues such as compensation for countries hardest-hit by global warming. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron will take part in a high-level event Wednesday.

While other developed countries reject the Trump administration's stance on the Paris agreement, their views on loss and damage are largely in step with Washington's.

"It's fair to say that other developed countries are hiding behind the U.S. on the loss and damage," Meyer said. "They need to be called out on this."

The other issue that's being hotly debated in Bonn is what emissions-cutting measures are necessary before 2020. While some countries already have taken reduction steps, activists say they fall far short of what's needed to ensure emissions peak in three years' time — after which it would become much harder to achieve the most ambitious goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F.)

Follow Frank Jordans on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/wirereporter>

Fatigue, poor regulation led to deadly California bus crash

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A severely sleep-deprived driver and a bus company with a poor safety record were causes of an August 2016 crash in California's Central Valley that killed four passengers and injured 20 others, including the driver, federal safety investigators said Monday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the driver had only slept about five hours over the 40 hours preceding the Aug. 2, 2016 crash. The bus traveling from Los Angeles to Modesto drifted off the right side of Route 99 and struck a highway signpost that nearly sliced the bus from nose to tail. There were no signs the driver tried to stop or steer back on the highway.

The NTSB said a contributing cause was inadequate oversight by the federal agency regulating bus safety that allowed Fresno-based Autobuses Coordinados USA Inc. to continue operating despite a poor safety record. It called on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to change its rating system to make sure companies either fix serious safety issues or be taken off the road.

"Here's yet another fatal crash involving both a motor coach carrier with a starkly evident history of safety problems and a severely fatigued driver," said NTSB Chairman Robert L. Sumwalt. "It's time that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration move more aggressively to keep these unsafe carriers off American roadways."

The company had failed eight of 29 federal inspections in less than two years and its out-of-service rate was nearly five times greater than the national average, yet it received a satisfactory rating from the

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FMCSA, the NTSB said.

Less than three months after the crash, the administration shut down the carrier after giving it an unsatisfactory safety rating, FMCSA spokesman Duane DeBruyne said Monday.

The incident was one of several fatal bus crashes in early morning hours involving fatigued drivers, including 2011 crashes that killed 15 in New York City and one that killed four in Doswell, Virginia, the NTSB said.

Fatigue was blamed in a crash that killed 13 people on Interstate 10 near Palm Springs on Oct. 23, 2016 when a charter bus traveling from a casino plowed into the rear of a big-rig whose driver had fallen asleep during a freeway closure. The truck driver was recently charged with 13 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence.

The NTSB said the August 2016 crash outside of Livingston would not have been as bad if a stronger guardrail prevented the bus from striking the signpost.

The board recommended guidelines to determine where stronger barriers should be installed to protect heavy vehicles, such as buses, from obstacles and hazards.

Saudi walks back escalation as dramatic moves backfire

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Saudi Arabia's dramatic moves to counter Iran in the region appear to have backfired, significantly ratcheting up regional tensions and setting off a spiral of reactions and anger that seem to have caught the kingdom off guard.

Now it's trying to walk back its escalations in Lebanon and Yemen.

On Monday, the kingdom announced that the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen would begin reopening airports and seaports in the Arab world's poorest country, days after closing them over a rebel ballistic missile attack on Riyadh.

The move came just hours after Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who shocked the nation by announcing his resignation from the Saudi capital on Nov. 4, gave an interview in which he backed off his strident condemnation of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah, saying he would return to the country within days to seek a settlement with the Shiite militants, his rivals in his coalition government.

The two developments suggest that Saudi Arabia's bullish young crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, may be trying to pedal back from the abyss of a severe regional escalation.

"This represents de-escalation by the Saudis," said Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. "The general trend is that the Saudis are going to back off and this is largely because of the unexpected extent of international pressure, and not least of all U.S. pressure."

Mohammed bin Salman, widely known by his initials, MBS, has garnered a reputation for being decisive, as well as impulsive.

At just 32 years old and with little experience in government, he has risen to power in just three years to oversee all major aspects of politics, security and the economy in Saudi Arabia. As defense minister, he is in charge of the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

He also appears to have the support of President Donald Trump and his son-in-law, senior adviser Jared Kushner, who visited the Saudi capital earlier this month.

Saudi partners in the Gulf and the Trump administration rushed to defend the kingdom publicly after a rebel Houthi missile was fired at the Saudi capital, Riyadh, from Yemen last week. A top U.S. military official also backed Saudi claims that the missile was manufactured by Iran.

However, Saudi Arabia's move to tighten an already devastating blockade on Yemen in response to the missile was roundly criticized by aid groups, humanitarian workers and the United Nations, which warned that the blockade could bring millions of people closer to "starvation and death."

Saudi Arabia's decision to ease the blockade after just a week suggests it bowed to the international criticism, and did not want the bad publicity of even more images of emaciated Yemeni children and elderly people circulating online and in the media.

Public pressure, however, has not always worked to bring about a change in Saudi policy. The kingdom's

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abrupt decision, in coordination with the United Arab Emirates, to cut ties with Qatar five months ago was widely criticized as an overreach. Still, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have not backed down from their list of demands, and if anything, appear to have dug in their heels further. The kingdom accuses Qatar of backing extremists in large part due to its ties with Iran and its support of Islamist groups, an allegation that Qatar strongly denies.

While Saudi Arabia appears to have the full backing of Trump, the recent purge of top princes, officials, businessmen and military officers has raised concerns the crown prince has overextended himself. The kingdom says it has detained 201 people in the sweeping anti-corruption probe, which MBS is overseeing. The arrests raise the potential for internal strife and discord within the royal family, whose unity has been the bedrock of the kingdom for decades.

The crown prince shows no sign of backing down from the purge either. The government has promised to expand its probe, and has reportedly frozen some 1,200 bank accounts.

It is too early to say how Saudi Arabia will handle the crisis in Lebanon triggered by Hariri's resignation, and whether he will indeed try to reach a new settlement with Hezbollah as he announced in the interview Sunday night.

But his abrupt resignation, clearly engineered by the kingdom, may have been an uncalculated step too far.

The 47-year-old Saudi-aligned Hariri was summoned from Beirut to Riyadh on Nov. 3 and resigned the next day in a televised speech in which he unexpectedly tore into Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah, announcing in uncharacteristically strong language that Iran's arms in the region would be "cut off." The resignation shattered a year-old coalition government that included Hezbollah members that had kept the calm and was just starting to make strides toward injecting some cash and confidence in the country's economy.

A political crisis has gripped Lebanon since, but instead of splitting the Lebanese, the manner of Hariri's resignation has provoked outrage among most. Convinced that he was forced to quit and was being held against his will, the Lebanese found rare unity around their demand that Hariri be allowed to return home.

The shock resignation, seen as a rash Saudi decision to drag Lebanon back to the forefront of the Saudi-Iranian battle for regional supremacy, jolted the Middle East and also took world capitals by surprise.

Already facing widespread international criticism over its crippling blockade of Yemen and skepticism over the unprecedented wave of arrests inside Saudi Arabia, the kingdom suddenly seemed like a rogue nation acting on impulse and taking the region to the brink of explosion.

If he was emboldened by the support from Trump and Kushner, the crown prince appears to have overreached.

While it took a few days, the U.S. response has been embarrassing for the kingdom.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the U.S. opposes action that would threaten the stability of Lebanon and warned other countries against using Lebanon "as a venue for proxy conflicts" — a statement that seemed to be directed equally at Saudi Arabia and Iran.

More surprisingly, the White House issued a strongly worded statement calling on all states and parties to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and constitutional processes, describing Hariri as a "trusted partner of the United States in strengthening Lebanese institutions, fighting terrorism and protecting refugees."

"I think the Saudis fundamentally misjudged this... and should have known better," said Sayigh, the Carnegie analyst.

"They've been relying too heavily ... on Trump's people and misjudged that the U.S. administration is not just Trump," he said.

Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, and Maggie Michael in Cairo contributed to this report.

Trump turns to drug industry for his new health secretary

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

WASHINGTON (AP) — Turning to an industry he's rebuked, President Donald Trump on Monday picked a former top pharmaceutical and government executive to be his health secretary.

If confirmed, Alex Azar would oversee a \$1 trillion department responsible for major health insurance programs, including "Obamacare," as well as medical research, food and drug safety, and public health.

The nomination of Azar is unusual because Health and Human Services secretaries have come from the ranks of elected officials such as governors, leaders in academia and medicine, or top executive branch managers — not industries regulated by the department.

"He will be a star for better healthcare and lower drug prices!" Trump tweeted in a morning announcement. Trump has a track record of making industry-friendly nominations, such as former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as secretary of state and wealthy investor Wilbur Ross as secretary of commerce.

But Trump also has been a scathing critic of the drug companies, both as a candidate and as president.

Azar, 50, a lawyer by training, has spent most of the last 10 years with pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, rising to president of its key U.S. affiliate before leaving in January to start his own consulting firm. He's also seen as an expert on government health care regulation.

As secretary, Azar would be returning to HHS after serving in senior posts in the George W. Bush administration. He would have to scrupulously avoid conflicts with Lilly's far-reaching interests, from drug approval to Medicare reimbursement. The drugmaker has drawn criticism from patient advocacy groups for price increases to one of its biggest products: insulin, used to treat high blood sugar for nearly 100 years.

Azar's earlier HHS nominations in the Bush era sailed through the Senate. This time, he'll face Democrats wary of the administration's unyielding quest to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Top Democrats in Congress were skeptical, but also said they hoped Azar would bring a shift from an ideological hard line on "Obamacare."

"It's time to turn over a new leaf at HHS," said Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., flagged a potential conflict of interest, questioning how Azar "can fairly execute any significant effort to lower drug prices for patients." Murray is the senior Democrat on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

But committee chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., cast Azar as a problem solver, saying "he has the qualifications and experience to get results."

Insurers and for-profit hospitals also reacted positively, while the Public Citizen advocacy group likened Azar's nomination to a "coup d'état" by drug companies.

Americans consistently rank the high cost of prescription drugs among their top health care priorities, ahead of divisive issues like repealing former President Barack Obama's health care law.

Trump has been a sharp critic of the industry. "The drug companies, frankly, are getting away with murder," he said at a Cabinet meeting this fall. Prices are "out of control."

In the spring, a Trump tweet sent drug stocks tumbling after the president said he was working on a new system that would foster competition and lead to much lower prices. In meetings with industry executives, however, Trump has focused on speeding up drug approvals, a cost-reducing tactic they would back.

Professionally, Azar has another set of skills that may be valuable to the president. In his previous service at HHS, the Yale law graduate developed an insider's familiarity with the complex world of federal health care regulation, serving first as the department's chief lawyer and later as deputy secretary.

Frustrated by fruitless efforts to overturn the Obama-era health law in Congress, Trump might see the regulatory route as his best chance to make a mark on health care.

If confirmed, Azar would join the club of Trump administration officials from big business. Ross was chairman of a private equity firm he founded and later sold. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was a former Goldman Sachs executive and hedge fund manager. Tillerson was CEO of ExxonMobil.

Admirers say Azar's drug industry experience should be considered an asset, not a liability.

"To the extent that the Trump administration has talked about lowering drug prices, here's a guy who

understands how it works," said Tevi Troy, who served with Azar in the Bush administration and now leads the American Health Policy Institute, a think tank focused on employer health insurance.

"Would (Azar) have been better off if he had been meditating in an ashram after serving as deputy secretary?" asked Troy.

Trump's pick to lead the Food and Drug Administration, Scott Gottlieb, also faced scrutiny for receiving consulting payments from drugmakers and medical device companies while in the private sector. Once in office, Gottlieb pushed efforts to lower drug prices by reworking FDA drug reviews to increase competition.

Azar would be Trump's second HHS secretary, replacing former Georgia congressman Tom Price, ousted after his use of private charter planes for government travel displeased the president.

Associated Press health writers Matthew Perrone and Tom Murphy contributed to this report.

Trump choosing white men as judges, highest rate in decades

BY CATHERINE LUCEY and MEGHAN HOYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is nominating white men to America's federal courts at a rate not seen in nearly 30 years, threatening to reverse a slow transformation toward a judiciary that reflects the nation's diversity.

So far, 91 percent of Trump's nominees are white, and 81 percent are male, an Associated Press analysis has found. Three of every four are white men, with few African-Americans and Hispanics in the mix. The last president to nominate a similarly homogenous group was George H.W. Bush.

The shift could prove to be one of Trump's most enduring legacies. These are lifetime appointments, and Trump has inherited both an unusually high number of vacancies and an aging population of judges. That puts him in position to significantly reshape the courts that decide thousands of civil rights, environmental, criminal justice and other disputes across the country. The White House has been upfront about its plans to quickly fill the seats with conservatives, and has made clear that judicial philosophy tops any concerns about shrinking racial or gender diversity.

Trump is anything but shy about his plans, calling his imprint on the courts an "untold story" of his presidency.

"Nobody wants to talk about it," he says. "But when you think of it ... that has consequences 40 years out." He predicted at a recent Cabinet meeting, "A big percentage of the court will be changed by this administration over a very short period of time."

Advocates for putting more women and racial minorities on the bench argue that courts that more closely reflect the demographics of the population ensure a broader range of viewpoints and inspire greater confidence in judicial rulings.

One court that has become a focus in the debate is the Eastern District of North Carolina, a region that, despite its sizeable black population, has never had a black judge. A seat on that court has been open for more than a decade. George W. Bush named a white man, and Barack Obama at different points nominated two black women, but none of those nominees ever came to a vote in the Senate.

Trump has renominated Bush's original choice: Thomas Farr, a private attorney whose work defending North Carolina's redistricting maps and a voter identification law has raised concerns among civil rights advocates.

Kyle Barry, senior policy counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said that when diversity is lacking, "there's a clear perception where the courts are not a place people can go and vindicate their civil rights."

In recent decades, Democrats have consistently named more racial minorities and women on the courts. But even compared to his Republican predecessors, Trump's nominees stand out. So far, he has nominated the highest percentage of white judges in his first year since Ronald Reagan. If he continues on his trend through his first term, he will be the first Republican since Herbert Hoover to name fewer women and minorities to the court than his GOP predecessor.

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The AP reviewed 58 nominees to lifetime positions on appellate and district courts, as well as the Supreme Court, by the end of October. Fifty-three are white, three are Asian-American, one is Hispanic and one is African-American. There are 47 men and 11 women. Thirteen have won Senate approval.

The numbers stand in marked contrast to those of Obama, who made diversifying the federal bench a priority. White men represented just 37 percent of judges confirmed during Obama's two terms; nearly 42 percent of his judges were women.

Some of Obama's efforts were thwarted by a Republican-led Senate that blocked all of his nominations he made in the final year of his presidency, handing Trump a backlog of more than 100 open seats and significant sway over the future of the court.

Trump has moved aggressively to name new judges, getting off to a much quicker start than his predecessors. He has nominated more than twice as many as Obama had at this point in his presidency. While there have been clashes in the Senate over the nomination process, Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has signaled that he is committed to moving judicial nominees through.

Many of Trump's white, male nominees would replace white, male judges. But of the Trump nominees currently pending, more than a quarter are white males slated for seats have been held by women or minorities.

Of the eight seats currently vacant that had non-white judges, only one has a non-white nominee.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley says Trump is focused on qualifications and suggests that prioritizing diversity would bring politics to the bench.

"The president has delivered on his promise to nominate the best, most-qualified judges," Gidley said. "While past presidents may have chosen to nominate activist judges with a political agenda and a history of legislating from the bench, President Trump has nominated outstanding originalist judges who respect the U.S. Constitution."

Trump, who has cited the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch as a key achievement, has focused on judges with conservative resumes. His picks have been welcomed by conservative legal groups.

Leonard Leo, the executive vice president of the Federalist Society who has advised Trump on judges, said the president's judicial picks should be evaluated based on his nominations to the Supreme Court and appellate courts, given that home-state senators traditionally offer recommendations for district courts that carry significant weight when the lawmaker and the president are of the same party.

There have been 19 nominees to those higher courts; more than two-thirds are white men.

And past presidents also have pushed for diversity at the district courts. The Obama White House would make clear diversity was a priority and "if we found good candidates, we would encourage senators to take a look at them," said Christopher Kang, who worked on judicial nominations in the Obama administration.

Alberto Gonzales, who served as attorney general for George W. Bush, says that when considering nominees "sometimes President Bush would look at the list we gave him and he would say, 'I want more diversity, I want more women, I want more minorities.'"

In his first year, Obama's confirmed judicial nominees were 31 percent white men. Bush had 67 percent, Bill Clinton 38 percent, George H.W. Bush 74 percent and Reagan 93 percent.

For its analysis, The Associated Press looked at all lifetime appointments to federal judgeships — including all seats on the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts and International Courts of Trade— counting nominations to higher courts as new appointments. For the biographical information of each judge, the AP used data from the Federal Judicial Center.

In the case of pending Trump nominees, reporters called each nominee or their representative to collect information on race, gender and birthdate. In eight cases where nominees declined to give their race, officials familiar with the information confirmed that all identified themselves as white males.

Spain warns EU about cyber-meddling suspicions in Catalonia

By LORNE COOK, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Spain on Monday warned its European Union partners about a disinformation cam-

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campaign aimed at destabilizing its volatile northeast region of Catalonia, which Madrid claims appears to be coming from Russia.

Spanish Defense Minister Maria Dolores de Cospedal told reporters that "many of the actions come from Russian territory," but that it's not yet possible to determine what their exact source is or if the Russian government is involved.

She said some of them are "repeated from Venezuelan territory."

The Spanish government took control of Catalonia's powers and called a snap regional election for Dec. 21, after the Catalan government held a banned independence referendum on Oct. 1.

Several regional government ministers have been jailed, and the region's ousted leader, Carles Puigdemont, is in Brussels with four associates fighting extradition to Spain for trial. They could face up to 30 years in prison on charges of rebellion, sedition and extortion.

De Cospedal declined to guess what impact the disinformation might be having on the election campaign or how big the fake news campaign might be.

She said the number "is changing every day. The figure cannot be specified."

Earlier, referring to a recent London meeting between WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and a prominent Catalan pro-independence figure, Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis said there were signs that Assange and others "are trying to interfere and manipulate" amid the Catalonia crisis.

Spain said last week that the signs don't necessarily mean the Russian government is involved, and it hasn't made public any evidence to back the interference claim.

The EU's strategic communications unit — the East StratCom Task Force — has recently reported several instances of disinformation coming from Russian news outlets linked to the Kremlin.

An analysis last month on the Russian talk show Vesti Nedeli said that the view from some Russian television stations is that Europe is "falling apart" and that Spain is being compared to Ukraine, whose Crimean Peninsula was annexed by Russian troops in 2014.

Ciaran Giles in Madrid contributed to this report.

Trump does not publicly rebuke Duterte for drug war killings

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has sanctioned a bloody drug war that features extrajudicial killing. He called Barack Obama a "son of a whore." This week, he boasted that he murdered a man with his own hands.

All that went unmentioned in public by President Donald Trump when the leaders held talks Monday in the Philippines.

Reporters saw the beginning of the leaders' bilateral meeting during which Trump praised Duterte's hospitality, the organization of the summit he was hosting and even Manila's weather. Trump said nothing about human rights and both leaders ignored shouted questions about the violent drug crackdown. The two men also shared a laugh in the meeting when Duterte called reporters "spies."

Later, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that the 40-minute meeting focused on ISIS, illegal drugs, and trade. Human rights, she added, briefly came up in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs. She did not say if Trump was critical of the violence.

That appeared to conflict with the Philippines' version of the meeting. Harry Roque, a spokesman for Duterte, said "there was no mention of human rights. There was no mention of extralegal killings. There was only a rather lengthy discussion of the Philippine war on drugs with President Duterte doing most of the explaining."

Breaking with his presidential predecessors, Trump has largely abandoned publicly pressing foreign leaders on human rights, instead showing a willingness to embrace international strongmen for strategic gain. He has cozied up to autocrats such as Saudi Arabia's King Salman, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. And earlier in this trip to Asia he made no mention of human

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rights during multiple appearances in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Trump seems very comfortable with strongmen. It's not just that he won't criticize Duterte. I wouldn't be surprised if he patted him on the back," said Mike Chinoy, senior fellow at U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California, before the meeting.

Duterte's war on drugs has alarmed human rights advocates around the world who say it has allowed police officers and vigilantes to ignore due process and to take justice into their own hands. Government officials estimate that well over 3,000 people, mostly drug users and dealers, have died in the ongoing crackdown. Human rights groups believe the victim total is far higher, perhaps closer to 9,000.

"Human rights groups, I think, will be quite disappointed by the visit," said Amy Searight, director of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's unlikely that human rights or rule of law or due process are going to be topics that President Trump will raise."

Duterte has strenuously defended the violence and boasted of participating himself.

Late last year, he bragged that he personally pulled the trigger and killed three people years ago while serving as mayor of Davao City. And last week, while in Vietnam for an international summit, he said he took his first life years earlier.

"When I was a teenager, I had been in and out of jail, rumble here and there," Duterte said during a speech in Danang, where he briefly crossed paths with Trump on the sidelines of an international summit. "At the age of 16, I already killed someone."

He claimed he fatally stabbed the person "just over a look." His spokesman later tried to downplay the comment, saying, "I think it was in jest."

Trump has shown little interest in pressuring Duterte to rein in the violence, instead saluting him during a May phone call.

"I just wanted to congratulate you because I am hearing of the unbelievable job on the drug problem," Trump told Duterte, according to a transcript of the conversation that later leaked. "Many countries have the problem, we have a problem, but what a great job you are doing and I just wanted to call and tell you that."

Trump also criticized Obama during the call, noting that his predecessor "did not understand" the drug problem the Philippines faces. Meanwhile, Duterte was openly critical of Obama in the final year of his presidency, including cursing his name.

White House officials have suggested there is a strategy behind Trump's flattery of Duterte.

Advisers have said that while Trump was always unlikely to publicly chastise the Philippine president, he may offer criticisms behind closed doors. Trump would plan to hold his tongue in public in order not to embarrass Duterte, whom he is urging to help pressure North Korea and fight terrorism, and to avoid pushing him into the arms of China.

"If the administration is not going to care about human rights in China, why would you care in the Philippines?" asked Gordon Chang, Asia expert and author of "Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World." He said the "logical thing to do is keep them close and not let Duterte flirt with China. In our struggle with China, we need all the friends when we can get."

Duterte has seemed less committed to the strategic partnership with the U.S. Searight said a good relationship is "vital to the United States given its location on the South China Sea and the enhanced access that the American military has gotten in recent years with the Philippines."

White House aides have suggested that Trump's strategy has worked before, pointing to his interactions with el-Sissi. Trump refrained from chastising the Egyptian leader but quietly worked with him to help engineer the release of American prisoner Aya Hijazi in April.

Trump dismissed the notion that he buddied up to dictators. He said Saturday he has great relationships with all sorts of leaders, "every person in that room today," after leaving a summit in Vietnam attended by Duterte and Putin, among others.

Human rights groups have expressed dismay at Trump's public silence, believing that the spotlight an American president can shine on human rights abuses overseas can rally pressure on an authoritarian

regime to change its ways.

"In the old days, we used to call on the U.S. government to raise human rights issues during these trips," said John Sifton, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. But given the administration's lack of credibility in raising human rights abuses, he said, they have pivoted to a different tack, focusing on international attention.

"We haven't given up," Sifton said.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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'Weinstein Effect' goes global as powerful men confronted

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

The sexual harassment and assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein that rocked Hollywood and sparked a flurry of allegations in other American industries, as well as the political arena, are reaching far beyond U.S. borders. Emboldened by the women, and men, who have spoken up, the "Weinstein Effect" is rippling across the globe.

Nearly half of the "#metoo" mentions since the movement has been launched have come from outside the U.S., and decades-old accusations have led to the downfall of some of those countries' most powerful men. Here's a look at where the fallout — and the falls — have reverberated most strongly, from the United Kingdom and Israel to India and Peru.

UNITED KINGDOM

In the immediate aftermath of the Harvey Weinstein revelations, the British government led by Prime Minister Theresa May has been rocked by a series of harassment allegations that have led to one high-level resignation — that of Defense Secretary Michael Fallon — and threatened the position of First Secretary of State Damian Green, a vital ally of the prime minister.

The accusations have come from parliamentary researchers, staff and journalists. Some have said the political parties involved failed to take action and actively discouraged victims from going to police. Claims range from unwanted touching — a hand placed on a journalist's knee, for example — to allegations of rape. At least one case involving a legislator has been referred to police for possible prosecution, with the details kept private.

Green, the prime minister's chief aide and a de facto deputy prime minister, was accused by a young Conservative Party activist of inappropriate touching and text messages and a former senior policeman says "extreme" pornography was found on a computer in Green's office in 2008 — which Green denies and calls a political smear.

The scandal has spread beyond Cabinet ranks to snare a number of members of Parliament and also politicians in Scotland and in Wales, where Labour Party legislator Carl Sargeant is believed to have taken his own life after harassment allegations cost him his government post. His grieving family said he was never even told the nature of the allegations against him.

The prime minister and the leaders of the main opposition parties have agreed to set up a new grievance procedure for people working in Parliament to make it easier to report sexual harassment.

London was also for many years a base for actor Kevin Spacey, who served as artistic director of the Old Vic theater from 2004 until 2015. The allegations of sexual harassment that have surfaced in recent weeks, including some during his tenure at the Old Vic, have cast a pall over his tenure.

ISRAEL

The floodgates opened in Israel earlier this month when, during a TV panel discussion about the harassment in Hollywood, Channel 10 journalist Oshrat Kotler revealed that Israeli media mogul and International Olympic Committee member Alex Gilady had made an "indecent" proposal to her during a job interview 25 years ago. Haaretz columnist Neri Livneh then added that Gilady exposed himself to her during a 1999

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business meeting at his home. Two other women later came forward saying Gilady had raped them.

He denied the rape accusations, said he doesn't recall the Kotler incident but said Livneh's claim was "mainly correct" and apologized. As a result, the 74-year-old Gilady, a former sports executive at NBC, stepped down as president of the local Keshet broadcasting company he founded. The IOC also said it is looking into the allegations.

Then veteran Israeli media personality Gabi Gazit addressed the allegations dismissively on his daily radio show, prompting Dana Weiss — another prominent local TV journalist — to accuse him of just such behavior. Weiss said Gazit had randomly kissed her on the mouth during chance encounters in TV studios. Gazit denied the accusations but three other woman have come forward with similar stories and he was forced to take leave from his show.

"Weinstein ripped off a band aid that covered the wounds and scars that so many women still carry in industries that are still predominantly male-led, and now that it is off I think it is time to examine and heal," Weiss told The Associated Press. "This is not an act of revenge, but rather an opportunity for social reform."

Other women have also made claims against Haim Yavin, Israel's most famous anchor, who is now retired. A former journalist said he forcefully laid upon her once and a makeup artist said he touched her inappropriately. Yavin has not responded.

Weiss called it an "uncomfortable but healthy conversation" to be having in a society that understands that the rules of the game have changed.

It's not the first time Israel has confronted sexual assault of the powerful toward women. A former president, Moshe Katsav, was sentenced and jailed for rape.

INDIA

In India, there have yet to be dramatic repercussions.

Vrinda Grover, a New Delhi lawyer and women's rights activist, said powerful men for centuries have assumed sexual entitlement and that is going to take years to change. She said there has been increased conversation about the problem in recent years but that sexual harassment continues and authorities, including the police, often deliberately impede sexual assault investigations.

Grover said since the Weinstein allegations there has been a pattern of women in other countries feeling empowered to speak up because society is now condemning such behavior.

"But I don't see that happening in India, and that is worrying," she said. "It's a country in which rape victims don't get justice and society is often an accomplice."

After the Weinstein allegations, a crowd-sourced list of more than 60 Indian academics accused of harassment appeared online but was later taken down. Grover was among several feminists who argued the list was unfair because it didn't give adequate context or explanation for the anonymous allegations. Some students argued that Grover and other feminists were protecting the status quo.

While the #MeToo hashtag did trend in India after the Weinstein allegations, experts say it tends to be a small, educated minority who drive such trends in the vast and populous nation.

ITALY

In Italy, the Weinstein scandal has been front-page news ever since it broke because Italian actress Asia Argento was one of the main, named accusers in an expose by The New Yorker.

Her accusation of rape generated a hostile backlash at home, with Italian newspaper editorials and commentary accusing her of creating trouble.

But the scandal has taken on new life with accusations by 10 women that an Italian television and film director, Fausto Brizzi, molested them. An investigative TV show reported initial accusations without naming the director last month, but in a follow-up report Sunday named Brizzi. He has strenuously denied having non-consensual sex.

On Tuesday, the Italian unit of Warner Bros. suspended all future new work with Brizzi, but confirmed the Dec. 14 opening in Italy of his latest film, "Poor But Rich." Warner Bros. said it took seriously all accusations of harassment and was committed to making its workplaces safe, but said it wouldn't be fair to negate the work of hundreds of people by canceling the release.

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The Weinstein scandal has also drawn attention to Italian law, which requires that a victim of sexual assault report the crime within six months of the act. Several of the women who said they were assaulted by Brizzi said they were too afraid to come forward with a complaint, fearing professional retaliation or defamation claims by the director. Italian law allows for both criminal and civil defamation.

FRANCE

France is reeling from Weinstein and other revelations, but conflicted about how to respond.

French women are denouncing alleged abusers with unprecedented openness, on social networks and in police stations around the country, where reports of rape, harassment and other abuse are on the rise. An online campaign under the hashtag #balancetonporc ("squeal on your pig") kicked off in French even before the "#metoo" campaign began and went viral globally.

But no powerful figures in France have lost their jobs or reputations and there's been no nationwide clamor for heads to roll. French critics have warned against an American-style backlash that could demonize romance and catch innocent men in the net.

Roman Polanski, who fled the U.S. in the 1970s after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a 13-year-old, lives freely in France and was feted at a Paris film retrospective a few weeks after the Weinstein revelations emerged. Protesters gathered outside for the opening, but the retrospective continued.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the former International Monetary Fund chief accused by a New York hotel maid and others of sexual aggression, was given French airtime recently to discuss his political opinions, but hasn't said anything about harassment. His New York lawyer is now defending Weinstein.

French President Emmanuel Macron has made his position clear: He urged women to speak out against sexual assault, and moved quickly to strip Weinstein of the Legion of Honor award he won for producing the Oscar-winning French film "The Artist."

But sexist mentalities run deep and many are confused about the line between flirtation and harassment. The author of a recent French essay on seduction had to spell it out in an interview with magazine Madame Figaro over the weekend defending his work: "A harasser is a predator, not a seducer."

SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, former member of parliament Jennifer Ferguson came forward to allege she was raped in 1993 by Danny Jordaan, president of the country's soccer association. Jordaan denied the accusation.

Ferguson, an anti-apartheid folk singer who became a representative for the ruling African National Congress party in parliament, said in a blog posting and radio interview that Jordaan raped her in a hotel room after she gave a concert in Port Elizabeth on the country's south coast. Ferguson, who now lives in Sweden, hasn't indicated if she intends to take legal action. She said she had been carrying the secret burden of the incident for more than 20 years but was emboldened to go public as a result of the Weinstein revelations and the "#metoo" campaign.

CANADA

The founder of Montreal's renowned "Just for Laughs" comedy festival recently stepped down as president of the organization following allegations from at least nine women he either sexually harassed or sexually assaulted them. Gilbert Rozon, 63, announced he would sell all his shares amid the allegations. Julie Snyder, one of the biggest names in Quebec's entertainment industry, has filed a sexual assault complaint against Rozon.

Rozon did not elaborate when he resigned as president of the popular comedy festival, vice president of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, and as head of the committee behind Montreal's 375th-anniversary celebrations. "I am stepping aside out of respect for the employees and families who work for these organizations as well as all our partners," he wrote. Rozon ended his statement as follows: "To all those I have offended during my life, I am sincerely sorry."

PERU

In Peru, this year's beauty pageant to select the country's candidate for the Miss Universe competition was a surprise venue for denouncing gender-based violence against women.

Instead of citing their body measurements, as is customary, each of the 23 contestants recounted

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frightening statistics about the mistreatment of women in the South American nation.

"I'm Camila Canicoba and I represent the city of Lima. My measurements are 2,002 cases of femicides reported in the last 9 years in my country," said one participant as images of abused women projected on a screen behind the catwalk.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 2,000 women were killed last year as part of sex-based hate crimes, according to the United Nations.

Greg Katz in London, Aron Heller in Jerusalem, Nick Perry in Delhi, Nicole Winfield in Italy, Angela Charlton in Paris, Colin McClelland in Johannesburg, Rob Gillies in Toronto and Franklin Briceno in Lima contributed to this report.

Rise in teen suicide, social media coincide; is there link?

By **LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer**

CHICAGO (AP) — An increase in suicide rates among U.S. teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known.

The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009-15 and results of two surveys given to U.S. high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood included frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published Tuesday in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*.

Data highlighted in the study include:

—Teens' use of electronic devices including smartphones for at least five hours daily more than doubled, from 8 percent in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. These teens were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions than those who reported one hour of daily use.

—In 2015, 36 percent of all teens reported feeling desperately sad or hopeless, or thinking about, planning or attempting suicide, up from 32 percent in 2009. For girls, the rates were higher — 45 percent in 2015 versus 40 percent in 2009.

—In 2009, 58% of 12th grade girls used social media every day or nearly every day; by 2015, 87% used social media every day or nearly every day. They were 14% more likely to be depressed than those who used social media less frequently.

"We need to stop thinking of smartphones as harmless," said study author Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University who studies generational trends. "There's a tendency to say, 'Oh, teens are just communicating with their friends.' Monitoring kids' use of smartphones and social media is important, and so is setting reasonable limits, she said.

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Dr. Victor Strasburger, a teen medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico, said the study only implies a connection between teen suicides, depression and social media. It shows the need for more research on new technology, Strasburger said.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when comic books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying 'This is the end of the world.'"

With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said.

"Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.

AP reporter P. Solomon Banda contributed to this story from Littleton, Colorado.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter at @LindseyTanner .

Wineries eager to make up losses after California wildfires

By ERIC RISBERG, Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. (AP) — A month after deadly wildfires swept through California's famed wine country, hot-air balloons are floating again over Napa Valley vineyards splashed with fall colors. On the heels of the disaster, a new winery is opening, keeping the name it chose some time ago: Ashes and Diamonds.

The fires had only a minimal effect on the area's wineries, according to the Wine Institute, an advocacy and policy group. Of the 1,200 wineries in Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino, about 10 were destroyed or heavily damaged, and 90 percent of this year's harvest already was complete, the institute said.

Most vineyards were spared due to their high moisture content, and some even helped save surrounding structures by acting as fire breaks.

But many operators are now grappling with other long-term effects from the fires that killed 43 people and wiped out 8,900 buildings: making up for losses from being closed at the busiest time of year, assessing the impact of smoke and other environmental damage on this year's vintage, and persuading tourists to return after weeks of devastating news coverage.

One of the most graphic scenes of destruction to emerge during the fires was that of the Signorello Estate winery engulfed in flames. Lost in the fire was the Napa winery's signature stone hospitality building. A kitchen, corporate offices, a wine lab and the home of owner Ray Signorello Jr. also were destroyed.

"We lost all our servers, systems, computers, the things we used to do business," Signorello said. But he plans to rebuild and is "trying to get people back to work."

At Cardinale Winery in Oakville, where just one Cabernet Sauvignon vintage is made from prized mountain appellations each year, winemaker Chris Carpenter is eyeing the grapes cautiously. He was a rare winemaker willing to say the fires' effects would be felt for years, noting there also will be environmental issues to contend with.

Only 50 percent of Cardinale's harvest was finished when the fires erupted, and he's worried about smoke tainting what remains.

"All the questions are unknown right now, and we hope to have a handle on that after fermentation," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said he had a chance to try some smoke-tainted wines in 2008, and they were not very pleasant - like a bacon-flavored wine.

"If we sense any of that, we won't bottle," he said.

Things already appeared to be returning to normal for guests at Sonoma's Gundlach Bundschu winery, where dozens of tourists soaked up the sun outside the tasting room a few weeks after the fires. Nearby blackened hills were the only visible reminder of what recently occurred.

The winery celebrated its reopening with a community party that raised \$16,000 for a fund to help fire victims, said sixth-generation vintner Katie Bundschu, who oversees marketing and sales.

"It was a place to come and give each other hugs," said Bundschu, whose own family has been dealing with the loss of her parents' home.

Now the push is on to lure visitors back to the three counties, which together saw more than \$3.7 billion in tourism spending in 2016.

Wineries are filling the pages of the San Francisco Chronicle with ads. "We are open and welcome you back to Napa!" read one. Some are donating their tasting room fees to wildfire relief charities.

The state's tourism commission, Visit California, is spending \$2 million on an advertising campaign to encourage visitors to return.

"Tourism is the wine country's lifeblood," said president and CEO Caroline Beteta. If the groups hosting fundraisers spread their goodwill across the region, she said, "I think they will be back and running and be able to host the world as they were before."

Once people understand everything is not burned down, tourism will return within a few months, said Eric Luse, the winemaker and owner of Eric Ross Winery in Glen Ellen.

Standing outside his empty tasting room and looking at passing cars, he mused, "If you're not optimistic, you are in the wrong business."

Amazon or Walmart? Some retailers are choosing alliances

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Store chains feeling the upheaval in retail are making strategic alliances — and that can mean picking sides.

Kohl's shoppers can find Amazon devices at some stores, and return items they bought from the online retailer. Nike has made some of its sneakers available through Amazon. The owner of Sears is selling Kenmore-branded appliances on Amazon in some markets. And Best Buy is teaming up with Amazon for voice shopping.

Meanwhile, Walmart, which has the most store locations, is assembling a coalition of its own: buying smaller online brands and becoming the highest-profile partner to Google in voice shopping. And the discount chain that touts low prices announced a web partnership Monday with high-end department store Lord & Taylor.

"When you are in an historic uncharted chaotic situation, you often see these strange bedfellows," said Joel Bines, co-head of AlixPartners' retail practice and a managing director at the firm.

Since the beginning of the year, several retailers have filed for bankruptcy protection, including well-known names like Toys R Us. And retailers have announced thousands of store closings, with more expected. Analysts say some brands realize they might not succeed alone.

"You have to be challenging accepted norms. So you might find partners that you normally wouldn't have considered," said Wendy Liebmann, CEO of WSL Strategic Retail. "This has exploded because of the urgency to change. You look at retailers who are closing or struggling."

So as Amazon moves even further into fashion, home electronics and grocery stores, and cements shopper loyalty with its \$99-a-year Prime membership, stores are developing partnerships with the online retailer to increase customer traffic or expand their offerings online.

At the participating Kohl's stores, shoppers will find 1,000-square-foot Amazon areas that sell Echos, Fire tablets and other gadgets. People can also arrange to have an Amazon employee visit their home and install a device or recommend smart home products to buy. And some stores pack and ship eligible Amazon return items for free. Kohl's hopes the arrangement brings in shoppers who might pick up clothes or home items.

Analysts say other department stores, facing the same kind of issues, could follow.

From its base with 4,700 U.S. stores, Walmart is lining up other partners. In voice shopping, it hooked up with Google, which has signed up other chains such as Target and Home Depot to fight the dominance of Amazon's Alexa-powered Echo devices.

Lord & Taylor's president Liz Rodbell told The Associated Press the arrangement with Walmart allows the

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chain to attract new customers who already are buying higher-end products on Walmart.com. She called the partnership "a pivotal moment" for the retailer. It comes after the chain's parent company announced last month it was selling its New York flagship building to WeWork and leasing back a portion of the space.

Neither company would say the financial details of the arrangement.

Denise Incandela, head of fashion at Walmart's U.S. e-commerce division, says it's focusing on specialized shopping experiences, starting with fashion. Since the \$3 billion-plus acquisition of Jet.com last year, Walmart has bought several online brands like Bonobos and ModCloth.

Analysts say Walmart is developing its own higher-end online mall as a way to counter Amazon's dominance. Bines said it's a good strategy, since Walmart.com could attract "an entirely different demographic" from the chain's physical stores.

Walmart store customers have a median household income of about \$48,000, below the \$56,000 for walmart.com customers, according to Craig Johnson, president of the retail consulting group Customer Growth Partners. Amazon.com shoppers have a median income of \$85,000, Johnson estimates.

Liebmann says the bigger question is whether there would be any resistance from Lord & Taylor shoppers. Bonobos and ModCloth fans complained vociferously on social media when reports were swirling about Walmart's move to buy the brands. "It has to be presented well," Liebmann said.

Overall, Bines expects Amazon and Walmart to announce more partnerships. "In the next two or three years, companies will chose sides," he said. "But after that, the lines will be blurred."

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

Nikkei up but Asia shares mostly lower, digesting China data

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Tuesday as markets watched for tax reform developments in the U.S. and digested economic data from China.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 recouped earlier gains to end the morning session at 22,441.24, up 0.3 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.9 percent to 5,967.50. South Korea's Kospi edged down 0.2 percent to 2,524.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was little changed at 29,180.64, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.3 percent to 3,436.93.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to 2,584.84. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.1 percent to 23,439.70. The Nasdaq composite 0.1 percent to 6,757.60, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks was virtually unchanged at 1,475.07. More stocks fell than rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

CHINA WATCH: China's industrial value-added output expanded 6.2 percent year-on-year in October, slowing from 6.6-percent growth in September, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. China's private fixed-asset investment increased 5.8 percent on year in the first 10 months of this year, lower than the 6-percent increase for the first nine months. The Chinese economy is still growing but the focus is on assessing whether that pace is slowing.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The lethargic start to the week has offered few clues, and with all the second-guessing going on surrounding the events in Washington, investors continue to reduce rather than add to exposures," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary.

U.S. TAXES: Whether the U.S. tax overhaul legislation will pass is also being closely watched. It would deeply cut corporate taxes, double the standard deduction used by most Americans, and limit or repeal completely the federal deduction for state and local property, income and sales taxes. It carries high political stakes for President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Congress.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 12 cents to \$56.64 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 2 cents to \$56.76 on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, slipped 21 cents to \$62.95 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 113.62 yen from 113.30 yen on Friday. The euro strengthened to

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\$1.1672 from \$1.1656.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2017. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1889, inspired by the Jules Verne novel "Around the World in Eighty Days," New York World reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) set out to make the trip in less time than the fictional Phileas Fogg. (She completed the journey in 72 days.)

On this date:

In 1851, Herman Melville's novel "Moby-Dick; Or, The Whale" was published in the United States, almost a month after being released in Britain.

In 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1925, the first group exhibition of surrealist paintings opened at the Galerie Pierre in Paris.

In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1944, Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra recorded "Opus No. 1" for RCA Victor.

In 1954, the president of Egypt, Muhammad Naguib, was deposed by the Revolutionary Command Council, leaving Gamal Abdel Nasser fully in charge as acting head of state.

In 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

In 1986, the Securities and Exchange Commission imposed a \$100 million penalty on inside-trader Ivan F. Boesky and barred him from working again in the securities industry.

In 1996, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (BURN'-uh-deen), the senior Roman Catholic prelate in the United States and leader of Chicago's 2.3 million Catholics, died at his home at age 68. Singer Michael Jackson married his plastic surgeon's nurse, Debbie Rowe, in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. (Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.)

In 1997, a jury in Fairfax, Virginia, decided that Pakistani national Aimal Khan Kasi (eye-MAHL' kahn KAH'-see) should get the death penalty for gunning down two CIA employees outside agency headquarters. (Five years later on this date, Aimal Khan Kasi was executed.)

Ten years ago: Michael Mukasey took a ceremonial oath as the new U.S. Attorney General, five days after he was privately sworn in. A justice of the peace in Las Vegas ordered O.J. Simpson to stand trial on kidnapping and armed robbery charges stemming from a confrontation with memorabilia dealers in a casino hotel room. (Simpson was convicted and served nine years in prison before being paroled in Sept. 2017.) The prime ministers of North and South Korea launched their first talks in 15 years.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in his first news conference since winning a second term, challenged congressional Republicans to let taxes rise on the wealthiest Americans, saying that would ease the threat of another recession as the nation faced a "fiscal cliff." Israel said it had killed the leader of Hamas' military wing in a wave of airstrikes launched in response to days of rocket fire out of Hamas-ruled Gaza. Baseball's Cy Young Awards went to Tampa Bay's David Price in the American League and R.A. Dickey of the New York Mets in the National League.

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One year ago: In his first extended remarks on the election, President Barack Obama abandoned his dire warnings and dark predictions about his newly elected successor and urged Americans to give President-elect Donald Trump time to rise to the daunting responsibilities of the office. Corey Seager of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the National League Rookie of the Year award unanimously and Detroit's Michael Fulmer took the American League honor. Gwen Ifill, co-anchor of PBS' "NewsHour," died in Washington at age 61. Country singer Holly Dunn, 59, died in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Hughes is 89. Former NASA astronaut Fred Haise is 84. Jazz musician Ellis Marsalis is 83. Composer Wendy Carlos is 78. Writer P.J. O'Rourke is 70. Britain's Prince Charles is 69. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 68. Singer Stephen Bishop is 66. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 63. Pianist Yanni is 63. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 63. Former presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 61. Actress Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 56. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 56. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 53. Actor Patrick Warburton is 53. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 53. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 53. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 52. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 51. Rock musician Brian Yale is 49. Rock singer Butch Walker is 48. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 45. Rock musician Travis Barker is 42. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 42. Actor Brian Dietzen is 40. Rapper Shyheim is 40. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 38. Actress Olga Kurylenko is 38. Actress-comedian Vanessa Bayer is 36. Actor Russell Tovey is 36. Actor Cory Michael Smith is 31. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 26.

Thought for Today: "Rewards and punishments are the lowest form of education." — Chuang-tzu (jwang dzoo), Chinese writer (c.369 B.C.-c.286 B.C.).