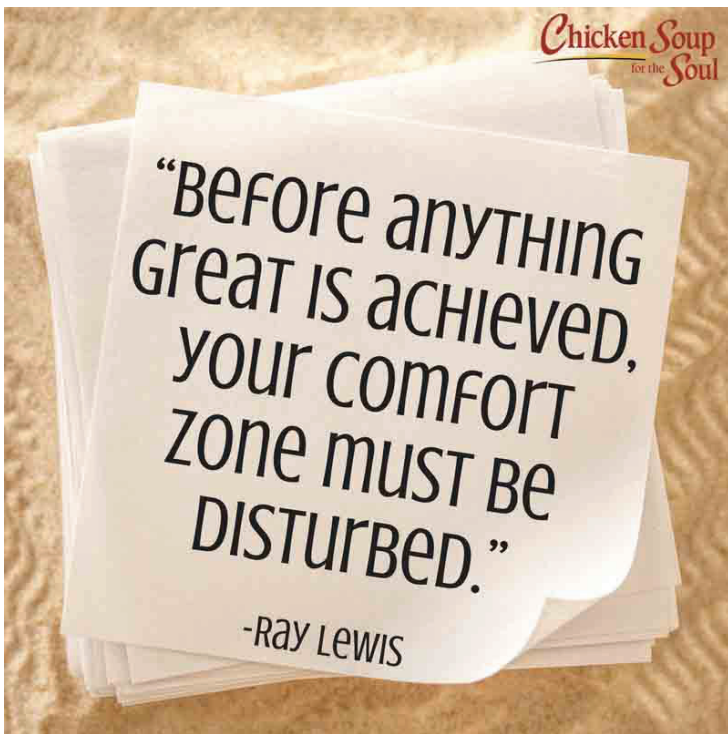


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South Dakota Holiday Shopping Outlook More Optimistic than Last Year

PIERRE, S.D.- South Dakota shoppers will be looking for unique gifts this holiday season, with an eye out for both quality and practicality, according to an informal survey of retailers conducted by the South Dakota Retailers Association.

Nearly two-thirds of the survey respondents said they're expecting a good to excellent holiday season. Those numbers show a more optimistic outlook than last year at the same time. Nearly 43% expect to beat their five year holiday shopping average.

With the news full of constant political squabbling from Washington, DC, two thirds of the store owners participating in the poll said the current political climate won't impact customer spending this holiday season. A third said they think it will have a negative impact on spending. A handful indicated they actually expect the political climate to help their business.

Half of the survey respondents said their customers are upbeat going into the holiday shopping season, and half described their customers as cautious. That's an improvement from last year, when nearly two-thirds businesses described their customers as cautious.

Businesses with an excellent outlook for the Christmas shopping season cited steps they have taken to improve their business including better job marketing their business, special ordering to meet needs of customers, better merchandising, expanded product lines, and improved customer service.

Survey respondents who had a fair outlook for the Christmas gift-buying season pointed to the agricultural market, customers traveling to larger cities to buy gifts, and online competition.

The vast majority of businesses participating in the informal poll – nearly 82% - didn't expect to boost staffing levels for the Christmas season. Most of the businesses that expected to staff-up said they would be hiring one to five additional people.

As in previous years, most businesses said they anticipate the Saturday before Christmas will be their biggest day during the Christmas shopping season, as shoppers flock to stores to make last-minute gift selections.

Retailers have been seeing improved business from earlier in the year. South Dakota Department of Revenue (DOR) reports show that state taxable receipts rose 3.09% on returns filed in October and were up 2.24% in September compared to the same periods last year. Prior to September, most months showed declines in taxable receipts in 2017 over 2016. November's numbers will be available from DOR in mid-December.

Nationwide, the National Retail Federation expects holiday retail sales in November and December – excluding automobiles, gasoline and restaurants – to increase between 3.6 and 4 percent. That forecast would meet or exceed last year's growth of 3.6 percent, and the five-year average of 3.5 percent.

SDDOT Awards Community Access Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – At its Nov. 21, 2017, meeting, the South Dakota Transportation Commission awarded nearly \$3.7 million in Community Access Grants for infrastructure improvements in smaller communities in South Dakota.

The Community Access Grant program funds awarded at the meeting will improve roads leading to schools, main business areas, hospitals, grain elevators and other economic areas in the communities. The grants pay for 60 percent of the construction costs, up to a maximum of \$400,000.

Communities receiving grant awards this year are:

- City of Armour - \$400,000 for Third, Fourth and Dobson streets which serves the schools.
- City of Centerville - \$240,000 for Main Street which serves a business area.
- City of Chamberlain - \$400,000 for Paul Gust Road which serves an agriculture business area.
- City of Elkton - \$400,000 for 6th Street and Buffalo Street which serves the schools.
- City of Lake Preston - \$321,000 for Park Avenue which serves the grain elevator.
- City of Lead - \$400,000 for Houston Street and Pavilion Street which serves the schools and the Sanford Underground Research Facility.
- Perkins County (Lemmon) - \$400,000 for Theatre Road which serves a business area
- City of Philip - \$373,000 for Oak Street and Howard Avenue which serves a business area.
- City of Presho - \$400,000 for Main Avenue which serves the central business district and the grain elevator.
- Walworth County (Selby) - \$164,000 for Scranton Street which serves an agriculture business area.
- City of Wilmot - \$180,000 for First Street which serves a business area.

More information regarding the grant programs and the process for applying can be found on the department's website at <http://www.sddot.com/business/local/economic/> or by contacting Paula Huizenga at 605-773-6253 or Doug Kinniburgh at 605-773-4284.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Tools for a Healthier Forest

Have you ever hiked the Black Hills during the winter? There's something almost magical about it. It's so quiet and yet surprisingly energizing. I absolutely love it.

But underneath the snow is a forest in repair. For more than two decades, the Mountain Pine Beetle has damaged more than 30 percent of the 1.2-million-acre forest. Earlier this year, the U.S. Forest Service announced the beetle had finally been beat, albeit significant work remains to repair the damage and make the forest more resilient against future outbreaks.

In November 2013, then-U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell came to the Black Hills with me to view the damage firsthand. While he felt good about the tools we had to combat the pine beetle, we couldn't apply them on a large enough scale.

In the months that followed the visit, I helped write new reforms and fought to get them included in the 2014 Farm Bill. As a result, we cut through the red tape, got boots on the ground faster, and allowed the Forest Service to work on the scale this epidemic required. Around 1 million acres of the Black Hills National Forest benefited from the provisions, which have proven critical in curtailing the pine beetle's spread – something U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recognized when I welcomed him to the Black Hills earlier this year.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many dedicated foresters in the Black Hills, and their work is often pointed to as a model for the nation. In Rapid City, I had the opportunity to catch up with a number of Rangers and forestry officials just before Thanksgiving. We talked in depth about the forest's health and how the new tools are working. It was encouraging to hear their optimism for the Black Hills' future. But the reality remains that years of damage have left behind thousands of acres of dead and dying trees. There's still more work to do.

This November, I helped the U.S. House of Representatives pass the Resilient Federal Forests Act on a bipartisan basis. Now being considered in the Senate, this legislation would pair a responsible budget fix with forest management reforms to dramatically improve the health and resiliency of our forests.

More specifically, with fires breaking out across the country in recent years, too much federal funding has been transferred from forest management to firefighting. The resource drain only perpetuates the problem and increases the risk of future wildfires. By allowing more flexibility in how funds flow between various agencies, this bill would fix the problem without authorizing any new spending.

This bill also eliminates duplicative paperwork and begins to address obstructionist litigation – or lawsuits set up to stop responsible forest management programs, like logging infested trees. Both of these reforms will help eliminate hurdles we've dealt with in the Black Hills.

The bill also increases tribal participation in forest health projects and strengthens Impact Aid to South Dakota schools that have a lot of Forest Service and other federally controlled lands in their districts. All around, it's an important bill for South Dakota – one that can help make sure those magical winter hikes through the Black Hills' snow-covered trees can be experienced by this generation and the next.

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Wind Power Contributing To South Dakota's Economy

As most people in rural South Dakota can tell you, the wind is almost always blowing. Living on the prairie, windy days are inevitable. It just comes with the territory – which is why it only makes sense for us to develop this fast resource and put it to good use.

Over the past decade South Dakota has been doing just that. Wind power has contributed more than \$2 billion in capital investment to our state for the construction and maintenance of the 14 wind projects now in operation. These projects, along with the South Dakota businesses that supply goods and services to the wind industry, support nearly 2,000 good-paying jobs in our state. Better yet, there are numerous wind power projects being planned across our state and, if built, these wind farms will attract billions of dollars of new private investment, millions of dollars of new revenue for farmers and rural communities, and thousands of new jobs.

Today, I am proud to say that South Dakota is one of only two states where wind power provides over 30 percent of in-state power generation. That's power that the whole region can count on. In fact, the regional operator of our energy system has noted they can reliably meet over 50 percent of the current demand for our 13-state region with wind power alone, and that's not even the limit.

The growth in wind power in our state and region did not happen overnight or without careful planning and advances in technology. Wind works well with South Dakota's other major power resources such as hydroelectric, coal-fired, and natural gas power plants, adding to our fuel diversity and reducing our reliance on imports. That diversity helps protect our businesses and homeowners from price and supply volatility, as well as changing national and global policies.

Beyond helping keep electricity prices stable, wind power can also benefit the families and communities who host the projects on their land. Wind farms now pay approximately \$5 million each year in lease payments, creating a new, drought-resistant revenue stream that can help family farmers and ranchers expand their operations or withstand market fluctuations in crop prices.

We have seen success with wind power development to date, and the future remains bright with prospects for more economic opportunity for South Dakotans. South Dakota's wide open spaces and high quality wind resource can potentially provide affordable and reliable electricity to those living beyond our borders. By continuing to expand and modernize our electricity grid, we can deliver more of South Dakota's wind resource to high demand areas, just as we deliver other commodities like soybeans and corn to other parts of the nation.

Renewable power is proving its worth throughout the Great Plains, and South Dakota is committed to keeping our state open for more wind development. The renewable energy sector is one of the fastest growing in the nation, and renewable energy will continue to play a crucial role in creating new jobs and growing our state's economy. As wind power has grown to be nearly a third of our energy production, our grid is as reliable as ever. With this experience in mind, I will continue to support the expansion of renewable energy in South Dakota. I hope you will too.

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All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

Today in Weather History








November 25, 1896: A major blizzard occurred throughout South Dakota, beginning on the 25th and continuing until the 27th. The storm began in most locations as rain and sleet, which turned to snow, accompanied by strong northerly winds. The 26th was the peak of the storm, and the heaviest snow and strongest wind occurred throughout the north, northeast, west and southwest portions of the state. In eastern and southeastern South Dakota, sleet was extraordinarily heavy on the 26th. There were many reports received of large quantities of trees stripped of smaller branches and limbs due to the weight of the sleet. Across the state, telegraph lines were flattened in all directions, and the poles were broken off in many places. Although there was very little loss of livestock in areas with available shelter, there were heavy individual losses on the ranges of South Dakota. Several people also perished on the ranges west of the Missouri River when they became lost in the storm without livestock. Reports of snowfall totals from the storm are very limited but included 17 inches at Aberdeen and 12 inches at Mellette. This blizzard was the most prominent individual feature in a November that was overall frigid, with a state mean temperature of 16.5 degrees, which was 17.2 degrees below normal at the time. The month still stands as the coldest November on record in Aberdeen, with an average temperature nearly 7 degrees Fahrenheit colder than the next coldest November (1985). The lowest reported temperature during the month was -29 F at Webster. Aberdeen recorded a low of -25 F on the 29th with a high temperature of -8 F that same day. The month currently stands as the snowiest November on record and second snowiest overall month on record for Aberdeen, with 32.8 inches, behind 38.5 inches recorded in February 1915.

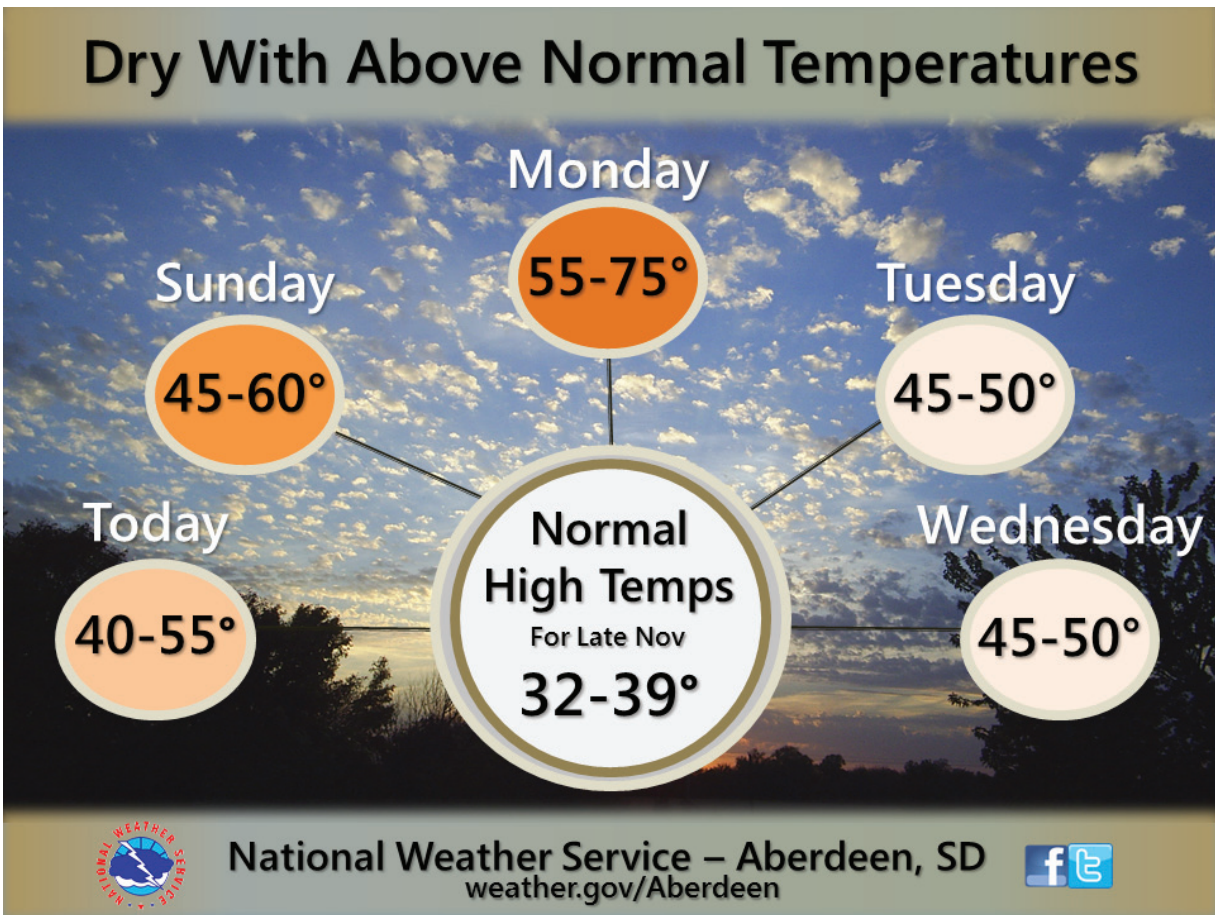
The greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain reaches its peak intensity which it maintains through November 27. Winds gust up to 120 mph, and 9,000 people perish in the mighty gale, most of them sailors of the British fleet. The storm continued through December 2nd. It was reported that 4,000 oaks died in the New Forest and an attempt to count the toll of trees in Kent gave up at 17,000. At sea, the Eddystone Lighthouse was washed away, killing six people. Daniel Defoe wrote a journal called *The Storm* (1704) about this event. The storm has been called the first substantial work of modern journalism.

1950: Called the "storm of the century" this storm impacted the eastern part of the US, killing hundreds and causing millions of dollars in damages. New York City recorded a 94 mph wind gust and Bear Mountain, just north of the city recorded a 140 mph gust. Record low temperatures were reported on the southern end of this storm in Tennessee and North Carolina. This storm was unique as Pittsburgh saw 30 inches of snow, while Buffalo saw 50 degrees with 50 mph wind gusts.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 46 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 47 °F



Dry conditions and unseasonably warm temperatures will persist into the workweek. Monday is looking to be especially warm with high temperatures ranging from 20 to 30 degrees above normal for this time of the year.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 53.6

Low Outside Temp: 34.2

High Gust: 40

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 64° in 1960

Record Low: -22° in 1996

Average High: 34°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov: .62

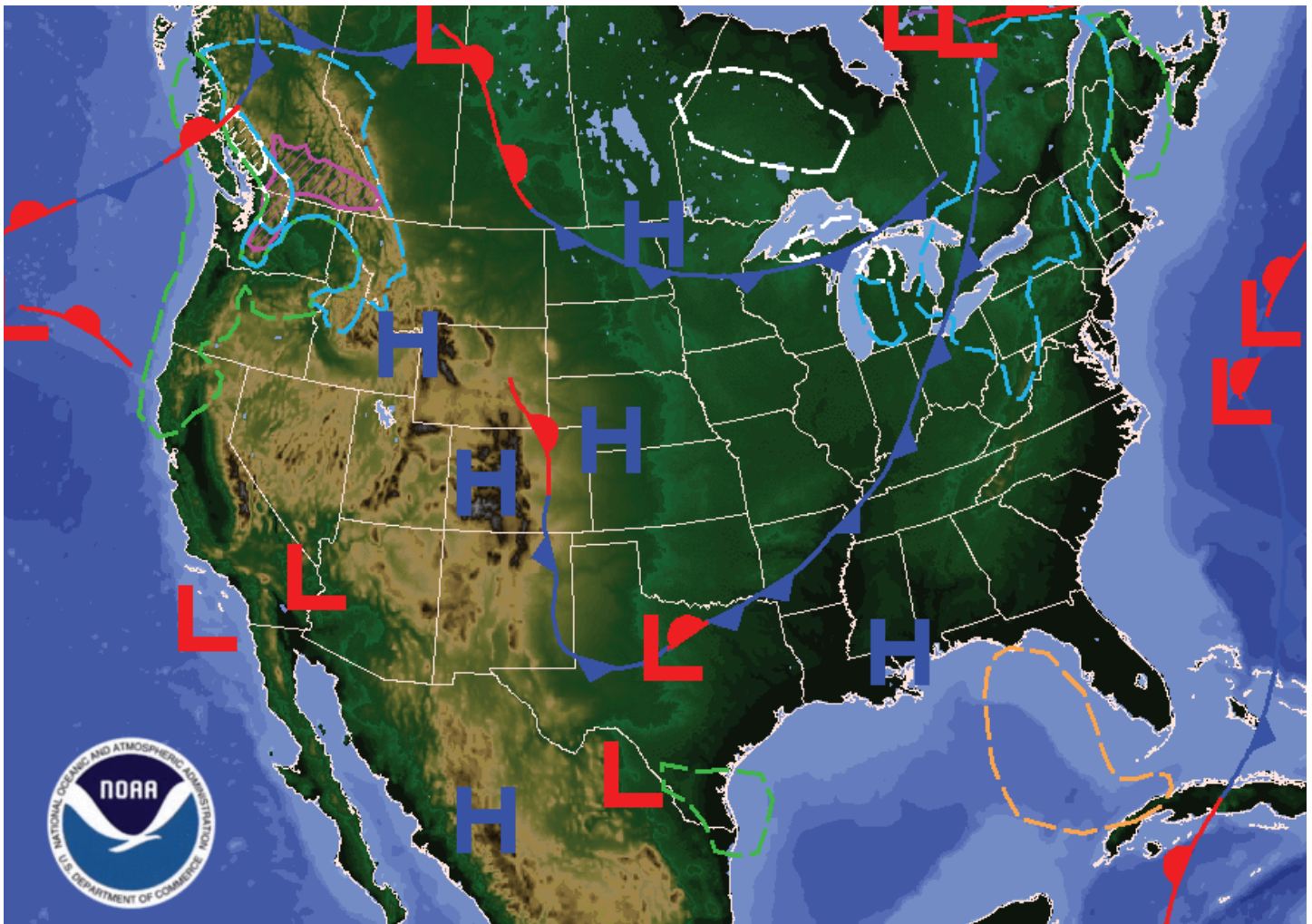
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.11

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Nov 25, 2017, issued 3:58 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Orrison 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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IT COMES FROM SOMEWHERE!

A long time, political figure was asked, "How much power does it take to satisfy politicians?"

After thinking about the question for a moment, he responded with a twinkle in his eye: "Just a little more!" And then added, "The more we have the more we want."

Politicians rise and fall, come and go, do helpful things and some things that seem to cause confusion and chaos. Whatever they do comes from the power that we seem to give them. Or does it?

Insightfully, the Psalmist said, "No one...can exalt a man...It is God who judges: He brings one down, He exalts another." After all is said and done, there is no power apart from God. He is Almighty. He rules.

We often think of ourselves and others as being self-contained. We live, we breathe, we walk and talk, we do this and that, but – in fact – we live breath by breath and moment by moment according to God's plan for our lives. Our physical life, and the life of those whom He allows to have power and influence over us, do so as He wills and wishes.

These are days of turbulence and turmoil, fear and frustration, uncertainty and anxiety. We do not know what is going to happen before our next heartbeat. But it is comforting to know that God is in control of everyone and everything. He has fixed limits on their terms and time in office. He also has a plan in place for everything.

God often seems to move at the pace of a snail – but He is indeed moving. We can rest assured that all is well.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the assurance of Your Words that Your love and faithfulness watch over us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 75:6, 7 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

16-36-54-61-64, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 3

(sixteen, thirty-six, fifty-four, sixty-one, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$119 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$149 million

Calls for sexual assault support at South Dakota university

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Alyssa Fothergill thinks the topic of sexual assault could be taken more seriously at her college.

Fothergill, a sophomore at the University of South Dakota, joined other students at a campus forum in Vermillion recently to express disappointment in regard to how the university has handled past sexual assault reports, urging more guidance and support.

The forum came a few weeks after two USD football players were charged with the rape of a woman at an off-campus residence, a high-profile case that drew more attention to an already pressing issue.

"If we're silent, nothing is going to be done," said Fothergill, of Fenton, Iowa.

USD isn't the only institution facing scrutiny. Colleges and universities across the country are grappling with how to handle sexual assault cases and the conversations that surround them as national standards fluctuate.

Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced changes to Title IX guidelines in September. She plans to roll back guidelines implemented around the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter and focus more on due process for the accused by allowing schools to choose the standard of proof at which they would discipline a student.

The loudest national narrative rings true here: How do university officials balance security for their students with due process for those accused of misconduct?

One in five female undergraduates and one in 16 male students experience some kind of sexual assault while in college, according to multiple national studies. But most campuses acknowledge the number of incidents actually reported is much smaller.

For example, USD reported four sexual assaults on campus in 2016, according to its 2017 safety and security report. Based on the school's enrollment of 10,038 that fall, that would be one in 2,509 students, the Argus Leader reported .

At SDSU, there were seven reported rapes on campus in 2016. The 2016 fall enrollment was 12,816. That would be one in 2,136 students.

Those numbers are a far cry from the nearly 27 percent of student victims that national studies say exist.

"Zero (reports) is not a good number," said South Dakota State University Title IX coordinator Michelle Johnson, referring to possible under-reporting of incidents. "We'd love to receive no reports, but that'll never happen. We know they're happening. We want to know when they're happening."

The actual number of sexual assaults on campus is all but impossible to know, considering roughly 90 percent of assaults go unreported, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

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Victim advocates are concerned about conversations surrounding the new Title IX guidelines. Survivors hearing about a higher standard of proof for the accused could feel discouraged from reporting an assault — a process that's already daunting for many.

Fear of retribution from fellow students, or the community, is often a main deterrent to reporting. The victim in USD's most recent case "was very reluctant about having an investigation started due to the backlash she believed she would suffer from the football team, student population and community," according to court documents.

Making the threshold higher to find an accused guilty may well scare victims even more from reporting what happened to them.

"We are very concerned about the safety of victims on college campuses during the process of investigation and afterwards," said Krista Heeren-Graber, executive director for the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault. "We don't want to water down the victims' rights and the schools' ability to assist the victim through the process."

One of the biggest changes from DeVos' declaration — and the one causing the most stir — is allowing schools to choose its standard of proof when investigating sexual assault cases. Universities currently use the "preponderance of the evidence" threshold, which has come under criticism by defense attorneys and others who claim it prevents the accused from receiving due process as they face discipline that can include expulsion.

The new guidelines allow school officials to raise the threshold to declare guilt to "clear and convincing evidence."

The difference: The preponderance of the evidence standard is met when the evidence shows the defendant is more than 50 percent likely to be guilty. Clear and convincing standard means the evidence "leaves you with a firm belief or conviction that it is highly probable that the factual contentions of the claim or defense are true," commonly seen as a likelihood of 75 percent or higher that an assault took place.

Both are less stringent than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard used in criminal courts, a separate process for those charged with criminal sexual assault.

The issue gained attention in Sioux Falls when former Augustana University student Koh Tsuruta sued the school in 2015 after being expelled following a rape accusation by a female student. He also faced criminal charges that were later dismissed by prosecutors.

Tsuruta claimed that his rights to due process were violated by the school's internal investigation and method of adjudication.

"The (Augustana) process was a complete sham," defense lawyer Mike Butler, who represented Tsuruta in his criminal case, said last year. "It's shocking when someone is found to have committed sexual offenses even though the judicial process doesn't say so."

Tsuruta's lawsuit against Augustana was dismissed in August after being "resolved to the satisfaction of both parties," according to Vince Roche, a lawyer for Augustana.

As it stands now, South Dakota's public universities — under the direction of the Board of Regents — aren't anticipating much change in the way investigations are conducted.

"We believe we have a process that is fair and impartial," said Guilherme Costa, the Board of Regents general counsel.

The regents heard a first reading of the new guidelines at their October board meeting. A second reading is scheduled to occur at the Dec. 5-7 meeting in Sioux Falls.

Costa said the board's policies already mostly aligned with the new guidelines: a fair process to both parties, the accused and the accuser. Appeals processes are built into the investigation. Students can appeal a case to the school if they think it's been mishandled. A fourth appeal brings the case to the board, something he said has never happened.

"It really boils down to ensuring the process isn't biased toward either party - that there's a fair and impartial process," he said.

The Board of Regents revamped the student codes of conduct about two years ago with the purpose of making it more transparent and easier to understand.

The new code outlines what the hearing process looks like for a student accused of sexual assault and better details why the student is being accused. Previously, a student would learn they were part of an investigation, but they were given limited details.

"If you're a student going through this for the first time, just saying you have a hearing isn't very helpful," Costa said. "How is this hearing going to go down?"

Additional changes from the guidelines include: the accused in the case can request that members of the student conduct panel be removed for conflict of interest, and each party involved is allowed two advisers instead of one.

Universities are also trying to stay current with sexual assault training on campus. The regents hired Green Dot, a program that encourages bystander intervention. The training encourages students who see a situation that may lead to sexual assault to step in. SDSU has implemented Step Up, a program that does training on a more peer-to-peer level.

The 120 or so USD students and staff at the campus forum this week learned more about training from an ICARE grant that will kick off in January. That training focuses on bystander intervention and consent.

But students aren't waiting for a nod of approval from the administration to take matters into their own hands.

A senior seminar class at SDSU started a freshmen orientation sexual assault training class, said SDSU Student Association president Taylin Albrecht. Albrecht, a senior in human development and family studies, said the student government hasn't heard much from students about the new Title IX guidelines, but said the association hit the ground running with the issue this year.

"We're happy with the way that we're doing things," she said. "Even from the time when I started college to where I'm at now — it's more of a topic for discussion. I remember not hearing as much about it until these last couple of years. Now it's huge. We do a lot of training."

Fothergill, a survivor of sexual assault herself, started PAVE in Vermillion. PAVE stands for Promoting Awareness Victim Empowerment and is a national non-profit aimed at "shattering the silence of sexual violence" on campuses.

The group started in September and has almost 80 members as of early November.

"The conversation just wasn't there," Fothergill said. "We wanted the student aspect (of sexual assault) to be known, and we have students who have the passion to end it."

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

South Dakota pheasant hunt honors 4 decorated veterans

By **TIM POTTS, Black Hills Pioneer**

GETTYSBURG, S.D. (AP) — "I hit a home run today, and it has been one of the most fun days of my life," said William Larry Little after he shot his limit of pheasants on the first day of the Decorated Veterans Hunt held Nov. 9-13 in Gettysburg.

Four veterans from around the country were selected by a lottery draw to receive pheasant hunt experience in South Dakota, the Black Hills Pioneer reported. Chosen were: Gary Renick, of San Antonio, Texas; William Larry Little, of Gainesville, Ga.; Paul Treusch, from Deltona, Fla.; and Ron Garside, of Gardnerville, Nev.

This was the second annual Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Decorated Veterans Hunt around the Gettysburg area. Hunting sites this year included Browns Hunting Ranch, Thomas Ranch, Wilbert Fenger Farms, Larson Farms, and the Potts Farm.

Joining the four decorated veterans was Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, senior vice commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Lawrence commented, "being able to witness firsthand the camaraderie and enjoyment displayed by these true American heroes is something I will never forget."

Lawrence served in the Army from 1983-86, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Korea, where he

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earned the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Renick enlisted in the Army in 1965 and served in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Division from 1966-1967 and was then assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. He then volunteered to return to Vietnam in the 101st Airborne in December 1967. Renick was then assigned to the Navy's 521st River Section in May of 1968 as a forward observer patrolling the Huong Song (Perfume River) from the ocean to Hue. Renick received two purple hearts, one for charging a machine gun nest that had their team pinned down, and after surviving two grenades, he saw the third grenade, which went off and wounded him. His nine-man team had one killed and seven wounded by the time they were able to get out of the village.

The second Purple Heart came while they were sleeping in a cemetery, and he was wounded in an ambush. Renick was awarded two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, Army Commendation, Air Medal, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Renick's advice to other veterans is, "Get with other vets on hunting and fishing trips and talk about your experiences. I did not talk to anyone of my experience for more than 45 years. We had no one to talk to back then, including family and friends."

Little graduated from helicopter flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., in August 1968 and was then deployed to Vietnam. In Vietnam, he was assigned to Bravo Company, 9th Aviation Battalion, 9th Infantry Division at Dong Tam in the IV Corp for the first half of his tour of duty. Little's primary job was to fly a UH1-C Huey "Charlie Model" helicopter gunship. Flying as a two-ship fire team and flew missions, both day and night, in support of the infantry. For the second half of his tour, he transferred over to D-Troop 3/5th Air Cav, which was also stationed at Dong Tam in support of the 9th Infantry Division. The mission was to provide aerial reconnaissance in locating and engaging the enemy. He flew as a scout pilot low, 200 feet, over different designated operational sectors each day in an attempt to find signs of enemy movement, ambush locations and encampment areas.

Little was wounded after his helicopter received heavy fire from an unseen bunker. After landing his bird in a nearby paddy, he got back to base and got on another aircraft. The crew then returned to the contact area to see if they could identify and knockout the heavy weapons bunker that had the infantry pinned down. It was on his second pass engaging the bunker that he again drew fire and he was shot through the left (collective control) hand, which controls the chopper altitude. Little began to settle into the treetops, just as he was steering for the bunker to crash.

"God showed up and miraculously saves the day by insisting I regain altitude by using my left forearm to pull up on the collective," Little said.

Little set the helicopter down in the nearby rice paddy alongside his earlier crippled bird.

Little is 73-years-young and a retired construction manager, with a wonderful wife of 49 years and blessed with two grown daughters.

Treusch enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1956 in Pittsburg, Pa., and retired in 1976 as a master sergeant. Treusch spent the first three years as a basic infantryman.

The following 16 years he served in various billets from communications to recruitment, from a lifeguard to platoon sergeant in Vietnam to the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of base communications. Treusch was honored with a purple heart for the shrapnel wounds received during the Tet offensive in 1968 in the Dong Ha Province of Vietnam.

"I believe the military veterans are a unique brotherhood. I am proud to have served regardless of the branch or the reasons, and served where I was needed," said Treusch.

"I and many more did so, and we can stand tall and proud, knowing we made a difference," he added.

Treusch was drawn to the hunt for the comradeship of hunting and socializing with other vets who share interest in the outdoors.

Garside served a little more than five years in the Army and completed two tours in Vietnam with the 1st Division Recon Rangers and the 101st Airborne Division with the infantry.

Garside has been honored with five Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry after being wounded on five occasions.

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He has had 27 surgeries over the past 40 years and shared his concerns with the veterans' administration over his medical challenges. Garside encouraged all of the young veterans to not give up and keep fighting for your benefits.

Hunting pheasants is a great memory for Garside as he started hunting pheasants on their dairy farm back in California when he was a kid. Garside said he retired in 1997 but still enjoys hunting in Nevada and Colorado.

Treusch said the week of pheasant hunting was great.

"I have mixed emotions: Humble and honored. I just think the people of Gettysburg made the hunt, and it is the smallest town in South Dakota with the biggest heart. It has been an experience I will never forget," he said.

Renick recapped the week as fabulous, the pheasant hunting was outstanding, and the people have been great to us. He continued, "I don't think we could ask for anything better; we had a fun time."

Little commented, "The week was a most wonderful time I have had in a long time, and it has been a blessing to come meet these fine people and to have the comraderies with them. Everyone has been so supportive and so nice, it has humbled us to have been allowed to come to the hunt. We found a new purpose to share the love back home and paying it forward with other veterans. I find it very humbling to find a small community so patriotic and some giving with nothing expected in return."

Garside said, "I have been hunting for a long time, and as a 100 percent disabled vet, this is one of the most wonderful hunts I have ever been on. I hunted pheasants as a teen and have never seen so many birds and enjoyed myself so much; everything has been wonderful since I got here."

Garside also thanked Gettysburg VFW Post 8530 for putting on such a great hunt.

"I will tell you, this veterans hunt has been a personal cause for me for years. I grew up hunting with my dad, and when I came back from Iraq, I wanted to help somehow," said Lynn Rolf, VFW director of operations, from Leavenworth, Kan. "I will walk, clean birds; I just want to be part of it."

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Northern Colorado pulls away from Youngstown State 80-67

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jordan Davis scored 20 points and handed out five assists and Jalen Sanders finished with a double-double as Northern Colorado pulled away from Youngstown State in the second half to post an 80-67 victory in the Sanford Pentagon Showcase on Friday night.

Davis knocked down 9 of 13 shots from the floor and also blocked two shots, while Sanders tallied 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Bears (3-2), who shot 53.6 percent (30 of 56) from the floor.

Cameron Morse led the Penguins (2-3) with 17 points, but he made just 8 of 23 shots, including 1 of 8 from 3-point range. Tyree Robinson chipped in with 15 points and 10 rebounds off the bench, while Braun Hartfield totaled 16 points and seven rebounds and Jeremiah Ferguson scored 10.

Northern Colorado shut down the high-scoring Penguins, who came in averaging 97 points per game. Youngstown State shot a respectable 42.2 percent (27 of 64) from the floor, but the Penguins hit just 4 of 14 (28.6) from long range and 9 of 23 (29.1 percent) from the free-throw line.

The Bears shot 57.6 percent in the first half and led 44-34. Youngstown State pulled within 57-53 mid-way through the second half, but Andre Spight scored 10 points in the final 10:24 to wrap up the victory.

S. Dakota pulls away in 2nd half, beats Southern Miss 84-71

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Trey Burch-Manning scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead South Dakota to an 84-71 victory over Southern Mississippi on Friday night in the Sanford Pentagon Showcase.

Tyler Hagedorn added 16 points and Matt Mooney chipped in 15 for South Dakota (5-1), which has won three straight since a five-point loss to TCU on Nov. 15.

Cortez Edwards scored 18 point for Southern Miss (2-2). Tyree Griffin had 14 points and Anfernee Hampton chipped in 13.

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South Dakota took the lead for good three minutes into the second half, and used a 14-2 surge to take a 47-36 advantage with 13:21 to play. Dominic Magee's 3-pointer pulled Southern Miss to 49-44, but they got no closer. Hagedorn and Mooney each scored 11 points in the second half.

It was the first meeting between the schools.

University of South Dakota football player accused of rape

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A University of South Dakota football player accused of attempted rape in an alleged attack in October is now facing a new charge.

Clay County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Tiffany Husby says 21-year-old Dale Williamson turned himself in Thursday after officials issued an arrest warrant for second-degree rape.

The State's Attorney's Office didn't return a phone message seeking more information.

Husby says the charge is separate from the felony second-degree attempted rape charge Williamson faces in an alleged Oct. 22 attack.

Police say a woman accuses Williamson and 20-year-old Danny Rambo, another football player, of entering a bedroom where she was having consensual sex with another player and assaulting her at the off-campus residence the three players shared. Rambo is also charged.

Williamson is a sophomore reserve defensive back from Donalsonville, Georgia.

\ Police: Man in mask, US Postal Service uniform robs business

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a man wearing a U.S. Postal Service uniform and an elderly man mask used a handgun to rob a business.

Authorities say the suspect in the Friday armed robbery took an undetermined amount of money. Officials didn't identify the business that was robbed.

Police say the man entered the business carrying a package and mail and then pulled out a handgun and pointed it at two employees.

After getting the money, officials say the man left the business and drove away in what was described as a black SUV.

Sioux Falls police say the FBI is assisting with the investigation.

Pierre man who died in Hughes County crash identified

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified a Pierre man who died in a one-vehicle crash in Hughes County.

Authorities say 22-year-old Joseph Swartz lost control of his car on a rural road late Sunday and the vehicle rolled. He was pronounced dead at the scene about 8 miles north of Pierre.

Swartz was alone in the vehicle.

Authorities ID Freeman man killed in semitrailer crash

MARION, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Freeman man who died in a semitrailer crash in Turner County.

The Highway Patrol says 56-year-old Ronald Heiter failed to negotiate a curve on a road Monday morning, and his rig rolled before starting on fire.

He was pronounced dead at the scene about 5 miles north of Marion.

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Looming deadlines, much unfinished business await Congress

By **ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The crush of unfinished business facing lawmakers when they return to the Capitol would be daunting even if Washington were functioning at peak efficiency.

It's an agenda whose core items — tax cuts, a potential government shutdown, lots of leftover spending bills — could unravel just as easily as advance amid factionalism, gamesmanship, and a toxic political environment.

There's only a four-week window until a Christmas deadline, barely enough time for complicated negotiations even if December stays on the rails. And that's hardly a sure bet in President Donald Trump's capital.

Trump and congressional leaders plan a meeting Tuesday to discuss how to sidestep a shutdown and work through the legislative to-do list.

For the optimistic, it's plain that Democrats and Republicans have reasons to cooperate, particularly on spending increases for the Pentagon and domestic agencies whose budgets otherwise would be frozen. An additional round of hurricane aid should be bipartisan, and efforts to reauthorize a popular health care program for children seem to be on track.

Republicans are advancing their cherished tax cut measure under special rules that mean Senate Democrats cannot use delaying tactics. The measure passed the House just before the Thanksgiving break and moves to the Senate floor this coming week.

After the Senate GOP's failure on health care this summer, the majority party is under enormous pressure to produce a victory on taxes. Still, GOP deficit hawks such as Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee and Jeff Flake of Arizona remain uneasy about the overhaul.

While Democrats largely sidelined on taxes, they hold leverage over a mix of budget-related issues.

First, there's the need to avert a government shutdown after a temporary spending bill expires on Dec. 8. The most likely scenario, congressional aides say, is for an additional extension until Christmas. On a parallel track are talks to raise spending limits that are keeping agency budgets essentially frozen unless those caps are raised. If that happens, then negotiations could begin in earnest on a massive catchall spending measure in hopes of having it signed into law by year's end.

Taxes have gotten all the attention so far, but the showdown over a potential shutdown right before Christmas could soon take center stage. Democrats are counting on GOP fears of a holiday season closure to ensure Republican concessions during December talks.

Both sides would have to make concessions that may upset partisans in either party. Just as House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., fears a revolt on the right, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California risks an uprising on her left. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., round out the quartet of top negotiators.

"Everybody's got complicated politics. The chance of short-term failure is pretty high — short-term failure being a shutdown," said Steve Elmendorf, a Democratic lobbyist. "But the four of them, assuming they don't want to shut the government down for a long time, are going to have to come to an accommodation."

Talks on the spending caps are stuck, however, aides say. A GOP offer to lift the Pentagon budget by more than \$54 billion next year and nondefense limits by \$37 billion was rejected by Democrats demanding balance between the two sides of the ledger.

Long-delayed battles over immigration and Trump's promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border are huge obstacles. Many Democrats whose votes are needed on the spending bills insist they won't vote for any legislation that includes the wall. Trump remains dead set on his \$1.6 billion request for a down payment on the project.

Those same Democrats also insist that Congress must act by year's end to protect immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children and whose protected status is set to lapse next year. Trump backs the idea despite issuing an executive order reversing the Obama administration protections, starting next spring. Conservatives oppose drawing in the immigration issue to legislation to keep the government running.

Hurricane relief is adding one more wrinkle.

Congress has approved more than \$50 billion in aid in response to a series of devastating hurricanes. The most recent request by the White House is the largest yet at \$44 billion, but it's not nearly enough to satisfy the powerful Texas delegation, which is pressing behind the scenes for more.

"Completely inadequate," said Rep. John Culberson, R-Texas. "We must do far more to rebuild, repair and allow Texans to return to normal as quickly as possible."

Trump is a huge wild card. He warmed to the idea of cutting deals with Democrats after a September pact with Schumer and Pelosi to lift the government's debt ceiling. He promised the Democratic leaders that he would sign legislation to give the young immigrants legal status — provided border security is addressed as well.

But Trump has not really engaged on the year-end agenda and his impulsiveness could be a liability. He almost disowned an omnibus spending bill in May after media accounts portrayed the measure as a win for Democrats.

Zimbabwe judge says military action against Mugabe was legal

By FARAI MUTSAKA and CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's military action leading to Robert Mugabe's resignation was legal, a High Court judge has ruled, as the military seeks to show its moves were not a coup. Experts said it sets a dangerous precedent for future interventions.

Meanwhile, the finance minister and other Mugabe allies were in court on Saturday alleging sometimes violent retaliation after the military stepped in.

High Court Judge George Chiweshe, a retired general, on Friday ruled that the military's actions "in intervening to stop the takeover" of Mugabe's functions "by those around him" were legal.

The military swept in almost two weeks ago after Mugabe's firing of deputy Emmerson Mnangagwa amid fears that the 93-year-old president's unpopular wife was positioning herself to take power.

The judge said the military's actions ensured that non-elected individuals did not exercise executive functions, an apparent reference to Grace Mugabe.

Separately, the judge said Mnangagwa's firing as vice president was illegal. Mnangagwa was sworn in as president on Friday in a whirlwind reversal of fortunes, becoming just the second leader of Zimbabwe after Mugabe's 37-year-rule.

The judge's decisions were quickly criticized both by legal and rights experts and by close Mugabe allies.

"If these breathtaking High Court Orders granted in Harare yesterday represent what is being peddled as a 'new path,' then please pray for Zimbabwe," tweeted minister of higher education Jonathan Moyo.

The southern Africa director for Human Rights Watch, Dewa Mavhinga, called the rulings "incredible" and said on Twitter: "Strange, captured judiciary?"

Zimbabwe's military sent tanks into the streets overnight on Nov. 14, taking control of the state broadcaster and announcing that Robert Mugabe had been put under house arrest. It said it was pursuing "criminals" close to him accused of harming the economy.

The military's move led the ruling party to turn against Mugabe, launching impeachment proceedings before he announced his resignation Tuesday, while tens of thousands of Zimbabweans took to the streets in a military-backed demonstration urging him to step aside.

Mnangagwa, who fled the country after his firing, said upon his return he had been in "constant contact" with the military during his absence.

Many in the international community have avoided calling the military's actions a coup, instead urging Zimbabwe's authorities to respect the rule of law. Some Zimbabweans have congratulated the military, taking selfies with soldiers and cheering for army commander Constantino Chiwenga at Friday's inauguration.

Zimbabwean lawyer Alex Magaisa said the judge's rulings "may come to haunt Mnangagwa's government" by setting a precedent in "effectively legalizing military intervention in the affairs of government."

He also wrote Saturday that "it is interesting to note that the order was granted by 'consent' which suggests that Mugabe agreed to it. If he did, it could be that it was part of Mugabe's exit deal."

Mugabe has not been seen in public since his speech on Sunday defying calls to resign. He will remain in Zimbabwe, and Mnangagwa met him on Thursday and assured him of "maximum security," the state-run Zimbabwe Herald reported.

Mnangagwa, a 75-year-old former defense and justice minister, is blamed for a number of crackdowns under Mugabe, whom he continues to praise.

In his first speech as president, Mnangagwa spoke of reuniting the country and reaching out to the world after years of international condemnation over rights abuses and allegedly rigged elections. Let "bygones be bygones," he said. He has warned against "vengeful retribution."

The legality of the military takeover is also under scrutiny in new cases against several officials linked to the ruling party faction of Mugabe's wife.

Finance Minister Ignatius Chombo told a court that masked men in military uniforms burst into his home and pointed assault rifles at him and his wife as the military moved in.

Chombo said he was handcuffed and blindfolded in the early-morning Nov. 15 raid and driven to an unidentified location, where for days interrogators told him he had performed badly as a government official. He was then handed over to police for arrest.

The minister questioned the corruption allegations he now faces, saying some date back two decades. "I found it a little bit odd that it would come up now," he said.

Innocent Hamandishe, a member of the ruling ZANU-PF party's youth league who has been accused of "causing disaffection" in the security forces during the military's intervention, was "abducted" on Nov. 16 and only handed over to police on Wednesday, said his lawyer, Emmanuel Samudombe.

"It's a serious breach of the constitution," Samudombe said.

The lawyer for Kudzanai Chipanga, another youth league member, said he was removed from a police station by "armed people" on Nov. 15 and tortured before being arrested by police on Thursday.

"The military must know that there is a constitution in this country," Lovemore Madhuku said. "There's no such thing as a military arrest."

Whatever one might think of coups in principle, "one would have to concede that this one was artfully contrived and executed," showing a "smiling face" to the world to avoid regional sanctions, wrote Peter Fabricius, a consultant with the Institute for Security Studies.

Mugabe had the chance to protest to South African envoys who met with him shortly after the military stepped in, Fabricius added. "Mugabe could have screamed 'Help!'"

But he didn't, South Africa's defense minister later told local Radio 702: "Well, according to Mugabe, nothing; he's happy," she said.

Egypt raises death toll in Sinai mosque attack to 305

By MAGGIE MICHAEL and HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

ISMAILIA, Egypt (AP) — Egypt on Saturday said an attack on a mosque by militants in the country's troubled region of northern Sinai has killed 305 worshippers, including 27 children, a dramatic increase in the death toll previously announced, which was 235.

A statement by the country's chief prosecutor, Nabil Sadeq, said the attack Friday left another 128 people wounded.

It said the attackers, estimated at between 25 and 30, arrived at the mosque close to the small town of Bir al-Abd in five all-terrain vehicles and positioned themselves at the main door and the facility's 12 windows before opening fire. They also torched seven cars parked outside the mosque, which belonged to worshippers inside.

Quoting testimonies given to investigators by survivors, the statement said some of the attackers were masked. Those who were not sported heavy beards and long hair. The militants wore camouflaged pants and black T-shirts, it added.

Also on Saturday, Egyptian warplanes were in action over Sinai, according to the military, targeting sev-

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eral vehicles in which some of the culprits of the attack were traveling. All passengers of the vehicles were killed, it added. It was impossible to independently verify the claim since the media is virtually banned from working in Sinai.

The chief prosecutor's statement was the most detailed by authorities on the attack, the deadliest by Islamic extremists in Egypt's modern history. The account it gave generally agreed with what witnesses told The Associated Press on Saturday in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, where some of the wounded are hospitalized.

They spoke of horrific scenes during the approximately 20 minutes it took the militants to kill and maim worshippers. They spoke of some jumping out of windows, a stampede in a corridor leading to the washrooms and of children screaming in horror. Some spoke of their narrow escape from a certain death, others of families that lost all or most of their male members.

One witness, Ebid Salem Mansour, said the imam had barely made it atop the mosque pulpit to deliver the sermon when intense gunfire rang out. "We knew that the mosque was under attack by (militants)," he said, recounting an attack that constitutes a grim milestone in Egypt's brutal fight against increasingly emboldened militants.

Mansour, a 38-year-old worker in a nearby salt factory, said he settled in Bir al-Abd, the small town near where the attack took place, three years ago to escape the bloodshed and fighting elsewhere in northern Sinai. He suffered two gunshot wounds in the legs on Friday.

"Everyone lay down on the floor and kept their heads down. If you raised your head you get shot," he said. "The shooting was random and hysterical at the beginning and then became more deliberate: Whoever they weren't sure was dead or still breathing was shot dead."

The militants were shouting Allahu Akbar, or God is great, and the children were screaming, Mansour said. "I knew I was injured but I was in a situation that was much scarier than being wounded. I was only seconds away from a certain death," he said. As the shooting took place, many of the worshippers recited their final prayers, he added.

Friday's attack targeted a mosque frequented by Sufis, members of a mystic movement within Islam. Islamic militants, including the local affiliate of the Islamic State group, consider Sufis heretics because of their less literal interpretations of the faith.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi vowed that the attack "will not go unpunished" and that Egypt would persevere with its war on terrorism. But he did not specify what new steps might be taken. On Saturday, he ordered that a mausoleum be built in memory of the victims of Friday's attack.

The military and security forces have already been waging a tough campaign against militants in the towns, villages and desert mountains of Sinai, and Egypt has been in a state of emergency since April. Across the country, thousands have been arrested in a crackdown on suspected Islamists as well as against other dissenters and critics, raising concern about human rights violations.

Seeking to spread the violence, militants over the past year have carried out deadly bombings on churches in the capital of Cairo and other cities, killing dozens of Christians. The IS affiliate is also believed to be behind the 2016 downing of a Russian passenger jet that killed 226 people over Sinai.

Friday's assault was the first major militant attack on a Muslim congregation, and it eclipsed past attacks, even dating back to a previous Islamic militant insurgency in the 1990s.

The militants, according to another witness, said worshippers began to jump out of windows as soon as the militants opened fire. "The small door that leads to the corridor for the wash rooms was about the only one where worshippers rushed to escape," said a 38-year-old government employee who did not want to be named for fear of retaliation.

"There was a stampede. I fell down and then bodies piled up on top of me," he said

No one claimed responsibility for the attack. But the IS group affiliate has targeted Sufis in the past.

Last year, the militants beheaded a leading local Sufi religious figure, the blind sheikh Suleiman Abu Heraz, and posted photos of the killing online. Islamic State group propaganda often denounces Sufis. In the January edition of an IS online magazine, a figure purporting to be a high level official in the Sinai affiliate of the group vowed to target Sufis, accusing them of idolatry and heretical "innovation" in religion

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and warning that the group will “not permit (their) presence” in Sinai or Egypt.

Millions of Egyptians belong to Sufi orders, which hold sessions of chanting and poetry meant to draw the faithful closer to God. Sufis also hold shrines containing the tombs of holy men in particular reverence.

Islamic militants stepped up their campaign of violence in northern Sinai after the military ousted the elected but divisive Islamist Mohammed Morsi from power in 2013 and launched a fierce crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood group.

The result has been a long, grinding conflict centered on el-Arish and nearby villages and towns. The militants have been unable to control territory, but the military and security forces have also been unable to bring security, as the extremists continuously carry out surprise attacks, mostly targeting outposts and convoys.

The attacks have largely focused on military and police, killing hundreds, although exact numbers are unclear. The militants have also assassinated individuals the group considers to be spies for the government or religious heretics. Egypt has also faced attacks by militants in its Western Desert.

Hendawi reported from Cairo.

Consumer watchdog head names a successor, and Trump does too

By KEN SWEET, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau resigned Friday and named his own successor, leading to an open conflict with President Donald Trump — who announced a different person as acting head of the agency later in the day.

That means there are now effectively two acting directors of the CFPB, when there should only be one.

Typically an acting director position would be filled according to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998. But Richard Cordray, along with his resignation, elevated Leandra English, who was the agency’s chief of staff, into the deputy director position.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act that created the CFPB, English would become acting director. Cordray — an Obama appointee — specifically cited the law when he moved English, a longtime CFPB employee and ally of his, into that position.

Within a few hours, President Donald Trump announced his own acting director of the agency, Mick Mulvaney, who is currently director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mulvaney had widely been expected to be Trump’s temporary pick for the bureau until a permanent one could be found.

Mulvaney is a long-time critic of the CFPB, and has wanted the agency’s authority significantly curtailed. So the difference between English and Mulvaney running the agency would be significant.

The person nominated to be director of the CFPB requires confirmation by the Senate, and it could be many weeks or months before the person would be able to step into the role permanently. Cordray’s move was aimed at allowing his favored successor to keep running the agency for as long as possible before a Trump appointee is confirmed by the Senate.

Cordray had announced earlier this month that he would resign by the end of this month. There is wide speculation that Cordray, a Democrat, is resigning in order to run for governor in his home state of Ohio.

The CFPB was created as part of the laws passed following the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent recession. The agency was given a broad mandate to be a watchdog for consumers when they deal with banks and credit card, student loan and mortgage companies, as well as debt collectors and payday lenders. Nearly every American who deals with banks or a credit card company or has a mortgage has been affected by new rules the agency put in place.

Cordray used that mandate aggressively as its first director, which often made him a target for the banking industry’s Washington lobbyists and Congressional Republicans who believed Cordray was overreaching in his role, calling the CFPB a “rogue agency.”

As director, he also was able to extract billions of dollars in settlements from banks, debt collectors and other financial services companies for wrongdoing. When Wells Fargo was found to have opened millions

of phony accounts for its customers, the CFPB fined the bank \$100 million, the agency's largest penalty to date.

US cutting off its supply of arms to Kurds fighting in Syria

By SUZAN FRASER and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The United States will cut off its supply of arms to Kurdish fighters in Syria, a move by President Donald Trump that is sure to please Turkey but further alienate Syrian Kurds who bore much of the fight against the Islamic State group.

In a phone call Friday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Trump said he'd "given clear instructions" that the Kurds will receive no more weapons — "and that this nonsense should have ended a long time ago," said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. The White House confirmed the move in a cryptic statement about the phone call that said Trump had informed the Turk of "pending adjustments to the military support provided to our partners on the ground in Syria."

The White House called the move "consistent with our previous policy" and noted the recent fall of Raqqa, once the Islamic State group's self-declared capital but recently liberated by a largely Kurdish force. The Trump administration announced in May it would start arming the Kurds in anticipation of the fight to retake Raqqa.

"We are progressing into a stabilization phase to ensure that ISIS cannot return," the White House said, using an acronym for the extremist group.

The move could help ease strained tensions between the U.S. and Turkey, two NATO allies that have been sharply at odds about how best to wage the fight against IS. Turkey considers the Kurdish Syrian fighters, known by the initials YPG, to be terrorists because of their affiliation to outlawed Kurdish rebels that have waged a three decade-long insurgency in Turkey. Yet the U.S. chose to partner with the YPG in Syria anyway, arguing that the battle-hardened Kurds were the most effective fighting force available.

Cavusoglu, who said he was in the room with Erdogan during Trump's call, quoted the U.S. president as saying he had given instructions to U.S. generals and to national security adviser H.R. McMaster that "no weapons would be issued."

"Of course, we were very happy with this," Cavusoglu said.

Yet for the Kurds, it was the latest demoralizing blow to their hopes for greater recognition in the region. Last month, the Kurds in neighboring Iraq saw their recent territorial gains erased by the Iraqi military, which seized the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and other disputed areas from the Kurdish regional government in retaliation for a Kurdish independence referendum that the U.S. ardently opposed.

Trump's decision appeared to catch both the Pentagon and the U.S. State Department off guard. Officials at both agencies, who would normally be informed of changes in U.S. policy toward arming the Syrian Kurds, said they were unaware of any changes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear whether the Trump administration notified the Kurds of the move before telling the Turks. Nor was it how much significance the change would have on the ground, considering the fight against IS is almost over.

The United States has been arming the Kurds in their fight against IS through an umbrella group known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, which is comprised of Kurdish as well as Arab fighters. But the retreat of IS, which has lost nearly all its territory in Syria, has altered the dynamics in the region and a U.S. defense official said he was unaware of any additional arms scheduled to be transferred to the Kurds, even before the Turkish announcement.

Last week, Col. Ryan Dillon, the chief spokesman for the U.S. coalition that is fighting IS in Iraq and Syria, said there has yet to be any reduction in the number of U.S. advisers working with the SDF. His comments appeared to suggest the possibility that changes in the level and type of U.S. military support for the Syrian Kurds could be coming.

As the fight against IS has waned in recent months, the U.S. has pledged to carefully monitor the weapons it provides the Kurds, notably ensuring that they don't wind up in the hands of Kurdish insurgents in

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Turkey known as the PKK.

Both Turkey and the U.S. consider the PKK a terrorist group. But the United States has tried to draw a distinction between the PKK and the Syrian Kurds across the border, while Turkey insists they're essentially the same.

In both Syria and Iraq, the U.S. relied on Kurdish fighters to do much of the fighting against IS, but those efforts have yet to lead to a realization of the Kurds' broader aspirations, most notably an independent state.

Washington's support for the Syrian Kurds, in particular, has been a major thorn in U.S.-Turkish relations for several years, given Turkey's concerns about the Kurds' territorial aspirations. In particular, Turkey has feared the establishment of a contiguous, Kurdish-held canton in northern Syria that runs along the Turkish border.

Relations between NATO allies Turkey and the United States have also soured recently over a number of other issues, including Turkey's crackdown on dissent following a failed coup attempt last year. Ankara has also demanded that the U.S. extradite a Pennsylvania-based cleric that it blames for fomenting the coup, but the U.S. says Turkey lacks sufficient proof.

Lederman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Robert Burns and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

US changes course, allows PLO office to remain open

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has backtracked on its decision to order the Palestinians' office in Washington to close, instead saying it would merely impose limitations on the office that it expected would be lifted after 90 days.

Last week, U.S. officials said the Palestine Liberation Organization mission couldn't stay open because the Palestinians had violated a provision in U.S. law requiring the office to close if the Palestinians try to get the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israelis. The move triggered a major rift in U.S.-Palestinian relations that threatened to scuttle President Donald Trump's ambitious effort to broker Mideast peace before it ever got off the ground.

Yet the United States delayed shuttering the office for a week while saying it was working out the details with the Palestinians, before abruptly reversing course late Friday, as many Americans were enjoying a long Thanksgiving Day weekend. State Department spokesman Edgar Vasquez said the U.S. had "advised the PLO Office to limit its activities to those related to achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace between the Israelis and Palestinians."

Vasquez said even those restrictions will be lifted after 90 days if the U.S. determines the Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in serious peace talks. The White House, in an effort led by Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, has been preparing a comprehensive peace plan to present to both sides in the coming months.

"We therefore are optimistic that at the end of this 90-day period, the political process may be sufficiently advanced that the president will be in a position to allow the PLO office to resume full operations," Vasquez said.

The reversal marked a serious departure from the administration's interpretation of the law only a week earlier. Officials had said then that, one way or another, the office had to close because Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in a U.N. speech in September, had called on the ICC to investigate and prosecute Israelis. That same law, though, says that the president can let the office re-open after 90 days despite an ICC push if serious Israeli-Palestinian talks are underway.

Asked how the Trump administration explains its new interpretation of about what must happen if the Palestinians call for an ICC investigation, Vasquez said: "These actions are consistent with the president's authorities to conduct the foreign relations of the United States."

There were no indications that the Trump administration had initially moved to close the office as part

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of a premeditated strategy to strengthen its hand in eventual peace talks. Instead, officials explained the move by saying Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, in a strict interpretation of the law, determined that Abbas' speech had crossed the legal line.

The chaos that ensued after the announcement, with the U.S. unable for several days to explain if the office was truly closing and when, indicated it had caught much of the government off-guard.

Still, the move led the Palestinians to issue an angry response last weekend threatening to suspend all communication with the U.S. Additionally, senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat accused the U.S. of bowing to pressure from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government "at a time when we are trying to cooperate to achieve the ultimate deal."

Vasquez said the original position had never been intended to create leverage or impose pressure. The State Department said that the administration is actively working to pursue lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The requirement about the mission closing stems from a little-noticed provision in U.S. law that says the U.S. cannot allow the Palestinians to have a Washington office if they back the international court's move to investigate or prosecute Israeli nationals for alleged crimes against Palestinians.

Abbas said at the United Nations in September that the Palestinians had "called on the International Criminal Court to open an investigation and to prosecute Israeli officials for their involvement in settlement activities and aggressions against our people."

The PLO is the group that formally represents all Palestinians. Although the U.S. does not recognize Palestinian statehood, the PLO maintains a "general delegation" office in Washington that facilitates Palestinian officials' interactions with the U.S. government.

The United States allowed the PLO to open a mission in Washington in 1994. That required President Bill Clinton to waive a law that said the Palestinians couldn't have an office. In 2011, under the Obama administration, the U.S. started letting the Palestinians fly their flag over the office, an upgrade to the status of their mission that the Palestinians hailed as historic.

Israel opposes any Palestinian membership in U.N.-related organizations until a peace deal has been reached.

The Israelis and Palestinians are not engaged in active, direct negotiations. But Trump's team, led by Kushner, is working to broker a deal aimed at settling the intractable conflict.

The Trump administration has not disclosed details about its effort to achieve an agreement that ostensibly would grant the Palestinians an independent state in exchange for an end to its conflict with the Israelis. Kushner and other top Trump aides have been shuttling to the region to meet with Palestinians, Israelis and officials from Arab nations.

The Palestinians, publicly supportive of the U.S. effort, are nonetheless skeptical because Trump's close ties to Israel suggest whatever deal he proposes might be unfavorable to them.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Trump calls for crushing terrorists with military means

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump denounced the deadly mosque attack in Egypt and reached out to its president, asserting the world must crush terrorists by military means — and insisting the U.S. needs a southern border wall and the travel ban tied up in courts.

"Need the WALL, need the BAN!" Trump tweeted Friday before calling Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. "God bless the people of Egypt."

The attack's aftermath played out as Trump mixed work and play in sunny Florida, golfing — quickly, he claimed — with pros Tiger Woods and Dustin Johnson, speaking with foreign leaders and tweeting briskly.

Trump spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before his attention turned to the attack in Egypt, where at least 235 people were killed when Islamic militants attacked a crowded mosque during prayers in the Sinai Peninsula, setting off explosives and spraying worshippers with gunfire.

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"The world cannot tolerate terrorism," Trump tweeted in response. He added, "We must defeat them militarily and discredit the extremist ideology that forms the basis of their existence!"

In his call with el-Sissi, the White House said Trump condemned the attack and "reiterated that the United States will continue to stand with Egypt in the face of terrorism."

"The international community cannot tolerate barbaric terrorist groups and must strengthen its efforts to defeat terrorism and extremism in all its forms," the White House said.

Trump also used the attack to renew his call for a wall along the southern border with Mexico and his efforts to bar people from certain Muslim-majority countries from coming to the U.S.

"We have to get TOUGHER AND SMARTER than ever before, and we will," he wrote. "Need the WALL, need the BAN! God bless the people of Egypt."

Trump's original travel ban sought to temporarily suspend the U.S. refugee program and block the entry of nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries into the U.S. The order sparked chaos at airports and a flurry of lawsuits, which led to the order's suspension. The administration has since made several attempts to revise the order to try to better hold up to legal scrutiny.

Trump spent more than four hours at Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida, where he'd earlier tweeted that he would be playing "golf (quickly) with Tiger Woods and Dustin Johnson" before returning to his private Mar-a-Lago club "for talks on bringing even more jobs and companies back to the USA!"

Trump and his aides often appear concerned about the perception that he is vacationing during his trips away from the White House, insisting that he is partaking in high-level meetings and making calls while staying in Bedminster, New Jersey, or at his private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

Despite plenty of photos posted on social media by club members, media traveling with the president were not permitted to observe or photograph the president and his companions on the greens.

In a break from the practice of past administrations, the Trump White House rarely discloses when the president is golfing, let alone whom he golfs with during frequent trips to courses he owns in Florida, New Jersey and Virginia.

Pope's place as refugee champion tested in Myanmar

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis heads to Myanmar and Bangladesh with the international community excoriating Myanmar's crackdown on Rohingya Muslims as "ethnic cleansing" but his own church resisting the label and defending Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi as the only hope for democracy.

Francis will thus be walking a fraught diplomatic tightrope during the Nov. 27-Dec. 2 visit, which will include separate meetings with Suu Kyi, the powerful head of Myanmar's military as well as a small group of Rohingya once Francis arrives in neighboring Bangladesh.

Francis has defined his papacy by his frequent denunciations of injustices committed against refugees, and he would be expected to speak out strongly against the Rohingya plight. But he is also the guest of Myanmar's government and must look out for the well-being of his own tiny flock, a minority of just 659,000 Catholics in the majority Buddhist nation of 51 million.

"Let's just say it's very interesting diplomatically," Vatican spokesman Greg Burke responded when asked if Francis' 21st foreign trip would be his most difficult.

The Rev. Thomas Reese, an American Jesuit commentator, was more direct: "I have great admiration for the pope and his abilities, but someone should have talked him out of making this trip," Reese wrote recently on Religion News Service.

Reese argued that Francis' legacy as an uncompromising champion of the oppressed will come up against the harsh reality of blowback for Myanmar's minority Christians if he goes too far in defending the Rohingya against the military's "clearance operations" in Rakhine state.

"If he is prophetic, he puts Christians at risk," Reese said. "If he is silent about the persecution of the Rohingya, he loses moral credibility."

Francis isn't known for his deference to protocol and he tends to call a spade a spade. But he has already

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been urged by the Catholic Church in Myanmar and his hand-picked cardinal, Charles Bo, to refrain from even using the term "Rohingya," which is rejected by most in Myanmar.

"The pope clearly takes this advice seriously," Burke said. "But we'll see together."

Francis has used the term "Rohingya" in the past, when he condemned the "persecution of our Rohingya brothers," denounced their suffering and called for them to receive "full rights."

Myanmar's government and most of the Buddhist majority don't recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group, insisting they are Bengali migrants from Bangladesh living illegally in the country. It has denied them citizenship, even though they have lived in Myanmar, also known as Burma, for generations.

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said Francis would likely call for a lasting solution for the Rakhine Muslims that takes into account "the importance for the people of having a nationality." He declined in a Vatican Radio interview to use the term "Rohingya."

Francis had originally intended his 2017 itinerary to involve a visit to India and Bangladesh. But preparations fell apart in India, and Myanmar was added in late, after Myanmar and the Holy See established diplomatic relations during a visit by Suu Kyi to Rome in May.

Since then, the situation on the ground has deteriorated badly, after Rohingya militants attacked security positions in poverty-racked Rakhine in August. Myanmar security forces responded with a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages that the U.N., U.S. and human rights groups have labeled as textbook "ethnic cleansing."

More than 620,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, where they are living in squalid refugee camps. This week, the U.N. envoy on sexual violence in conflict said the widespread gang rapes and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls by the Myanmar military could amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Burke demurred when asked if the spasm of violence had complicated the Vatican's plans, saying only that "stuff happens" and "the trip was going to happen in any case."

Bo, whom Francis named as Myanmar's first cardinal in 2015, has resisted terming the violence "ethnic cleansing," saying the military response was disproportionate but that it was "premature" and unhelpful to put a label on it.

He defended Suu Kyi as Myanmar's only hope for democracy, saying criticism against her was "unfair" and that she was working to implement recommendations by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to improve opportunities for all religious minorities, Christians among them.

The Rev. Bernardo Cervellera, editor of the AsiaNews news agency that closely covers the Catholic Church in Asia, said he expected Francis would use the visit to help shore up Suu Kyi, whose international stature has suffered as a result of the crisis even though she is limited constitutionally in what she can say or do against the military.

"The question of the Rohingya is a 'casus belli' to eliminate the government of Aung Sang Suu Kyi," Cervellera said. "If we take away Aung San Suu Kyi, the military dictatorship returns, which means setting all the minorities on fire."

Francis will host an interfaith peace meeting in the garden of the Dhaka archbishops' residence, at which a small group of Rohingya are expected.

Other highlights of the trip include Francis' meeting with Myanmar's Buddhist monks and encounters with Catholic youth capping the visit in each country.

The youth encounters "demonstrate that it's a young church with hope," Burke said.

Retailers work to attract shoppers to stores on Black Friday

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers worked hard to attract shoppers to stores on Black Friday, offering in-person deals meant to counter the ease of shopping by phone on Amazon.

A better economy and colder weather helped, to be sure. But stores have also tried to improve the store experience and offer better service. They've also made a big push toward offering store pickup for online

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orders, hoping to get people to pick up more items. But they're fighting a circumstance in which online leader Amazon is the first and only stop for many shoppers.

So they're getting creative with the deals.

Victor Moore said he arrived about two hours ahead of Best Buy's 8 a.m. opening in Nashville and scored one of the about 14 "doorbuster" deals on a 55-inch Toshiba smart TV for \$280, a \$220 savings. Moore said he's done some online shopping, but the allure of in-store-only deals drew him out from behind the computer.

"This is the first successful doorbuster that I've ever been a part of," Moore said. "I've been in lines before, but never actually got the items that I was waiting for."

Annette Peluffo usually avoids Black Friday and buys online. But a \$250 gift card reward for buying an iPhone 8 plus at a Target store in Miami was hard to resist. She plans to use the money to buy toys for her nephews and nieces in the coming weeks. "I just came here for the iPhone. I am not going to any other store," she said.

Still, Black Friday isn't what it used to be. It has morphed from a single day when people got up early to score doorbusters into a whole month of deals. That has thinned out the crowds. And brick-and-mortar stores face plenty of challenges.

With the jobless rate at a 17-year-low of 4.1 percent and consumer confidence stronger than a year ago, analysts project healthy sales increases for November and December. The National Retail Federation trade group expects sales for that period to at least match last year's rise of 3.6 percent and estimates online spending and other non-store sales will rise 11 to 15 percent.

But analysts at Bain say Amazon is expected to take half of the holiday season's sales growth.

Amazon said Friday that Thanksgiving continued to be one of its busiest shopping days, with orders through its app up over 50 percent from a year ago. Overall, online sales on Black Friday rose 18.4 percent to \$640 million, from a year ago, as of Friday morning, says Adobe Analytics. Thanksgiving generated a total of \$2.87 billion in online spending, up 18.3 percent from a year ago, the data firm said.

About 69 percent of Americans, or 164 million people, intend to shop at some point during the five-day period from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday, according to a survey released by the NRF. It expected Black Friday to remain the busiest day, with about 115 million people planning to shop then.

"The consumer still likes to go to the stores," said Charles O'Shea, Moody's lead retail analyst. "I've seen a lot of traffic. Yes. There's going to be a lot of online shopping. But I think the brick and mortar stores have done a nice job so far in attracting shoppers."

That's true of Karre Wagner, a 20-year-old University of Minnesota student from St. Paul, Minnesota, who was shopping at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, with her boyfriend. She bought a Blue-Ray player at the mall's Best Buy store. She says she started holiday shopping on Black Friday, but she likes to go to the mall to shop.

"I like to see what I'm buying. I like to touch it, feel it, know exactly what I'm getting and part of it is the experience," she said. "I mean, sitting online is fine, but there's just something about starting the holiday season with Black Friday."

The shift to online buying is a major factor as industry analysts watch how the nation's malls fare this holiday shopping season. The Mall of America in Minnesota says that 2,500 people were in line at the 5 a.m. opening Friday, in line with a year ago. Shoppers started queuing up as early as 5:45 p.m. on Thanksgiving. Jill Renslow, Mall of America's executive vice president of business development, said stores like Nordstrom, Macy's and Best Buy were crowded. She said the items that caught shoppers' attention included were voice-activated devices like Amazon Echo, nostalgic toys, clothing and shoes.

Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette said customer counts are higher and business was better in the North and Northeast even with fewer promotions from a year ago.

But much depends on whether people are buying or just looking, and if they're buying things that aren't on sale as well.

Chuck Boyd said he and his son arrived at 4 a.m. as one of the first five or six in line at Best Buy in Nashville to get one each of about 14 "doorbuster" deals on a 55-inch Toshiba smart TV for \$280, a \$220

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savings. Boyd said he never goes out for Black Friday deals and prefers online shopping. But his son wanted a TV for his apartment at school, so Boyd came along to get one too.

"I'd much rather do online," Boyd said. "But this was the deal you could only do in the store."

Associated Press reporters Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami, Jonathan Mattise in Nashville and Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio at <http://www.Twitter.com/adinnocenzio>

Boom! Luxury converted nuclear missile silo lists on Airbnb

ESKRIDGE, Kan. (AP) — A Cold War-era missile silo in rural northeast Kansas that housed a nuclear warhead 65 years ago and was later converted into an underground mansion is now finding a new lease on life as an Airbnb location.

The Subterra Castle Airbnb opened for business about six months ago. It's located in rural Wabaunsee County, about 15 miles (25 kilometers) southwest of Topeka.

Airbnbs are privately owned residences that are offered online for short-term rental, The Topeka Capital-Journal reports .

Matthew Fulkerson, 37, is the host for Subterra, and said it was his idea to turn the site into an Airbnb. Fulkerson is a neighbor of Subterra's owners, Ed and Dianna Peden, who have lived in the converted missile base since 1994 and are on board with the Airbnb idea.

More than being a place for people to stay when passing through Kansas, Fulkerson said he has a bigger vision for the site.

"I see it as becoming a destination," he said, adding that the base has already been featured in several media outlets.

In addition to a main-floor bedroom, Airbnb guests at Subterra will have a full kitchen, private bathroom, laundry services and a fireplace which gives a "nice, cozy feeling in the fall and winter months," Fulkerson said.

He said he and the Pedens "are considering using both apartments upstairs and down" should Airbnb traffic pick up, "especially because some people really want the experience of sleeping underground."

Fulkerson said Subterra is the first and currently the only Airbnb located in a converted missile silo.

Information from: The Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal, <http://www.cjonline.com>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2017. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 25, 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Confederate agents set a series of arson fires in New York; the blazes were quickly extinguished.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons.

In 1920, radio station WTAW of College Station, Texas, broadcast the first play-by-play description of

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a football game, between Texas University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Texas won, 7-3.)

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant (oo thahnt) died in New York at age 65.

In 1987, Harold Washington, the first black mayor of Chicago, died in office at age 65.

In 1992, the movie "The Bodyguard," starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston, was released by Warner Bros.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Ten years ago: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (nah-WAHZ' shah-REEF') returned from exile to an ecstatic welcome from thousands of supporters and immediately stepped up the pressure on U.S.-backed military ruler Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) to end emergency rule. Kevin Dubrow, lead singer for the heavy metal band Quiet Riot, was found dead in his Las Vegas home; he was 52. Actor Neil Hope died in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada at age 35.

Five years ago: Rioters stormed a Muslim Brotherhood headquarters building in northern Egypt on the third day of street battles following a power grab by President Mohammed Morsi. YouTube announced that "Gangnam Style" by South Korean rapper PSY had become the site's most viewed video to that time, with more than 805 million viewings.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump pressed forward with two more administration picks: Fox News analyst Kathleen Troia "KT" McFarland to serve as deputy national security adviser and campaign attorney Donald McGahn as White House counsel. Actor Ron Glass, best known for his role as the gregarious, sometimes sardonic detective Ron Harris in the long-running cop comedy "Barney Miller," died in Los Angeles at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Murray Schisgal is 91. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 84. Actor Christopher Riordan is 80. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 77. Singer Bob Lind is 75. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 73. Actor John Larroquette is 70. Actor Tracey Walter is 70. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 70. Author Charlaine Harris is 66. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 66. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 62. Singer Amy Grant is 57. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 54. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 53. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 53. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 52. Actor Steve Harris is 52. Actor Billy Burke is 51. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 51. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 51. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 49. Actress Jill Hennessy is 48. Actress Christina Applegate is 46. Actor Eddie Steeples is 44. Actress Kristian Nairn is 42. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 41. Actress Jill Flint is 40. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 38. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 38. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 37. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 36. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 36. Actress Katie Cassidy is 31. Neo-soul musician Ben Griner (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 27. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 26.

Thought for Today: "Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul." — Henry van Dyke, American clergyman (1852-1933).