

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 067 ~ 1 of 46

**“A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.”**

-William Styron

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

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

## Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With  
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

**397-9337**

104 N. Main, Groton

### Friday, September 14, 2018

7:00pm: Football: Boys Varsity Game vs. Chamberlain @ Chamberlain High School

### Saturday, September 15, 2018

1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Garretson @ Groton Area High School

3:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Freeman Academy @ Freeman Academy

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM

**Chamberlain Cubs**



**VS**

**Groton Area Tigers**



Friday, Sept. 14, 2018  
at Chamberlain, 7:00 pm

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## Groton Dairy Queen upgrade completed

The left photo featured Larry Remington and Dairy Queen owner Dale Grenz putting up the DQ sign on the front of the building. The above photo shows the new lights that outlines the store.

(Photos by Paul Kosel)



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## Please Come to a Meet & Greet & Campaign Fundraiser

with



**Monday, Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Groton American Legion Hall**

**Hors d'oeuvres and walking tacos will be served**

**Co-Hosted by:**

**Mike & JoAnn Nehls ~ Doug & Mel Sombke  
Dennis & Shirley Larson ~ Dale & Susan Kurth**

### **BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE**

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2018 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors  
Betty Geist  
Township Clerk

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## Tigers have clean sweep over Sisseton

Groton Area made it a clean sweep of Sisseton Thursday evening winning all seven games. The C team won its match, 25-18 and 25-8. The junior varsity team won its match by game scores of 25-12 and 25-23. And the varsity team won its match, 25-15, 25-12 and 25-22.

In serves, Groton Area was 10 of 11 with five ace serves. Jennie Doeden was 10 of 11 with five ace serves and Payton Maine was 20 of 20 with three ace serves.

In attacks, Groton Area was 95 of 108 with 35 kills. Jennie Doeden was 23 of 26 with nine kills, Eliza Wanner was 20 of 26 with eight kills and Payton Colestock was 11 of 12 with seven kills. Kaylin Kucker had 13 and Miranda Hanson had 12 assists in sets as the team had 28. Maine had 17 of Groton Area's 47 digs with Wanner, Doeden and Kucker each having eight. Indigo Rogers had one block.

Groton Area, now 10-1 on the season, will host Warner on Tuesday, Sept. 18 and Roncalli on Thursday, Sept. 20.

## South Dakota Farmers Meet with Surface Transportation Board to Discuss Rail Issues

HURON, S.D. - Maintaining strong communication between the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and farmers was the purpose of a meeting between STB board and South Dakota farmers held in D.C. September 12.

"This is the beginning of what we see as a series of conversations with STB members to ensure that history does not repeat itself," said Doug Sombke, President of S.D. Farmers Union and a fourth generation Conde farmer.

Sombke references issues South Dakota, and other Upper Midwest, farmers faced shipping grain in 2012 and 2013.

"We wanted to make sure that new STB members understand the challenges we faced in the past - which we were able to overcome by working together. It is our goal, that once trade opens up again, we are able to ship our commodities," Sombke explained.

And today, there are additional concerns, said Aberdeen farmer, Jeff Kippley. "This trade war was not the farmers choice, it was the government's choice. The concern is, if and when trade opens again with China, will there be rail cars available to ship our grain? As with any good company, those rail cars aren't sitting idle. They are hauling oil and other goods," Kippley said. "We don't want them to forget about us."

With plans to meet periodically with the STB moving forward, Sombke and Kippley said they feel optimistic about the future.

"We were able to share the policy of Farmers Union as it pertains to rail. STB said they were appreciative of the information shared and encouraged us to maintain this open communication between our farmers and the STB," Sombke said.

This meeting was one of many South Dakota family farmers and ranchers participated in during the 2018 National Farmers Union Fly-In, held this week in D.C.

## 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**

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## Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degree low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent, estimated F4 tornado, with winds of 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1937 - The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 - A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.



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Today



Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

High: 77 °F

Tonight



Chance  
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Saturday



Hot

High: 90 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 68 °F

Sunday

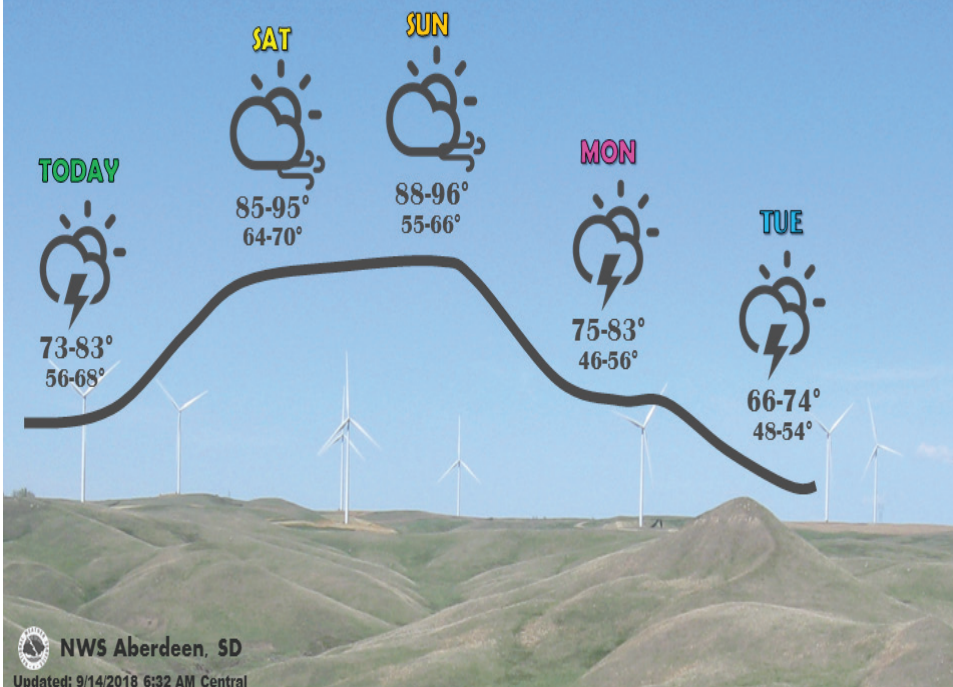


Hot and  
Breezy

High: 92 °F

## 5 Day Outlook

Much above average temps for the weekend



Published on: 09/14/2018 at 6:37AM

Cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms today, then dry, windy and hot this weekend. The temperature roller coaster continues into the new work-week as we cool down to more seasonable conditions.

# Groton Daily Independent

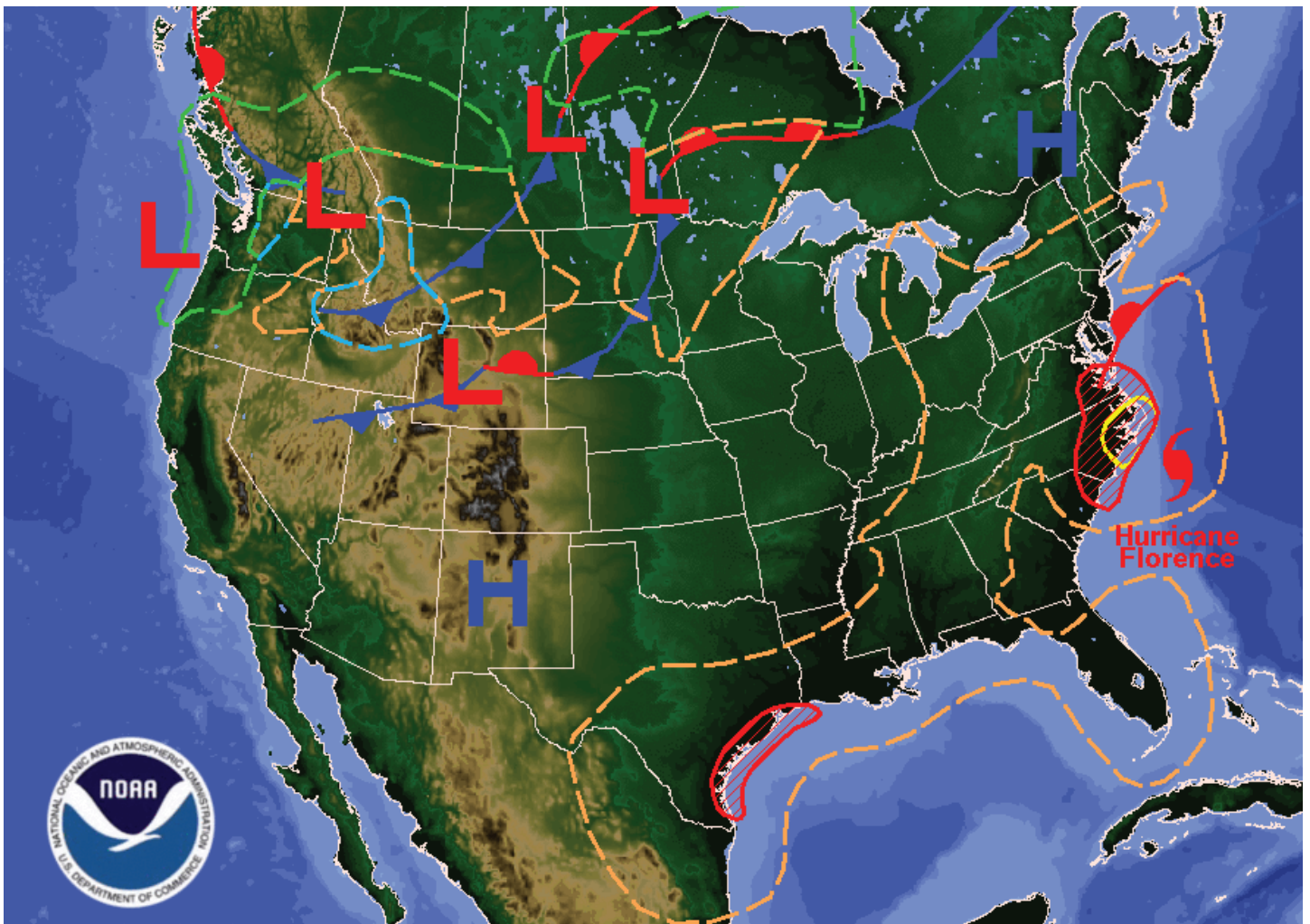
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 84.3 F at 6:34 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 63.6 F at 11:28 PM**  
**High Gust: 35.0 Mph at 2:10 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 102° in 1948**  
**Record Low: 28° in 1949**  
**Average High: 73°F**  
**Average Low: 47°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 0.98**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10**  
**Average Precip to date: 17.27**  
**Precip Year to Date: 11.36**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:47 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Sep 13, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**

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



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## WHAT GOD CAN DO

Has anyone ever looked at you and said, You'll never change! You're hopeless! I can tell you are going no place in life. Painful words that many of us have heard at one time or another. And, no doubt, there were times when we might have thought the charges were accurate, based on the number of times we've started something in our lives that ended in disaster.

Imagine a king feeling like he was almost unfit for duty. First, he wrote, Part Your heavens, O Lord, and come down...reach down Your hand from on high...deliver me and rescue me... Imagine a king feeling so alone and abandoned - even by a God he worshiped - that he could not feel His presence at all. Things must have been about as bad as they could get.

But they didn't stay that way. God intervened - as He can and will - when any one of us come to the end of our strength and go to Him for His help!

God answered his cry and blessed him so mightily that he picked up a ten-stringed instrument and sang a new song.

God wants to give us the desires of our hearts. Our every need is important to Him: large or small, significant or insignificant. They all matter to Him! He is our Father and a father who loves his children, as God loves us, does not want His children to go without.

When God answered his prayer, the first thing he did was to praise God and give Him His due recognition. Perhaps God withholds His blessings because we are ungrateful.

Prayer: Father, it's so easy to live thankless and greedy lives. Make us aware of Your gifts. Give us grateful hearts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, my God; on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you.

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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

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News from the  Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-16, 25-1, 25-11  
Arlington def. Lake Preston, 25-9, 25-22, 25-20  
Belle Fourche def. Hot Springs, 25-19, 25-20, 25-23  
Bison def. Takini, 25-8, 25-7, 25-11  
Bon Homme def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-21, 25-21, 21-25, 25-15  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-9, 25-14, 25-12  
Castlewood def. Sioux Valley, 14-25, 25-10, 25-6, 20-25, 15-9  
Chester def. Howard, 25-7, 25-10, 25-7  
Clark/Willow Lake def. Milbank Area, 23-25, 25-14, 25-20, 26-28, 15-9  
Dakota Valley def. Canton, 25-20, 25-16, 25-21  
Dell Rapids def. Tri-Valley, 17-25, 25-13, 25-18, 25-14  
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-12, 26-24, 27-25  
DeSmet def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-16, 25-18, 25-22  
Deubrook def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-20, 23-25, 25-15, 25-17  
Edgemont def. Hemingford, Neb., 25-14, 25-20, 25-9  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Tea Area, 25-16, 25-21, 25-14  
Ethan def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-12, 25-19, 25-18  
Faith def. Kadoka Area, 25-12, 16-25, 25-20, 25-13  
Freeman def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-15, 25-13, 25-18  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Waubay/Summit, 25-14, 25-21, 25-23  
Groton Area def. Sisseton, 25-15, 25-12, 25-22  
Harrisburg def. Pierre, 25-17, 25-21, 26-24  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Leola/Frederick, 22-25, 25-10, 25-18, 25-23  
Highmore-Harrold def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 14-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-22  
Hill City def. Sturgis, 25-8, 25-13, 25-17  
Huron def. Brookings, 25-23, 26-24, 25-18  
Lennox def. Parkston, 25-15, 25-15, 25-19  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Beresford, 25-15, 25-14, 25-19  
Miller def. Faulkton, 25-22, 25-20, 25-19  
Mitchell def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-22, 24-26, 27-25, 25-20  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Mitchell Christian, 25-14, 25-17, 29-27  
New Underwood def. Bennett County, 25-21, 25-17, 25-18  
Northwestern def. Ipswich, 25-6, 25-16, 25-15  
Oelrichs def. Crazy Horse, 25-8, 25-11, 25-12  
Parker def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-11, 25-9, 25-14  
Potter County def. McLaughlin, 25-23, 25-12, 25-14  
Rapid City Christian def. White River, 25-15, 25-13, 25-6  
Red Cloud def. St. Francis Indian, 25-12, 25-20, 25-23  
Redfield/Doland def. Deuel, 25-12, 25-18, 25-15  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Brandon Valley, 25-18, 25-16, 25-19  
Spearfish def. Douglas, 25-10, 26-28, 25-18, 25-9  
St. Thomas More def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-18, 25-9, 25-19  
Stanley County def. Jones County, 25-23, 25-14, 24-26, 25-18



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Sully Buttes def. Lyman, 25-21, 25-23, 33-31  
Timber Lake def. Dupree, 18-25, 25-9, 25-21, 25-21  
Warner def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-11, 25-21, 25-12  
Webster def. Britton-Hecla, 25-17, 25-13, 13-25, 23-25, 15-11  
Wessington Springs def. Crow Creek, 25-12, 25-8, 25-12  
Wilmot def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 25-14, 25-16  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-15, 25-23, 18-25, 25-18  
Boyd County Triangular  
Burke def. Stuart, Neb., 25-11, 25-13, 25-13  
Gayville-Volin Triangular  
Freeman Academy/Marion def. Centerville, 25-18, 25-8, 15-25, 25-11  
Gayville-Volin def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-21, 25-11, 25-10

## Vikings D preparing for all scenarios with Rodgers, Packers

By GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — For the Minnesota Vikings, it's more about whether Aaron Rodgers will have his full bag of tricks while playing with a knee injury than if he'll be playing at all.

The Vikings are thoroughly convinced the Green Bay Packers quarterback will be in uniform Sunday when they visit Lambeau Field.

"I don't know if he's mobile. I don't know if he can run. We don't know anything," Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen said. "We're just going to go in with a game plan, that he's running and we're going to go out there and execute our assignment."

The game before the game between these NFC North rivals involved discerning the status of the Packers' two-time NFL MVP. At midweek, Rodgers was held out of practice to focus on rehab with what the quarterback said was a sprained left knee.

Coach Mike McCarthy said he would be evaluated each day after Rodgers got hurt in the second quarter of last week's win over the Chicago Bears. McCarthy said Rodgers playing "is no layup."

One of Rodgers' many strengths is his mobility, which allows him to extend plays outside the pocket. The knee injury limited Rodgers' movement against Chicago. He still carved up the secondary operating in a shotgun or pistol formation, and without a huddle.

"I think as you saw the other night, just because I wasn't escaping the pocket, I was still moving in the pocket — subtle movements on the throw to (receiver Davante Adams) up in the pocket, and subtle movements on the throw to (Randall Cobb) on the last touchdown of the game," Rodgers said.

The quick-pace offense looked unstoppable. It doesn't mean that's all the Packers will do with a limited Rodgers.

"Doesn't mean you have to get the ball out right away. We're playing a great defense, but no, I don't think it makes you go all quick game," he said.

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer recognized the differences in Rodgers in that game. He also won't underestimate him.

"But our biggest thing is that you have to prepare for every scenario," Zimmer said. "If he looks like he's moving pretty well, then we have to adjust to some other parts of the game plan."

Some other notes and things to watch:

### SMALL CLUB

Rodgers has thrown only six interceptions in 19 games as a starter against the Vikings, including one playoff game. Over the last seven seasons, the Vikings have picked him off three times in 13 games: Harrison Smith in 2012, Xavier Rhodes in 2015 and Trae Waynes in 2016.

"When he's moving around, he's not always moving around to run, he's moving around and freeing up guys down the field," Smith said.

### SHOULDERING LOAD

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Adams, the Packers' top receiver, was also held out of practice at midweek with a shoulder injury suffered during the Bears game. Adams said it was a precaution and that he thought he would play. The injury doesn't appear serious, but still bears watching given how important Adams is to the offense, particularly with Rodgers also hurt.

"So we're just taking it light a little bit just so we can build up and be ready for Sunday," Adams said.

## DISRUPTION ON D

The Vikings made their biggest splash of the offseason by signing quarterback Kirk Cousins in free agency, but the following day they made another significant addition with Sheldon Richardson. The sixth-year defensive tackle, after a quiet preseason, immediately made his presence felt in his first real game for Minnesota with six tackles, a half-sack and a team-high three hits on San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. During a sack by defensive end Danielle Hunter, Richardson pushed Garoppolo off his spot and steered him toward his teammate.

With Richardson and nose tackle Linval Joseph capable of stuffing inside running plays and collapsing the pocket on a consistent basis, Hunter and fellow defensive end Everson Griffen ought to have more opportunities for sacks.

## DEFENSIVE TURNAROUND

A Packers defense in its first game under new coordinator Mike Pettine also stepped up in the comeback over Chicago, holding the Bears to two field goals in the second half. Cousins doesn't have a lot of film to study the Packers' tendencies under Pettine.

"It's not easy; I think you do the best you can," Cousins said. "Trust your eyes, trust your rules and try to make good decisions."

## OUT WIDE

Packers rookie cornerbacks Jaire Alexander and Josh Jackson, along with second-year cornerback Kevin King, will be tested by the Vikings' standout receiving duo of Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs. Thielen, who had a career-best 12 catches for 202 yards and two scores at Lambeau in December 2016, is looking forward to playing in Green Bay early in the season.

"It will be nice actually playing on a good field," Thielen said.

AP Pro Football Writer Dave Campbell contributed to this report.

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

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Sept. 11

#### Dive in Yankton has done things right

No matter how you may feel about a proposed aquatic center for Yankton, you have to acknowledge this: The Dive In Yankton (DIY) citizens group that has carried the ball on the project since early last year has done things the right way.

Since day one, the group has worked aggressively to raise awareness of the project while it has raised funds. In the process, it has gradually built a momentum with an attitude that an aquatic center to replace the aging and crumbling Memorial Park swimming pool WILL happen.

DIY has done this by getting feedback from everyone and getting involvement from people of all ages. This has built interest and excitement in the proposal.

How long that excitement lasts remains to be seen, of course. The group will meet with the Yankton City Commission in two weeks to present the money DIY already has committed and to work on a path forward on a proposed project that is expected to cost more than \$14 million. A property tax opt-out is likely, and that's when this issue will really get down to business.

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In the meantime, DIY has done everything possible to promote this idea throughout the community. Last week, a radio-thon featuring all of the town's radio stations was held to raise funds. It wound up hauling in close to \$120,000 in cash and pledges, which was far more than anticipated.

DIY's strategy of constant engagement and promotion may seem like an obvious approach, but it really isn't.

For instance, when an aquatic center was proposed in Yankton back in 2005, we don't recall the same kind of outreach. Instead, an architectural plan was drawn up and then put forth to residents. There were some public meetings to sell the idea, but Yankton ultimately wasn't in a buying mood.

Thirteen years later, the aquatic center idea is taking a different path. This time, it's pursuing a grassroots approach, and that tireless outreach has produced growing enthusiasm for and commitment to the project.

But there are no guarantees, and when it comes down to the money and how much the public is willing to invest, there are many unknowns looming.

However, the ball that DIY has worked to get rolling seems, in some ways, virtually unstoppable. Public interest in the project continues to grow.

Meanwhile, the old pool is nearing the end of its life span and other area communities with aquatic centers are pulling people from this community to spend money elsewhere. The need and the desire are all here; circumstances have aligned and the time is right.

Something will come of DIY's work. There's always a chance that it ultimately may not be this project as currently proposed, but something will happen, in part because something has to happen. Doing nothing (other than patches and short-term fixes) is no longer a practical option at the pool. Not anymore.

The members of DIY have worked their butts off selling their plan, and they've succeeded in getting a lot of people to embrace the vision. The end game will be intriguing to watch when it starts unfolding later this month.

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## Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Sept. 12

### Good can come from Copper Lounge tragedy

The December 2016 collapse of the former Copper Lounge in Sioux Falls may be causing public officials to take more caution with questionable structures. If so, there is some good that came from the tragedy.

Two examples from the last couple of weeks:

1) The Vishnu building on Phillips Avenue in Sioux Falls was evacuated because its facade appeared to be leaning toward the street. Nearby buildings were evacuated as well, and the street and sidewalk were taped off. The Vishnu is just across the street from where the Copper Lounge collapsed.

Engineers shored up the facade, which is decorative and not part of the structural integrity of the building, and businesses reopened. Other businesses in the neighborhood are examining their own facades, which are part of a downtown facade easement program.

2) In western South Dakota, a grain bin's walls appeared to be buckling during the loading of wheat in late August. Fire and emergency management officials evacuated the nearby downtown business district in Philip as a precaution. The bin was unloaded and the evacuation notice was lifted later that day.

CHS Midwest Cooperative officials are working with engineers to decide the best method for repairing the grain bin. In both cases, company and city officials acted with caution and made sure no one would be hurt in case of a collapse. We can certainly remember similar instances in the past where structures looked unsafe, but people were allowed to walk nearby anyway.

We don't know if the Copper Lounge incident caused people to be more cautious, but it's possible. We've overheard general contractors discussing load-bearing walls with more concern in the last couple of years.

In any case, we're glad to see people taking more caution when there is a safety issue involving structures. We hope the caution continues for the long term.

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## The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Sept. 10

### Week in review: the best, worst

CHEERS to all of the South Dakota Hall of Fame inductees, especially the two area residents earning one of the state's highest honors. Kennebec's Rod Bowar and Mitchell's Roger Musick are both great examples of hard-working business leaders who have made impacts on the state and its residents. More importantly, both have proven to be important members of our communities, serving on various boards and committees away from their day jobs. Congratulations to them once again.

HISSES to the report about the impending costs of wastewater treatment infrastructure around the state, a bill of about \$160 million for the state's municipalities. Frankly, wastewater and sewer upgrades are not items that citizens spend much time thinking about until the systems fail. And in many South Dakota communities, those systems are either old or are distressed, which can cause issues.

Various forms of state and federal funding have been a key segment for cities and towns to pay for these upgrades and will be worth preserving in the future. Similarly, municipalities have to plan and take ownership of the issue, making planning and saving for infrastructure a priority.

CHEERS regarding the news of Mitchell Technical Institute's enrollment seeing a slight bump for the fall 2018 semester. Importantly, the school has seen growth in some key majors, including the electrical, heating and cooling, construction and manufacturing careers. Electrical Construction and Maintenance, for example, has nearly 100 students and is the school's most popular program of study. All of the fields are key parts of the workforce that will need graduates and it's good to see both MTI and the students filling some needs that will be helpful for rural South Dakota. Similarly, the Build Dakota scholarship program and the employer-backed Double Edge programs at MTI continue to be a success for college students, allowing them to live and work in our state.

## Student found dead at fraternity house identified

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — St. Paul police have identified the student whose body was found in a University of Minnesota fraternity house.

The body of 20-year-old Dylan Fulton, from St. Lawrence, South Dakota, was found at the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house early Wednesday. Police say they do not suspect foul play in Fulton's death. Police spokesman Steve Linders says although authorities do not believe Fulton was hazed, alcohol may be a factor in his death.

A resident of the house called police after finding Fulton. It's unclear whether he lived at the fraternity house.

## Reopening South Dakota mine could disturb reclaimed areas

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A company interested in an abandoned South Dakota mine acknowledged that reopening the site could disturb areas that have been reclaimed as part of a \$120 million federal cleanup project over nearly two decades.

The Gilt Edge Mine in the Black Hills still needs an estimated \$88 million worth of reclamation work, The Rapid City Journal reported .

U.S. Exploration Manager Gregg Loptien of Agnico Eagle Mines said it's unclear if existing reclamation work would be undone by re-mining the site. But the Canada-based company would take over responsibility of the cleanup if it decides to reopen the mine and receives the necessary permitting to do so, Loptien said.

"We've got a lot of questions to answer for ourselves before we ever even make a decision to do anything out here," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency worked out a deal with Agnico last year to let the company drill up to 18 holes around the site in order to help the agency find the source of toxic cadmium contamination in Strawberry Creek. In exchange, Agnico could then analyze core samples to determine if there is enough recoverable gold to reopen the site.

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Mining at the site began in 1876 and continued until 1999. The mine's previous operator, Brohm Mining, abandoned the mine when its parent company, Dakota Mining, declared bankruptcy.

Pits at the site were left with 150 million gallons of acidic water that had contaminants such as lead and arsenic. The EPA added the mine to its National Priorities List in 2000. Studies and cleanup work have since been ongoing at the now primarily state-owned site. Only about 50 million gallons of acidic water remain.

Additional work at the site could take eight to 10 years depending on funding, said Joy Jenkins, an EPA official.

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

## Teen sets fire while in custody in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a 17-year-old boy driving a stolen car rear-ended a police squad car in Sioux Falls before setting a fire while in the custody of social service workers.

The off-duty officer was stopped at a red light Wednesday night when a car with four or five occupants bumped his car from behind. When the officer got out to talk to the driver, the occupants scattered. The Argus Leader says officers caught up with the teen, brought him to the juvenile detention center where he was turned over to Lutheran Social Services.

Police say the teen used a lighter to burn several door signs and a door while in the custody of social services. Police say the boy was taken back to the detention center where prescription pills that did not belong to him were found in his backpack.

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

## 17 prison inmates charged with possessing marijuana

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — Seventeen inmates at South Dakota's state prison in Springfield are charged with possessing marijuana.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Thursday a Bon Homme County grand jury indicted each of the 17 on one felony count of possession and one misdemeanor count of ingesting an intoxicating substance.

They are inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison, which primarily houses low and medium-security inmates.

## Lieutenant governor candidate to pay campaign finance fine

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Republican lieutenant governor candidate Larry Rhoden is facing a \$200 fine for not following a campaign finance law.

The Rapid City Journal reports the Secretary of State's office levied the fine against Rhoden after he didn't file a campaign document on time. Rhoden is running with GOP governor nominee Kristi Noem.

Rhoden didn't form his Rhoden for Lt. Governor fundraising committee until more than two months after he joined Noem's ticket. State law requires the statement of organization to be filed no later than 15 days after a person becomes a candidate.

An attorney for Rhoden for Lt. Governor says the committee disagrees with Secretary of State Shantel Krebs' decision, but won't contest it. Noem faces Democratic state Sen. Billie Sutton and Libertarian Kurt Evans in November.

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

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## Harvesting of soybeans is underway in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Harvesting of soybeans is underway in South Dakota.

The federal Agriculture Department in its weekly crop report says 1 percent of the soybean crop is in the bin.

The report also says slightly more than one-fourth of the corn crop is now mature.

Seven percent of the winter wheat crop has been seeded.

Slightly more than half of the state's topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are rated adequate.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 45 percent in good to excellent condition.

## Spearfish pellet company assessing damage after fire

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A Spearfish company is cleaning up and assessing damage after a fire.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that firefighters responded to the Spearfish Pellet Company's mill Tuesday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

The fire started somewhere in the mill system that processes sawdust as part of the pellet-making process, and then spread into a smokestack. The exact cause wasn't immediately determined.

Employees at the plant used their firetruck to begin fighting the blaze before firefighters arrived.

Fire and company officials say the damage does not appear to be major.

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

## Rapid City police arrest woman for false school gun threat

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have arrested a woman they say is responsible for a false gun threat that sent 18 officers to an elementary school.

Authorities allege the 29-year-old woman reported false information that prompted officials at Pinedale Elementary to put the school in lockdown status on Wednesday afternoon. The alleged motive wasn't immediately clear.

The case has been forwarded to the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office for formal charges.

## Aberdeen woman sentenced for role in meth conspiracy

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Aberdeen woman has been sentenced to 11 years and three months in federal prison for her role in a conspiracy to traffic methamphetamine.

The U.S. attorney's office says 27-year-old Maria Keuseman and another person bought meth to distribute in Sioux Falls and elsewhere. Authorities in June 2017 raided her Sioux Falls home and seized 76 grams of meth.

She pleaded guilty this past June to a drug conspiracy charge. She'll be on supervised release for eight years following her prison time.

## Arrest warrant issued for driver in fatal crash

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says an arrest warrant has been issued for Watertown man suspected of causing a crash that killed one man and injured another.

The patrol says evidence shows the 52-year-old man was driving an SUV that went into a ditch and rolled over near Sisseton on Sept. 4. The driver has not been seen since the crash that killed 73-year-old Dennis Brant of Peever and injured 50-year-old David Keeble of Sisseton.



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## The Latest: Hurricane Florence hits near Wrightsville Beach

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Florence (all times local):

7:45 a.m.

The National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Florence has finally made landfall near Wrightsville, North Carolina.

The Miami-based center says the center of the eye moved ashore with top sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph), making Florence a Category 1 hurricane in terms of wind intensity.

7:15 a.m.

Forecasters say the center of the eye of Hurricane Florence is about to make landfall near Wrightsville, North Carolina.

It remains a Category 1 hurricane with top sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph), but a gust of 112 mph (180 kph) was reported just offshore.

The barrier island of Emerald Isle is under water, with ocean waves rolling in over a six-foot storm surge and crashing into homes.

At 7 a.m., the center of the eye was located about 5 miles (10 kilometers) east of Wilmington, moving west at 6 mph.

7 a.m.

It's about the water, not the wind, with Hurricane Florence making an extended stay along the North Carolina coast.

Forecasters say "it cannot be emphasized enough that the most serious hazard associated with slow-moving Florence is extremely heavy rainfall, which will cause disastrous flooding that will be spreading inland."

Top winds were holding at 90 mph -- that's just a Category 1 hurricane -- but some communities were already submerged in more than six feet of water as the storm drenched the coast.

6 a.m.

National Hurricane Center: Florence about to make landfall in N. Carolina causing life-threatening storm surge.

The National Hurricane Center says Florence is about to make landfall in North Carolina bringing with it life-threatening storm surges and hurricane force winds.

As of 6 a.m., Florence was 10 miles (20 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement was 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

The Miami-based center says Florence is bringing "catastrophic" fresh water flooding over a wide area of the Carolinas.

5:50 a.m.

A North Carolina city says about 70 people have been rescued from a hotel whose structural integrity is being threatened by Hurricane Florence.

The city of Jacksonville's statement says people have been moved to the city's public safety center as officials work to find a more permanent shelter.

Officials found a basketball-sized hole in the hotel wall and other life-threatening damage, with some cinder blocks crumbling and parts of the roof collapsing.

None of the people rescued were injured.

5:00 a.m.

The National Hurricane Center says Florence is about to make landfall in North Carolina bringing with it life-threatening storm surges and hurricane force winds.

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As of 5 a.m., Florence was 25 miles (55 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement was 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

The Miami-based center had said earlier Friday Florence's arrival would come with "catastrophic" fresh water flooding over portions of the Carolinas.

4:25 a.m.

A North Carolina city situated between two rivers says it has around 150 people waiting to be rescued from rising flood waters from Hurricane Florence.

WXII-TV reports the city of New Bern said Friday that two out-of-state FEMA teams were working on swift-water rescues and more teams were on the way. City spokeswoman Colleen Roberts tells WRAL-TV that 200 people have already been rescued.

The National Hurricane Center says the Neuse River near the city is recording more than 10 feet (3.05 meters) of inundation. Roberts says the storm surge continues to increase as Florence passes over the area.

The city warns that people "may need to move up to the second story" but tells them to stay put as "we are coming to get you."

4 a.m.

The National Hurricane Center says the eyewall of Hurricane Florence is beginning to reach the North Carolina coast.

As of 4 a.m., Florence was 30 miles (45 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement was 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

Forecasters said conditions will deteriorate as the storm pushes ashore early Friday near the North Carolina-South Carolina line and makes its way slowly inland.

3:30 a.m.

Life-threatening storm surge is being reported along the coast of the Carolinas.

The National Hurricane Center said early Friday that a gauge in Emerald Isle, North Carolina, recently reported 6.3 feet (1.92 meters) of inundation. Emerald Isle is about 84 miles (135 kilometers) north of Wilmington.

As of 3 a.m., Florence hadn't moved and was still centered about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement increased slightly to 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

Forecasters say the combination of a life-threatening storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline.

2 a.m.

The National Hurricane Center says that "catastrophic" freshwater flooding is expected over portions of the Carolinas as Hurricane Florence inches closer to the U.S. East Coast.

The now Category 1 storm's intensity diminished as it neared land, with winds dropping to 90 mph (135 kph) by nightfall. But that, combined with the storm's slowing forward movement and heavy rains, had Gov. Roy Cooper warning of an impending disaster.

As of 2 a.m., Florence was centered about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement increased slightly to 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

Forecasters say the combination of a life-threatening storm surge and the tide will cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland from the shoreline.

11 p.m.

Hurricane Florence already has inundated coastal streets with ocean water and left tens of thousands without power, and more is to come.

Screaming winds bent trees and raindrops flew sideways as Florence's leading edge battered the Carolina coast Thursday.

The storm's intensity diminished as it neared land, with winds dropping to 90 mph (135 kph) by nightfall. But that, combined with the storm's slowing forward movement and heavy rains, had Gov. Roy Cooper warning of an impending disaster.

Forecasters said Florence's surge could cover all but a sliver of the Carolina coast under as much as 11 feet (3.4 meters) of ocean water, and days of downpours could unload more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) of rain, touching off severe flooding.

## Hurricane Center: Florence close to landfall in N. Carolina

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Hurricane Florence was making a marathon landfall in North Carolina early Friday, pushing a life-threatening storm surge of floodwater miles inland and ripping apart buildings with screaming wind and pelting rain.

More than 60 people had to be pulled from a collapsing motel at the height of the storm, and many more who defied evacuation orders were hoping to be rescued. Pieces of buildings ripped apart by the storm flew through the air.

Most ominously, forecasters said the terrifying onslaught would last for hours and hours, because Florence was barely creeping along and still drawing energy from the ocean.

Coastal streets flowed with frothy ocean water and tens of thousands lost electricity. Forecasters said "catastrophic" freshwater flooding was expected along waterways far from the coast of the Carolinas.

At 7 a.m., Florence was centered just 5 miles (10 kilometers) east of Wilmington, North Carolina. Its forward movement was 6 mph (9 kph). Hurricane-force winds extended 90 miles (150 kilometers) from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles (315 kilometers).

Winds bent trees toward the ground and raindrops flew sideways as Florence moved in for an extended stay, with enough of its killer winds swirling overseas to maintain its power. Forecasters said the onslaught could last for days, leaving a wide area under water from both heavy downpours and rising seas.

The wind howled and sheets of rain splattered against windows of a hotel before dawn in Wilmington, where Sandie Orsa of Wilmington sat in a lobby lit by emergency lights after the power failed.

"(It's) very eerie, the wind howling, the rain blowing sideways, debris flying," said Orsa, who lives nearby and fears splintering trees will pummel her house.

The storm's intensity held at about 90 mph (144 kph), and it appeared that the north side of the eye was the most dangerous place to be as Florence moved ashore.

A weather station at a community college recorded a 100 mph wind gust, and forecasters tweeted that a 91 mph wind gust slammed into Wilmington's airport, surpassing the power of Hurricane Fran two decades ago.

The National Hurricane Center said a gauge in Emerald Isle, North Carolina, reported 6.3 feet (1.92 meters) of inundation. Emerald Isle is about 84 miles (135 kilometers) north of Wilmington.

And about 46 miles farther up the waterfront, in New Bern, about 150 people were waiting to be rescued from floods on the Neuse River, WXII-TV reported. The city said two FEMA teams were working on swift-water rescues and more were on the way.

The worst of the storm's fury had yet to reach coastal South Carolina, where emergency managers said people could still leave flood-prone areas.

"There is still time, but not a lot of time," said Derrec Becker of the South Carolina Department of Emergency Management.

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More than 80,000 people in North Carolina already were without power as the storm began buffeting the coast, and more than 12,000 were in shelters. Another 400 people were in shelters in Virginia, where forecasts were less dire.

North Carolina corrections officials said more than 3,000 people were relocated from adult prisons and juvenile centers in the path of Florence, and more than 300 county prisoners were transferred to state facilities.

Officials said some 1.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were warned to evacuate, but it's unclear how many did. The homes of about 10 million were under watches or warnings for the hurricane or tropical storm conditions.

Spanish moss waved in the trees as the winds picked up in Wilmington, and floating docks bounced atop swells at Morehead City. Ocean water flowed between homes and on to streets on the Outer Banks; waves crashed against wooden fishing piers.

Coastal towns in the Carolinas were largely empty, and schools and businesses closed as far south as Georgia.

Forecasters said conditions will continue to deteriorate as the storm makes its way slowly inland. Its surge could cover all but a sliver of the Carolina coast under as much as 11 feet (3.4 meters) of ocean water, and days of downpours could unload more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) of rain, touching off severe flooding.

Once a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 140 mph (225 kph), the hurricane was downgraded to a Category 1 on Thursday night.

Forecasters said that given the storm's size and sluggish track, it could cause epic damage akin to what the Houston area saw during Hurricane Harvey just over a year ago, with floodwaters swamping homes and businesses and washing over industrial waste sites and hog-manure ponds.

The hurricane was seen as a major test for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was heavily criticized as slow and unprepared for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico last year.

Not everyone was taking Florence too seriously: About two dozen locals gathered Thursday night behind the boarded-up windows of The Barbary Coast bar as Florence blew into Wilmington. Others were at home hoping for the best.

"This is our only home. We have two boats and all our worldly possessions," said Susan Patchkofsky, who refused her family's pleas to evacuate and stayed at Emerald Isle with her husband. "We have a safe basement and generator that comes on automatically. We chose to hunker down."

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Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Jeffrey Collins in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Jennifer Kay in Miami; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Sarah Rankin and Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; Skip Foreman in Charlotte, North Carolina; Jeff Martin in Hampton, Georgia; David Koenig in Dallas; Gerry Broome at Nags Head, North Carolina; and Jay Reeves in Atlanta contributed to this report.

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For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

## 'It looked like Armageddon:' Deadly gas blasts destroy homes

By PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) — A series of gas explosions an official described as "Armageddon" killed a teenager, injured at least 10 other people and ignited fires in at least 39 homes in three communities north of Boston, forcing entire neighborhoods to evacuate as crews scrambled to fight the flames and shut off the gas.

Authorities said Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence, died Thursday after a chimney toppled by an exploding house crashed into his car. He was rushed to a Boston hospital but pronounced dead there in the evening.

Massachusetts State Police urged all residents with homes serviced by Columbia Gas in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover to evacuate, snarling traffic and causing widespread confusion as residents and



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local officials struggled to understand what was happening.

"It looked like Armageddon, it really did," Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield told reporters. "There were billows of smoke coming from Lawrence behind me. I could see pillars of smoke in front of me from the town of Andover."

Gov. Charlie Baker said state and local authorities are investigating but that it could take days or weeks before they turn up answers.

"This is still very much an active scene," he said. "There will be plenty of time later tonight, tomorrow morning and into the next day to do some of the work around determining exactly what happened and why."

Early Friday, the utility issued a statement saying its crews need to visit each of the 8,600 affected customers to shut off each gas meter and conduct a safety inspection.

"Additional support is being provided by crews from several affiliated Columbia Gas companies and other utilities," the statement said. "We expect this will be an extended restoration effort, and we will work tirelessly to restore service to the affected customers."

Baker previously said authorities hadn't heard directly from Columbia Gas, but later called the company's response "adequate."

By late Thursday, all of the fires had been doused but many areas remained silent and dark after residents fled and after power companies cut electricity to prevent further fires. Schools in all three communities were canceled for Friday, and some schools were being used as shelters for residents.

Lawrence resident Bruce Razin was among the evacuees standing outside the Colonial Heights neighborhood near the city's high school trying to decide what to do next late Thursday.

Officials had cut power in the area and the streets were pitch black, save for emergency vehicle lights. Razin said he arrived just as residents were being evacuated, and immediately saw the house two doors down was leveled from an explosion.

"I couldn't imagine if that was my house," said Razin, who purchased his home nearly two years ago. "It's total destruction. I'd be completely devastated."

With a backpack filled with personal items he had hastily grabbed, he said he'd head to his mother's home a few towns over for the night.

In Lawrence, a man whose neighborhood was among dozens that erupted in fire says he ran into his basement to find that the room was glowing. Resident Ra Nam says he was in his yard when the smoke detector in his basement went off around 4:30 p.m. EDT Thursday.

When he ran downstairs and saw the boiler on fire, he quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher and put it out. Minutes later, Nam said he heard a loud boom from his neighbor's house and the ground shook. Nam said a woman and two kids had made it out of the house but the basement was on fire.

Lawrence General Hospital said it was treating 10 victims, including at least one in critical condition.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency blamed the fires on gas lines that had become over-pressurized but said investigators were still examining what happened.

Columbia had announced earlier Thursday that it would be upgrading gas lines in neighborhoods across the state, including the area where the explosions happened. It was not clear whether work was happening there Thursday, and a spokeswoman did not return calls.

Reached by phone, some local officials described scenes of panic as residents rushed to evacuate, many wondering if their homes would be next to erupt in flames. In North Andover, town selectman Phil Decologero said his entire neighborhood had gathered in the street, afraid to enter their homes. Just a few streets down, he said, homes were burning.

"It's definitely a scary situation at the moment," he said. "It's pretty severe."

Aerial footage of the area showed some homes that appeared to be torn apart by blasts. At one, the upper portion of a brick chimney crushed an SUV parked in the driveway.

Soon after the first fires, Lawrence City Councilor Marc Laplante was warning residents in the Colonial Heights neighborhood to evacuate but said traffic had become a problem.

"People need to get out of this area safely," he said at the time. "It's really difficult because the traffic

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right now is horrendous.”

Joseph Solomon, the police chief in nearby Methuen, said 20 to 25 homes were on fire in Lawrence when he responded to help. He said there are so many fires “you can’t even see the sky.”

The three communities house more than 146,000 residents about 26 miles (40 kilometers) north of Boston, near the New Hampshire border. Lawrence, the largest of them, is a majority Latino city with a population of about 80,000.

“Lawrence is a very resilient community. We’re going to get through this together,” Mayor Dan Rivera told reporters as emergency lights illuminated smoke in the night sky nearby.

Gas explosions have claimed lives and destroyed property around the U.S. in recent years:

— A buildup of natural gas triggered an explosion and fire that killed seven people in apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland, in 2016.

— In 2014, a gas explosion in New York City’s East Harlem neighborhood killed eight people and injured about 50. Consolidated Edison later agreed to pay \$153 million to settle charges after the state’s Public Service Commission found Con Ed violated state safety regulations. A gas leak had been reported before that blast.

— A 2011 natural gas explosion killed five people in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and that state’s largest gas utility was fined by regulators who called the company’s safety record “downright alarming.”

— In September 2010, a Pacific Gas and Electric gas pipeline exploded in San Bruno, California, killing eight people and destroying 38 homes.

Associated Press writers Alanna Durkin Richer and Collin Binkley contributed from Boston.

## Monster typhoon barrels closer to north Philippines, China

By **AARON FAVILA** and **JOEAL CALUPITAN**, Associated Press

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Mangkhut retained its ferocious strength and shifted slightly toward more densely populated coastal provinces on Friday as it barreled closer to the northeastern Philippines, where a massive evacuation was underway.

More than 5 million people are at risk from the storm, which the Hawaii-based Joint Typhoon Warning Center categorizes as a super typhoon with powerful winds and gusts equivalent to a category 5 Atlantic hurricane.

It was initially expected to hit the northern tip of Cagayan province early Saturday, but it is now likely to make landfall farther south and closer to Isabela province, and then cut across the northern breadbasket, Philippine state forecaster Chris Perez said. The change isn’t likely to markedly change its impact because of the typhoon’s massive size, he said.

In Cagayan’s capital city of Tuguegarao, residents braced for the typhoon’s fury by reinforcing homes and buildings and stocking up on food.

“It was busy earlier in the hardware store and people were buying wood, nails, tin wire, plywood and umbrellas,” said Benjamin Banez, who owns a three-story hotel where workers were busy hammering up wooden boards to protect glass panels.

A super typhoon wrought heavy damage to Banez’s hotel and the rest of Cagayan in 2016. “We’re praying that there will be less damage this time, although we know that this one will be very strong,” Banez said.

A huge raincloud band 900 kilometers (560 miles) wide, combined with seasonal monsoon rains, means the typhoon will bring heavy to intense rain that could set off landslides and flash floods. Storm warnings have been raised in almost all the provinces across the main northern island of Luzon, including the capital, Manila, restricting sea and air travel.

The typhoon is approaching at the start of the rice and corn harvesting season in Cagayan, a major agricultural producer, and farmers were scrambling to save what they could of their crops, Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said. The threat to agriculture comes as the Philippines tries to cope with rice shortages.

Mangkhut was tracked at mid-afternoon on Friday about 470 kilometers (290 miles) away in the Pacific

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with sustained winds of 205 kilometers (127 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph (158 mph), forecasters said.

After the Philippines, the Hong Kong Observatory predicts Mangkhut will plow into the Chinese mainland early Monday south of Hong Kong and north of the island province of Hainan. Though it is likely to weaken from a super typhoon to a severe typhoon, it will still be packing sustained winds of 175 kph (109 mph), it said.

The observatory warned of rough seas and frequent heavy squalls, urging residents of the densely populated financial hub to "take suitable precautions and pay close attention to the latest information" on the storm.

The gambling enclave of Macau, near Hong Kong, suffered catastrophic flooding during Typhoon Hato last August that left 10 dead and led to accusations of corruption and incompetence at its meteorological office.

On the Chinese mainland, the three southern provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan are coordinating preparations, including suspending transport and moving people to shelter inland, the national meteorological agency reported.

Guangdong, China's manufacturing hub, has set up 3,777 shelters, while more than 100,000 residents and tourists have been moved to safety or sent home. The province has recalled more than 36,000 fishing boats to port, while train services between the cities of Zhanjiang and Maoming have been suspended and all ferry services between Guangdong and Hainan have been put on hold. Fujian province to the north of Guangdong is also closing beaches and tourist sites, the agency reported.

Philippine Office of Civil Defense chief Ricardo Jalad told an emergency meeting led by President Rodrigo Duterte that more than 5 million people in Cagayan, Isabela and outlying provinces are vulnerable to the most destructive effects near the typhoon's 125-kilometer (77-mile) -wide eye. Nearly 48,000 houses in those high-risk areas are made of light materials.

Duterte asked Cabinet officials from the north to help oversee disaster-response work if needed, and told reporters it was too early to consider seeking foreign aid.

"It would depend on the severity of the crisis," Duterte said. "If it flattens everything, maybe we need to have some help."

Officials said other northern provinces had started evacuating residents from high-risk areas, including in northern mountain provinces prone to landslides.

Mangkhut, the Thai word for mangosteen fruit, is the 15th storm this year to batter the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 a year and is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and displaced over 5 million in the central Philippines in 2013.

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Associated Press writers Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Koreas open 1st liaison office for better communication

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas on Friday opened their first liaison office near their tense border to facilitate better communication and exchanges ahead of their leaders' summit in Pyongyang next week.

The office's opening in the North Korean border town of Kaesong is the latest in a series of reconciliatory steps the Koreas have taken this year. The office is the first of its kind since the Koreas were divided at the end of World War II in 1945.

The Koreas so far have been using telephone and fax-like communication channels when they want to arrange talks and exchange messages. But those channels have often been suspended when tensions rose over North Korea's nuclear program.

In an opening ceremony at Kaesong, South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said the office

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will become the "cradle of Korean co-prosperity."

"We'll sit face to face, exchange our thoughts fast and accurately and put our heads together to resolve difficult matters," he said in remarks distributed by his office.

Ri Son Gwon, chairman of North Korea's Committee for Peaceful Reunification, said during the ceremony that the office would help the Koreans have "candid conversations" and further build their ties, according to South Korean media pool reports from the site.

About 15-20 South Korean officials will work at the office from 9 to 5, sleep at nearby lodgings in Kaesong on weekdays and take turns staffing the office on weekends. They will deal with an equal number of North Korean officials stationed at the office to discuss various inter-Korean issues, exchange messages from their capitals and facilitate civilian exchange programs, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

The office will be co-headed by Vice South Korean Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung and a deputy head of Ri's committee. They will hold an official meeting once a week, a ministry statement said.

Kaesong is where the Koreans' now-stalled jointly run factory complex is located. The park, which combined South Korean initiatives, capital and technology with North Korea's cheap labor, was seen as a test case for unification of the Koreans. But its operation was suspended in 2016 amid an escalating standoff over North Korea's long-range rocket launches.

The resumption of the Kaesong park and other dormant inter-Korean cooperation projects aren't likely to happen anytime soon because U.S.-led international sanctions on North Korea remain in place. Seoul officials said workers renovated some of the buildings used in the complex to use as the liaison office and the lodging facility.

The liaison office's opening came before South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet next week for the third time this year to discuss denuclearization of the peninsula and other issues.

During the previous meetings with Moon and a separate summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, Kim has expressed a vague commitment to complete denuclearization of the peninsula. He has also dismantled his nuclear and rocket-engine testing sites. But nuclear diplomacy later became stalemated as U.S. officials demanded Kim take more significant steps before receiving concessions such as a joint declaration to end the Korean War.

Moon is to fly to Pyongyang next Tuesday for a three-day trip. He said he will focus on facilitating talks between the United States and North Korea and finding ways to ease the military standoff along the Koreans' heavily fortified border.

In a working-level meeting on Friday, the Koreans agreed to allow live television broadcasts of parts of the summit, Moon's office said. It said the live coverage will include key moments such as when the leaders greet each other in Pyongyang on Tuesday. It did not specify which other parts of the event would be broadcast live.

## Elizabeth Smart says kidnapper being released still a threat

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Elizabeth Smart says a woman who helped kidnap her when she was 14 and stood by as she was sexually assaulted should be committed to a mental-health facility after she's released from prison next week.

Smart said Thursday she was shocked to find out about Wanda Barzee's prison release and she's deeply concerned because the inmate hasn't been cooperating with treatment.

"She is a woman who had six children yet could co-conspire to kidnap a 14-year-old girl, and not only sit next to her while being raped but encourage her husband to continue to rape me," Smart said. "So do I believe she's dangerous? Yes."

Barzee is expected to be freed Wednesday after 15 years in custody, after Utah authorities said in a surprise announcement they had miscalculated the amount of time the 72-year-old woman should serve.

Standing on the steps of the Utah state capitol, Smart, now 30, recalled some of the horrors she expe-



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rienced when she was snatched from her home in 2002.

She said Barzee "saw me as her slave. She called me her handmaiden. She never hesitated to let her displeasure with me be known."

The Utah Board of Pardons and Parole set a January 2024 release date in June, but her attorney questioned whether that took into account time she'd served in a federal prison. On Tuesday, the board decided that she had served her full sentence allowed under the law.

Attorney Scott Williams has said Barzee has been diagnosed with several mental illnesses, but he's not concerned about her being a danger to the community. Williams did not immediately return a message seeking comment Thursday.

"I only found out shortly before everybody else," said Smart, who is now a married mother and activist for victims' rights. "And yes, it was a big shock. Only months ago, I was on my way to a parole hearing and was told she would never be let out before 2024."

Smart said she is taking unspecified steps to protect her family, but that she refuses to live in a "state of fear."

If Barzee had shown more clear signs of rehabilitation, she would likely feel differently about her release, she said. "I do believe in forgiveness. I am a Christian," Smart said. She also urged authorities to reconsider the process for release decisions to put greater weight on potential threat along with time served.

Smart was abducted from her Salt Lake City bedroom at knifepoint by street preacher Brian David Mitchell, who came in through an open kitchen window. The kidnapping triggered waves of fear around the country.

The girl was found while walking with Barzee and Mitchell on a street in the suburb of Sandy, Utah, by people who recognized the couple from media reports.

Mitchell is serving a life sentence after being convicted of kidnapping and raping Smart. He and Barzee were married at one point.

Barzee was convicted of both state and federal crimes, and transferred to the Utah state prison in April 2016 after finishing a federal sentence in Texas. She will be under federal supervision for five years after her release from prison.

If she violates the conditions of her release, which will include mental health treatment and an order not to contact Smart's family, she could go back to prison, said Elizabeth Smart's attorney Brett Tolman. He was previously the U.S. Attorney for Utah who prosecuted Mitchell.

Barzee's family could also request a possible civil commitment to a mental-health facility, if that's warranted, Tolman said.

## AP Explains: How hurricanes unleash lethal storm surges

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Behold the awesome power of water. Already the ocean is swallowing beaches, roads and anything else in the way of Hurricane Florence's monstrous storm surge. Storm surges aren't walls of water, like a tsunami, as commonly thought. Caused by a hurricane's winds pushing relentlessly on the shore, they are more like domes of high water that form as the ocean spreads inland. The high water has destructive waves on top, and it comes in addition to normal tides.

"You are taking the ocean and raising it," said storm surge expert Hal Needham, director of Marine Weather and Climate in Miami. "It's not a wave the surfer rides. It's actually raising the ocean. That's why it's so scary."

Florence's storm surge will probably be 7 to 11 feet (more than 2 to 3 meters) above ground in parts of North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center. Other areas can expect the surge to be taller than the average person — nearly 6 feet (2 meters) or higher.

Even if a house is elevated 10 feet (3 meters), with that kind of storm surge, "there's a good chance there's going to be water inside of it," Needham said.

With Florence moving slowly and stalling, the storm surge is going to be a bigger, longer-term factor than normal because the water "just keeps piling up," Needham said.

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It's not just beach areas that are at risk. Storm surge invades rivers and estuaries, too. And National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said that's a particular worry with Florence.

"These bays, these rivers and these inlets, there's so much storm surge the water is being literally forced to flow the opposite direction," Graham said. "You can get storm surge even several miles inland."

While hurricane-force winds can rip the roofs off houses, it is the water — storm surge, inland flooding, surf and drowning at sea — that kills nearly 9 out of 10 people in hurricanes like Florence.

And of all those, storm surge is the deadliest. From 1963 to 2012, 49 percent of U.S. hurricane deaths were from storm surge, 27 percent from rain, 8 percent from wind, 6 percent from surf, 6 percent were offshore and 3 percent from tornadoes, according to a National Hurricane Center study .

The deadliest hurricanes to hit the U.S. mainland killed most of their victims with storm surge, including 2005's Katrina, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at Weather Underground.

But last year, even with hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, no one in the United States died of storm surge, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced . It was the first year that the hurricane center had started new storm surge warnings. Mostly people are getting better at evacuating, with three-quarters of the Florida Keys fleeing before Irma, Masters said.

Storm surge is also the source of vast amounts of damage. Masters estimated that storm surge caused at least \$3 billion in damage, compared with maybe \$1 billion for wind damage. Damaged or destroyed buildings are often rebuilt in the same surge-prone areas, with government aid, he said.

Needham, who drove all night from Miami to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to watch and record the storm surge from the relative safety of a parking garage, said the storm surge had "already gobbled up the beach" there.

"It's just going to be an interesting ride," Needham said. "I could not sit home and watch it on TV. I had to be there."

The worst storm surge comes in with a hurricane's eye, and it arrives "with a lot of debris to batter you, and it's not particularly survivable," Masters said.

Storm surge is higher in the right-front quadrant of a storm because the system's counterclockwise motion pushes more water inland, Masters said. Sometimes in the opposite quadrant there's a reverse storm surge that makes the ocean retreat. That's particularly dangerous because the ocean comes back quickly with 6 feet (2 meters) or more of water.

Storm surge is higher when the water just off the beach is shallower, Needham said. Think of it like a giant aquarium filled to the brim. If a large rock is thrown in, it spills over. But if the aquarium is not full, it's only a ripple.

Tides are another factor. The surge is highest when the tides are high. The coast of the Carolinas is about middle of the road with about 4 to 5 feet of difference (1.2 to 1.5 meters) between high and low tides.

The shape of the coastline is another factor. If it is bowl-shaped, like in Georgia and South Carolina, the surge is deeper, but when it is the opposite shape, like the Outer Banks, it's less so, Needham said.

Seas have risen from global warming, making all of this even worse. In Wilmington, North Carolina, the sea level is close to 8 inches (20 centimeters) higher than in 1935, according to NOAA. Those few inches can mean the difference between staying dry and enduring costly damage.

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Associated Press Writer Jennifer Kay in Miami contributed to this report.

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears . His work can be found here .

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For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

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## Cuomo easily defeats Nixon in NY gubernatorial primary

By DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo easily beat back a primary challenge from activist and actress Cynthia Nixon on Thursday, thwarting her attempt to become the latest insurgent liberal to knock off an establishment Democrat.

Cuomo, who always led in the polls and outspent his rival more than 8 to 1, seldom mentioned Nixon by name during an often-nasty campaign, instead touting his experience, achievements in two terms as governor and his work to push back against President Donald Trump.

In his moment of victory, Cuomo was oddly silent, skipping his own election-night party in Manhattan to celebrate with family at the governor's mansion in Albany. He put out a tweet that said simply "Thank You New York." His campaign declined to issue a statement.

"It's New York's obligation to stand up and lead and lead against a lot of these changes in Washington that are totally opposite of who we are as New Yorkers and what we believe," he said earlier at his Westchester County polling place. "There is a divisiveness coming out of Washington that I think is cancerous to this nation."

Thursday's results were good across the board for Cuomo, whose preferred candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general also survived contentious primaries. And despite Nixon's loss, liberals celebrated victories for several left-leaning challengers who ousted longtime legislative incumbents.

With registered Democrats outnumbering Republicans more than 2 to 1 in New York, Cuomo becomes the automatic front-runner in November's matchup with Republican Marc Molinaro and independent Mayor Stephanie Miner.

Nixon, a longtime education activist and actress best known for her Emmy-winning role as lawyer Miranda Hobbes on HBO's "Sex and the City," was counting on a boost from liberals looking to oust establishment politicians. She called herself a democratic socialist and pointed to recent congressional primary victories by New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts' Ayanna Pressley as evidence that underdog challengers can defy the odds.

When that didn't happen, Nixon thanked supporters and credited her campaign for helping to push Cuomo to the left and show that liberals have a shot at making big changes.

"Before we take our country back we have to take our party back," she said. "This is an incredible moment for progressives but it's not just a moment. It's a movement."

Cuomo, who won with about 65 percent of vote, secured endorsements from Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and even Nicki Minaj, and spent much of the race touting his own liberal accomplishments such as same-sex marriage, gun control and paid family leave. And he increasingly made the race about pushing back against Trump and other Republicans. At the same time, he dismissed Nixon as a naive dilettante and mocked her work as an actress.

"If it was all about name recognition," he said earlier this year, "then I'm hoping Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and Billy Joel don't get into the race."

Despite the rhetoric, Cuomo took Nixon seriously, spending \$8.5 million, largely on ads, in the final weeks of the campaign to answer attacks that he has not invested enough in New York City's beleaguered subway system and failed to deliver on upstate economic development promises.

There were indications that the 52-year-old Nixon's aggressive campaign pushed the incumbent governor to the left on several issues, including legalizing marijuana and addressing crumbling public housing in New York City.

"Cuomo is no idiot," said Fordham University political scientist Christina Greer. "The winds of change right now are with insurgent candidates and not necessarily with incumbents. ... He didn't just slightly pivot, he full-on leapt to the left."

While he may have won, Cuomo, a former U.S. housing secretary and son of the late Gov. Mario Cuomo, did not escape the primary unscathed.

During the campaign's only debate, Cuomo snuffed out speculation that he might run for president in

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2020, pledging to serve a full four-year term if re-elected.

He was mocked for saying America "was never that great" during remarks criticizing Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

He invited Clinton to a celebratory opening of the final span of the new Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge over the Hudson — only to keep the bridge closed after engineers warned that pieces from the old, largely disassembled Tappan Zee Bridge could hit the new structure.

Cuomo claimed to have no knowledge of a Democratic Party mailer that questioned Nixon's support for Jewish people — despite Cuomo's control of the party and a recent \$2.5 million contribution to its campaign operations. Cuomo's spokeswoman later acknowledged that two former aides volunteering on the campaign were behind the piece.

Nixon, who is raising two of her children in the Jewish faith, demanded an apology that never came.

In the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor, incumbent Kathy Hochul, a former congresswoman from Buffalo, defeated challenger Jumaane Williams, a New York City councilman who had promised if elected to serve as a check on Cuomo.

Cuomo's pick for attorney general, New York City Public Advocate Tish James, won a four-way Democratic primary.

Nixon now must decide whether she wants to run on the November ballot as a candidate for the third-party Working Families Party, thanks to a New York state law that allows candidates to run on multiple ballot lines. Early in the campaign, Nixon said she would stand aside if she lost the Democratic primary, but it remains to be seen whether the party can remove her name from the ballot.

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Associated Press writers Stephen R. Groves and Sabrina Caserta contributed this report.

## **No progress as US, Cuba meet on mysterious 'health attacks'**

**By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuba said Thursday the United States is continuing to withhold important information that could help in the investigation into mysterious incidents that have injured some two dozen Havana-based American diplomats, including some with brain damage, since late 2016.

After meeting with U.S. officials at the State Department, members of a team Cuba assembled to look into the incidents said their requests for patient records and other information had again been rebuffed and rejected anew after Washington's assertions that the injuries were caused by targeted attacks.

"The Cuban side is completely unable to support the hypothesis of health attacks and brain damage as reported by the State Department," said Dr. Mitchell Valdes Sosa, chief of the group of Cuban scientists and physicians. "Nothing was presented that could add up to sustain such a thing."

The Cuban delegation renewed calls for the State Department to release to it specific medical records and other data about the victims in order for it to be studied.

It also repeated demands that Washington stop referring to the cause of the symptoms as "health attacks" in the absence of definitive proof and denounced reports citing U.S. officials as saying that investigators may be narrowing their suspicions about the cause and culprit behind them.

"The State Department has been treating theories as if they were facts," said Johana Tablada, a senior Cuban diplomat who led the team.

Thursday's meeting was held as American authorities search for answers into mysterious "health attacks" that began two years ago in Havana and amid growing frustration among national security agencies and members of Congress about the lack of answers on what and who caused the injuries.

Recent reports have suggested investigators are focusing on the possibility that some sort of microwave device may be responsible and that Russia, which has long had close ties with Cuba, is the leading suspect for the attacks.

The State Department, however, has denied that any conclusions had been drawn.

"We still don't know the cause, we still don't know what or who is responsible for health attacks that took



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place that affected our personnel in Cuba," spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters on Thursday.

She did not address a Cuban request for "a dispassionate examination of health reports of U.S. diplomats in Cuba according to the rules of science" but said the meeting would "involve private medical information that is coming forth from some of our people."

The Cubans, however, said no such information was shared beyond what was previously available in a published medical journal report, which they and others have found to be inconclusive

Those reports have raised protests from Cuba, which does not dispute the symptoms but insists there is no evidence to support any assertion that they were caused by premeditated attacks on its soil or that there is evidence to point too a perpetrator.

Cuba has repeatedly denounced the U.S. accusations as politically motivated and unproven and did so again on Thursday. "Stop using the word 'attack.'"

Twenty-five U.S. Embassy workers in Cuba, as well as one at the U.S. consulate in Guangzhou, China, have been affected by mysterious health incidents that began in the fall of 2016. The range of symptoms and diagnoses includes mild traumatic brain injury, also known as concussion.

The last case from Havana was confirmed in June. The U.S. said two embassy staffers were affected in a single occurrence in late May in a diplomatic residence at which both officers were present. Those were the first confirmed cases in Havana since August 2017.

Thursday's meeting was organized after Cuba complained that Washington has refused to share key details about the affected Americans' medical conditions. Sosa said the talks were a "productive and very cordial scientific meeting but we received no new information."

In classified briefings with congressional aides and lawmakers last week, the officials repeated that they had not come to any conclusions about what caused the injuries or who might be responsible for them, according to officials familiar with the meetings.

Initial speculation had centered on some type of sonic attack, owing to strange sounds heard by those affected. But an interim FBI report in January found no evidence that sound waves could have caused the damage.

## Honolulu warns residents after storm swells dam water levels

By **CALEB JONES** and **AUDREY McAVOY**, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Honolulu officials said a dam holding 21 million gallons (80 million liters) of water was not in danger of collapsing Thursday, but still warned nearly 10,000 residents downstream that they might need to evacuate after a tropical storm caused water levels to rise in the reservoir.

Water levels in the dam rose 4-to-5 feet (nearly 1.5 meters) overnight as heavy rains from Tropical Storm Olivia dumped 7.3 inches (18 centimeters) of rain in the area. Meteorologists downgraded the storm to a tropical depression as it moved away from the islands, but warned lingering moisture could bring more rain.

The Board of Water Supply, the agency that manages the dam, said plans call for a mandatory evacuation if the water reaches 1 foot (30 centimeters) under the top of the dam.

The water was 5 feet below the top of the dam at midday Thursday. It's also 18 inches (45 centimeters) below a spillway. Areas downstream would flood if water goes over the spillway, said Ernie Lau, the agency's chief engineer.

"We want people to know, if you live near a dam and were the dam to fail, these would be areas we would want to evacuate before the failure of the dam," Lau said. "But we're nowhere close to that."

The dam is called Nuuanu Dam #1, an earthen reservoir built in 1905 in a residential neighborhood near downtown Honolulu called Nuuanu.

Lau said workers began siphoning water away from the dam before Olivia reached the islands. But these efforts were unable to keep pace with the rain that fell during the storm. On Thursday morning, Lau decided to begin pumping water out of the dam with the help of Honolulu firefighters.

Lau said workers made some headway and water levels came down by 2 to 3 inches. He said they'll

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make more progress if the rains decrease. Pumping will continue over the next week, he said.

The agency, which is the water utility for nearly 1 million people in Honolulu and surrounding towns on Oahu, said it would coordinate with the city on any evacuation notice.

Andrew Pereira, a spokesman for the city, urged residents to be aware of the situation.

"While it appears the rain is subsiding, we are taking a cautious approach and asking residents to remain on alert," he said in an email.

Sherwod Chock, an artist who has lived in the neighborhood for nearly 50 years, said officials have never warned about high water levels in the dam before.

"It looks it like it can hold it, but you never know," he said. As for whether he had plans if the dam breached, he said: "I think God's going to take care of us."

The dam is one of multiple dams in Nuuanu that are used for flood control. Water levels at a bigger dam, Nuuanu Dam #4, are much lower. This dam also has an additional method for releasing water in a controlled fashion that Nuuanu Dam #1 lacks.

Meteorologists say moisture will linger through Friday, with additional rainfall of 3 to 5 inches (8 to 13 centimeters) and isolated amounts of 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters) on higher terrain.

That could cause life-threatening flash floods because the ground is already saturated, the Central Pacific Hurricane Center said in a statement.

The storm, which was a hurricane earlier in the week, slowly weakened as it neared the state.

President Donald Trump has signed a disaster declaration, which will help FEMA respond, Gov. David Ige said.

## Gunman kills ex-wife, 4 others and himself in California

By JOHN ANTCZAK and AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gunman in Southern California fatally shot his ex-wife and a man at a trucking company before chasing after another man, killing him, and then driving to a home where he killed a father and daughter during a nearly 40-minute rampage, authorities said Thursday.

Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood identified the gunman as Javier Casarez during a news conference about the shootings that claimed five victims in Bakersfield, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) north of Los Angeles.

Casarez, 54, fatally shot himself as a deputy closed in on him shortly after the shooting.

Court records show a divorce between Casarez and his wife Petra Maribel Bolanos de Casarez was finalized in April.

Bolanos recently filed for a change involving child support and custody over the couple's two teenage children, and the pair had a hearing set for Oct. 11, court records show.

Youngblood said it appears that Casarez targeted every victim, starting with a worker at T&T Trucking, and that domestic violence appears to have played a large part.

"It appears to be there's more than just husband and wife having a fight because other people were targeted," he said. "There's a reason for that and we need to find that reason."

Casarez likely took his ex-wife to the trucking company against her will and then fatally shot 50-year-old Manuel Contreras with a .50-caliber handgun, authorities said. He shot his ex-wife and then turned the gun on a second man, 50-year-old Antonio Valadez, the sheriff's department said.

Casarez fired at Valadez as he ran away, but then tracked him down in his car and killed him, the sheriff said.

Casarez then drove to the house of 57-year-old Eliseo Garcia Cazares, who Youngblood identified as a friend. Casarez fatally shot Garcia and his daughter, 31-year-old Laura Garcia.

"She may have tried to intervene to keep the suspect from approaching her father, and he shot and killed both of them," Youngblood said.

After the shooting at the Garcia home, Casarez carjacked a woman driving with her child. The woman and child escaped, and Casarez drove to a highway where a sheriff's deputy saw him, Youngblood said.

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As the deputy closed in, yelling at Casarez to drop his gun, Casarez fatally shot himself in the stomach, according to graphic body camera footage released by police on Facebook.

The video shows deputies and paramedics working to save Casarez. Deputies look over Casarez's gun and talk about how he would have had to reload it during the rampage.

David Bunting, who said he's a friend of Eliseo Garcia Cazares and lives two doors down from him, said he has no idea why his neighbor would have been targeted.

He said Garcia was a self-employed truck driver who always was with his grandkids when not working, often driving them around on his golf cart.

"He's a really nice guy. I can't say enough good things about him," Bunting said. "It's kind of a shock because of the kind of a person he was."

He said his daughter Laura was a mother of four and that most of the Garcias' large family was home at the time of the shooting. He said they're devastated and in shock.

He said Eliseo Garcia Cazares and his wife had four grown children, including a daughter who was killed in a car accident a few years ago.

T&T Trucking, where the initial shooting happened, said in a statement that the company "is in a state of mourning."

"We are greatly saddened and offer our heartfelt condolence and prayers to those who lost a loved one."

About 30 witnesses were being interviewed by deputies, Youngblood said.

He said Casarez was a legal permanent resident of the U.S. The 50-caliber gun used in the shootings was legally purchased in 2004, Youngblood said. Casarez had been arrested for vehicle theft in the 1980s, but he did not have a history of violent crime, the sheriff said.

Officials say there are indications of a domestic violence motive, but investigators don't know what specifically set Casarez off.

Casarez filed for divorce last year because he believed she had cheated on him, according to court papers. In his petition for divorce filed in December, he accused Petra Maribel Bolanos De Casarez of cheating and asked the judge for his wife's text messages to specific phone numbers. The judge denied the request.

Investigators are looking into whether Casarez's ex-wife may have had a relationship with Contreras or Valadez, the sheriff said.

His ex-wife had recently filed for an unspecified change in orders involving child support and property.

Youngblood called the shootings devastating, especially for Laura Garcia's children, who may have witnessed their mother's death.

"These young children, when they see this, that's something that will stay with them the rest of their lives," he said. "But officers ... they're also not immune to those emotions. Those cases stay with them their entire career, so this has a far-reaching impact on a lot of people in our community and in our department."

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Associated Press writer Christopher Weber contributed to this report.

## Trump turns back to Maria, falsely says Dems inflated toll

By CATHERINE LUCEY, ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Hurricane Florence bore down on the U.S. on Thursday, President Donald Trump angrily churned up the devastating storm of a year earlier, disputing the official death count from Hurricane Maria and falsely accusing Democrats of inflating the Puerto Rican toll to make him "look as bad as possible."

Public health experts have estimated that nearly 3,000 perished because of the effects of Maria. But Trump, whose efforts to help the island territory recover have been persistently criticized, was having none of that. He said just six to 18 people had been reported dead when he visited two weeks after the storm and suggested that many had been added later "if a person died for any reason, like old age."

Trump's jarring comments, coming as the East Coast braced for a massive storm, offered fresh evidence of his resistance to criticism and his insistence on viewing large and small events through the prism of his

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own success or failure.

Offering up a fresh conspiracy theory, he said of the Puerto Rico count, "This was done by the Democrats in order to make me look as bad as possible when I was successfully raising Billions of Dollars to help rebuild Puerto Rico."

Even some Republicans suggested the president had gone too far.

"Casualties don't make a person look bad," House Speaker Paul Ryan said, breaking with the president. "So I have no reason to dispute those numbers."

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who talks to Trump often, said, "I don't think it's bad to say we could have done better in Puerto Rico." He also said he thought Trump "sees every attack on him as sort of undercutting his legitimacy."

Especially upset were GOP politicians in Florida, a state with a substantial Puerto Rican population.

Gov. Rick Scott, who is running for the U.S. Senate, tweeted: "I've been to Puerto Rico 7 times & saw devastation firsthand. The loss of any life is tragic." A spokesman for former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, who won the Florida GOP primary for governor with Trump's support, said he did not agree with Trump's tweets.

The White House defended the president.

"As the President said, every death from Hurricane Maria is a horror. Before, during, and after the two massive hurricanes, the President directed the entire Administration to provide unprecedented support to Puerto Rico," said White House spokesman Hogan Gidley. "President Trump was responding to the liberal media and the San Juan Mayor who sadly, have tried to exploit the devastation by pushing out a constant stream of misinformation and false accusations."

Gidley cited studies that attributed fewer than 3,000 deaths on the island to Maria.

Throughout his presidency, Trump has struggled to publicly express empathy at times of national crises, sparking outrage during his post-Maria visit when he feuded with San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz and tossed out paper towels to victims like he was shooting baskets. In recent days, Trump publicly lauded his own administration's response to Maria — and privately groused over storm-related news coverage that he saw as overly focused on Puerto Rico, according to two Republican advisers close to the White House who weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Puerto Rico's governor last month raised Maria's official death toll from 64 to 2,975 after an independent study found that the number of people who succumbed in the sweltering aftermath had been severely undercounted. Trump dismissed the findings Thursday, tweeting: "If a person died for any reason, like old age, just add them onto the list."

In fact, there are two categories of disaster deaths. "Direct" deaths include such fatalities as drownings in a storm surge or being crushed in a wind-toppled building. "Indirect" deaths are harder to count because they can include such things as heart attacks, electrocutions from downed power lines and failure to receive dialysis because the power is out — and those kinds of fatalities can happen after a storm has ended but while an area is struggling to restore electricity, clean water and other health and safety services.

When Trump visited in October 2017, two weeks after the storm hit, the death toll at the time was indeed 16 people. The number was later raised to 64, but the government then commissioned an independent study to determine how many died because of post-storm conditions. That study — conducted by the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University — estimated 2,975 deaths.

Dr. Carlos Santos-Burgoa — the lead researcher on the study and a well-known expert in global health, particularly Latin America — told The Associated Press that the initial figure of 64 deaths reflected only people whose death certificates cited the storm. He said the latest figure was more accurate and stressed that every death in the six months following the storm was not attributed to the hurricane.

"We are scientists. We are public health people. We are committed to the health of the population. We try to reach the truth, and we try to understand what is damaging the people in order to prevent disease," he said.

Puerto Rico's government is run by the New Progressive party, a pro-statehood, Puerto Rico-only party. Gov. Ricardo Rossello told CBS New York on Thursday that he was a Democrat but stressed that the



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government sought the study and said it "tried to make this process a completely independent process."

State and local officials are responsible for establishing death tolls, not the federal government. After the total was revised Aug. 28, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a statement in which she did not actively dispute the revised figure.

Trump's fresh anger drew swift rebukes from elected officials and residents of the island, where blackouts remain common, 60,000 homes still have makeshift roofs and 13 percent of municipalities lack stable phone or internet service. A U.S. territory since 1898, Puerto Rico's inhabitants are citizens, though they cannot vote in presidential elections and have only one congressional representative with limited voting powers.

Cruz, the Democratic San Juan mayor who has sparred with the president, tweeted: "Trump is so vain he thinks this is about him. NO IT IS NOT." Rep. Luis Gutierrez, an Illinois Democrat who spent part of his youth in Puerto Rico, spoke on the House floor in front of a printout of the Puerto Rican flag, saying Trump is "delusional" and incapable of "empathy or basic human decency."

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, sent a letter to the GOP majority Thursday calling for the panel to request documents from the White House relating to the Puerto Rico response.

Trump maintained as recently as Tuesday that his response to the storm was an "incredible unsung success."

Associated Press reporters Colleen Long, Luran Neergaard and Alan Fram in Washington, Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Michael Weissenstein in Havana, Cuba, and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

## Russian suspects in poisoning: We were in UK as tourists

By JIM HEINTZ and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The two Russian men spun an unlikely tale of hapless tourists defeated by grim British weather: They traveled more than 1,000 miles to see England's famed Salisbury Cathedral but were turned back by slush and snow, then returned the next day and spent two hours exploring the "beautiful" city.

British officials had a more sinister explanation: Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov were highly trained military intelligence agents sent by the Kremlin to Salisbury to smear a deadly nerve agent on the front door of a former Russian spy.

Petrov and Boshirov, both charged in absentia by Britain last week for trying to kill Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, with the nerve agent Novichok, went on the Kremlin-funded RT satellite channel Thursday to proclaim their innocence, deny they were agents of the military intelligence service widely known as the GRU, and say they were merely tourists in the city southwest of London.

"Our friends had been suggesting for quite a long time that we visit this wonderful city," Petrov said in the interview.

"They have a famous cathedral there," Boshirov said, adding studiously: "It is famous for its 123-meter spire."

James Slack, spokesman for British Prime Minister Theresa May, derided their claims as "lies and blatant fabrications."

"More importantly, they are deeply offensive to the victims and loved ones of this horrific attack," he said.

Britain said the attack was almost certainly approved "at a senior level of the Russian state," an allegation that Moscow has vehemently denied.

Skripal, a Russian military intelligence officer turned double agent for Britain, and his visiting daughter fell ill March 4 from what Britain says was a Soviet-developed nerve agent; an investigating police officer also was hospitalized for about three weeks. In June, two area residents who apparently came across a discarded vial that contained the poison fell ill, and one of them died.

Britain identified the Russian suspects last week and released security-camera photos of them in Salisbury on March 3 and 4.

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The surprise TV appearance by Petrov and Boshirov came a day after President Vladimir Putin said Russian authorities know the identities of the two men but insisted that they were civilians and there is “nothing criminal” about them. He urged to contact the media, and Petrov said he heard Putin’s statement on the radio and contacted Margarita Simonyan, RT’s editor-in-chief who conducted the interview.

Petrov said that on their first trip to Salisbury, they were unable to make it from the train station to the cathedral — about 800 meters (half a mile) — because of snow and slush. Much of Britain suffered such weather that day.

The weather was better the next day, when the two were caught on camera at the Salisbury rail station at 11:48 a.m. Ten minutes later, another camera found them walking in the direction of Skripal’s house — the opposite direction from the cathedral.

They again were recorded in the center of town an hour later and were at the station by 1:50 p.m., two hours after arriving.

“We walked around, enjoying those beautiful English Gothic buildings,” Boshirov said. They got a flight back to Russia later that evening.

The men, who appeared to be about 40, claimed they did not know who Skripal was or where he lived.

Britain alleges the nerve agent used to poison the Skripals was carried in a perfume vial, which Boshirov dismissed by saying “Don’t you think it’s kind of stupid for two straight men to carry perfume for ladies?”

He bristled when Simonyan asked why the two men spent so much time together.

“Let’s not breach anyone’s privacy. We came to you for protection, but this is turning into some sort of interrogation,” he said.

They declined to give any other details about their lives, except to say they work in the nutritional supplements business.

“The whole situation is an incredible, fatal coincidence, and that’s that,” Petrov said. “What is our fault?”

Both men looked composed during the interview, but Boshirov said, “We fear for our lives.”

Boshirov did not react to the interviewer’s request to show the pictures they took on that trip, only saying that he found Salisbury Cathedral “very beautiful.”

John Glen, the Parliament member for Salisbury, offered a wry comment about the pair’s visit to his town, tweeting: “Delighted to see that Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov were able to see the world-class attractions that Salisbury has to offer. But very strange to come all this way for just two days while carrying Novichok in their luggage.”

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Lawless reported from London. Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed.

## Senator gives federal investigators information on Kavanaugh

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Thursday she has notified federal investigators about information she received — and won’t disclose publicly — concerning Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

The California Democrat said in a statement that she “received information from an individual concerning the nomination.” She said the person “strongly requested confidentiality, declined to come forward or press the matter further, and I have honored that decision.”

The FBI confirmed that it received the information Wednesday evening and included it in Kavanaugh’s background file, which is maintained as part of his nomination. The agency said that is its standard process.

A Senate Democratic aide and another person familiar with the matter said it referred to an incident that occurred while Kavanaugh was high-school age. The two spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to discuss the matter.

The details of the alleged incident and the identity of the person who provided the information were unclear.

The White House called Feinstein’s move an “11th hour attempt to delay his confirmation.”

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The Judiciary Committee, which has finished confirmation hearings for Kavanaugh, is scheduled to vote next Thursday on whether to recommend that he be confirmed by the full Senate.

Feinstein's statement that she has "referred the matter to federal investigative authorities" jolted Capitol Hill and threatened to disrupt what has been a steady path toward confirmation for Kavanaugh by Republicans eager to see the conservative judge on the court.

Feinstein has held the letter close. Democratic senators on the panel met privately Wednesday evening and discussed the information, according to Senate aides who were not authorized to discuss the situation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some senators, including the No. 2 Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, learned about the information for the first time at the meeting, according to one of the aides. Durbin told the senators they needed to bring the matter to the FBI, the aide said.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has not had access to the letter but said he believes the Judiciary Committee is handling it appropriately, his office said.

On Thursday, Feinstein declined to answer questions outside the hearing room, and other senators' offices largely deferred to her.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., declined to confirm reports that the congresswoman had forwarded a letter containing the allegations to Feinstein. She said her office has a confidentiality policy regarding casework for constituents.

A White House spokeswoman, Kerri Kupec, said the FBI has vetted Kavanaugh "thoroughly and repeatedly" during his career in government and the judiciary.

She said Kavanaugh has had 65 meetings with senators — including with Feinstein — sat through over 30 hours of testimony and publicly addressed more than 2,000 questions. "Not until the eve of his confirmation has Sen. Feinstein or anyone raised the specter of new 'information' about him," she said.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican and a member of the committee, was also skeptical.

"Let me get this straight: this is (sic) statement about secret letter regarding a secret matter and an unidentified person. Right," he tweeted.

Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, was unaware of the information until it was made public, according to a GOP committee aide. Kavanaugh has undergone six federal background checks over time in government, including one most recently for the nomination, the aide said.

The new information on Kavanaugh was included Thursday in his confidential background file at the committee and is now available for senators to review, the aide said.

Democrats don't have the votes to block Kavanaugh's nomination if Republicans are unified, but they are fighting it and decrying the process that Republicans used to compile his government records for review.

At the committee Thursday, Republicans brushed aside a flurry of Democratic attempts to delay the consideration of Kavanaugh or subpoena more documents, sticking with a schedule that could see him confirmed by Oct. 1, when the new court session begins.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., protested that the nomination will be "tainted" and "stained" by the unusual process for vetting the nominee.

"We lack the time. We lack the documents." He called it a "badly broken process."

Feinstein had sought a subpoena for documents from Kavanaugh's time as President George W. Bush's staff secretary. She said senators "should be able to see this record" and wondered, "What in Judge Kavanaugh's records are Republicans hiding?"

The Republicans have declined to pursue Kavanaugh's staff secretary documents, saying it would be too cumbersome. They rejected Feinstein's motion and several others, including motions to subpoena documents and witnesses and a motion to adjourn.

Grassley set the panel's vote on Kavanaugh for Sept. 20.

New documents released ahead of Thursday's meeting included Kavanaugh's 263-page written response to questions from senators, along with 28 files from the judge's work in the Bush White House that had

been available to senators only on a "committee confidential basis." Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey made the Bush documents public.

Among the details in the new written responses, Kavanaugh says he would have shaken the hand of a school shooting victim's father during a break in last week's Senate hearing had he recognized him before being whisked away by security detail.

The documents released by Booker, meanwhile, show Kavanaugh's involvement in Bush's nomination of Charles Pickering to an appellate court in the South as Pickering faced questions about his views on race relations. Kavanaugh had indicated in 2006 testimony that he was not substantially involved in the nomination.

In releasing a new batch of committee confidential documents about Kavanaugh, Booker was repeating a tactic that could prompt a review from the Senate Ethics Committee.

Booker's GOP colleagues and outside groups are criticizing him for releasing the documents. Last week, he released some documents that were later made public by the committee, but also others that weren't. Wednesday's disclosure brings the total to 75.

The conservative group Judicial Watch delivered a letter Wednesday to the Senate Ethics Committee seeking an investigation. It says Booker violated Senate rules against disclosing confidential documents and could face Senate expulsion.

Booker has welcomed the fight. He says the documents about Kavanaugh's work "raise more serious and concerning questions" about his honesty during his testimony before the committee.

At issue has been the unprecedented process the Senate Judiciary Committee used for gathering documents on Kavanaugh, an appellate court judge who is President Donald Trump's nominee to replace retired Justice Anthony Kennedy on the court.

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Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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## Scientists look to map the genes of thousands of animals

By PATRICK WHITTLE, The Associated Press

A group of scientists unveiled the first results Thursday of an ambitious effort to map the genes of tens of thousands of animal species, a project they said could help save animals from extinction down the line.

The scientists are working with the Genome 10,000 consortium on the Vertebrate Genomes Project, which is seeking to map the genomes of all 66,000 species of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and fish on Earth. Genome 10,000 has members at more than 50 institutions around the globe, and the Vertebrate Genomes Project last year.

The consortium on Thursday released the first 15 such maps, ranging from the Canada lynx to the kakapo, a flightless parrot native to New Zealand.

The genome is the entire set of genetic material that is present in an organism. The release of the first sets is "a statement to the world that what we want to accomplish is indeed feasible," said Harris Lewin, a professor of evolution at University of California, Davis, who is working on the project.

"The time has come, but of course it's only the beginning," Lewin said.

The work will help inform future conservation of jeopardized species, scientists working on the project said. The first 14 species to be mapped also include the duck-billed platypus, two bat species and the zebra finch. The zebra finch was the one species for which both sexes were mapped, bringing the total to 15.

Sequencing the genome of tens of thousands of animals could easily take 10 years, said Sadye Paez, program director for the project. But giving scientists access to this kind of information could help save rare species because it would give conservationists and biologists a new set of tools, she said.

Paez described the project as an effort to "essentially communicate a library of life."



Tanya Lama, a doctoral candidate in environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, coordinated the effort to sequence the lynx genome. The wild cat is the subject of debate about its conservation status in the United States, and better understanding of genetics can better protect its future, Lama said.

"It's going to help us plan for the future — help us generate tools for monitoring population health, and help us inform conservation strategy," she said.

The project has three "genome sequencing hubs," including Rockefeller University in New York, the Sanger Institute outside Cambridge, England, and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden, Germany, organizers said.

The work is intriguing because it could inform future conservation efforts of jeopardized species, said Mollie Matteson, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity who is not involved in the project. More information about animals' genetics could lead to better understanding of how animals resist disease or cope with changes in the environment, she said.

"I think what's interesting to me from a conservation aspect is just what we might be able to discern about the genetic diversity within a species," Matteson said.

The project has similarities with the Earth BioGenome Project, which seeks to catalog the genomes for 1.5 million species. Lewin chairs that project's working group. The Vertebrate Genomes Project will contribute to that effort.

## US Davis Cup players try to stay out of Williams controversy

By **ANDREW DAMPF, AP Sports Writer**

ZADAR, Croatia (AP) — The men on the United States' Davis Cup team are treading very carefully over Serena Williams' insinuation that sexism played a role in the code violations she received during the U.S. Open final.

Then again, Steve Johnson, Mike Bryan and Ryan Harrison are about to come face to face with Carlos Ramos, the chair umpire who penalized Williams and who is also handling their best-of-five semifinal against Croatia this weekend.

"It's been polarized and in some ways politicized," U.S. captain Jim Courier told The Associated Press on Thursday. "But we have no doubt that Carlos was just enforcing the rules as he sees them."

Williams was given three code violations by Ramos in her straight-set loss to Naomi Osaka of Japan on Saturday, with the American player and critics arguing she wasn't treated the same as some male players.

"Look, I don't want this to come out the wrong way," Johnson said. "But he enforced rules that have been enforced on me over the years."

"I've never been called for coaching, but the racket abuse, the verbal abuse," Johnson added. "That's just part of the sport. I think a lot of it maybe got over-amplified because it was the finals of the U.S. Open."

USTA president and CEO Katrina Adams was overheard apologizing to Ramos on the sidelines of the draw ceremony. A USTA spokesman said Adams was not speaking to media, while Ramos was not available for questions.

Courier said there was nothing to discuss with his team over Ramos.

"We're here to play; Carlos is here to umpire; and we don't expect anything out of the ordinary," Courier said.

While Ramos is known as a stickler for the rules, the U.S. team won't have to worry about coaching violations since captains sit court-side during Davis Cup matches and are permitted to give advice throughout the match.

During the final against Osaka, Williams got a warning for violating a rarely enforced rule against receiving coaching from the sidelines. An indignant Williams emphatically defended herself, denying she had cheated. A short time later, she smashed her racket in frustration and was docked a point. She protested and demanded an apology from the umpire, who penalized her a game.

"He's always been a fair, level-headed guy and made a decision in the heat of the moment. If it was

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wrong or right, I'm not the judge," said Bryan, a doubles specialist.

"I think we're all cognizant of the fact that three strikes and you're going to get a game penalty," Bryan added. "I don't think we would ever try to push it that far, especially in this Davis Cup format — we're not going to dock our country a game. You don't really crack rackets or berate umpires in this format; you kind of look to your team for support."

Marin Cilic, Croatia's top player, also had nothing but respect for Ramos. Although Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, noted: "I'm not a guy that gets too many code violations. ... I'm quite cool."

The 51st-ranked Harrison, who was called in as a late replacement for the injured Jack Sock, said the women's final "was a very touchy situation."

"It's hard to say one side or the other without causing a big stir," Harrison said. "In a situation where we know Serena is unbelievable; she's iconic; and we know that Carlos is there because he's worthy of being there for those matches."

"I know Carlos and I know he's not looking to put himself in a difficult position. I truly believe he was trying to do what he felt like was right at the time and always in heated situations it's going to be a very sticky, sticky spot whenever it's in a Grand Slam final like that."

Against Croatia, Johnson will face Borna Coric in Friday's opening singles match, followed by Cilic versus Davis Cup debutant Frances Tiafoe.

In Saturday's doubles, Ivan Dodig and Mate Pavic will face Bryan and Harrison. The reverse singles are on Sunday.

The winner will meet either France or Spain in the final.

The Americans are missing their top two players: No. 10 John Isner is staying home while his wife awaits the birth of their child, and Sock hurt his hip en route to winning the U.S. Open doubles title with Bryan.

"The one thing we know about Davis Cup is that rankings rarely matter," Courier said. "Davis Cup is highly unpredictable and playing for your country can affect people in different ways, shapes and forms."

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

## Trump scoffs at 'nervous mess' Dimon, says he's not smart

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top elected leader and its most powerful banker are fighting over who is smarter.

Really.

President Donald Trump early Thursday scoffed at JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon's claim that he could "beat" Trump and is just as tough and smarter than the president.

"The problem with banker Jamie Dimon running for President is that he doesn't have the aptitude or "smarts" & is a poor public speaker & nervous mess - otherwise he is wonderful," Trump tweeted. "I've made a lot of bankers, and others, look much smarter than they are with my great economic policy."

He appeared to be responding to Dimon's remarks first reported by CNBC on Wednesday, in which he told reporters at JPMorgan headquarters in New York that "I think I could beat Trump."

"Because I'm as tough as he is, I'm smarter than he is. I would be fine," Dimon said. "He could punch me all he wants, it wouldn't work with me. I'd fight right back."

Dimon also suggested that his wealth was earned, and not given to him by his father — another jab at Trump, whose father, Fred, gave him \$1 million in financing, millions drawn against his future inheritance and a share of his real estate holdings.

Dimon quickly clarified that he is not running for president and should not have made the remarks.

The pair has a mixed relationship. The banking executive fully supported Trump's corporate tax cuts that passed late last year, but has expressed frustration with the White House's positions on immigration and trade.

Dimon, 62, is chairman of the Business Roundtable, a powerful lobbying group that represents the CEOs

of the nation's largest corporations, and is often seen as a voice for American business.

Trump often brags about his academic pedigree. He went to Fordham University and has an undergraduate degree from the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League school.

"I'm like a really smart person," he's said, and tweeted in 2013: "Sorry losers and haters, my I.Q. is one of the highest - and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure, it's not your fault."

Dimon has an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com//APLaurieKellman>

## **Puerto Rican evacuees hunt for housing as vouchers expire**

**By MIKE SCHNEIDER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press**

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Like many Puerto Ricans who fled to the mainland after Hurricane Maria, Jose Santiago has been scrambling to find a place to live. The federal vouchers that pay for his hotel room near the Orlando airport expire at checkout time Friday.

He has visited apartment complexes, but his name gets put on waiting lists. He has applied for assistance for apartment housing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but it won't give him any money unless he has a lease. And he can't sign a lease without money for a deposit and first and last months' rent.

Santiago, 40, can afford to pay only \$500 to \$800 a month with his job driving cars for an auction house. At this point, he's ready to just rent a room to put a roof over his head.

"At that amount, it's difficult," Santiago, whose tidy hotel room has a cooking range and refrigerator, said in Spanish. "It's not impossible, but it's very difficult."

The clock began ticking late last month for hundreds of Puerto Rican evacuees who rely on federal assistance to pay for hotel rooms. A federal judge in Massachusetts set Friday as the deadline for the vouchers to end after denying an effort to force FEMA to continue the program. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Timothy Hillman, who expressed anguish over his decision, ended almost three months of legal challenges and extensions.

As of Tuesday, there were more than 600 families using the vouchers on the mainland, with more than half of those families in Florida. Almost 400 families were using the vouchers on the island.

The judge's decision is forcing Idalis Fernandez to split up her family. Her husband and 2-year-old son, Adrian, are heading back to Puerto Rico where family members can watch the boy and her husband has a job lined up. She is staying in Florida, where she has work as a line cook at Walt Disney World, and where the couple's oldest son, 11-year-old Alexander, is doing well in school.

Finding an apartment has been difficult, she said, since many rental companies require that she earn three times her monthly rent.

"I have nothing in Puerto Rico. At least I can stay here and work," Fernandez, 28, said in Spanish as she held Adrian outside a motel in Orlando's tourist district.

FEMA hasn't done enough for the evacuees, forcing local governments and organizations to step up, advocates say.

"Now the location (the families) chose in a moment of deep urgency and disaster is affecting their ability to find housing. This is exactly what we were trying to avoid," said Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, a lawyer with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, which brought the lawsuit against FEMA.

FEMA, amid preparations for Hurricane Florence to hit the mid-Atlantic, didn't respond to an email this week seeking comment. But the agency has said it has provided a variety of housing options for people left homeless by Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico head-on nearly a year ago. It has also dismissed suggestions that the evacuees were being treated differently from those displaced by hurricanes in Texas and Florida last year.

FEMA said in a court filing last month that Puerto Rico has received \$3.9 billion in assistance for Hurricane Maria, compared with \$2.4 billion for Texas for Hurricane Harvey and \$1.1 billion for Florida for Hurricane Irma.

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In central Florida, the local United Way is offering up to \$5,000 toward security deposits for some families. In New York City, more than 540 Puerto Rican evacuees are already in the city shelter system, and 30 other families may end up there after their hotel vouchers end.

Massachusetts, the state with the second largest number of evacuee families after Florida, will allow families with children and people with medical conditions to remain in hotels temporarily on the state's dime, said Gina Plata-Nino, an attorney with the Central West Justice Center. The state will also provide some housing assistance for certain families to help them move into more permanent homes, she said.

But more than two dozen households in Massachusetts who don't qualify for the state program will become homeless Friday, Plata-Nino said.

U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, whose staffers held office hours at three central Florida hotels this week to assist evacuees, put the blame on President Donald Trump and a Republican-dominated Congress that did not pass supplemental disaster relief assistance.

"President Trump, to this day, has not acknowledged, not only the lack of resources and slow response time, but the continued issues in Puerto Rico," said Soto, a Democrat whose district covers a part of metro Orlando. "It didn't have to be this way."

Trump this week called the response to Hurricane Maria "an incredible, unsung success" and said his administration did an "underappreciated great job."

Puerto Rico's governor last month raised the U.S. territory's official death toll from Hurricane Maria from 64 to 2,975.

On Thursday, Trump, without citing evidence, said that number was wrong and called it a plot by Democrats to make him look bad.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP> . Follow Alanna Durkin Richer on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> and read more of her work at <http://bit.ly/2hIhzDb> .

## Rhode Island governor defeats liberal primary challenger

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT and MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island, who made a case for a second term by highlighting the state's improving economic fortunes, has survived a grassroots challenge from the left to win her party's nomination for re-election.

She will now face Republican Allan Fung, mayor of the state's second largest city, who came in 4.5 points behind Raimondo in a three-way race in 2014.

Wednesday's primary winners will have to contend with another three-way contest Nov. 6, with former Republican lawmaker Joe Trillo, who chaired President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign in Rhode Island, running as an independent.

Rhode Island also selected nominees for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, lieutenant governor and other offices in the rare Wednesday vote. About 145,000 people cast ballots, or nearly 20 percent of voters, according to the state Board of Elections. The turnout in recent midterm primaries has hovered around 20 percent.

In the campaign, Raimondo cited a falling unemployment rate in the state, as well as new job training programs and free community college tuition started during her tenure.

She defeated Matt Brown, a former Rhode Island secretary of state. Brown, who last held office over a decade ago, pushed himself as the grassroots alternative and hammered Raimondo for her close corporate ties.

Raimondo raised \$7.7 million, 20 times Brown's total. She took aim at Fung in her victory speech, saying he won't stand up to Trump and he opposes her administration's job creation policies. Her supporters chanted "four more years."

Malcolm Griggs headed to the polls in Warwick to vote in the Democratic primary for Raimondo, who he feels has done a good job helping the state's economy, attracting businesses and augmenting businesses already in Rhode Island.



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"She put people to work and that matters," said Griggs, 58, who works in the banking industry.

On the Republican side, Fung, the mayor of Cranston, defeated Patricia Morgan, who leads the tiny House minority caucus in the overwhelmingly Democratic General Assembly.

Fung tried to keep a low profile in the primary, putting out few detailed policy proposals, dodging questions about where he stands on various issues and agreeing to just one debate on a small radio station with limited reach. Raimondo also did not participate in debates.

Fung said his victory is a sign that Rhode Islanders are ready to take back the state from insiders and "big shots" and reject the status quo. He said he's ready to "lead this revolution."

In congressional races, Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and Rep. David Cicilline easily won their primaries. Rep. Jim Langevin was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

The 62-year-old Whitehouse is a leading voice in the Senate pushing to do more to address climate change. He has also been critical of Trump on a number of issues, including by pushing to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

The most closely watched down-ticket race was for lieutenant governor. Incumbent Democrat Dan McKee narrowly beat self-described progressive state lawmaker Aaron Regunberg. The position has few official duties, but officeholders have used it as a way to advance certain causes on a statewide level. McKee wants to expand the position's powers.

McKee campaigned on his experience as the incumbent and a former six-term mayor. The 67-year-old politician painted Regunberg as too inexperienced. Regunberg, 28, had wanted to use the office to advocate for reform at the Statehouse.

Former U.S. Attorney Peter Neronha was unopposed for the Democratic nomination for Rhode Island attorney general, virtually guaranteeing him the job. Republicans didn't put forward a candidate and Neronha faces no significant opposition in November.

## Suu Kyi says handling of Rohingya could have been better

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — In the face of global condemnation, Myanmar's leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on Thursday said that the handling of Rohingya Muslims, 700,000 of whom have fled to Bangladesh amid a brutal military campaign, could have been better, but still defended security forces from charges of civilian atrocities.

Myanmar's army is accused of mass rape, killings and setting fire to thousands of homes in the aftermath of an August 2017 attack by Rohingya militants on security outposts. A report issued two weeks ago by a specially appointed U.N. human rights team recommended prosecuting senior Myanmar commanders for genocide and other crimes.

"There are of course ways in which with hindsight I think the situation could have been handled better," Suu Kyi said, responding to questions during a one-on-one discussion at the World Economic Forum's regional meeting in Hanoi.

She still defended Myanmar security forces, saying that all groups in western Rakhine state had to be protected.

"We have to be fair to all sides," Suu Kyi said. "The rule of law must apply to everyone. We cannot choose and pick."

Suu Kyi also rejected criticism over the show-trial conviction last week of two Reuters news agency reporters who helped expose extrajudicial killings of 10 Rohingya men and boys.

"The case has been held in open court," Suu Kyi said. "If anyone feels there has been a miscarriage of justice I would like them to point it out."

The reporters were both sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on charges of possessing state secrets.

Suu Kyi said the situation in Rakhine was complicated by the myriad ethnic minorities in the area, some of which are at risk of disappearing entirely and which include not just the Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists.

Although the violence in Rakhine state has eased, Myanmar has to deal with its aftermath, especially

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the repatriation of the Muslim Rohingya who fled and the underlying causes of tension that makes them targets of discrimination and repression in overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar.

Suu Kyi said that Myanmar is prepared to take those who fled back, but their return has been complicated by the fact that two governments are involved.

Aid workers say conditions for a safe and orderly return of the refugees have not been met.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is among those who have condemned the verdicts against the two Reuters journalists and called for their release.

"They were not jailed because they were journalists," Suu Kyi said. "They were jailed because ... the court has decided they have broken the Official Secrets Act."

She noted that the two can appeal their sentences.

The lawyers for the journalists have said they will do whatever they can to get their clients freed. The two men testified that they had been framed by the police. The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under Suu Kyi's civilian government, which took power in 2016.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said that Suu Kyi was mistaken in saying the case was handled in accordance with the "rule of law."

"She fails to understand that real 'rule of law' means respect for evidence presented in court, actions brought based on clearly defined and proportionate laws, and independence of the judiciary from influence by the government or security forces," he said in a statement. "On all these counts, the trial of the Reuters journalists failed the test."

## Speedways, makeshift shelters offer rest to storm evacuees

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Some of the Southerners escaping Hurricane Florence have found refuge in makeshift shelters, including campgrounds at three of the nation's largest motor speedways.

But gas shortages and jammed freeways loomed for evacuees seeking safety from the storm.

In North Carolina, 1 in 10 gas stations in Wilmington and Raleigh-Durham had no gas by midday Wednesday.

At Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Georgia, personal belongings were spread across an open field where the first few evacuees arrived Wednesday.

Melody Rawson left her first-floor apartment in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, arriving at the Georgia speedway with two dogs and a cockatoo, and a couple of coolers holding some sandwich meat.

Bristol Motor Speedway, near the Tennessee-Virginia line, and Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina also opened their campgrounds to evacuees.

## US says transfer from FEMA funds won't harm hurricane relief

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trump administration officials pushed back Wednesday against a Democratic senator's claim that nearly \$10 million from the government's disaster relief agency was transferred to immigration enforcement.

Sen. Jeff Merkley's claim, which came as a monster hurricane barreled toward the Carolinas, was quickly branded by Homeland Security as "a sorry attempt to push a false agenda."

The Oregon senator said the administration took \$9.8 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "response and recovery" and put it in the coffers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He based his claim on a 39-page Department of Homeland Security transfer and reprogramming report dated Aug. 31.

The report shows that funds came from FEMA's "operations and support" budget and went to fund ICE functions including detention beds and transportation and removals. DHS officials said the account supports

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FEMA headquarters operational expenses and cannot be used for disaster response. It came in under budget for expenses including travel, training and office supplies and money was moved.

The claim sparked an emphatic denial from Homeland Security Department, which said the impact on FEMA's response and recovery efforts was zero. The agency's budget is more than \$15 billion.

"Under no circumstances was any disaster relief funding transferred from FEMA to immigration enforcement efforts," DHS spokesman Tyler Houlton said. "This is a sorry attempt to push a false agenda at a time when the administration is focused on assisting millions on the East Coast facing a catastrophic disaster."

Homeland Security has the authority to move money around between its components, which include immigration agencies, disaster management, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Secret Service. Other agencies had money moved around.

According to Sen. Patrick Leahy's office, Homeland Security notified Congress on June 30 that it would transfer \$200 million from other agencies to ICE, including the funds from FEMA. Leahy, a Democrat who is the Senate Appropriations Committee vice chairman, said the transfer was approved by the subcommittee chairs and no Democrats signed off on it.

Merkley's office said he found the reallocation concerning given last season's hurricane response, when the agency was criticized for its handling of Hurricane Maria. Merkley spoke about the document Tuesday on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show" and on CNN Wednesday.

"This is a scandal," Merkley said in a statement. "At the start of hurricane season — when American citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are still suffering from FEMA's inadequate recovery efforts — the administration transferred millions of dollars away from FEMA."

Merkley has been a leading critic of the Trump administration's immigration policies, including the "zero tolerance" policy at the border that resulted in nearly 3,000 children separated from their families.

Other Democratic lawmakers called the reallocation "shameful."

"This is yet another example of the Trump Administration's outrageously misplaced homeland security priorities," said Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

But Homeland Security officials said the funds were in savings and would have been lost had they not been transferred before the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. FEMA spokeswoman Jenny Burke said on Twitter that she tried to explain the nuance of the document to Merkley's staff before he went on air but they were told: "It's a TV hit, you take it where you can."

Merkley's office blasted the comment. "It's not surprising to see a defensive and completely fallacious response from the Trump administration to their irresponsible and dangerous decision to move money from FEMA," said Martina McLennan, a spokeswoman.

At a news conference at FEMA's Washington headquarters about the impending hurricane, officials said the agency was properly funded and prepared, and it was most important to focus on the upcoming storm, which could do catastrophic damage.

"We have plenty of resources both monetary, staff and commodities to respond to the dangerous storm that is Hurricane Florence," said administrator Jeff Byard. "Right now we want to focus on those impacts from Florence and what can our citizens do today, which is the last good day to evacuate."

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Associated Press Writer Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

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Follow Colleen Long on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ctlong1>

## Asian shares continue rally after Wall Street gains

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Friday, continuing their rally after gains on Wall Street and hopes that regional trade tensions may ease.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained nearly 1.0 percent to 23,042.83 in the morning

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session. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 0.6 percent at 6,165.30. South Korea's Kospi added 1.3 percent to 2,316.09. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.7 percent to 27,206.18, while the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.3 percent to 2,679.99.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index gained 15.26 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,904.18. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 147.07 points, or 0.6 percent, to 26,145.99. The Nasdaq composite jumped 59.48 points, or 0.7 percent, to 8,013.71. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks dipped 1.38 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,714.32.

THE QUOTE: "Gains on Wall Street coupled with the softer U.S. dollar following U.S. inflation disappointments posed a more benign situation for Asia markets into the end of the week as we watch Chinese numbers," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

CHINA FACTOR: Investors are worried about the impact on the regional economy of trade tensions under President Donald Trump's tariff policies, amid reports of a new round of talks that would give the Chinese government another chance to address U.S. concerns before the Trump administration imposes bigger tariffs.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 18 cents to \$68.77 a barrel. It slid 2.5 percent to \$68.59 a barrel in New York Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 7 cents to \$78.25 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.90 yen from 111.45 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1692 from \$1.1642.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2018. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

On this date:

In 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1972, the family drama series "The Waltons" premiered on CBS.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1985, Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released the Rev. Benjamin Weir (weer) after holding him captive for 16 months.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and clogged public squares on a day of remembrance for the vic-



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tims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a flag-waving, bullhorn-wielding show of resolve.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai.

Ten years ago: Losing its devastating punch as a major hurricane, Ike nevertheless drubbed the Midwest with powerful winds and floodwaters. Carlos Zambrano pitched the first no-hitter for the Chicago Cubs in 36 years, striking out 10 in a 5-0 win over Houston in a game relocated to Milwaukee because of Hurricane Ike.

Five years ago: A diplomatic breakthrough on securing and destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, negotiated by the U.S. and Russia, averted the threat of U.S. military action.

One year ago: CIA Director Mike Pompeo canceled a planned appearance at Harvard University over the school's decision to name Chelsea Manning a visiting fellow. Former CIA deputy director Mike Morell resigned from his post at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, saying he couldn't be part of an organization that "honors a convicted felon and leaker of classified information." More than 80 people were killed in an attack in southern Iraq targeting a restaurant frequented by Shiite Muslim pilgrims; the Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 85. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 82. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 78. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 74. Actor Sam Neill is 71. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 71. Actor Robert Wisdom is 65. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 63. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 62. Actress Mary Crosby is 59. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 59. Country singer John Berry is 59. Actress Melissa Leo is 58. Actress Faith Ford is 54. Actor Jamie Kaler is 54. Actress Michelle Stafford is 53. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 53. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 52. Actor Dan Cortese is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 49. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 49. Actor Ben Garant is 48. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 48. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 47. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 45. Rapper Nas is 45. Actor Austin Basis is 42. Country singer Danielle Peck is 40. Pop singer Ayo is 38. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 36. Actor Adam Lamberg is 34. Singer Alex Clare is 33. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 31. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 31. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 29. Actress Emma Kenney is 19.

Thought for Today: "Civilizations die from philosophical calm, irony, and the sense of fair play quite as surely as they die of debauchery." — Joseph Wood Krutch, American author, critic and educator (1893-1970).