

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 063 ~ 1 of 47

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

**"Each friend represents  
a world in us, a world  
possibly not born until  
they arrive, and it is only  
by this meeting that a  
new world is born."**

**-Anaïs Nin**



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**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
**Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!**  
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

## Monday, September 10, 2018

- 2:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Meet vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Golf Course
- 5:00pm: Football: Boys JV Game vs. Redfield-Doland @ Doland High School
- 7:00pm- 9:00pm: School Board Meeting Groton Area High School
- 7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

## Tuesday, September 11, 2018

- 10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Redfield-Doland @ Redfield Golf Course
- Noon: Olive Grove Bridge Party
- 4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Redfield-Doland @ Doland High School (7th Grade 4:00 PM; 8th Grade 5:00 PM)
- 5:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Moberidge-Pollock Schools @ Moberidge-Pollock High School (C & JV matches start at 5pm)

## Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Olive Grove Men's League Championship and Banquet

## Thursday, September 13, 2018

- 4:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Meet vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Lee Park Golf Course
- 4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th Game vs. Aberdeen

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## This Week in State Government

### Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Monday, September 10, 3 p.m. CDT, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be a guest on 1060 AM KGFX's South Dakota Perspective with Jody Heemstra.

Saturday, September 8, 10:30 a.m. CDT, Oacoma – Lt. Governor Matt Michels will speak on behalf of the Governor at the at the South Dakota Hall of Fame Inductee Brunch on Saturday, September 8 at 10:30 a.m. at Cedar Shores Arrowwood Resort in Oacoma, SD.

Saturday, September 8, 2 p.m. MDT, Camp Rapid – Lt. Governor Matt Michels will speak at the Memorial Plaza Dedication Ceremony at Camp Rapid on Saturday, September 8 at 2:00 p.m. News media interested in covering the event are asked to confirm their attendance prior to the day by contacting MAJ Anthony Deiss at the SDNG Public Affairs Office at 605-737-6721 or 605-431-8753 or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil).

Thursday, September 13, 3:30 p.m. CDT, Oacoma – Lt. Governor Matt Michels will speak at the South Dakota Medical Group Management Association's Fall Conference on Thursday, September 13 at 3:30 p.m. at Cedar Shores Arrowwood Resort in Oacoma, SD.

Monday, September 10, 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Barber Examiners hold a meeting at the Department of Labor and Regulation office, 811 E. 10th St. The board will reconvene at 1 p.m. at 1200 E. 21st St. for an executive session to administer practical licenses. Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=11>. Questions about the meeting may be directed to Kate Boyd at 605-773-6193.

Tuesday, September 11 – September 12, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre - The Weed and Pest Control Commission will be holding a meeting at the Matthews Training Center in the Joe Foss building. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/Sept%202018%20agenda%20Final.pdf>. For more information, please contact the council at 605-773-3481.

Tuesday, September 11, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The REDI (Revolving Economic Development and Initiative) board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. CDT at 711 E. Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoesser, GOED Finance Director, at 605-773-GOED (4633) for more information. <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=31>.

Tuesday, September 11, 12 p.m. CDT – The Governor's Commission on Fort Sisseton will meet at the North Barracks at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park. The meeting's agenda can be viewed online at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/agenda%20for%2009112018.pdf>. For more information, contact Fort Sisseton at 605-448-5474.

Tuesday, September 11, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Administrators Practices and Standards Commission will meet at the Mackay Building, first floor, Conference Room 1, 800 Governors Dr., in Pierre. A proposed agenda is available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=80>.

Tuesday, September 11, 2 p.m. MDT, Deadwood – The Board of Operator Certification will meet at The Lodge at Deadwood, 100 Pine Crest Dr. An agenda can be found by visiting <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=187>. For more information, contact Rob Kittay, DENR, at 605-773-4208.

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Tuesday, September 11, 5 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), which works closely with local emergency planning committees, will meet at the Holiday Inn Sioux Falls – City Centre, 100 W. 8th St. The quarterly SERC meeting will be held in conjunction with the South Dakota Emergency Management Association 2018 Fall Conference. For a complete agenda, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=36>. For more information, contact Trish Kindt, DENR, at 605-773-3296.

Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls, Quality Inn and Suites, Granite Lane – The Council of Juvenile Services will meet. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=59>.

Wednesday, September 12, 9 a.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Accountancy will meet via teleconference. Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=4>. Questions about the meeting may be directed to Nicole Kasin, Executive Director, at 605-367-5770.

Wednesday, September 12, 1 p.m. CDT, Fort Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation will hold its quarterly meeting at the AmericInn in Ft. Pierre. For more information contact Eric Weiss at 605-773-3195.

Wednesday, September 12, 2 p.m. CDT, Chamberlain – The South Dakota Board of Chiropractic Examiners will be holding a board meeting in the Deer Trail Meeting Room at the AmericInn, 1981 E. King St. For more information or to view the agenda please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=18>.

Thursday, September 13, 8 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls, State Penitentiary – The Board of Pardons and Paroles will meet in the Jameson Annex Visit Room. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=74>.

Thursday, September 13, 8:30 a.m. CDT, Fort Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation will continue its quarterly meeting at the AmericInn in Ft. Pierre. For more information contact Eric Weiss at 605-773-3195.

Thursday, September 13, 9 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners will be holding a board meeting at 101 N. Main Ave., Suite 301. For more information please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=65>.

Thursday, September 13, 9 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Nursing will be holding a board meeting at 4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201. For more information please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=68>.

Thursday, September 13, 9:30 a.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=94>.

Thursday, September 13, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission will meet at the MacKay Building, first floor, Conference Room 1, 800 Governors Dr., in Pierre. A proposed agenda is available at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=79>.

Friday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Lottery Commission will hold its quar-

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terly meeting in LRC room 412 at the Capitol Building in Pierre. The meeting's agenda can be viewed at <https://lottery.sd.gov/about/commission/>, and audio will be streamed live at <http://www.sd.net/room412/>. For more information, contact Wade LaRoche, 605-773-5869.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, September 10, to Thursday, September 13: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, September 10:

- 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Clark – 200 N. Commercial St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Dupree – 501 S. Main St. 605-280-4308

Tuesday, September 11:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – 212 Main St. 605-280-4308
- 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Ft. Thompson – 605-280-4306

Wednesday, September 12:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Pine Ridge - #1 Veteran Rd. 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Roscoe – 210 S. Mitchell St. 605-280-4308

Thursday, September 13:

- 9:30 am – 2 p.m. MDT, Bison – 100 E. Main 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Kadoka – 700 Main St. 605-280-4308

Monday, September 10, to Thursday, September 13, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include productions workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Monday, September 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (MDT), Phillip – Benefits Specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available in Phillip. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Tuesday, September 11, to Thursday, September 13 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Tuesday, September 11, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – At 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Wednesday, September 12, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – At 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

Thursday, September 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Huron – At 333 9th St. SW, in the Huron Campus Center, Hohm Conference Room. The Financial Literacy class is in the morning and the Job Search Assistance class is in the afternoon. For more information or to register to attend, call 605-353-7155 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

- Thursday, September 13, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Watertown – At 2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 200.

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For more information, call 605-882-5131 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Tuesday, September 11, to Thursday, September 13 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org). Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, September 11, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

- Tuesday, September 11, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – At the Spink County Court House, third floor, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Wednesday, September 12, 1 – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At City Hall, 60 S. Main. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

- Wednesday, September 12, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Webster – At the Day County Court House basement, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

- Thursday, September 13, 1 – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Tuesday, September 11 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Brookings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information, call 605-688-4350 or visit [www.GED.com](http://www.GED.com).

Tuesday, September 11, 3 – 5 p.m. CDT, Yankton – Walmart will hold a Job Fair at 3001 Broadway Ave. Multiple positions available. DLR Yankton Job Service can help you prepare. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Wednesday, September 12 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, September 12 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a

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particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit [http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce\\_services/individuals/training\\_opportunities/soft\\_skills\\_training.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx). The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

· Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave. Lunch is provided. To register, call 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

Wednesday, September 12, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The Sioux Falls Career Fair and Networking Event will take place at Active Generations, 2300 W. 46th St. Showcase yourself, share your resume, check out available jobs and meet with multiple local employers. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation along with Active Generations BRIDGES Employment Resource Center. DLR Sioux Falls Job Service can help you prepare your resume and interview skills. For more information, call 605-367-5300.

Thursday, September 13 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Armour, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, September 13, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic sales tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Department of Revenue's Aberdeen office, located at 14 S. Main St., Ste. 102. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Bobi Adams at 605-773-5815.

Thursday, September 13, 10 a.m. MDT, Deadwood – The South Dakota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SDWARN) will hold its annual meeting at The Lodge at Deadwood, 100 Pine Crest Dr. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the South Dakota Water and Wastewater Association's 2018 Annual Conference September 12-14. For more information visit <http://www.sdwarn.org/>.

Thursday, September 13, 1 – 4 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic contractor's excise tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Department of Revenue's Aberdeen office, located at 14 S. Main St., Ste. 102. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Bobi Adams at 605-773-5815.

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## St. John's Soup, Sandwich, and Pie Luncheon

September 13, 2018, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$2.00 per item

For take-out orders, call 397-2386 at  
10:30 a.m. or after.

## We Are Hiring! Housekeeping Laundry Stop in or call

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

## Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 10AM

Location: 204 Hickory St., Langford, SD

Selling an amazing assortment of Guns, 1972 Harley Davidson, Cushman, Vehicles, Fish House & Sporting, Collectibles, Collectible Coins, Metal Signs. Something here to fit all your needs!

*Pictures & Full Sale Bill at [voldrealty.com](http://voldrealty.com)*

**Owner: Robert B. Johnson Estate**

[www.voldrealty.com](http://www.voldrealty.com)

VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY  
BRITTON, SD • 605-448-0048

## Spelunking the Healthcare System

By Andrew Ellsworth, MD



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Wind Cave National Park is an underground maze of narrow passageways and chambers located under the prairie just on the edge of the Black Hills of South Dakota. My family and I took a tour of the park this summer and were astounded at how expansive and complex it is. Established as the 8th national park in 1903, Wind Cave National Park is one of the largest and most complex underground cave systems in the world. There are over 140 miles of interconnected passages compacted into approximately one square mile. They are still exploring and finding more!

One of the early explorers of the cave was Alvin McDonald. He was only 16 when he began exploring the cave for miles at a time by candlelight. He eventually knew the cave so well that he began to guide tours through it. As the story goes, he once left a group alone for a bit as he explored a new passageway. He made his way back to the surface and back home, only to realize later that night that he forgotten his group! Upon realizing his mistake, he immediately went back for them. Imagine being lost in an underground cave without a guide!

Much like the complexity of Wind Cave, our healthcare system is an expansive maze of diseases, tests, hospitals, specialists, and medications. It is difficult to imagine someone being able to navigate this confusing system without a trusted primary care provider to serve as their guide. Primary care providers are the medical professionals you choose to be in charge of your personal care. They can be a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, medical home, or clinic. People who have a primary care provider for the majority of their medical care, who have continuity of care, are healthier. Studies have found that if you a primary care provider to help guide you, you are less likely to go to the emergency room, less likely to be hospitalized, more likely to trust and follow medical advice, and are happier, healthier, and will be generally more satisfied with your care. Your primary care provider is your Alvin McDonald, guiding you through the healthcare maze and helping you avoid those dead ends. But unlike Alvin McDonald, they won't forget about you! Your primary care provider can be your first stop for care, catching problems early on, and keeping you on track for a lifetime of good health.

Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the Prairie Doc® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library.



## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

New quarterback Kirk Cousins played well, the defense made some big-time plays, and the Minnesota Vikings beat the San Francisco 49ers 24-16 on Sunday.

The biggest storyline of the offseason was the Vikings signing Kirk Cousins, and he had a good debut, completing 20 of 35 passes (not including the throw-away at the end of the game) for 244 yards, two touchdowns and zero interceptions. For his first game on a new team with a new offensive coordinator, I'd say it was a success.

Dalvin Cook (16 carries, 40 yards) and Latavius Murray (11 carries, 42 yards) were unable to find much running room against a stout 49ers defense. Cook was able to do some damage in the passing game, however, catching six passes for 55 yards.

Throughout the preseason, some wondered why there was very little chemistry between Cousins and Adam Thielen – but in the first game of the regular season the two put any doubts to rest. Thielen caught six passes for 102 yards on Sunday, but what caught my eye was Cousins' pass distribution. Out of his 35 passes, 12 went Thielen's way – the next closest Viking was Dalvin Cook who had seven targets. Even though half the throws were off-target, it's clear Cousins will look Thielen's way when the play breaks down and he needs to get rid of the ball quickly. Stefon Diggs (3 catches, 43 yards) and Kyle Rudolph (1 catch, 11 yards) didn't have many balls thrown their way, but they were each able to find the endzone.

The Vikings defense didn't play up to the level we know they are capable of, but they were able to make some big plays in big situations and secure the win on opening weekend. The stars we know all had a shining moment or two, but it was great to see the new additions to the defense step up. First-round pick Mike Hughes had the first interception of his career and returned it for a touchdown, while free agent acquisition Sheldon Richardson was constantly in the backfield and he finished the game with six tackles, three quarterback hits and a sack.

The player of the game on offense was Kirk Cousins. His stats were good, but it was clear he will get better with more time throwing to his new receivers. It seemed like this was just an average game for Cousins, and if that's true then the Vikings made a good decision when they gave him \$84 million guaranteed.

The player of the game on defense was Harrison Smith. He was the best safety in the NFL last season, and he might have gotten even better this year. Smith led the team in tackles (8), sacks (1), tackles for a loss (2), fumble recoveries (1) and interceptions (1). There have only been three safeties in the history of the NFL that have won the Defensive Player of the Year award, but Harrison Smith will undoubtedly be in the conversation at the end of the year if he continues to play like he did on Sunday.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Green Bay to battle the rival Packers. The game will be on Fox next Sunday and will start at noon (CT). Aaron Rodgers will be looking for a little payback after last season, and ESPN only gives the Vikings a 41% chance to win. The two teams will be jockeying for first place in the NFC North this season, so even though this game is early in the season it still comes with plenty of importance. Skol!

If you have any questions, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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## EARTHTALK ™ *Questions & Answers About Our Environment*

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that the Monarch Butterfly is on the brink of extinction? How did we let that happen?  
-- Alex Degeneres, Cincinnati, OH



While the mighty Monarch Butterfly may not be on the endangered species list yet, environmentalists think it should be — and have petitioned the federal government accordingly. In a 2016 lawsuit, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety joined forces to successfully sue the fed to force a decision on whether or not to include the quickly vanishing Monarch on the list of endangered species.

According to a recent study published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Biological Conservation*, Monarchs have declined across their usual migratory path in the western United States by some 97 percent in just 35 years. Back in the 1980s, upwards of 10 million Monarchs traversed this flyway annually, whereas only 300,000 or so now make the journey in any given year. Even more troubling, researchers warn that if present trends continue, Western Monarchs face a 72 percent likelihood of going extinct within 20 years and an 86 percent chance of extinction within a half century.

What's causing this massive die-off of the once ubiquitous Monarchs? First off, global warming is wreaking havoc on the butterflies' instinctual triggers to migrate. "Every year, a new generation of these butterflies follows the same path forged by generations before them," reports David Wolfe of the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). "The only thing guiding them on this migration is temperature telling them when they need to travel — like a biological trigger setting them in flight."

"But in recent years, the monarch's fall south migration from Canada has been delayed by as much as six weeks due to warmer-than-normal temperatures that failed to trigger the butterflies' instincts to move south," says Wolfe. "By the time the temperature cooled enough to trigger the migration, it's been too cold in the Midwest and many monarchs died on their trip south."

Global warming is also causing a massive decline in the Monarchs' food source, the milkweed plant. Traditionally abundant in both native prairie habitats as well as on disturbed lands such as roadsides, ditches, cemeteries and even cornfields, milkweed is quickly becoming scarce due to the widespread application of herbicides to keep weeds down and fast changing seasonal climatic conditions as surface temperatures are rising across latitudes.

What can we do to turn things around for the ailing Monarchs? For starters, plant milkweed. This simple act not only provides vital habitat for migrating Monarchs but also makes a statement regarding what you

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value for plants — and in life — in your backyard or garden. The hardy plant is easy to find and easy to grow, and if you have it in your backyard keep your eyes peeled for Monarchs, hummingbirds and other wildlife.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently working to plant milkweed across some two million acres of public land along the Monarch's key migration routes. Agricultural landowners can get in on the environmentally responsible action by signing onto EDF's innovative Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, which incentivizes farmers in Texas, Missouri and California through market forces to grow milkweed either between other crops or in fields that aren't otherwise in use.

CONTACTS: "Citizen science monitoring demonstrates dramatic declines of monarch butterflies in western North America," [sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717304809](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717304809); Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, [www.edf.org/ecosystems/monarch-butterfly-habitat-exchange](http://www.edf.org/ecosystems/monarch-butterfly-habitat-exchange).

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit [www.earthtalk.org](http://www.earthtalk.org). Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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## Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains were helpful in reducing the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most serious damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused serious river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.

1919 - A hurricane struck the Florida Keys drowning more than 500 persons. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys, with winds gusting to 180 mph and a thirteen foot storm surge. The hurricane then moved north along the eastern coast of Florida and inundated Naples before moving out to sea. Hurricane Donna claimed fifty lives, injured 1800 others, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. The Marathon/Tavernier area was almost completely destroyed, and in the Citrus Belt, most of the avocado crop was blown from the trees. Hurricane Donna wreaked havoc from Florida to Maine, with wind gusts to 100 mph along much of the coast. Hurricane Donna produced wind gusts to 121 mph at Charleston SC on the 11th, and wind gusts to 138 mph at Blue Hill Observatory MA on the 12th. The hurricane finally died over Maine two days later, producing more than five inches of rain over the state. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Caribbean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Sunny

High: 81 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 62 °F

Tuesday



Sunny then  
Sunny and  
Breezy

High: 87 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Increasing  
Clouds

Low: 61 °F

Wednesday




Mostly Sunny

High: 87 °F

**Today**  
**MILD**  
Highs: Upper 70s to Mid 80s

**Tuesday**  
**HOT**  
Highs: Low 80s to Low 90s

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD  
Updated: 9/10/2018 4:36 AM Central  
Published on: 09/10/2018 at 4:40 AM



Once the last of the showers move out of the forecast area this morning we'll be looking at mostly dry conditions with mild temperatures that will be several degrees above average.

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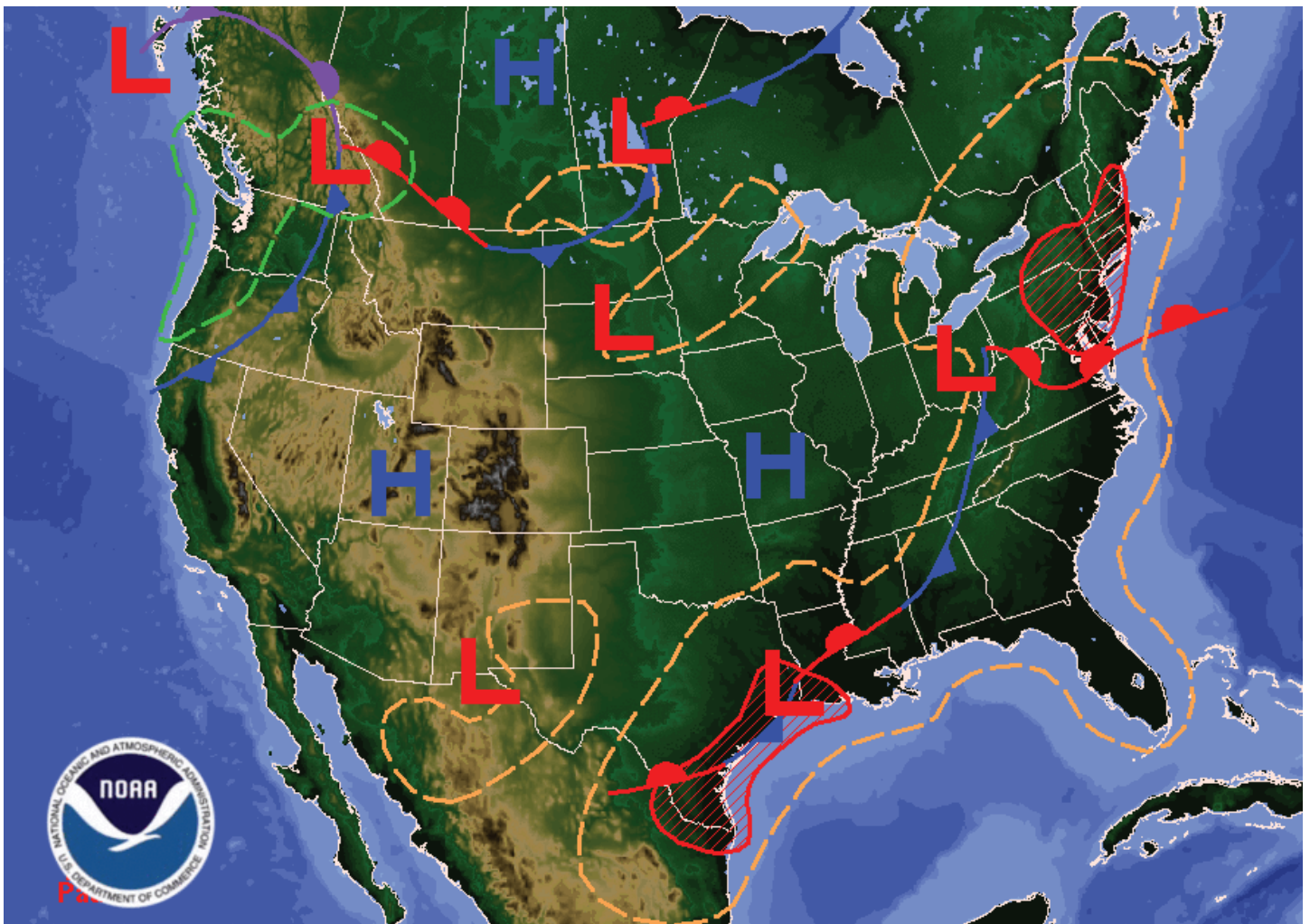
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 78.1 F at 4:05 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 59.1 F at 7:03 AM**  
**High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 9:16 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 107° in 1931**  
**Record Low: 27° in 1898**  
**Average High: 75°F**  
**Average Low: 48°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 0.67**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10**  
**Average Precip to date: 16.96**  
**Precip Year to Date: 11.36**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:54 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Sep 10, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds 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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## TRAVELING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

G.K. Chesterton was a famous English writer. He is held in high esteem for his poetry, respected for his work as a journalist and his works in philosophy. He was once named by Time magazine as a "man of colossal genius."

Once, while traveling on a train, he became so engrossed in the book he was reading that he forgot his destination. As the train made its last stop, the conductor went to him and said, "Sir, this is the end of the line."

He frantically searched his pockets for his ticket but could not find it. Not being able to find it, he looked bewildered and confused. Sensing his predicament, the conductor asked, "Where were you going?"

After a lengthy pause he said to the conductor, "I can't remember. I'll have to phone my wife and ask her."

The writer of Psalm 80 recognized that the children of Israel had abandoned their relationship with God. With a heavy heart he prayed, "Restore us, O God, make Your face shine upon us that we may be saved." Realizing that they were going in the wrong direction he asked God to "restore them and save them." And He did!

Throughout history, from the dawn of Creation until this very moment, God has never abandoned anyone. It is always the other way around: we have abandoned Him.

A mother received a letter from her son in prison. In his despair he wrote her and said that he got into trouble because God had abandoned him. With a heart filled with love and sadness she wrote, "Son, if you do not feel the closeness of God it is because you have left Him."

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for Your promise that You will never leave us nor forsake us – no matter what! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 80:3 Turn us again to yourself, O God. Make your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 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)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 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)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events



## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota school celebrates 30 years of special education

By CORA VAN OLSON, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — For more than 30 years, Yankton's Stewart School has had an entire wing of its building dedicated to providing special education services.

"It's been around since 1987, and was kind of created on a napkin by Joyce Wentworth, our former director of student services," said Jerome Klimisch, principal of Stewart Elementary School. "She got to be the design person with Linda Balfany, the special education teacher."

Stewart School, which was built in 1966, was a good fit because it was fully accessible to students with physical disabilities. In addition to the usual classrooms, The SPED wing includes an office for a speech therapist, a physical therapy room, an occupational therapy room, an outdoor playground in the back and a kitchen.

"The original plans included a working kitchen so kids could learn life skills and do laundry," Klimisch told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. "Life skills are important for kids in Special Ed."

Today, Stewart School enrolls about 300 children in all, and almost a third are in special ed.

"It turned into something that I think is a fabulous special ed program in the area," Klimisch said. "We have probably 90 students on IEPs (Individualized Education programs). Given the size of our school, we have a good representation of Special Education kids."

As far as the 90 kids in the special education program, Klimisch notes, every one of them is on a different tailor-made IEP, and staff tries to reach out to those children by tapping into how they learn.

"I've always said, I think I've learned more from them than they have learned from me over the years," he said. "When you talk about special education, it truly is a special program and a special need."

The laws regarding special education have changed a lot in 30 years, and now school districts are required to offer services to those that qualify from as early as birth until age 21.

"One thing people probably don't realize is, the youngest kid I have worked with would be six weeks old, right out of the hospital," said Cody Lukkes, who teaches Early Childhood Special Education. "They got connected with Birth to Three and if they qualify for prolonged assistance, the school district provides all of that: the occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist and myself, as the early childhood special ed teacher."

For those younger than 3 years old, Lukkes provides in-home instruction weekly, monthly or quarterly, depending on what would be of most benefit to the child.

When they turn 3, the children can receive services at Stewart School.

"They come celebrate their third birthday with me a lot of times, that's when they can start at Stewart," Lukkes said. "We are the only school that has an Early Intervention Program. It's different from the Pre-school Program at Webster: that's for anyone. For Early Intervention, you have to have a delay of some sort to qualify. My program's not preschool; we're just working on those skills to keep them caught up with the rest of the kids."

From the moment they get to school, all students are expected to adhere to standards of behavior.

"At the beginning of every year, I send (to parents) my expectations for when the kids enter my classroom," Lukkes said. "I know they are 3, but they get bullet points for about 10 things that, 'this is what my expectation is and this is our goal.'"

Klimisch concurred. "I think we have high expectations for special education kids," he said. "We don't baby and do things for them because they don't learn anything if we would do that. We try to push that on to parents, too, that it's important."

Of the 13 categories of disabilities provided for by special education, Stewart School has helped children with delays and disabilities in many of those categories through the years, including: deaf students, blind students, students with autism, Down syndrome and general learning disabilities, non-verbal students and

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those with more severe disabilities.

But SPED students and teachers don't spend all their time in the SPED wing.

"I might teach 3- and 4-year olds, but that doesn't mean if (another teacher) is having an issue, we don't all work together," Lukkes said. "PT, OT, it's a big family. If we know there's an issue in a room, we all help out. It's not like we just stick to our room. We don't even keep our kids in our rooms; sometimes we will go to other rooms just to get the kids used to being around other people."

Every attempt is made to mainstream the children from the SPED wing into regular classrooms so they can participate in school with their classmates, and so their classmates can get to know them.

"We have a poster hung up in the conference room, 'If a disability is all that you see, you are missing out on.' and it lists all these other strengths," Klimisch said. "We are trying to build on students' strengths, not focus on their disability or their weakness. We serve all kids, we like to help all kids, take the potential and build on it, bring each to their full potential."

Lukkes and Angela Haffner, a Stewart Resource Room teacher, are planning a Disability of the Month Awareness Day.

"One day each month, we will recognize a disability at school and give a brief description to help students understand a little bit about different disabilities here at Stewart School, and then maybe say, wear this color for this awareness," Lukkes explained.

Many of the Early Intervention students will go on to kindergarten at their home-base schools, Klimisch said, and those with behavioral issues will likely go on to Beadle Elementary School's Special Education Program.

But all the children will take their Stewart School experience with them.

"We have heard from parents and people from middle school, that Stewart School kids really do grow up, having grown up with kids with special needs, having patience to work them, beside them and understand them," Klimisch said. "One day, a young lady came in (to the school) and she introduced herself, and she said, 'I just want you guys to know, I went here to Stewart School all through my elementary years, and because I was with special education students, they were in my classroom and I got to know them as kids and as people, I grew up and went to school to be a special education teacher in Minnesota. I give Stewart School credit for my love for working with special needs kids.'"

Parents are also encouraged to communicate with the teachers in the SPED program.

"We are very dependent on parents also," said Annette Haberman, occupational therapist for the school district. "They have information that we need. It's such a partnership and when it works that way, it works best."

One of the ways the district locates kids that need special education services is through preschool screens, which are coming up this month.

"I tell parents, if you have questions, bring them in for a screen, because then you know," Lukkes said. "They are their child's voice and advocate, 'If you don't understand something, ask. We're here to help; we want your kids to be just as successful as you want your kids to be.'"

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Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## Fundraising efforts begin for Rapid City children's museum

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A new fundraising campaign hopes to bring Rapid City closer to having its own children's museum, where hands-on learning will be mixed with big doses of imagination and fun.

The Children's Museum of the Black Hills has launched "Gearing Up for Greatness," a capital campaign that aims to raise \$850,000 by the end of September so the nonprofit museum can open in early 2019. If successful, the museum will be located in a renovated former retail space in downtown Rapid City.

The museum's volunteer founder and board president, Lily Bruckner, said funds will pay for construction and renovation costs. She also anticipates the fundraiser will provide enough money to keep the museum

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sustainable for its first couple of years in operation.

The museum will contain a mix of STEAM2 (science, technology, engineering, arts, math and medicine) exhibits and activities for children from birth to age 12, Bruckner told the Rapid City Journal . ARC International of Rapid City is designing the initial 5,000 square feet of the museum. Finances permitting, the board would like to expand to a 2,500-square-foot third level as well, Bruckner said.

Bruckner and a group of other local parents are the driving force behind organizing and fundraising for the Children's Museum of the Black Hills.

The "Gearing for Up Greatness" campaign wants to attract large and small donations so everyone in the community can support the new museum. In fact, three of the "Gearing Up" early donors are siblings — a preschooler, a kindergartner and a second-grader — who raided their piggy banks, Bruckner said.

"We really want this to be a community-owned museum, and we want the community to embrace it and feel proud of the museum," Bruckner said. "When people feel invested in something, they're more willing to cheer it on."

An invitation-only event on Sept. 10 for the museum's founding donors and local officials will formally launch the "Gearing Up for Greatness" campaign. However, any donor who gives at least \$25 between now and the end of September will be entered in a drawing to win a one-year membership to the museum after it opens, Bruckner said.

Throughout September, the museum will host open houses for the public, Bruckner said. Interlocking building blocks, a wind tunnel, a magnetic exploration table and a constellation exhibit will be in place for kids.

"People are invited to come in and play and hopefully donate," Bruckner said. "We want people to see the transformation of the space ... and allow their imaginations to wander. We'll have poster board for people to write their ideas down and say what they really want (for future exhibits and activities)."

The museum is seeking local artists, artisans, storytellers and other volunteers to lead activities, assist the staff or play with kids after the museum opens. The museum's board also needs volunteers.

"We are intentionally keeping everything we can local," Bruckner said. "We want to allow people to showcase their talents. I think our South Dakota mindset of 'We can build it and we can create things' is going to be really beneficial for us as a whole."

Before finalizing a location and launching the "Gearing Up for Greatness" campaign, the museum board hired a consultant to do a feasibility study, Bruckner said. The study indicated that the museum could attract about 66,000 visitors annually — not including tourism traffic.

"We don't really have a lot of indoor activities for kids, especially in the winter," Bruckner said. "We're really lacking in some of the indoor activities and we wanted to add that. It's something I've heard consistently from other parents in the community."

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

## Firefighter killed in house fire was SD Guard soldier

TILFORD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard says a firefighter killed while battling a house fire in Tilford was a longtime Guard soldier.

Forty-three-year-old Staff Sgt. David Fischer of Sturgis was killed Friday when he was hit by a piece of propane tank that exploded. The homeowner, 82-year-old Raymond Bachmeier of Tilford, also died.

Fischer served as an assistant fire chief of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department and was a 22-year veteran of the department.

He was a survey team member with the Rapid City-based 82nd Civil Support team with the South Dakota National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, says Fischer "died in the line of duty protecting his community."

Funeral services are pending. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## US backtracks on Russian spy suspect offering sex for access

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors are backtracking on their allegation that a Russian woman accused of working as a secret agent offered to trade sex for access, according to a Justice Department court filing.

Prosecutors had earlier accused Maria Butina, a gun rights activist in U.S. custody on charges she worked as a covert agent and tried to establish back-channel lines of communication to the Kremlin, of offering to exchange sex for a position with a special interest organization.

The salacious allegation, which immediately escalated the public interest in the case, was based on a series of text messages to and from Butina and other information that prosecutors say they had obtained.

But in a new court filing late Friday, prosecutors said they misinterpreted the messages. They said “even granting that the government’s understanding of this particular text conversation was mistaken,” there is other evidence to support keeping Butina in custody as the case against her moves forward in Washington.

Butina, 29, was arrested in July and accused of gathering intelligence on American officials and political organizations. Prosecutors say she used her contacts with the National Rifle Association and the National Prayer Breakfast to develop relationships with U.S. politicians and gather information for Russia. They also say she used her role as a student at American University in Washington as a cover for her activities.

The case is being handled by the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia and not by special counsel Robert Mueller, who has been leading an investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Donald Trump’s Republican presidential campaign as well as Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election. The filing came ahead of a status hearing in her case scheduled for Monday.

Butina’s lawyer, Robert Driscoll, had strongly denied the accusation and said the government had relied on an “innocuous” 3-year-old text message exchange between Butina and a longtime friend, assistant and public relations professional for a gun rights group that she had founded.

The individual, identified in court papers only as DK, had said in the text that he didn’t know what Butina would owe him after he took her car for an insurance renewal and government inspection. She replied, “Sex. Thank you so much. I have nothing else at all. Not a nickel to my name.”

In a court filing last month, Driscoll said that the sex comment was clearly a joke and that Butina is friends with DK’s wife and child and treats him like a brother. He said there is no evidence that the two ever had sex.

“The impact of this inflammatory allegation, which painted Ms. Butina as some type of Kremlin-trained seductress, or spy-novel honeypot character, trading sex for access and power, cannot be overstated,” Driscoll said.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday, Driscoll said, “I’m happy the government walked back their false allegation.”

Butina has pleaded not guilty to the charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Russia. Driscoll has denied that Butina is a Russian agent, calling the case “overblown.” He has said his client was merely a student who wanted to see a better relationship between the U.S. and Russia and sought to network with influential people in American politics.

There was nothing covert about her work, Driscoll said, noting several news stories about her over the past several years.

The sexual allegation was only a small part of the evidence presented by prosecutors in arguing to jail Butina. Prosecutors largely argued that she posed an “extreme” flight risk and raised the prospect of her being swept out of the country by Russians using their diplomatic immunity to shield her from U.S. law enforcement. The U.S. does not have an extradition treaty with Russia.

Prosecutors have said her activities in the U.S. were being directed by a Russian official, identified by Driscoll as Alexander Torshin. He is a senior official in the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, a former lawmaker and a member of the NRA since 2012.

Prosecutors say Torshin was Butina’s handler, but Driscoll has said he was only a friend and mentor with whom Butina traveled openly when he visited the U.S.

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Torshin was also among a number of Russian businessmen and officials sanctioned this year by the U.S. Treasury Department for their ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin and for their part in "advancing Russia's malign activities."

Prosecutors have said they also found evidence that Butina has had contact with Russian intelligence.

FBI agents photographed her dining with a diplomat suspected of being a Russian intelligence agent. They found she had contact information for people suspected of being employed by Russia's Federal Security Services, or FSB, the successor intelligence agency to the KGB. They also found notes in her home referring to a potential job offer from the FSB.

The notes were found among the belongings of her boyfriend, conservative political operative Paul Erickson, who is referred to as "U.S. Person 1" in court papers that allege he was Butina's channel for establishing ties with the NRA.

Prosecutors have questioned the authenticity of Butina's romantic relationship with Erickson, who is in his mid-50s. Driscoll has disputed the government's characterization of the relationship.

Driscoll said during a hearing this summer that Butina cooperated with a federal fraud investigation into Erickson in South Dakota.

Erickson has not been charged with any crimes.

Online:

Read prosecutors' court filing: <http://apne.ws/rIV3Yy7>

Read Butina's argument for release from jail: <http://apne.ws/4I6nHIA>

## Last defendant in Jamaican lottery scam case going to trial

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Rhode Island woman accused of funneling lottery scam money between the U.S. and Jamaica through her airline job goes on trial in federal court in North Dakota this week. She is the last of 27 defendants in the case that began seven years ago this month. Here's a look at the case and the upcoming trial of Melinda Bulgin, which is expected to last up to 10 days.

**WHY IS THIS CASE A BIG DEAL?**

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that lottery scams could be a billion-dollar-a-year industry in Jamaica. This is believed to be the first large-scale Jamaican lottery scam tried in U.S. courts, and it will create a template for future investigations, Assistant U.S. Attorney Clare Hochhalter said.

The U.S. attorney's office expects many more investigations in both the U.S. and Jamaica, though Hochhalter believes it will take a combined effort of governments, citizens and law officers to put a serious dent in the Jamaican lottery scam industry.

**HOW DO THESE SCAMS WORK?**

Scammers call victims about bogus lottery winnings, persuading them to send advance fees to receive the purported winnings, then keeping the money without paying anything to the victims.

In the scam that launched this case, a woman was told she had won \$19 million and a new car, and needed only to pay taxes and fees to collect the prizes.

**HOW DID THIS CASE COME TO BE PROSECUTED?**

In September 2011, 86-year-old Edna Schmeets, of Harvey, North Dakota, paid those "fees" and lost her life savings of more than \$300,000. Authorities opened a case in 2012. The probe involved the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Authorities dubbed the case "Operation Hard Copy," a reference to lists of prospective victims' contact information used by scammers. They say the investigation determined the sophisticated scam bilked at least 90 mostly elderly Americans out of more than \$5.7 million. Court documents list victims in North Dakota, South Dakota, South Carolina and Texas, with illegal scam-related activity also alleged in New York, New Hampshire, California and Florida.

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Prosecutors eventually filed conspiracy, fraud and money laundering charges against 27 people. All have pleaded guilty or been convicted except Bulgin, of Providence, Rhode Island.

WHAT WILL HER TRIAL FOCUS ON?

Prosecutors say Bulgin worked as a customer service representative for Delta Air Lines and took advantage of the fact that she was able to travel "virtually free" to funnel money.

They call her "not a minor player" in the scam and say she has a past that includes getting expelled from Pace University in New York in 2013 for "untruthful and dishonest behavior" that included forgery, cheating and unlawfully obtaining federal student loans. Defense attorney Kevin Chapman says that isn't relevant.

In 2015, Jamaican airport authorities said they found nearly \$15,000 in Bulgin's handbag that she hadn't declared to customs officials. She was arrested three months later in Rhode Island. She was interrogated in both countries.

Chapman maintains that the authorities mishandled the interrogations and violated Bulgin's rights.

Bulgin initially faced 66 counts of conspiracy, fraud and money laundering. Prosecutors late last month sought the dismissal of 51 of the counts, saying it would "allow the United States to effectively focus attention and resources." U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland on Tuesday approved the request. He'll oversee her trial in Bismarck.

Prosecutors say they'll introduce evidence including money transfer records, bank records and emails, and also have testimony from an FBI special agent who has reviewed hundreds of thousands of emails, documents and other records.

Schmeets is on the government's lengthy witness list, as is Lavrick Willocks, who authorities said masterminded the scam.

WILL THIS TRIAL WRAP UP THE CASE?

There's another upcoming court hearing of note — Willocks is to be sentenced Oct. 15.

Willocks pleaded guilty in July 2017 to conspiracy in a deal with prosecutors. He faces up to 40 years in prison, though prosecutors will recommend about 10 years because he cooperated.

WILL THE VICTIMS EVER GET THEIR MONEY BACK?

Those who have been convicted in the case have been ordered to pay restitution, but it's not known how likely it is that will actually happen.

Hovland in July also ordered that cash and jewelry seized from Willocks be liquidated and the proceeds doled out to victims.

The property includes the equivalent of nearly \$12,000 in U.S. currency and jewelry of unknown worth including gold chains, gold rings, gold and silver bracelets including one with a diamond, and Rolex watches. Hochhalter said authorities are making other efforts to locate forfeitable assets but it's a challenge.

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

## Hunters raise concerns over changes to South Dakota licenses

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Some hunters are concerned about a new deer hunting license proposal from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

The proposal would require deer hunters to pick one preferred season for their choice of first license draw, instead of applying for numerous preferred seasons at once, The Daily Republic reported .

The new proposal is meant to increase the number of hunters drawing their preferred firearms deer license, officials said.

The department received about 52,600 resident hunter applications in 2017 for the roughly 35,000 available licenses, according to GF&P Special Projects Coordinator Kevin Robling. Less than half of deer hunters received a license on their first draw last year, he said.

But some hunters are concerned with how the new system will impact preference points, which can be purchased when applying for licenses and increases hunters' odds of being drawn for the next season.

Hunter has been hunt on both sides of the river for years, but he said he fears those days will be coming to an end.

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"My preference for putting in a license will be for an East River tag, but I also put in preference for a West River tag, which I have built up numerous years of preference for. And under the new proposal, I would lose those years of preference points," said hunter Roger Johnson.

Hunters can still receive more than one tag in a season through the new proposed system, but it will be less likely, Robling said.

There are seven deer hunting firearm seasons in South Dakota: Black Hills, West River, East River, Custer State Park, Refuge, special buck and muzzleloader deer season.

The GF&P Commission will hold two public hearings before voting on the proposal in October.

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

## Teachers, community volunteer to paint South Dakota school

WAUBAY, S.D. (AP) — When officials decided the 1980s paint job at a northeastern South Dakota school wasn't cutting it anymore, a group of teachers and community members got together to renovate the building.

New paint was part of the long-term plan for the Waubay School District, but about a dozen teachers were tired of waiting, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"The plan was another year from now we're going to do some things," said Superintendent Dean Jones. "They said, 'We'll come paint it now, we want to get it done now.'"

The group volunteered to paint the school with less than a month before the first day of class. Jones said he was nervous about the deadline.

"A couple of them said, 'We'll do it. You get us the paint, and we'll do it,'" Jones said. "By gosh, they rounded up 10, 12 of them at different times, came in and a couple people in the community helped, and they were painting in here late at night."

Teachers painted the commons area, the elementary school library and the halls in the elementary wing. An artist-in-residence helped paint a mural, and the teacher painting crew finished up the other walls.

"I think we started doing some updates in one room and it kind of led to the rest," said Misty Gaikowski, a fifth-grade teacher. "It was fun that everything was clean and looked newer."

Students noticed the difference when they came in on the first day of school.

"They've even complimented (us) on it," said Amber Gaikowski, high school math and tech coordinator. "We've had other community members and parents come in and thank us and (say they) were appreciative of what we have done and what the other staff members have done."

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

## Intensifying Hurricane Florence could strike US Southeast

By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

Rapidly intensifying Hurricane Florence could strike a direct and dangerous blow anywhere from the Carolinas to the Mid-Atlantic region later this week, possibly as a fearsome category 4.

A hurricane hunter plane found Florence strengthening quickly, reaching top winds of 85 mph (140 kph) Sunday evening after crossing the 74 mph threshold from tropical storm to a hurricane earlier in the day.

Forecasters said Florence was expected to become an extremely dangerous major hurricane sometime Monday, and remain that way for days.

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Florence was centered about 625 miles (1,005 kilometers) southeast of Bermuda, moving west at 9 mph (15 kph). Its maximum sustained winds are at 105 mph (165 kph). Drawing energy from the warm water, it could have top sustained winds of 130 mph (209 kph) or more by Tuesday, the Miami-based center said.

The center also said that Hurricane Isaac, much farther out to sea, has become the 5th named hurricane

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of the 2018 Atlantic season.

It's too early to know the exact path, but forecasters said Florence could blow ashore in the Carolinas by Thursday.

Up and down the densely populated coast, residents have been told to prepare, and not just for a possible direct blow. Florence could slow or stall on or near shore, scooping up massive amounts of seawater. Some forecasting models show it could unload a foot or two of rain in places, causing devastating inland flooding. Forecasters also warned of a rising threat of life-threatening storm surge, along with the damaging winds.

The governors of North and South Carolina and Virginia declared states of emergency far ahead of the approaching storm.

Navy ships off Virginia's coast were preparing to sail out of the path, a North Carolina university has already canceled classes and people have begun stocking up on plywood, bottled water and other supplies.

Red flags have already been flying on beaches, warning swimmers to stay out of the water as seas began kicking up. People rushed to get emergency kits ready, map out escape routes, fill sandbags and secure their homes.

"Pretend, assume, presume that a major hurricane is going to hit right smack dab in the middle of South Carolina and is going to go way inshore," South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said. The state's emergency management agency said it is "preparing for the possibility of a large-scale disaster."

In coastal Charleston, South Carolina, city officials offered sandbags to residents. Myrtle Beach Mayor Brenda Bethune urged people to secure their homes but said it was too early to know if evacuations will be ordered.

Myrtle Beach hardware stores and supermarkets were busy ringing up sales of bottled water, plywood and generators.

"Literally, they are filling buggies full of water, shopping carts full of water," Ryan Deeck, grocery department manager at a Walmart, told The Sun News. "They're coming in and buying water and plates, and that's about all they're buying."

North Carolina crews were getting bulldozers and chain saws ready.

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) inland, some residents picked up hurricane supplies during their normal weekend shopping, The Daily News reported. Ilija Cesal told the newspaper he wouldn't worry about buying extra water or other supplies for a few more days.

"I'll see by Wednesday how that goes — we got over 48 hours before that happens," Cesal said.

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, near the shore, canceled its upcoming alumni weekend and all classes starting at noon Monday, encouraging its students to leave campus for a safer location.

In southeast Virginia, Naval Station Norfolk told not to leave their vehicles at the sprawling base later this week because of the flood threat. The Navy planned to send ships from the Hampton Roads area of Virginia out to sea.

Florida-based Carnival Cruise Line re-routed its cruise ships.

Lining up behind Florence, Isaac was about 1,230 miles (1,985 kilometers) east of the Windward Islands with top winds of 75 mph (120 kph) early Monday, moving west at 13 mph (20 kph). It should accelerate over the next 36 hours, but poses no threat to land at this time.

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. AP writers Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, and Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this story.

## Taliban attack Afghan security forces in north, killing 37

By RAHIM FAIEZ and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban insurgents have launched separate attacks on Afghan security forces in the country's north, killing at least 37, provincial officials said Monday.

Mohammad Yusouf Ayubi, head of the provincial council in Kunduz province, said that at least 13 security forces were killed in an attack on a checkpoint they were manning in Dashti Archi district, with another



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15 security forces wounded there. The firefight began late Sunday and continued into Monday morning. Meanwhile in Jawzjan province, Provincial Police Chief Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani said the Taliban attacked Khamyab district from different directions, forcing Afghan forces to withdraw from the district headquarters to avoid civilian casualties.

"There was intense fighting and we didn't want civilian houses destroyed, or any civilian casualties," said Jawzjani. He said that at least eight policemen were killed and three other police were wounded. Seven Taliban were killed and eight were wounded during the gun battle, he added.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the group for the attacks in Kunduz and Jawzjan provinces.

The Taliban also killed another 14 local Afghan policemen and pro-government militiamen in the Dara Suf district of Samangan province, provincial spokesman Sediq Azizi said, adding that six others were also wounded.

Azizi added that three Taliban fighters were killed and four others were wounded during the Monday morning battle.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack in Samangan, but Azizi blamed Taliban insurgents who are active in the province and often target Afghan security forces and local, pro-government militias.

In another report from northern Sari Pul province, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Qayum Baqizai said that Taliban attacked checkpoints of the army and pro-government militia near the provincial capital, Sari Pul city.

Two pro-government militia fighters were killed and two others wounded, he said, but had no details on any possible casualties among the army.

"The Taliban's attack has been repelled, but sporadic gun battles are underway at the outskirts of the city," he added.

The Taliban hasn't yet commented on the fighting in Sari Pul province.

Since a June cease-fire that marked the Islamic holiday of Eid al Fitr, Taliban insurgents have ramped up attacks against Afghanistan's security forces killing hundreds of security personnel in increasingly well-coordinated assaults across the country.

During the three-day cease-fire, pictures circulated of Taliban arm-in-arm with Afghan security forces, singing and taking selfies of each other. Outraged Mohammad Yaqub, the son of the Taliban's founder, Mullah Mohammed Omar, circulated a harshly worded audio tape condemning the fraternization.

Since then attacks against military installations have been relentless, and on several occasions the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have been outgunned and out maneuvered. Even Washington's watchdog, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan's Reconstruction (SIGAR), in successive reports has noted weaknesses within the security forces, including desertions, inadequate training, and corruption.

Since 2014 the Afghan National Security Forces have taken the lead in the war against insurgents, with the U.S. and NATO providing support, back-up and training. Yet the Taliban have increased in strength and according to the special inspector general nearly half the country is either under their direct control or deeply influenced by them.

As well an Islamic State affiliate has emerged and has carried out brazen and increasingly deadly attacks, most often targeting civilians and the country's minority Shiite Muslims. The Taliban and the Islamic State affiliate are enemies and have attacked each other's forces. The Taliban has also denied responsibility for attacks on Shiites, which IS has claimed.

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Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Pakistan has contributed to this report

## Sweden faces weeks of uncertainty after close election

By PIETRO DECRISTOFARO and JEFF SCHAEFFER, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden woke Monday to the prospect of weeks of political uncertainty after the country's two rival blocs failed to secure a clear governing majority in elections that saw a boost for a far-right party amid growing discontent with large-scale immigration.

With most of the ballots counted, the governing center-left bloc had a razor-thin edge over the center-right opposition Alliance, with roughly 40 percent each.

Sunday's election saw the Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigrant party with roots in a neo-Nazi movement, win about 18 percent, up from the 13 percent it gained four years earlier.

The party, which has worked to moderate its image in past years, gained on a backlash against the challenges of integrating hundreds of thousands of immigrants that arrived in the Scandinavian nation over the past years.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who brought the Social Democrats to power in 2014, said he intended to remain in the job. The center-left party emerged with the greatest share of the vote — 28.4 percent as the count neared completion — yet looking at holding fewer parliament seats than four years ago.

The leader of the Moderates party that came in second, Ulf Kristersson, has already called on Lofven to resign and claimed the right to form Sweden's next government.

The center-right, four-party Alliance has said it would meet Monday to discuss how to move forward and demand that Lofven, head of the minority, two-party governing coalition, resign.

Final election returns were expected later in the week. The preliminary results made it unlikely any party would secure a majority of 175 seats in the 349-seat Riksdag, Sweden's parliament.

With the prospect of weeks or months of coalition talks before the next government is formed, Swedish tabloid Expressen headlined its front page Monday: "Chaos."

Both the left-leaning bloc led by the Social Democrats and the center-right bloc in which the Moderates is the largest of four parties have said they would refuse to consider the Sweden Democrats as a coalition partner.

Lofven told his supporters the election presented "a situation that all responsible parties must deal with," adding that "a party with roots in Nazism" would "never ever offer anything responsible, but hatred."

"We have a moral responsibility. We must gather all forces for good. We won't mourn, we will organize ourselves," he said.

Sweden — home to the Nobel prizes and militarily neutral for the better part of two centuries — has been known for its comparatively open doors to migrants and refugees. Sunday's general election was the first since Sweden, which a population of 10 million, took in a record 163,000 refugees in 2015 — the highest per capita of any European country.

Turnout in the election was reported at 84.4 percent, up from 83 percent in 2014.

Jan M. Olsen reported from Copenhagen, Denmark; Frank Jordans reported from Berlin; Vanessa Gera from Warsaw.

## Moonves becomes latest powerful exec felled in #MeToo era

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The #MeToo movement fighting sexual misconduct had already claimed one of Hollywood's top movie moguls in Harvey Weinstein. Now it has done the same for Leslie Moonves, one of the television industry's most powerful executives.

The CBS Corp. announced its chairman's exit Sunday night, hours after The New Yorker magazine posted a story with a second round of ugly accusations against Moonves. A total of 12 women have alleged mistreatment, including forced oral sex, groping and retaliation if they resisted him. Moonves denied the charges in a pair of statements, although he said he had consensual relations with three of the women.

CBS said \$20 million will be donated to one or more organizations that support #MeToo and workplace

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equality for women. That sum will be deducted from any severance due Moonves, a figure that won't be determined until an outside investigation led by a pair of law firms is finished.

The network's chief operating officer, Joseph Ianniello, will take over Moonves' duties as president and CEO until its board of directors can find a permanent replacement, CBS said.

It has been nearly a year since Pulitzer Prize-winning articles by The New York Times and the New Yorker exposed a pattern of misconduct by Weinstein, who now faces sex crime charges in New York. Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and Kevin Spacey are among other figures that lost jobs after men and women came forward with their own stories, often on social media with the hashtag MeToo, about sexually inappropriate behavior by powerful men.

Moonves ruled first the programming, then the full network and other corporate entities such as Showtime for two decades. CBS has consistently been the most-watched network on television, even as changes transformed the industry, first with cable networks investing in shows and then streaming services like Netflix. He's been paid handsomely for his success, earning just under \$70 million in both 2017 and 2016.

Yet accusations emerged against the affable, raspy-voiced former actor last month, when six women accused him of misconduct similar to what came out Sunday. CBS announced an internal probe yet Moonves, who was also involved in a separate power struggle that threatened his future control of the company, remained in charge. In recent days, however, reports leaked that the CBS board and Moonves, 68, were discussing an exit plan. Reports that it could include a multi-million dollar payout provoked some online anger.

The latest allegations were not addressed in CBS' announcement of Moonves' exit.

One of the accusers who came forth in the New Yorker's article on Sunday, Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, also filed a complaint with the Los Angeles police last year, but no charges were filed because the statute of limitations had expired. She said Moonves, while an executive at the Lorimar production studio in the late 1980s, pushed her head into his lap and forced her to perform oral sex.

At another time, she said an angry Moonves pushed her hard against a wall. When she resisted later advances, she began to be frozen out at the company, she said.

"He absolutely ruined my career," she told The New Yorker.

Another woman, Jessica Pallington, said Moonves forced her to perform oral sex on her first day working as his assistant at Warner Bros. productions. Other women told the magazine of unwanted touching or advances.

In a statement to the magazine, Moonves said the "appalling accusations" are untrue, but he acknowledged consensual relations with three of the women before he started working at CBS. Moonves was married at the time; he divorced his first wife and married CBS on-air personality Julie Chen in 2004.

"I have never used my position to hinder the advancement or careers of women," he said. "In my 40 years of work, I have never before heard of such disturbing accusations. I can only surmise they are surfacing now for the first time, decades later, as part of a concerted effort by others to destroy my name, my reputation and my career. Anyone who knows me knows that the person described in this article is not me."

In a second statement after his departure, Moonves said he was "deeply saddened" to be leaving the company and its employees. "Together, we built CBS into a destination where the best in the business come to work and succeed," he said.

With Moonves' exit, CBS viewers will wonder what the future holds for Chen, who is a panelist on the daytime show "The Talk" and host of the summer series "Big Brother." She stood in support of her husband when the first allegations hit last month.

Organizations that have supported women coming forward with stories of abuse, including Time's Up and Press Forward, said Sunday that CBS should be transparent about the findings of its internal investigation despite Moonves' ouster.

It's difficult to imagine CBS without Moonves. The network was struggling when he took over as entertainment chief in 1995, hot from a job at the Warner Brothers studio, which developed hits such as "ER"

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and "Friends."

He quickly turned things around and churned out programming appealing to the older, more tradition-bound CBS audience — broad appeal sitcoms such as "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Two and a Half Men" and "The Big Bang Theory" and procedural dramas such as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "NCIS." "Survivor" was an early reality show hit, and continues to this day.

Many CBS viewers knew Moonves from the relentless ribbing he took from former late-night host David Letterman. Moonves said there were legitimate hard feelings between the two in his early years, but the relationship warmed before Letterman's retirement.

Moonves was an advocate for the traditional broadcast network model when others worried it was becoming obsolete, but he also launched streaming services for CBS entertainment and news. He took over the broader CBS Corp. in 2006 but kept his hand in entertainment duties, down to casting decisions for new shows.

His status as an industry king was never more evident than each year in May when CBS introduced the next year's schedule before an audience of advertisers and media executives crammed into Carnegie Hall. He starred in each year's presentation, often in elaborate filmed skits.

Yet this spring there were already signs the end was near. Locked in a battle for corporate control with Shari Redstone of National Amusements, Moonves received a standing ovation from an audience that sensed it could be his last year. He even skipped an event he created and relished, an annual breakfast meeting with reporters dubbed "Lox with Les."

CBS' board also announced Sunday that Redstone's National Amusements will not propose a merger between CBS and Viacom, which Redstone had been urging, for two years. Six new CBS board members were also appointed.

## Timeline of suspected Russian plot to infiltrate NRA, GOP

MOSCOW (AP) — As Siberian gun rights activist Maria Butina faces a hearing in Washington, here is a look at the unusual path that led to her arrest.

She's accused of working as an undeclared foreign agent, based on FBI suspicions that she and patron Alexander Torshin sought to infiltrate the NRA and build a long-term influence campaign with the American right. She has pleaded not guilty.

2001

Torshin is elected to serve in Russia's upper house of parliament, the Federation Council. He makes his first contact with the NRA.

2011

Butina moves to Moscow, funded by an oligarch couple, and forms gun rights group Right to Bear Arms. Torshin and Butina meet at Moscow gun rally.

2012

Torshin presents draft bill on liberalizing gun sales, crafted in part by Butina. It fails miserably, lacking support from President Vladimir Putin.

Torshin attends NRA convention in St. Louis, and goes to Nashville to observe the 2012 U.S. presidential election.

2013

Torshin attends NRA convention in Houston in May. Three months later, Spanish police try and fail to arrest Torshin for alleged connections to organized crime; Torshin denies wrongdoing.

In October, an NRA delegation including then-chief David Keene visits Russia for a conference organized by Butina's group Right to Bear Arms. Butina meets Torshin's NRA contacts.

2014

Butina goes to the U.S. for the first time, and she and Torshin attend an NRA convention in Indianapolis. She resigns as leader of Right to Bear Arms.

2015

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Torshin leaves parliament to become deputy governor of Russia's Central Bank; Butina becomes his assistant.

Butina and Torshin attend an NRA convention in Nashville; Torshin says he met Donald Trump there. Butina questions Trump at Freedomfest gun show in Las Vegas.

NRA delegation visits Moscow on Butina's invitation, meets Torshin, oligarchs, top officials.  
2016

Butina and Torshin attend National Prayer Breakfast, and Torshin attends NRA convention in Louisville where he says he met Donald Trump Jr.

Butina starts masters program at AU. She and Torshin exchange messages about contacts with Russian intelligence, and a "back channel" to U.S. right wing, according to the FBI.

2017

Butina, in Washington, joins celebrations of Trump's inauguration. She and Torshin attend National Prayer Breakfast.

2018

Senate questions Butina in April, and her apartment is searched by FBI. Torshin is hit with US sanctions. Butina is arrested July 15.

## High stakes as 2-month sprint to Election Day begins

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Control of Congress and the future of Donald Trump's presidency are on the line as the primary season closes this week, jump-starting a two-month sprint to Election Day that will test Democrats' ability to harness opposition to Trump and determine whether the Republican president can get his supporters to the polls.

For both parties, the stakes are exceedingly high.

After crushing defeats in 2016, Democrats open the fall campaign brimming with confidence about their prospects for retaking the House, which would give them power to open a wide swath of investigations into Trump or even launch impeachment proceedings. The outcome of the election, which features a record number of Democratic female and minority candidates, will also help shape the party's direction heading into the 2020 presidential race.

Republicans have spent the primary season anxiously watching suburban voters, particularly women, peel away because of their disdain for Trump. The shift seems likely to cost the party in several key congressional races. Still, party leaders are optimistic that Republicans can keep control of the Senate, which could help insulate Trump from a raft of Democratic investigations.

History is not on Trump's side. The president's party typically suffers big losses in the first midterm election after taking office. And despite a strong economy, Republicans must also contend with the president's sagging approval rating and the constant swirl of controversy hanging over the White House, including special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing probe into Russian election interference and possible obstruction of justice by Trump.

Despite those headwinds, Trump is betting on himself this fall. He's thrust himself into the center of the campaign and believes he can ramp up turnout among his ardent supporters and offset a wave of Democratic enthusiasm. Aides say he'll spend much of the fall holding rallies in swing states.

"The great unknown is whether the president can mobilize his base to meet the enthusiasm gap that is clearly presented at this point," said Josh Holmes, a longtime adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "Because the middle won't be there for Republicans."

Indeed, Trump's turbulent summer appears to have put many moderates and independents out of reach for Republican candidates, according to GOP officials. One internal GOP poll obtained by The Associated Press showed Trump's approval rating among independents in congressional battleground districts dropped 10 points between June and August.

A GOP official who oversaw the survey attributed the drop to negative views of Trump's meeting with

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Russian President Vladimir Putin and the White House's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. The official was not authorized to discuss the internal polling publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Those declines put several incumbent GOP lawmakers at risk, including Virginia Rep. Barbara Comstock, who represents a district in the Washington suburbs, and Rep. Erik Paulsen, whose suburban Minneapolis district has been in Republican hands since 1961.

Democrats need a net gain of 23 seats to take control of the House. Operatives in both parties believe at least 40 seats will be competitive in November.

Corry Bliss, who runs a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, acknowledged a "tough environment" for Republicans that could quickly become too difficult for some incumbents to overcome.

"Incumbents who wake up down in the beginning of October are not going to be able to fix it in this environment," Bliss said. "But incumbents who go on the offense early can and will win."

Democratic incumbents had a similar wakeup call during the primaries after New York Rep. Joe Crowley, who held a powerful leadership position in Congress, stunningly lost to 28-year-old first-time candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She's among several younger minority candidates who defeated older, more established opponents, signaling a desire among many Democratic voters for generational change.

The result is a Democratic field with more women and minorities on the general-election ballot than ever before, several of whom are poised to make history if elected. Ayanna Pressley, who defeated 10-term Rep. Michael Capuano in a primary last week and is unopposed in the general election, will be the first black woman to represent Massachusetts in Congress. Rashida Talib of Michigan is on track to become the first Muslim woman in Congress. And Stacey Abrams in Georgia and Andrew Gillum in Florida would be their states' first black governors if elected this fall.

Crowley said the wave that led to his own defeat will have long-term benefits for the Democratic Party if it motivates more young people and minorities to vote.

"Look at the positives for the country in terms of engagement and the activity that it's causing and fervor that is forming," Crowley said.

Indeed, turnout for Democrats has been high in a series of special elections that preceded the November contest. Nearly 60 Democratic challengers outraised House Republicans in the second quarter of 2018. And of the 10 Senate Democrats running for re-election in states Trump carried two years ago, only Florida Sen. Bill Nelson has been outraised by his Republican opponent.

"We've got real wind at our back," said Tom Perez, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee. "The breadth and depth of the map is remarkable."

Despite Democrats' optimism heading into the fall, party officials concede that taking back control of the Senate may not be realistic. Unlike the competitive House races, which are being fought in territory that is increasingly favorable to Democrats, the most competitive Senate contests are in states Trump won — often decisively.

Democratic operatives are increasingly worried about Sen. Heidi Heitkamp's ability to hang on in North Dakota, a state Trump won by 36 points and visited on Friday. Democratic incumbents also face more conservative electorates in Missouri, Indiana and Montana.

Still, Democrats believe that if momentum builds through the fall and Trump's approval rating sinks further, the party could not only hold onto its current Senate seats but also add wins in territory that has long been out of reach, including Tennessee and Texas, where Rep. Beto O'Rourke is giving Republican Sen. Ted Cruz a surprising re-election fight.

"There's engagement and momentum like I haven't seen since the Ann Richards days," said Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa, referring to the state's Democratic governor in the early 1990s.

While most of the attention is on the battle for Congress, competition for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 is heating up. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker is scheduled to headline the marquee fall banquet for Iowa Democrats next month.

For now, former President Barack Obama is emerging as the top Democrat making the case for the party this fall. He returned to the political fray last week imploring voters upset with Trump to show up

in November.

"Just a glance at recent headlines should tell you this moment really is different," Obama said in a speech Friday. "The stakes really are higher. The consequences of any of us sitting on the sidelines are more dire."

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Sweden's ruling party hits election low as far right grows

By PIETRO DECRISTOFARO and JAN M. OLSEN, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Voters handed Sweden's ruling party its worst-ever election result Sunday and delivered a parallel lift to a far-right party with white supremacist roots, leaving the ideological outline of the Scandinavian country's next government uncertain.

After a campaign dominated by debates over immigration, the center-left Social Democratic Party emerged with the greatest share of the vote — 28.4 percent as the count neared completion — yet looking at holding fewer parliament seats and having its mandate to govern questioned.

The potential for an immigration backlash to result in a big boost for the far-right Sweden Democrats inspired fear among many Swedes before the election. It received a little more than one in six votes, or 17.6 percent. Its showing was not as strong as the one-in-five polls had predicted, but good for a third-place finish that had the party's leader telling supporters, "We won."

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who brought the Social Democrats to power in 2014, said he intended to remain in the job. The leader of the Moderates party that came in second, Ulf Kristersson, already had called on Lofven to resign and claimed the right to form Sweden's next government.

Sounding somber and firm, Lofven told his supporters the election presented "a situation that all responsible parties must deal with," adding that "a party with roots in Nazism" would "never ever offer anything responsible, but hatred."

"We have a moral responsibility. We must gather all forces for good. We won't mourn, we will organize ourselves," he said.

Final election returns were expected later in the week. The preliminary results made it unlikely any party would secure a majority of 175 seats in the 349-seat Riksdag, Sweden's parliament. It could take weeks or months of coalition talks before the next government is formed.

Both the left-leaning bloc led by the Social Democrats and the center-right bloc in which the Moderates is largest of four parties have said they would refuse to consider the Sweden Democrats as a coalition partner.

Sweden — home to the Nobel prizes and militarily neutral for the better part of two centuries — has been known for its comparatively open doors to migrants and refugees. Sunday's general election was the first since the country of 10 million took in a record 163,000 refugees in 2015 as mass migration to Europe rose dramatically.

Lofven eventually said Sweden no longer could cope with the influx and immigration laws were tightened.

Like other far-right parties in Europe, the Sweden Democrats worked to soften its neo-Nazi image in the lead-up to the election. The party symbol was switched from a flaming torch to a flower. Members known for making pro-Third Reich statements were pushed out.

It made its first mark in politics with municipal council seats in 2006, and since then slowly helped revise long-accepted social norms for what Swedes could say openly about foreigners and integration without being considered racist.

At the Swedish Democrat's election eve rally Saturday, party leader Jimmie Akesson criticized Lofven's government for "prioritizing" the needs of new immigrants the ones of Swedish citizens.

Akesson was jubilant as he addressed supporters a day later, declaring the estimated 14 parliament seats the Social Democrats picked up a victory other parties could not ignore in coalition negotiations.

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"This party has increased and made the biggest gains. Everything is about us," Akesson said. "I am ready to talk with others"

Turnout in the election was reported at 84.4 percent, up from 83 percent in 2014.

Olsen reported from Copenhagen, Denmark. Jeff Schaeffer and Philipp Jenne in Stockholm, Jari Tanner in Helsinki and Vanessa Gera in Warsaw contributed.

This version corrects the description of the Sweden Democrats' former party symbol.

## Rodgers returns from injury, Packers beat Bears 24-23

By GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers heard the applause after walking out of the stadium tunnel and back on to the field.

The team doctor had checked out his left knee after the Green Bay Packers quarterback was carted off the field in the second quarter. Rodgers, it seemed, had avoided a major injury.

He was good to go. The adrenaline kicked in.

"When I got the ovation, at that point, I said, 'We might as well win this thing,'" Rodgers recounted.

The hobbling two-time NFL MVP threw three touchdown passes in the second half after returning from injury, and the Green Bay Packers overcame a 20-point deficit for a thrilling 24-23 win over the Chicago Bears on Sunday night.

Rodgers connected with receiver Randall Cobb for a catch-and-run through the secondary for a 75-yard touchdown and the go-ahead score with 2:13 left in the game.

"Aaron Rodgers was remarkable. I just can't tell you how proud I am with him," coach Mike McCarthy said.

Nick Perry sacked the Bears' Mitchell Trubisky on fourth-and-10 with 58 seconds to complete the comeback.

Against the archrival Bears. To start the Packers' 100th season.

Sunday marked the first time in franchise history that the Packers won after trailing by 17-plus points entering the fourth quarter, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Packers posted the second-largest comeback in franchise history at Lambeau Field, behind only a rally from 21 points down to beat New Orleans on Sept. 17, 1989.

For Rodgers, this was special.

"This will definitely go down as one my favorite memories, especially in this rivalry," Rodgers said.

And especially because how awful the Packers played in the first half.

A Chicago defense featuring newly acquired star linebacker Khalil Mack dominated until the third quarter. Mack had a 27-yard interception return for a touchdown against backup quarterback DeShone Kizer in the second quarter.

A gimpy Rodgers returned in the second half and finally figured out the Bears. He also found Davante Adams and Geronimo Allison for touchdown passes.

He finished 20 of 30 for 286 yards, including 17 of 23 for 273 yards in the second half.

"Obviously, that's a tough one for us. It stings," coach Matt Nagy said after his Bears debut.

It was Rodgers' first regular-season home game since Sept. 28 against the Bears. He was limited to seven games in 2017 because of a collarbone injury.

Mack nearly stole the show. He also stripped the ball for a turnover in the red zone off Kizer in the second quarter. Mack made an immediate impact in his first game since the Bears acquired the premier pass rusher in a blockbuster deal with the Oakland Raiders.

The Bears led 20-0 at one point and their defense dominated until the second half.

Then Rodgers returned, and the Packers' defense held the Bears in check.

"I prepared all offseason for the first game of the season and I wanted to ... make an impact," Mack said. "But you want to win these games. That's the only thing on my mind. I hate losing."



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## RODGERS INJURY

Rodgers was hurt in the second quarter after slipping to the turf while under pressure from linebacker Khalil Mack and defensive lineman Roy Robertson-Harris. The lineman landed on Rodgers.

The quarterback initially tried to get up, then went back down, and was attended to by trainers. He appeared to reach down for the back of his left leg. Rodgers then walked to the cart that took him up the Lambeau Field tunnel.

Rodgers had ACL surgery on his left knee while in college.

McCarthy said he was prepared to go with Kizer to start the second half until getting the word from the team doctor in the tunnel.

"His performance speaks for itself," McCarthy said.

With limited mobility, Rodgers operated a no-huddle offense in the second half that kept him in the pocket. His right arm was just fine.

"It was going to have to take something really catastrophic injury-wise to keep me off the field in the second half," Rodgers said.

The Packers plan to run more tests on their QB on Monday, though Rodgers seems to think his availability for next week's game against Minnesota is a foregone conclusion.

"No, I'm planning on playing," Rodgers said.

## FAST START

An offensive-minded coach, Nagy had the aggressive Bears' offense pushing the Packers around the field in the first half.

Mitchell Trubisky was 23 of 35 for 171 yards. He also ran for 32 yards on seven carries, including a 2-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

It turned out to be the only offensive touchdown the Bears would score all night.

The Packers' defense, in new coordinator Mike Pettine's first game, held the Bears to two field goals in the second half.

"You know we talked about finishing and we didn't do that," Nagy said.

## ANTHEM

There were no apparent signs of protest during the national anthem, when Bears players and coaches locked arms on the sideline.

## UP NEXT

Bears: Host the Seattle Seahawks next Monday.

Packers: Host the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

For more AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Texas officer faces manslaughter charge in neighbor's death

By RYAN TARINELLI and KEN MILLER, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A white Dallas police officer who says she mistook her black neighbor's apartment for her own when she fatally shot him was arrested on a manslaughter charge.

Officer Amber Guyger was booked into the Kaufman County Jail after being taken into custody Sunday, the Texas Department of Public Safety said in a news release. The department said the investigation in the off-duty shooting is ongoing and that no additional information was available.

A jail employee said Guyger was released on bond. Online records initially showed she was in custody, but she later was not listed on the jail inmate roster.

Guyger fatally shot 26-year-old Botham Jean on Thursday at Jean's apartment. Lawyers for Jean's family had been calling for Guyger's arrest, saying the fact that she had remained free days after the shooting showed she was receiving favorable treatment. They held a news conference Sunday night, shortly before the arrest was announced, making another plea for the officer to be taken into custody and saying their team had presented new evidence — a witness and video footage — to prosecutors. They didn't provide

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details.

The family attorneys weren't available for comment after the arrest came.

On Saturday, one of the attorneys, S. Lee Merritt, said the man's loved ones weren't calling on authorities to jump to conclusions or to deny Guyger her right to due process. But he said they wanted Guyger "to be treated like every other citizen, and where there is evidence that they've committed a crime, that there's a warrant to be issued and an arrest to be made."

The group Mothers Against Police Brutality said the arrest is a "first step" toward justice and accountability but should have come sooner. Co-founder Sara Mokuria said the group expects transparency in the case going forward.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings tweeted a statement Sunday night in which he thanked investigators, asked for continued prayers for Jean's family and said he appreciated that citizens and community leaders "were so respectful of the investigative process over these past few days."

Police Chief U. Renee Hall said the day after the shooting that her department was seeking manslaughter charges against Guyger, 30, a four-year veteran of the police force. But Hall said Saturday that the Texas Rangers, who have taken over the investigation, asked her department to hold off because they had learned new information and wanted to investigate further before a warrant was issued.

Meanwhile, Jean's family also hired attorney Benjamin Crump, who is best known for representing the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown.

According to police, Guyger shot and killed Jean after returning in uniform to the South Side Flats, where they both had apartments, following her shift. She reported the shooting to dispatchers and told officers who responded that she had mistaken Jean's apartment for her own.

Many questions remain about what led her to shoot Jean. Hall said the officer's blood was drawn at the scene so that it could be tested for alcohol and drugs. Investigators haven't released the results of those tests.

Jean's mother, Allison Jean, wondered whether race could have been a factor. Her son, who grew up in the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia before attending college in Arkansas, is black. Guyger is white.

"If it was a white man, would it have been different? Would she have reacted differently?" Allison Jean said Friday.

Jean wasn't the first person shot by Guyger. She shot another man, Uvaldo Perez, on May 12, 2017, while on duty.

According to an affidavit in the case filed against Perez, police were looking for a suspect when Guyger and another officer were called to assist a third. Perez got out of a car and became combative with Guyger and another officer. A struggle began and Guyger fired her Taser at Perez, who then wrested it away from her. She then drew her gun and fired, wounding Perez in the abdomen.

Guyger was not charged in the 2017 shooting.

Sgt. Mike Mata, president of Dallas' largest police employee organization, the Dallas Police Association, on Saturday called for an "open, transparent and full investigation of the event," the Dallas Morning News reported. He described Jean as an "amazing individual" and said that "if the grand jury deems necessary, this officer should have to answer for her actions in a court of law in Dallas County."

Friends and family gathered Saturday at the Dallas West Church of Christ to remember Jean, who had been working for accounting firm PwC since graduating in 2016 from Harding University in Arkansas, where he often led campus religious services as a student. They described Jean as a devout Christian and a talented singer.

"Botham did everything with passion," Allison Jean told the prayer service. "God gave me an angel."

His uncle, Ignatius Jean, said the killing has devastated the family and left it searching for answers.

"You want to think it's fiction ... and you have to grapple with the reality," he said.

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Miller reported from Oklahoma City.

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## New Miss America glad she didn't have to don swimsuit to win

By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The first woman to win the Miss America crown without having to don a swimsuit says she's glad she didn't have to.

Nia Imani Franklin, who won the title Sunday night in Atlantic City while competing as Miss New York, said the changes in the 98-year-old are a welcome modernization.

Meeting reporters soon after winning the crown, Franklin said she's glad there was no swimsuit competition because it enabled her to eat a little more.

"These changes, I think, will be great for our organization," she said. "I've already seen so many young women reaching out to me personally as Miss New York asking how they can get involved because I think they feel more empowered that they don't have to do things such as walk in a swimsuit for a scholarship.

"And I'm happy that I didn't have to do so to win this title tonight because I'm more than just that," Franklin said. "And all these women onstage are more than just that."

Her victory Sunday night resurrected a string of successes the Empire State has had in the pageant in recent years. Mallory Hagan, Nina Davuluri and Kira Kazantsev won the title from 2013 to 2015 competing as Miss New York.

A classical vocalist whose pageant platform is "advocating for the arts," Franklin sang an operatic selection from the opera La Boheme on Sunday night.

She wrote her first song at age 5. It went "Love, love, love, love, is the only thing that matters to me, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey." At the prompting of an Associated Press reporter, she sang the song at her post-victory press conference as audience members snapped their fingers.

Franklin won a \$50,000 scholarship along with the crown in the first Miss America pageant to be held without a swimsuit competition.

She said during her onstage interview that she was one of only a small number of minority students in school growing up, but used her love for music and the arts to grow and fit in.

The fourth runner up was Miss Massachusetts Gabriela Taveras; third runner up was Miss Florida Taylor Tyson; second runner up was Miss Louisiana Hollie Conway, and the first runner up was Miss Connecticut Bridget Oei.

The judges narrowed the field of 51 candidates during the pageant Sunday night from Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall.

The decision to drop the swimsuit competition created a good deal of controversy and criticism of current Miss America leadership. Minutes before the nationally televised broadcast began, a comedian warming up the crowd mentioned that there would be no swimsuit competition this year, and was met with loud boos in the hall.

The swimsuits were replaced by onstage interviews, which have generated attention-grabbing remarks from contestants regarding President Trump, and NFL player protests, among other topics.

Behind the scenes, a revolt is underway among most of the Miss America state organizations who demand that national chairwoman Gretchen Carlson and CEO Regina Hopper resign.

The former Miss America, Cara Mund, says the two have bullied and silenced her, claims that the women deny.

Upon taking over at the helm of the Miss America Organization last winter following an email scandal in which former top leaders denigrated the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas, Carlson and Hopper set out to transform the organization, dubbing it "Miss America 2.0."

Unhappy with how the swimsuit decision was reached, as well as with other aspects of Carlson and Hopper's performance, 46 of the 51 state pageant organizations (the District of Columbia is included) have called on the two to resign.

Mund only appeared at the very end of the pageant before the next winner was crowned. She was not allowed to speak live; instead a 30-second taped segment of her speaking was broadcast.

Follow Wayne Parry at <http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

## CBS' Les Moonves quits after new sex misconduct charges

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS Chief Les Moonves resigned Sunday, just hours after six more women accused the veteran television executive of sexual misconduct.

The resignation is effective immediately, CBS said in a statement posted on its website Sunday night.

The New Yorker magazine reported the latest allegations included Moonves forcing women to perform oral sex and retaliating when advances were turned away. Moonves acknowledged relations with three of the women but said they were consensual, adding he had never used his position to hurt the careers of women.

The network didn't address the allegations directly, but said Moonves will donate \$20 million to one or more organizations that support the #MeToo movement and equality for women in the workplace.

"The donation, which will be made immediately, has been deducted from any severance benefits that may be due Moonves," the statement said.

Moonves again denied the allegations in a statement issued late Sunday night.

"Untrue allegations from decades ago are now being made against me that are not consistent with who I am," he said.

"I am deeply saddened to be leaving the company," Moonves added, calling it "an incredible privilege" to have worked for CBS.

"The best part of this journey has been working alongside the dedicated and talented people in this company," he said.

CBS said the network's chief operating officer, Joseph Ianniello, will take over Moonves' duties as president and CEO until its board of directors can find a permanent replacement. For the time being Moonves' role as chairman will remain vacant.

Hours before his resignation the New Yorker magazine reported sexual misconduct allegations from six additional women against Moonves, who was already under investigation for similar allegations made by six others.

As that investigation progressed it was widely reported that Moonves would leave the network shortly and was negotiating a severance package. CBS indicated Sunday, however, that no severance agreement has been reached.

"Moonves will not receive any severance benefits at this time (other than certain fully accrued and vested compensation and benefits); any payments to be made in the future will depend upon the results of the independent investigation and subsequent board evaluation," the network's statement said.

Moonves joined CBS as head of entertainment in 1995, and has been CEO of CBS Corp. since 2006, leading the CBS network, Showtime and other entities. CBS has spent much of his tenure as the nation's most popular broadcast network, with hits such as "The Big Bang Theory" and "NCIS," and its success has made Moonves one of the highest-paid and most powerful executives in the business.

One of Moonves' accusers, Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, also reported her accusations to Los Angeles police last year, but they weren't pursued because the statute of limitations had expired. She said Moonves, while an executive at the Lorimar production studio in the late 1980s, pushed her head into his lap and forced her to perform oral sex.

At another time, she said an angry Moonves pushed her hard against a wall. When she resisted later advances, she began to be frozen out at the company, she said.

"He absolutely ruined my career," she told the New Yorker.

Another woman, Jessica Pallington, said Moonves forced her to perform oral sex on her first day working as his assistant at Warner Bros. productions. Other women told the magazine of unwanted touching or advances.

In a statement to the magazine, Moonves said the "appalling accusations" are untrue, but he acknowledged consensual relations with three of the women before he started working at CBS.

"I have never used my position to hinder the advancement or careers of women," he said. "In my 40

years of work, I have never before heard of such disturbing accusations. I can only surmise they are surfacing now for the first time, decades later, as part of a concerted effort by others to destroy my name, my reputation and my career. Anyone who knows me knows that the person described in this article is not me."

The organization Time's Up, which fights accusations of sexual misconduct, said the women had made "bone-chilling" accusations against Moonves. "We believe them," Times' Up said in a statement early Sunday. The group said the CBS board has a responsibility to rid the company of a toxic culture toward women.

"A \$20 million donation is a first step in acknowledging that you have a problem," Time's Up said in a statement directed at CBS after Moonves' departure. "But it is far from a solution."

It urged the network to use all the money it had allocated for Moonves' severance to "instead help women."

"Cleansing the company of this toxic culture demands real systemic change," the group tweeted.

Ianniello, who will be replacing Moonves on at least an interim basis, joined CBS in 2005 and has been COO since 2013. He has steered top projects such as the CBS All Access and Showtime streaming services.

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Associated Press journalists John Rogers and Lindsey Bahr in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

## Djokovic wins US Open for 14th major, tying 'idol' Sampras

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Open final suddenly appeared to be slipping away from Novak Djokovic. He dropped three consecutive games. He was barking at himself, at his entourage, at a crowd vocally supporting his opponent, Juan Martin del Potro. He was, in short, out of sorts.

And then came Sunday's pivotal game, a 20-minute, 22-point epic. Three times, del Potro was a point from breaking and earning the right to serve to make it a set apiece. Three times, Djokovic steeled himself. Eventually, he seized that game — and del Potro's best chance to make a match of it.

A year after missing the U.S. Open because of an injured right elbow that would require surgery, Djokovic showed that he is unquestionably back at his best and back at the top of tennis. His returns and defense-to-offense skills as impeccable as ever, Djokovic collected his 14th Grand Slam title and second in a row by getting through every crucial moment for a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over 2009 champion del Potro at Flushing Meadows.

"There was always part of me that imagined and believed and hoped that I can get back (to) the desired level of tennis very soon," said Djokovic, whose operation was in February. "But at the same time, life showed me that it takes time for good things, it takes time to really build them, for things to fall into place, so you can center yourself, balance yourself and thrive. The last two months have been terrific."

This was Djokovic's third championship in New York, along with those in 2011 and 2015. Add in the trophies he has earned at six Australian Opens, one French Open and four Wimbledons, most recently in July, and the 31-year-old Serb pulled even with Pete Sampras for the third-most majors among men, trailing only Roger Federer's 20 and Rafael Nadal's 17.

"He's my idol. Pete, I love you," Djokovic said.

Federer lost in the fourth round in New York, while Nadal retired from his semifinal against del Potro because of a bad right knee. That put the 29-year-old Argentine back in a Grand Slam final for the first time since his breakthrough nine years ago, a comeback for a guy who had four wrist operations in the interim.

"I believe he'll be here again with the champion's trophy. I really do," said Djokovic, who gave his pal a hug at the net, and then went over to console del Potro as he wiped away tears at his sideline seat.

Del Potro spoke this week about the low point, in 2015, when he considered quitting the sport. But supported by a dozen or so friends from back home, whose "Ole!" choruses rang around the arena, he climbed up the rankings to a career-high No. 3 by thundering his 100 mph (160 kph) forehands and 135 mph (215 kph) serves.

Those produce free points against so many foes. Not against Djokovic, who always seemed to have all the answers — and who said he convinced himself that all of those "Oles" were actually people calling

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out his own nickname, "Nole."

Djokovic was better than del Potro on their many lengthy exchanges, using his trademark body-twisting, limb-splaying court coverage to get to nearly every ball, sneakers squeaking around the blue court in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where the roof was closed because of rain.

"I was playing almost at the limit, all the time, looking for winners with my forehands, backhands, and I couldn't make it," del Potro said, "because Novak (was) there every time."

Never was that more apparent than the game that stood out on this evening, with Djokovic serving while down 4-3 in the second set. They went back and forth, through eight deuces and all those break opportunities for del Potro, until he slapped one forehand into the net, and another sailed wide.

Those were high-risk shots, but, as del Potro put it: "It's the only way to beat these kind of players."

Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda, called that moment the match's "turning point, obviously."

When it ended, with Djokovic holding to 4-all, spectators began leaving their seats, perhaps thinking it was time for a changeover, even though it wasn't. That prompted chair umpire Alison Hughes to chastise them.

It was a brief request, though, unlike her many other pleas for quiet, mainly as fans were shouting and chanting and clapping in support of del Potro. It all bothered Djokovic, who started yelling and gesturing toward the seats. At one moment, he pressed his right index finger to his lips, as if to say, "Shhhhhhh!" Later, after winning a point, Djokovic put that finger to his ear, as if to say, "Who are you cheering for now?!"

The tiebreaker was resolved thanks to more del Potro miscues on his forehand side, as he looked more and more fatigued. He made one last stand by breaking and holding for 3-all. But that was that.

When it ended, thanks to a three-game closing run by Djokovic, he flung his racket away and landed on his back, arms and legs spread wide.

He had hit his peak, Vajda said, at "just at the right time."

Djokovic had never gone through an extended absence until 2017, when he sat out the second half of the season because of elbow pain that had plagued him for more than a year. He tried to return at the start of this season, but couldn't, and opted for surgery.

It took him some time to find the right form, as evidenced by his quarterfinal loss at the French Open to a guy who was ranked 72nd and had never won a Grand Slam match until that tournament.

"I was very, very disappointed with my performance that day," Djokovic recalled Sunday, explaining that he went hiking in the mountains in France to clear his head after that setback.

Djokovic then got right back to work, and announced that he was, once more, himself by winning Wimbledon.

Now he's backed that up at the U.S. Open, the fourth time in his career he won multiple majors in a season.

"Difficult times, but you learn through adversity," Djokovic said. "I try to take the best out of myself in those moments."

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More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## North Korea uses 70th anniversary to push economy, not nukes

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea held a major military parade and revived its iconic mass games to celebrate its 70th anniversary, but in keeping with leader Kim Jong Un's new policies the emphasis was firmly on building up the economy, not on nuclear weapons.

The North rolled out some of its latest tanks and marched its best-trained goose-stepping units in Sunday's parade but held back its most advanced missiles and devoted nearly half of the event to civilian efforts to build the domestic economy.

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It also brought the mass games back after a five-year hiatus. The games are a grand spectacle that features nearly 20,000 people flipping placards in unison to create huge mosaics as thousands more perform gymnastics or dance in formation on the competition area of Pyongyang's 150,000-seat May Day Stadium.

The strong emphasis on the economy underscores the strategy Kim has pursued since January of putting economic development front and center.

Tens of thousands of North Koreans waving brightly colored plastic bouquets filled Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square as the parade began. Residents of Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, trained for months for the anniversary and held up the bouquets to spell out words and slogans that can be seen from the VIP viewing area.

Kim attended the morning parade but did not address the assembled crowd, which included the head of the Chinese parliament and high-level delegations from countries that have friendly ties with the North.

At the end of the two-hour event he strolled to the edge of the balcony with the Chinese special envoy, Li Zhanshu, the third-ranking member in China's ruling Communist Party. The two held up their joined hands to symbolize the countries' traditionally close ties, though the absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping could indicate Beijing still has some reservations about Kim's initiatives.

Senior statesman Kim Yong Nam, the head of North Korea's parliament, set the relatively softer tone for the parade with an opening speech that emphasized the economic goals of the regime, not its nuclear might. He called on the military to be ready to work to help build the economy.

After a truncated parade featuring tanks and some of North Korea's biggest artillery, fewer than the usual number of missiles and lots of goose-stepping units from all branches of the military, the focus switched to civilian groups ranging from nurses to students to construction workers, many with colorful floats beside them.

The combining of military and civilian sections is a familiar North Korean parade format.

The past two big anniversaries of North Korea's founding, in 2008 and 2013, did not feature the Korean People's Army, only the civil defense units, which are officially called "Worker Peasant Red Guards."

Although North Korea stages military parades almost every year, and held one just before the Olympics began in South Korea in February this year, Sunday's parade came at a particularly sensitive time.

Kim's effort to ease tensions with President Donald Trump has stalled since their June summit in Singapore. Both sides are now insisting on a different starting point. Washington wants Kim to commit to denuclearization first, but Pyongyang wants its security guaranteed and a peace agreement formally ending the Korean War.

With tensions once again on the rise, a parade featuring the very missiles that so unnerved Trump last year, and led to a dangerous volley of insults from both leaders, could have been seen as a deliberate provocation. The North also refrained from immediately televising the event, though North Korean media were out in force to film it, deploying booms and — for possibly the first time — drones with cameras.

"This is a big and very positive statement from North Korea," Trump tweeted. "Thank you To Chairman Kim. We will both prove everyone wrong! There is nothing like good dialogue from two people that like each other! Much better than before I took office."

The North did show off a battery of big artillery pieces known as self-propelled guns that could be used to threaten Seoul, South Korea's capital. But the only types of missiles displayed were short-range surface-to-surface missiles, a surface-to-air missile and an anti-ship cruise missile.

That's a big departure from February's parade, when it displayed its Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile, believed capable of reaching the U.S., and a number of other formidable missiles and the erector-launchers used to fire them off from remote locations.

Pyongyang residents unable to attend at the square on Sunday lined the streets around town to cheer and applaud convoys carrying the troops after they completed the parade duties.

Soon after the anniversary celebrations end, Kim will meet in Pyongyang with South Korean President Moon Jae-in to discuss ways to break the impasse over his nuclear weapons.

The "new line" of putting economic development first has been Kim's top priority this year. He claims to

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have perfected his nuclear arsenal enough to deter U.S. aggression and devote his resources to raising his nation's standard of living.

The economic theme was also prominent in the new mass games routine, which was markedly lighter in tone and more entertaining than in previous years, when it tended to be more dramatic and overtly political.

The mass games, dubbed "Shining Fatherland," featured everything from a display of drones flying in formation to fireworks, lasers, circus-style performances and at one point hundreds of martial artists doing taekwondo. A running commentary throughout the show pointed out the importance of following Kim's economic and development strategy, while significantly playing down the role of the military and not once mentioning North Korea's nuclear weapons.

The mass games performances are expected to continue for the next month or so, with tickets for foreigners starting at just over \$100 and going up to more than \$800 per seat.

\_\_\_\_ Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

## **Pence: I'm confident no one on my staff wrote the NYT column**

**By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence says he's "100 percent confident" that no one on his staff was involved with the anonymous New York Times column criticizing President Donald Trump's leadership.

"I know them. I know their character," Pence said in a taped interview aired Sunday by CBS' "Face the Nation."

Some pundits had speculated that Pence could be the "senior administration official" who wrote the opinion piece because it included language Pence has been known to use, like the unusual word "lodestar." The op-ed writer claimed to be part of a "resistance" movement within the Trump administration that was working quietly behind the scenes to thwart the president's most dangerous impulses.

More than two dozen high-ranking administration officials have denied writing the column. And Pence said his staff has nothing to do with it.

"Let me be very clear. I'm 100 percent confident that no one on the vice president's staff was involved in this anonymous editorial. I know my people," Pence said on "Face the Nation." "They get up every day and are dedicated, just as much as I am, to advancing the president's agenda and supporting everything ... President Trump is doing for the people of this country."

Asked whether he had asked his staff about the op-ed, Pence said, "I don't have to ask them because I know them. I know their character. I know their dedication and I am absolutely confident that no one on the vice president's staff had anything to do with this."

He restated that he thinks the essay writer should do the "honorable thing and resign."

Publication of the op-ed followed the release of stunning details from an upcoming book by Watergate reporter Bob Woodward in which current and former aides referred to Trump as an "idiot" and "liar" and depicted him as prone to rash policy decisions that some aides either work to stall or derail entirely.

Both releases are said to have infuriated Trump, who unleashed a string of attacks on Woodward's credibility and dismissed the celebrated author's book as a "work of fiction." Some of the officials featured in the book's anecdotes about the president, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and White House chief of staff John Kelly, issued statements denying the comments attributed to them by Woodward.

Woodward has said he stands by his reporting. The book, "Fear: Trump in the White House," is scheduled to be formally released Tuesday, all but ensuring that the debate over Trump's leadership ability and style will extend into a second straight week.

Trump, meanwhile, has denounced the Times opinion piece as "gutless" and its publication as a "disgrace" bordering on treason.

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a Trump ally, has said the president would be justified in using lie detectors to ferret out the anonymous writer. The president has yet to say whether he'd go that far, but Pence says he'd be willing to submit to such an examination.

"I would agree to take it in a heartbeat and would submit to any review the administration wanted to



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do," he said in a taped "Fox News Sunday" interview.

Both Pence and Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to Trump, pushed back during separate television appearances Sunday on the portrayals of Trump as anything but a thoughtful leader. Both also said they had no idea who wrote the piece; Trump has said he can name up to five people who could have written it.

"What I see is a tough leader, a demanding leader, someone who gets all the options on the table," Pence said on Fox News. "But he makes the decisions, and that's why we've made the progress we've made."

Trump has said the Justice Department should investigate and unmask the anonymous author. He cited national security concerns as grounds for what would amount to an extraordinary criminal probe should Attorney General Jeff Sessions decide to pursue one.

Neither Pence nor Conway answered directly when asked if Sessions should treat Trump's comments as an order. The Justice Department is supposed to make investigative decisions free of political pressure from the White House and the president.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, disagreed that the opinion piece amounted to a national security threat and attributed Trump's musing about a Justice Department investigation "to a president who's lashing out."

On an unrelated matter, Pence said on CBS that he has not been called for an interview by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating possible coordination between Russia and Trump's Republican presidential campaign as well as Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Pence said he's willing to sit down with Mueller if he is asked and added that he so far has cooperated with all requests for information from the special counsel and will continue to do so.

\_\_\_ Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## Flight 93 chime tower an 'everlasting concert by our heroes'

By MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press

SHANKSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — The heroism of airline passengers and crew who died when hijackers crashed their plane into a Pennsylvania field was remembered Sunday with the dedication of a concrete-and-steel tower that will ring with wind chimes for every one of them at the spot where they fell to earth.

Relatives of the 40 people killed during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, helped ring eight of what will eventually be 40 aluminum chimes at the Flight 93 National Memorial site, and former Gov. Tom Ridge said the Tower of Voices will be "an everlasting concert by our heroes."

The dedication occurred nearly 17 years after passengers on the hijacked flight from New Jersey to California fought back against a band of terrorists who then crashed the jetliner into a rural field. Officials concluded the terrorists were aiming the Boeing 757 toward Washington, to be used as an enormous airborne weapon.

It was "the day that lives were lost so that other lives were saved. And heroes were made over the skies of Shanksville," said Ridge, who served as the first secretary of the Homeland Security Department when it was created after 9/11.

The roughly 93-foot (28-meter) structure represents the final phase of the Flight 93 National Memorial. Each chime generates a distinctive sound, and rows of trees that ring the site symbolize sound waves.

"Together their voices will ring out into perpetuity, with this beautiful Somerset County, Pennsylvania, wind," park Superintendent Stephen Clark said.

The national park at the crash site, about 2 miles (3 kilometers) north of Shanksville, also includes a memorial plaza, dedicated on the 10th anniversary in 2011, and a visitor's center that opened three years ago.

As a cold, driving rain pelted the hills, memorial architect Paul Murdoch spoke of the plan, which uses the wind to activate the chimes. The remaining chimes are expected to be installed in the coming weeks.

"These chimes respond to unanswered cries of voices not spoken again, but remembered in the vibrations of a monumental tower," Murdoch said.

They range from 5 to 10 feet (1.5 to 3 meters) long, weigh as much as 150 pounds (68 kilograms) and

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are tuned.

Nearly 3,000 people died in the Sept. 11 attacks, when terrorists seized control of four planes. They flew two of them into the World Trade Center skyscrapers in New York and the fourth into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

"These guys are the real heroes," said retired truck driver Stefan Robbins, visiting the memorial from Lexington, Kentucky. "They didn't sign up — they're not a cop, they're not a firefighter."

The Flight 93 passengers learned in mid-flight they had been hijacked and responded heroically, declaring "let's roll" as they confronted their adversaries inside the plane.

Thirteen passengers on the plane made a combined 37 phone calls during the attack, getting information about the other three hijackings and crashes.

"When they learned that, it galvanized them as a group," Clark said. "They said, 'We're not going back to any airport. This is a suicide mission.'"

As some passengers apparently tried to storm the cabin, the hijacker at the controls then rolled the plane, trying to throw them off balance, before the aircraft became inverted and crashed at 563 mph (906 kph) on the edge of a reclaimed strip mine at 10:30 a.m.

The impact ignited about 100 hemlock trees. Hemlocks are used as symbols throughout the memorial's design, including the tower.

A 17-ton (15-metric ton) sandstone marks the impact site, located within a 44-acre (17.8-hectare) fenced-off area of the field where crash debris landed, referred to as the "sacred ground." Access to that part of the park is limited to family members of the passengers and crew. Four 40-foot (12.2-meter) containers of remaining debris from the crashed airplane were buried there during a private ceremony on June 21.

The memorial was funded with \$46 million from 110,000 private donors, including \$6 million to design and build the Tower of Voices. Volunteers are well on their way to the goal of planting 150,000 seedlings around the 2,200 acre (890 hectare) park. It attracted about 400,000 visitors last year.

The dedication comes two days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. President Donald Trump is expected to attend that memorial ceremony Tuesday in Shanksville, along with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Shanksville is about 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of Pittsburgh.

## For black women at church, it's more than the Aretha eulogy

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A black pastor's controversial eulogy at Aretha Franklin's funeral laid bare before the world what black women say they have experienced for generations: sexism and inequality in their houses of worship every Sunday.

In eulogizing the beloved artist known as the Queen of Soul, the Rev. Jasper Williams Jr. declared that as "proud, beautiful and fine as our black women are, one thing a black woman cannot do — a black woman cannot raise a black boy to be a man."

The backlash was immediate, given Franklin's role as a mother and a pillar for women's rights.

Franklin's grieving family said Williams' eulogy, which also included references to stopping black-on-black crime, was offensive because it did not focus on her. Social media lit up with criticisms of his remarks as sexist and misogynist.

For many black women, Williams' eulogy reopened wounds and sternly reminded them that black churches remain male-dominated institutions, where old-school resistance to women holding leadership roles is still alive.

"Women are hurting about this issue," said the Rev. Barbara Reynolds, an elder at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church in Washington, D.C.

"It's like we are still not equal. Women fight in every cause for everybody else, but we are not celebrated or even tolerated in sacred spaces," Reynolds said.

Women not only fill the pews in many black churches, they also serve as church nurses and ushers,

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and work behind the scenes. Some are trustees, keeping an eye on church finances and making sure bills get paid. Others are evangelists, or are ordained as deacons. But many are denied true leadership roles — and in some cases, women are asked to deliver sermons from the church floor, rather than the pulpit.

Some male ministers “actually deeply believe that men are supposed to be in charge,” said the Rev. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (JILL-kz), assistant pastor for special projects at Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a sociology professor at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

“Their reading of the Bible does not have a vision of gender equality,” Gilkes said. “Black women are very conscious of how important they are to the survival, growth and continuity of the church. Very often, to become effective, prominent leaders, they have formed their own organizations and exercised that leadership outside the pulpit.”

Williams, pastor of Salem Bible Church in Atlanta, had also eulogized Franklin’s father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, in 1984. He prefaced part of his eulogy for Aretha Franklin on Aug. 31 by saying “70 percent” of black households are led by black women.

Williams apologized later, but defended his choice of topics. He said he was trying to highlight the struggles that single mothers face and his words were taken out of context.

But even during Franklin’s funeral, the absence of black women in the pulpit was evident. The front row was occupied by Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and primarily other black male pastors. No black female pastors were featured on an early speakers’ list for the funeral.

Shirley Caesar, a gospel music legend and senior pastor of Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, sang during the service, but also seized the moment to squeeze a little preaching in. Most of the individual singers were prominent female performers.

“There are male leaders in some black churches that don’t allow women to preach from the pulpit and, if they do, it’s typically on special occasions like Women’s Day,” said the Rev. Horace Sheffield, pastor of New Destiny Christian Fellowship of Detroit.

“Some denominations are more stringent and less likely to affirm women than others,” Sheffield said. “That’s part of our Christian tradition and that has always bothered me. We can be discriminated on the color of our skin and we can discriminate against women because of their gender. It still exists by virtue of the fact that you have churches that don’t allow female ministers as pastors. It ... renders us in a lesser position to challenge discrimination in any form or any place when we’re part of it.”

About 70 percent of the 500 members at Sheffield’s church are women. Sheffield said two women serve as associate pastors. Some of the deacons are women and the head of the steward board is a woman.

He said the roles of women in black church leadership are changing, “but we’ve got to open it up some more.”

The Rev. Maidstone Mulenga, communications director for the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops, says having only men in leadership and pastoral roles is part of the theology taught in some churches.

“If it comes from a background that says only male preachers can be in the pulpit, then (the church members) will resist a female preacher — whether white or black,” Mulenga said.

Mulenga said the United Methodist Church is very supportive of female leaders in churches and has a number of female bishops. The church’s Baltimore-Washington Conference is led by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, a black woman. But he said female black preachers have to work twice as hard as male black preachers.

“For a female black preacher it is almost like standing in the middle of the highway and getting hit by traffic from both directions because they are black and because they are female,” Mulenga said.

For predominantly black denominations, there are smaller gains. The African Methodist Episcopal Church currently has two women bishops.

The National Baptist Convention says on its website that it leaves the matter to its member churches because interpretations about who can serve in the ministry “tend to be particularly emotional and divisive.” Its most recent roster of state presidents, from January 2017, is all male.

The Church of God in Christ, based in Memphis, Tennessee, on its website identifies only black male pastors as members of its general board and its board of bishops.

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Last year, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World promoted two women to bishop and gave them responsibility over churches in Sierra Leone and South Africa. The presiding bishop at the time, Charles Ellis, told the Tennessean newspaper in Nashville that the two women, whose home churches are in the U.S., would "actually oversee and they will govern male pastors."

Ellis' church in Detroit hosted Franklin's funeral.

But some male pastors and preachers wield so much power in their churches that they rarely are confronted, said Reynolds, of Washington, D.C., who was ordained in 1996.

"We don't really challenge the pastors," Reynolds said. "We either go home and don't go back to church or some brave women start their own church."

## Obama tells voters to step up or 'things can get worse'

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Former President Barack Obama says the November midterm elections will give Americans "a chance to restore some sanity in our politics," taking another swipe at his successor as he raises his profile campaigning for fellow Democrats to regain control of the House.

Obama didn't mention President Donald Trump by name during a 20-minute speech Saturday in the key Southern California battleground of Orange County but the allusions were clear.

"We're in a challenging moment because, when you look at the arc of American history, there's always been a push and pull between those who want to go forward and those who want to look back, between those who want to divide and those are seeking to bring people together, between those who promote the politics of hope and those who exploit the politics of fear," he said.

His appearance — one day after a strongly worded critique of Trump at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — touched on themes of retirement security, climate change and education.

"If we don't step up, things can get worse," the former president told the audience at the Anaheim Convention Center. "In two months, we have the chance to restore some sanity to our politics. We have the chance to flip the House of Representatives and make sure there are real checks and balances in Washington."

Obama gave shout-outs to seven Democratic candidates in competitive House districts across California that are considered crucial to the party's efforts to oust Republicans from control. Four of those districts are at least partly in Orange County, a formerly reliable GOP bastion that went for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

"We're going to put on our marching shoes, we're going to start knocking on some doors, we're going to start making some calls," he said to cheers.

Clinton trounced Trump by more than 4 million votes in California in 2016 and carried Orange County by 9 percentage points. A surge in immigrants has transformed California and its voting patterns. The number of Hispanics, blacks and Asians combined has outnumbered whites in the state since 1998. Meanwhile, new voters, largely Latinos and Asians, lean Democratic.

In Orange County, Republicans held a 13-point edge in voter registration 10 years ago but that has shrunk to 3 points while independents, who tend to vote like Democrats in California, have climbed to 25 percent.

Democrats, hoping to build on their 39-14 advantage in the state's congressional delegation, are eyeing Republican seats in districts that Clinton won in 2016. Each of the seven candidates that Obama campaigned for on Saturday fit that description.

In Orange County, GOP Rep. Mimi Walters faces a challenge from Katie Porter, a law professor at University of California at Irvine. Environmental lawyer Mike Levin is seeking an open seat to replace retiring GOP Rep. Darrell Issa in a district that includes part of Orange County.

Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, whose district encompasses part of Orange County, is fending off a challenge from Democratic real estate investor Harley Rouda to secure a 16th term in Congress despite barely winning 30 percent of the primary vote. In the other Orange County race, Gil Cisneros, a Democratic philanthropist and Navy veteran, is vying for an open seat created by retiring Republican Ed Royce.

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Obama also highlighted two races in the state's Central Valley, praising venture capitalist Josh Harder in his bid to unseat four-term Republican Jeff Denham, and T.J. Cox, who is challenging David Valadao in a district where Democrats hold a 17-point advantage in voter registration.

He also made a plug for nonprofit executive Katie Hill in her Los Angeles-area race to unseat sophomore Republican Steve Knight, who won an underwhelming 53 percent of the vote in 2016.

California Republicans said Obama's appearance would have little impact and may even help their party. "I wish he would come more often because he reminds Republicans of eight years of misery," said Republican National Committeeman Shawn Steel, who lives in Orange County. "It reminds the Republicans why these midterms are important."

Vice President Mike Pence says it's disappointing that Obama is back on the campaign trail criticizing Trump.

Says Pence: "The truth is, the American people in 2016 rejected the policy and direction of Barack Obama when they elected President Donald Trump." Pence comments came in a taped interview set to air on "Fox News Sunday." Fox released an excerpt on Saturday.

Obama is expected to deliver a similar message in Cleveland on Thursday, when he campaigns on behalf of Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for Ohio governor, and other Democrats.

\_\_\_\_ Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz in Washington contributed to this report.

## Argentines seek soup kitchens, barter markets amid crisis

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA, Associated Press**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Men wait outside the metal-grill door of a soup kitchen in a slum, hoping to get a small serving of beef and mashed potatoes. At a barter market on the capital's outskirts, a woman tries to persuade another to exchange for her granddaughters' tiny shoes.

Argentines are struggling in crisis in what was once one of the world's most prosperous nations. Consumer prices are soaring, unemployment is high and the Argentine peso has plunged, bringing back haunting memories of the country's economic meltdown in 2001 that pushed millions into poverty.

A growing number of people arrive at the "Happy Kids" soup kitchen in the Villa 1-11-14 shantytown, where servers try to stretch out steaming pots of stew because many more than expected are lining up for food.

"The city government gives us money for 440 rations a day, but we're being forced to prepare smaller portions so that we can cover 600 rations," said Cintia Garcia, who runs the soup kitchen.

A series of events battered the economy.

First, a severe drought damaged crop yields in the world's third-largest exporter of soybean and corn. The situation worsened beginning in the first quarter of 2018 as world oil prices increased and then interest rate rises in the United States led investors to pull dollars out of Argentina.

That caused jitters among Argentines, who have stashed away dollars as a cushion since the 2001 economic implosion, and a rush to buy scarcer dollars pushed the peso's value down. Despite several interest rate hikes by the Argentine Central Bank, the peso has lost more than half its value in less than a year.

President Mauricio Macri had to seek a \$50 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund. Last week, he announced a series of austerity measures, including new taxes on exports and the elimination of several government ministries. He said he would allocate more economic aid and strengthen food plans for poor Argentines.

With unemployment around 9 percent and consumer prices surging, some Argentines are again turning to barter clubs, which first emerged during the collapse nearly two decades ago.

The tumbling peso has pushed up prices for fuel and, in turn, transportation costs. That has affected food prices in a country where most grains and other goods are transported in trucks. Inflation is expected to reach an annual rate of more than 40 percent this year, the Central Bank says.

"To make doughnuts a month ago, I used to spend 150 pesos (almost \$4) for oil and seven bags of flour. Now it's more than 400 pesos," complained Gladys Jimenez.

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Jimenez, who is from Paraguay, is one of those who rely on the "Happy Kids" soup kitchen in Villa 1-11-14, a slum crowded with tens of thousands of Argentines and immigrants from neighboring countries.

The price of beef has also increased in one of the world's top meat-consuming countries. Nicol Alcocer, a teenager who attends an educational workshop where the food is distributed in the slum, said that previously she would eat roast every Saturday. "Now it's every four months," she said.

The rapid fall in the peso brings frequent boosts in the prices charged by vendors, leading to anger. Some slum dwellers recalled that when the peso recently fell to 40 to the dollar, they lined up at small local stores but the owners refused to sell to them.

"I told my husband: 'Let's go buy.' People were all riled up seeing that businesses were closed," said Martina Bilbao. "I remember the looting of 2001 ... and I think it's going to happen again."

The crisis 17 years ago was so bad that one of every five Argentines was out of work and more than half of the population fell into poverty. The peso, which had been tied to the dollar, lost about 75 percent of its value.

Banks froze deposits and barricaded behind sheet metal as thousands of protesters unsuccessfully tried to withdraw savings. More than 20 people died in protests and looting that swept Argentina in December 2001 as Latin America's third-largest economy unraveled and eventually defaulted on a debt of more than \$100 billion.

The current economic woes are far from that collapse. But analysts say that poverty, which affects about a third of the population, will rise this year, and the economy will take a dive.

Those forecasts are far from the promises of Macri. The conservative president took office in 2015 vowing that he would revive Argentina's weak economy and end poverty.

Although his market-friendly reforms were initially praised by international investors, who said they laid the groundwork for growth, they also brought pain to the country's poor and stoked labor unrest.

Since taking office, he has laid off thousands of state workers and cut energy subsidies, sending utility bills and bus fares soaring. Macri also dropped the previous government's foreign exchange controls, ushering in the sharp devaluation of the peso.

Many of Argentina's poor live in slums known as "misery villages," where they often lack access to transportation, running water or sewage. Argentina's northern regions have chronically high rates of child malnutrition, even though the country remains a top global grain supplier.

On a recent day, dozens of women gathered at a barter market in the outskirts of Buenos Aires to trade everything from pants and cosmetics to toys, bags of rice and cooking oil.

"We've gone back to the same as before. We've gone back to bartering," said Lucia de Leon, who had a table where she offered to trade canned food and used shoes.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 10, the 253rd day of 2018. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1963, 20 black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

On this date:

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot in the Louisiana state Capitol,

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allegedly by Dr. Carl Weiss.

In 1939, Canada declared war on Germany.

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a black student.

In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1993, "The X-Files" premiered on Fox Television.

In 2006, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts defeated Eli Manning and the New York Giants 26-21 in the first NFL game to feature two brothers starting at quarterback.

Ten years ago: The world's largest particle collider passed its first major tests by firing two beams of protons in opposite directions around a 17-mile (27-kilometer) ring under the Franco-Swiss border.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in a nationally broadcast address, said diplomacy held "the potential to remove the threat of chemical weapons" in Syria without the use of force, but declared the U.S. military would be "ready to respond" against President Bashar Assad if other measures failed. An Indian court convicted four men in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a moving New Delhi bus. (The four were later sentenced to death.) Thomas Bach was elected president of the International Olympic Committee, succeeding Jacques Rogge (zhahk ROH'-geh).

One year ago: After cutting a trail of destruction across the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma blew ashore on the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm with winds of 130 mph; it would destroy 1,200 homes and damage 3,000 others in the Keys. As Irma headed toward Georgia, Atlanta was under a tropical storm warning for the first time. As he flew home from Colombia, Pope Francis called on President Donald Trump to rethink his decision ending a program protecting young immigrants from deportation; he said anyone who considers himself "pro-life" should keep families together. Miss North Dakota, Cara Mund, was crowned Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J., after saying in an onstage interview that Donald Trump was wrong to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Baker Hall is 87. Actor Greg Mullavey is 85. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 78. Actor Tom Ligon is 78. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 76. Singer Jose Feliciano is 73. Actress Judy Geeson is 70. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 70. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 69. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 68. Country singer Rosie Flores is 68. Actress Amy Irving is 65. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 64. Actress Kate Burton is 61. Movie director Chris Columbus is 60. Actor Colin Firth is 58. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 58. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 55. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 55. Actor Raymond Cruz is 54. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 53. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 52. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 52. Actress Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 51. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 50. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 50. Actor Johnathan Schaech (shehk) is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 46. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 44. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 43. Actor Jacob Young is 39. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 38. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel is 38. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 36. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 34. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 32. Singer Sanjaya Malakar ("American Idol") is 29. Actor Chandler Massey is 28. Actress Hannah Hodson is 27. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 14.

Thought for Today: "There are years that ask questions and years that answer." — Zora Neale Hurston, American author (1891-1960).