

Groton Daily Independent

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“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



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

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming
605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098
Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, October 1, 2018

- TBD: Golf: Boys Varsity State @ Dell Rapids.
Oral Interp at Milbank High School
4:30pm: Football: Boys JV Game vs. Milbank @ Milbank High School
5:00pm: Florence/Henry at Groton for Volleyball. C match at 5 p.m., JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.
7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

- TBD: Golf: Boys Varsity State @ Dell Rapids Golf Course
TBD: Soccer: Girls and Boys Varsity Playoffs
4 p.m.: Volleyball at Frederick. 7th/8th grade matches at 4 p.m., junior varsity match at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

- 12:30pm- 2:50pm: MathCounts at GHS Gymnasium

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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Florence-
Henry
Flyers VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 1, 2018
Groton Area Arena

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Leola/
Frederick
Titan VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018
at Frederick

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Tiospa
Zina
Wambdi VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018
at the Groton Area Arena

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
October 1, 2017 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Department Reports
4. Temporary Police Officer
5. Main Street on Halloween
6. SD Rural Water Training – Stabilization Pond Workshop – October 30 in Aberdeen (2 employees)
7. Heartland Budget Meeting – Langford – October 24
8. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Adjournment

Small towns struggle to maintain local streets Growth and economies can suffer if streets go downhill

**Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch**

It took eight years of planning, nearly \$5 million and countless hours of paperwork, but the small town of Emery, S.D. finally has new asphalt streets.

Residents of Emery – a Hanson County town of about 450 people and home to a crucial grain elevator – endured failing streets for decades, then drove on gravel roads for a year and will now pay a \$20 per month surcharge for the next 20 years just to have better local streets.

“Getting new infrastructure in these small towns is certainly a challenge because it’s definitely not easy and I could see how some people would get doom and gloom over it,” said Joshua Kayser, mayor of Emery, who landed some state help for the project by redoing aging sewer and water lines during the roadwork. “It was a long process and it took a lot more effort than I anticipated. But it was worth it.”

All cities and counties in South Dakota struggle to keep up with roads that wear down over time and suffer potholes and degradation due to rainfall and the annual freeze and thaw process.

But with a low property tax base, limited sales tax revenues and few options for government grants, small towns in South Dakota face big obstacles to installing and maintaining quality local roads. Small-town governments may also be more susceptible to complaints and grumbling from taxpayers, many of whom are their neighbors and either want better streets or cannot afford to pay more taxes.

“Maintaining infrastructure, including roads, has been our number one issue for a long time,” said Yvonne Taylor, executive director of the South Dakota Municipal League. “The small towns do have it tough, that’s true. They just don’t have the resources there and the tax base there and it is tough for a smaller town to keep up.”

The concerns over allowing local roads to deteriorate range from letting small problems grow into big, more expensive problems to putting a community’s growth and economic development at risk.

“I’ve hosted a number of businesses as they’ve looked at various sites, and they always look at the roads,” said Joe Fiala, community development director for the South Dakota Governor’s Office of Economic Development. “Having good transportation infrastructure is really important for economic development, whether it’s an existing business in a small town expanding or one looking to relocate. If they don’t have good roads to move products in and out, that impacts how profitable they can be.”

Different roads, different funding sources

In general, the road repair process in South Dakota is based on which government entity has control over a specific roadway. Though there are exceptions and some creative funding mechanisms that combine funds from federal, state and local sources, U.S. highways and interstates are maintained and fixed by the federal government, state highways by the state, county roads by counties and local streets by municipalities.

The federal government makes an annual payment to the states, which then re-allocates those funds to their own government and also to counties and cities, said Doug Kinniburgh, local government assistance specialist for the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

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Nearly \$500 million is spent on transportation projects in South Dakota each year, according to the 5-year State Transportation Improvement Program that was updated this year.

Projected spending for fiscal 2018 on improvements to highways, roads and bridges was \$481.9 million, with the federal government allocating \$370.8 million, the state spending \$94.3 million and cities and counties paying about \$16.8 million. The estimated overall spending is \$484.9 million for 2019, \$447.5 million in 2020, and \$446.8 million in 2021.

The 2015 state highway bill created the state Bridge Improvement Grant Program, which helps cities and counties pay for bridge repairs. That program provides an annual allocation of about \$15 million for qualifying projects that upgrade bridges, with 80 percent of projects paid by the federal government and 20 percent by counties.

The state has one other way to aid cities and counties but only if they are working on infrastructure related to a significant economic development project. As part of the Building South Dakota legislation passed in 2013, the Governor's Office of Economic Development was given \$30 million for 2015-17 to award matching grants up to \$500,000 to local governments for sewer, water and road projects that aid a business that generates tax revenues and jobs, said Cassie Stoeser, finance director for the GOED.

Small towns face financial balancing act

Balancing the need for street repairs against other priorities is challenging for cities with limited financial resources, said Al Cerny, administrator and finance officer in Gregory, a city of about 1,300 people in south-central South Dakota.

"We've got some challenges and I'll be honest with you, there are some potholes in town that are rough and need some attention and we know about them," said Cerny. "But we have other needs out there – public safety, public works, the park system, and a new swimming pool since we've probably got the oldest pool in the state."

Gregory spends about \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year on streets, nearly 10 percent of the city's \$1.1 million overall annual budget, Cerny said. That level of expenditure doesn't cover all the needs, but helps the city maintain a positive image to locals as well as visitors or businesses that may want to relocate there.

"If you come to town and your impression is that 'Boy, this town has a lot of street problems,' you think maybe they've got a lot of other problems, too," Cerny said.

Small towns simply do not have the money to replace or repair all the local streets that need work or to build new streets to accommodate growth, said Sam Sorensen, mayor of Freeman, a city of about 1,300 people in Hutchinson County.

"The main thing is that you can't afford it," Sorensen said. "All of us small towns work on tax money, and that's our budget and we can't go over that."

Not only is funding limited, but small cities and towns must also figure in the cost to bring roads laid out and built decades ago up to modern standards for water drainage. Sorensen said he has opposed redoing streets in Freeman until ditches that keep damaging rainwater and snowmelt off roads are improved first.

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Sorensen said many small towns also pay to install water, sewer and streets for new housing developments that in larger cities would be paid for by developers who then pass those costs on to buyers of homes or lots.

If the city lags too far behind in street maintenance, officials such as Sorensen will surely hear about it.

Some streets have been redone without curb and gutter as recommended in city codes, Sorensen said. One large pothole in front of the local lumber yard where water has pooled for decades after heavy rains has drawn a number of complaints. "Somebody this morning said, 'I almost dropped my car in there, when are you going to fix it?'" Sorensen said recently. "People know that we should be doing something, but we can't."

Some South Dakota small towns are willing to let local roads remain gravel, which is much cheaper to maintain than paved streets but can also kick up dust and rocks that damage vehicles.

One common practice that keeps costs down is to apply a layer of what is known as chip-seal coating on roads to give them a surface that lasts about two years. New asphalt roads typically hold up well for seven to nine years.

The city of New Underwood in central Pennington County uses a street surfacing process that is common in small towns that do not have the money to rebuild streets every decade or so.

The city of about 700 people budgets money each year to pay for resealing half its local streets, then does the other half in the following year. Roads get a new seal on top but are not typically rebuilt with an entirely new surface.

"We just keep on putting the stuff on top on top and on top," said Mayor Jack Trullinger. "It holds up pretty well."

New Underwood saves money on its street sealing program by having city employees do all the work, Trullinger said.

The street sealing program has kept costs low, with roughly \$8,000 spent on materials each year, Trullinger said.

When Russell Anderson took the job at maintenance supervisor in Gettysburg 14 years ago, he said the local streets in the Potter County city of about 1,200 people "were in rough shape, and had basically all outlived their lifespan."

That year, the city bought and install 200 tons of cold mix patching product to fill potholes, Anderson said.

Nine years ago, the city council approved an aggressive and expensive plan to upgrade its streets which has cost about \$4 million. In an average year, Anderson said, the city spends about \$500,000 to pave or redo streets, roughly a third of its annual \$1.6 million budget.

The city paved about 36 blocks of gravel roads, and rather than laying a chip-seal surface to patch existing roads, Anderson began grinding and milling worn streets and replacing them with new asphalt.

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"The biggest thing is to find enough money to get that done," Anderson said. "It was just something that needed to be done and nobody would bite the bullet to do it. It takes a hell of a great effort to pull it off."

The city spent \$107,000 to buy its own street surface grinder, lowering the cost of milling and grinding from \$10,000 a block by private contractors down to \$1,400 a block when done by city employees.

This summer, Gettysburg took advantage of one of the last remaining state Department of Transportation programs that provides grant assistance to small towns in need of road repairs.

According to city Finance Officer Sheila Schatz, Gettysburg applied for and received a Community Access Program grant that paid 60 percent, or roughly \$157,000, of a \$262,000 project to repave streets leading to the local grain elevator. That program enables cities of under 5,000 people to get grants up to \$600,000 to rebuild key roads such as their Main Street or roads leading to elevators or local schools. The recipient much pay for utilities, right-of-way acquisition and engineering costs, which for Gettysburg have been about \$24,000 so far. The project enabled Gettysburg to replace five blocks of failed roads leading to the grain elevator with a new 16-inch base and 5-inch asphalt surface.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

After a shocking loss to the Buffalo Bills in week three, the Minnesota Vikings had to travel to Los Angeles and play the Rams on Thursday Night Football. The Vikings were reeling, while the Rams were undefeated and considered by many to be the best team in the NFL. The game went about as well as most predicted, with the Rams winning 38-31, but the loss was much less disappointing than the previous week.

The Vikings moved the ball much better this game, and against one of the best defenses in the league. They scored 17 points on their first three possessions, averaging nine plays and 69 yards per drive. Unfortunately, the Vikings' defense couldn't contain the Rams' offense, and the Vikings went into the half down by eight points. The second half was much better for the defense, as they only allowed 10 points (as opposed to 28 in the first half). The Vikings kicked a field goal with less than four minutes left in the fourth quarter to bring the Vikings within seven points. After the Vikings defense got a three-and-out on the Rams' next possession, the offense got the ball back with just over two minutes left in the game and a chance to tie or take the lead with a touchdown. The Rams' defense was able to take it to another level, however, and the Vikings lost a fumble and the game.

Kirk Cousins had a good game, completing 38 of 50 passes for 422 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions (although he did have the game-sealing fumble at the end). Both Adam Thielen (135) and Stefon Diggs (123) had over 100-receiving yards in the game and continue to make a case as the best wide receiver duo in the league. The passing game might have been going strong, but the ground game was nowhere to be found. The Vikings' leading rusher from the game was.... Kirk Cousins, who ran four times for 28 yards. The three Vikings' running backs who got carries in the game (Cook, Murray, Thomas) combined for 13 rushes for 26 yards.

The Vikings' defense, a unit that finished 2017 as the best defense in the league, has taken a big step back this year. The Rams have a great offense and were able to dominate the Vikings' defense for most of the game. Rams QB Jared Goff had one of, if not the greatest passing performances in the history of the NFL when he completed 26 of 33 passes for 465 yards, five touchdowns and no interceptions. The Rams had a good plan coming into the game, and effectively eliminated Harrison Smith from the action while targeting Anthony Barr in coverage over and over. The defense needs to step up, and quickly, if the Vikings are to have any hope of making the playoffs.

The offensive player of the game was Adam Thielen, who set a team record for the most receiving yards through the first four games of the season with 445. The previous record-holder was Randy Moss, who had 434 in 2003. Thielen also joins Randy Moss (2007) and Isaac Bruce (2004) as the only players in the Super Bowl era to start a season with over 100 receiving yards in each of his team's first four games.

The defensive player of the game was Mike Hughes, who was pressed into extended duty after starting cornerback Trae Waynes left the game with an injury. Hughes was one of the few Vikings who played well on defense. He also led the team with eight tackles while adding a tackle for a loss.

A special shout out to Vikings' long snapper Keven McDermott, who tore part of his pinky off when it got caught in a helmet. McDermott received stitches on the sideline then returned to action and completed the game. Talk about toughing it out!

The Bears (3-1) are leading the NFC North after the first four weeks, which nobody expected. The Packers are in second with a record of 2-1-1, the Vikings are in third (1-2-1) and the Lions are bringing up the rear with a 1-3 record.

Looking ahead, the Vikings are once again on the road against a dangerous team, as they will travel to Philadelphia to take on the Super Bowl winning Eagles. The game will start at 3:25pm (CT) on Sunday, October 7. ESPN is giving the Eagles a 64% chance to win, and I can't disagree, especially with how poorly the Vikings defense has been lately. Let's just hope it's not a blowout like the last time the Vikings traveled to Philly. Skol!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Twitter (JordanWrightNFL)

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What's going on in state government this week Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Beresford – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the AEM “I Make America” Event at Sioux Corporation at One Sioux Plaza in Beresford.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 12 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the 18th Annual Community Response to Child Abuse conference at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Tuesday, Oct. 2 -Thursday, Oct. 4, Rapid City – The South Dakota Board of Regents will meet on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines & Technology for its regular business meeting. The regents convene for limited board work at 4:10 p.m. MDT Tuesday in the Surbeck Center Ballroom on the SD Mines campus. Executive sessions for the Board of Regents begin Tuesday at 4:25 p.m. and continue from 8 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. Wednesday. The regents’ business meeting reconvenes at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Surbeck Center Ballroom. The board’s agenda and supporting documents may be accessed online at <https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/agendaitems/Pages/default.aspx>. For more information, contact Tracy Mercer at 605-773-3455.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. CDT, Mitchell – The South Dakota Board of Technical Education will meet in the Mitchell Technical Institute Technology Center, 1800 E. Spruce St., in Mitchell. An agenda is posted at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=192>.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – DENR’s Water Management Board will meet in the Floyd L. Matthew Environmental Education and Training Center in the Joe Foss Building, located at 523 E. Capitol Ave. Agenda items are available through the Boards & Commission Portal at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=106>. For more information, contact Eric Gronlund, DENR, at 605-773-3352.

Thursday, Oct. 4 – Friday, Oct. 5, Deadwood – Beginning Thursday at 1 p.m. MDT, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks’ (GFP) Commission will meet at Cadillac Jack’s SpringHill Suites in Deadwood. A public hearing will begin at 2 p.m. MDT discussing the finalizations of September’s meeting. The GFP Commission serves as the advocate and liaison between the department and its stakeholders - the people of South Dakota. The Commission meets monthly (except for February and August) and consists of eight members, who are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. The full agenda for the October meeting can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/information/>. For more information, contact wildinfo@state.sd.us or call 605-773-3718.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Phillip – Benefits Specialists from the Department of Social Services’ Division of Economic Assistance will be available in Phillip. For more information, contact Tia Kafka at 605-773-3165.

Monday, Oct. 1, 10 – 11 a.m. CDT, Watertown – The Watertown Area Career Expo will take place at the Watertown Civic Arena, 200 9th St. NE. Showcase yourself, share your resume, check out available jobs and meet with multiple local employers. This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation along with BISCO, Watertown Development Company, Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown School District and SHRM. DLR Watertown Job Service can help you prepare. For more information, call 605-882-5131.

Monday, Oct. 1 – Thursday, Oct. 4 – Bring Your ‘A’ Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your ‘A’ Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_op-

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portunities/soft_skills_training.aspx.

The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

- Monday, Oct. 1 – Thursday, Oct. 4, 6 – 8 p.m., Pierre – at The Right Turn, 115 E. Sioux Ave. Please register in advance. To register, call 605-773-4755 or register online using the above link. Any classes without three people registered by the previous Wednesday will be canceled.

- Wednesday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – at 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300. You may also register using the link above.

Monday, Oct. 1 – Thursday, Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include production workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Monday, Oct. 1 – Thursday, Oct. 4: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues and questions.

Monday, Oct. 1:

- 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Ft. Thompson – Housing Authority Building. 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Gettysburg – 2015 W. Commercial #103. 605-280-4308
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Vets Home) – 2500 W. Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Fall River) – 906 N. River St. 605-280-4307

Tuesday, Oct. 2:

- 9:30 – 11 a.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – 830 6th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 3 – 5 p.m. CDT, Highmore – 116 1st St. SW 605-280-4308
- 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Miller – 415 W. 1st Ave. 605-280-4306
- 1 – 3 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – 1300 Sherman St. #212 605-280-4307

Wednesday, Oct. 3:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Buffalo – 410 Ramsland St. 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Thursday, Oct. 4:

- 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Ft. Thompson – Housing Authority Building. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, McIntosh – 108 1st East Main. 605-280-4307

Tuesday, Oct. 2 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT
De Smet, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Miller, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
Wagner, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Tuesday, Oct. 2 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance

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Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

· Tuesday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – at 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Sanford Health will be conducting an employer informational session at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions are available for environmental service technicians, food service assistants and nursing assistants. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – A representative from Job Corps will be available to answer questions about the program and interview process at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16-24 improve the quality of their lives by empowering them to get great jobs and become independent. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Britton, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Faulkton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Fort Thompson, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, Oct. 4 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Armour, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Lower Brule, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, Oct. 4, 9 – 10 a.m. CDT, Mitchell – The Mitchell Job Club is open to the public and held every Thursday at Mitchell Job Service, 1321 N. Main St. The meeting will discuss a variety of job search topics in detail, including online job searching, workforce training options, interview skills/techniques, and money management. Please call 605-995-8060 to register.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – A representative from Job Corps will be available to answer questions about recruitment and work environment at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Job Corps is a no-cost education and vocational training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16-24 improve the quality of their lives by empowering them to get great jobs and become independent. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

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Today in Weather History

October 1, 1971: A rare October tornado touched down in Sully County. This brief tornado damaged a ranch home and large barn, 6 miles WSW of Onida.

October 1, 1999: A narrow band of heavy snow fell across portions of South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 4 to 8" were common in the relatively narrow band, breaking many records for the day.

October 1, 2012: drought continued to intensify and expand across parts of central and northeast South Dakota through October, resulting in severe to exceptional drought conditions. Many locations continued the trend of recording well below normal precipitation totals for the month. Exceptional drought conditions expanded into Stanley, Jones and southern Lyman counties. Extreme drought conditions spread into southern Dewey, Sully, Hughes, Lyman, Jones, Southwest Hyde, Hamlin, Codington, Grant and Deuel counties. Severe drought conditions spread into Corson, Dewey, northwest Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, Brown, eastern Clark and southern Roberts Counties.

1890: The weather service is first identified as a civilian agency when Congress, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, passes an act transferring the meteorological responsibilities of the Signal Service to the newly-created U.S. Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture.

1893: On this day, the village of Caminadaville was wiped out by a massive hurricane. Caminadaville was a vibrant fishing community in the late 19th century, located on Cheniere Caminada, adjacent to Grand Isle in coastal Jefferson Parish in Louisiana.

1752 - The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared. (David Ludlum)

1893 - The second great hurricane of the 1893 season hit the Mississippi Delta Region drowning more than 1000 persons. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A blast of cold arctic air hit the north central U.S. An afternoon thunderstorm slickened the streets of Duluth MN with hail and snow, and later in the afternoon, strong northerly winds reached 70 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific northwest. Afternoon highs of 90 degrees at Olympia WA, 92 degrees at Portland OR, and 89 degrees at Seattle WA, were records for the month of October. For Seattle WA it marked the twenty- first daily record high for the year, a record total in itself. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather across central Oklahoma and the eastern half of Texas. Thunderstorms in Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Nocona, and baseball size hail at Troy and Park Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. through the daytime and evening hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, with seven of those tornadoes in Georgia. A tornado southwest of Moultrie, GA, killed two persons and injured a dozen others. Tornadoes also injured one person north of Graceville, FL, and two persons at Bartow, GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



Showers
Likely then
Partly Sunny

Patchy Fog

Partly Sunny

Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Chance
Showers

High: 56 °F

Low: 40 °F

High: 65 °F

Low: 55 °F

High: 70 °F

Today	Tuesday - Wednesday	Thursday - Friday
<p>Highs: Low 50s to 60</p> 	<p>Dry Tuesday; Rain showers Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.</p>	<p>Highs: Low 40s (Thu) to the Mid 50s (Fri)</p>
<p>Showers this Morning</p> 	 <p>Highs: Lows 60s to Low 70s</p>	 <p>Rain possible Thursday afternoon through Friday morning</p>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 10/1/2018 4:42 AM Central

Published on: 10/01/2018 at 4:54AM

There are multiple chances of rain for the work week. Some showers will pass through the region this morning before things dry out this afternoon and Tuesday. Tuesday night into Wednesday morning will feature more showers, with an occasional rumble of thunder possible. Though most precipitation should be relegated to north central South Dakota. Thursday afternoon through Friday morning will feature widespread rain across the area. Tuesday and Wednesday will feature highs near average to slightly above average, while today, Thursday, and Friday will be well below average for this time of year. Breezy conditions are expected Tuesday and windy to very windy conditions are expected Wednesday.

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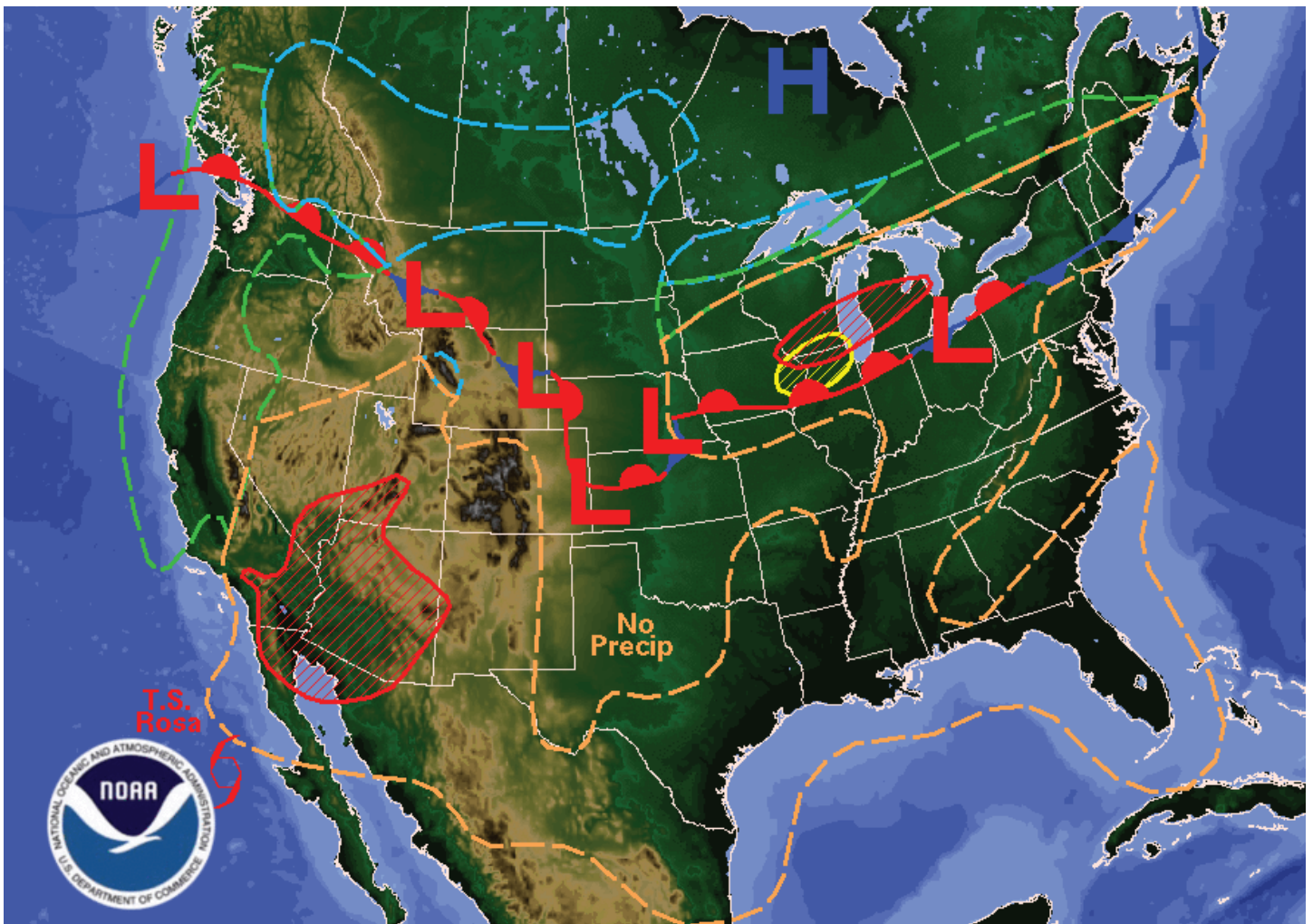
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 51 °F at 2:42 PM
Low Outside Temp: 37 °F at 7:27 AM
High Gust: 17 mph at 4:37 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1922
Record Low: 21° in 1974
Average High: 65°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 2.19
Precip to date in Sept.: 2.36
Average Precip to date: 18.48
Precip Year to Date: 13.57
Sunset Tonight: 7:14 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:33 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Oct 01, 2018, issued 4:23 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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FINALLY FREE

A clerk in Birmingham, England was placing a package on a shelf in a post office. As he was lifting it from a cart, it broke open and out fell what appeared to be a pair of heavy-duty handcuffs that were unlocked.

Jokingly, he said to an associate, I dare you to try these on for size.

Ill take the dare, he said, put them on and locked them. After a few laughs, they went to the box to locate the key to unlock them. To their surprise, there was no key.

They hurried to the police station to get a key to release the lock. They inserted it properly, but when they turned the key, it broke. What was once comical now became serious. The broken key either had to be drilled from the cuffs or the thick, heavy handcuffs sawed apart.

But, it was Sunday, and no one could be found to help them out of their predicament. Finally, they went to the police chief who said, Well, this looks like a good time to teach you a lesson. Youll have to go to Derby, explain your problem to the person who made the handcuffs and then come back and well remove them. You need to learn a lesson about playing with things that can harm you.

What a picture of sin. At first, it promises to bring pleasure and enjoyment - a time of fun and laughter. Then, it takes one captive, and one is no longer free. But, we know there is one who can free us: Christ our Savior. The Lord sets prisoners free, proclaimed the Psalmist.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to accept the freedom that can be ours through Your Son. May we place our trust in You! In Jesus Name, Amen.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. 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)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching 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

South Dakota woman killed in North Dakota crash identified

UNDERWOOD, N.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a South Dakota woman who died in a one-vehicle crash in central North Dakota.

The Highway Patrol says 31-year-old Courtney Silk, of Eagle Butte, South Dakota, was driving a sport utility vehicle that rolled in the ditch off U.S. Highway 83 in McLean County on Friday night.

She was pronounced dead at the scene about 3 ½ miles south of Underwood. A passenger was taken to a Bismarck hospital with unspecified injuries.

Jewel Cave National Monument tour route getting \$5M upgrade

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The National Park Service is suspending guided cave tours at Jewel Cave National Monument in southwestern South Dakota to make improvements along the popular route.

The tours will be shut down from mid-October until about April. Superintendent Michelle Wheatley says officials will be upgrading structures built in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They include sidewalks, stairs, guardrails and handrails, and lights.

Wheatley says the work will address safety concerns including slips and trips, and will eliminate the possibility of falls.

The National Park Service awarded a nearly \$5 million contract to MAC Construction of Rapid City to do the work.

Man sentenced for burglarizing tribal heritage center

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The second of two men convicted of burglarizing a tribal heritage center on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation has been sentenced.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 30-year-old Henry Three Legs was recently sentenced to two months in federal prison, 10 months of home confinement, 2 years of supervised release and more than \$23,000 in restitution.

Authorities say Three Legs and Brian One Feather stole cultural and craft items from the Howard V. Johnson Cultural Heritage Center in Eagle Butte in June 2012.

One Feather was sentenced in 2014 to 1 ½ years in prison and two years of supervised released.

South Dakota to raise turkey for White House Thanksgiving

By KELDA J.L. PHARRIS, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Push away that plate of politics and pile on the turkey.

This will be the first-ever year that South Dakota has raised the bird destined for the presidential Thanksgiving meal at the White House. It's a 70-year tradition, and a party outside party lines.

"That's what's neat about it, it's a fun thing for our country," said Jeff Sveen, an Aberdeen attorney and the chairman of the National Turkey Federation.

The Tom will likely get a pardon from President Donald Trump and live out the next couple years at Gobbler's Rest, an agricultural outreach and education facility at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg.

Providing the turkey is a great opportunity for South Dakota, said Sveen.

"It's amazing. We've never done it before. It's quite an honor. Just having us recognized as an ag state and now recognized at the White House for a product we produce," he said.

There's a flock of 50 hopeful, white-feathered candidates fattening up on an undisclosed Hutterite colony in Beadle County, Aberdeen American News reported. Huron is home of the Dakota Provisions turkey plant, which opened in 2006 and can process 5 million birds a year. Sveen is chairman of the Dakota Provisions

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board of directors.

The potential presidential birds, hatched in July, are well tended-to by Ruben Waldner, who asked for the privilege. Out of the 50, two will be chosen to make the trip east.

"We'll pick turkeys that are calm, that are good character, good personality and good looking," Sveen said. "(Waldner) hand-tames them. I'll go in and pet them. We want to expose them as much as we can to people."

The turkeys are treated like royalty — or at least as royally as poultry can be treated. The two chosen birds will start making their way to Washington, D.C., the weekend before Thanksgiving in a van, escorted by handlers Waldner and Peter Gruhl.

Once they arrive, they will be checked-in at the Willard InterContinental Hotel. The Monday before Thanksgiving is press day when the turkeys are "interviewed" in the hotel room.

"They have their own room, and it's a nice room," Sveen said. "They stay a couple nights, then one will go in to see the president."

At the hotel, for the most part, the turkeys are somewhat confined to an area with plenty of poultry bedding on the floor, Sveen said. They don't really get to party like rock stars and trash the luxury hotel room.

Sveen followed the Minnesota turkey presenter last year to learn the ropes.

"The turkeys will get into the area of the White House. The presentation is on the Rose Garden of the White house. They'll have a military band playing music. President Trump will make a feel-good speech. It's about an hour-long deal," Sveen said.

It's not likely South Dakota will get to present a gobbler to a president again anytime soon.

A new leader of the National Turkey Federation is chosen every year, and Sveen was appointed in February. That's why he gets the esteemed privilege of presenting the turkey. The presidential turkey comes from each chairman or chairwoman's home state.

The federation is made up of turkey producers from across the country. It has a board of directors, as well as an executive board. Sveen joined the group once the Huron plant was up and running. Since being elected to the board, he said it's taken about 10 years to become chairman.

By Thanksgiving, the chosen turkeys will be around 45 pounds. Sveen expects that there will be an opportunity to follow along online as they travel. He said there will also likely be gobbler-naming competition for South Dakotans. The president has a naming contest, too.

Last year's esteemed birds were bestowed the monikers Drumstick and Wishbone.

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

Rapid City trolley service sees steady ridership

By SAMUEL BLACKSTONE, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Since 2007, the rise and fall of Rapid City summers have coincided with the arrival and departure of its green and red trolleys.

The retrofitted buses with their turn-of-the-last-century cable car appearance run June 1 through Aug. 31, Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., providing riders with a narrated tour of city attractions like the Journey Museum, Storybook Island, Dinosaur Park, Founders Park and the Berlin Wall in Memorial Park.

But while another recent Rapid City summer attraction, the Summer Nights series, has undoubtedly brought visitors and dollars to the area, some have questioned whether the trolley service does the same. Upon closer inspection, the service has demonstrated steady ridership with minimal impact to the city's budget, the Rapid City Journal reported.

This past summer, 7,169 passengers hopped on the trolley for its one-hour circuitous loop, which "begins" at the Milo Barber Transportation Center at 333 Sixth St. but can be boarded or departed at any of the trolley's 15 stops.

Adult fares are \$2 while children 12 years old or younger or 60 years or older — as well as disabled

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citizens and Medicare card holders — pay \$1. One paid fare lasts for the entire day it purchased. In all, the city's three trolleys, which rotate day to day or week to week, cumulatively drive about 8,000 miles per summer, according to figures provided by the city's Rapid Transit department.

Taking into account gas, maintenance and drivers' salaries on one side of the ledger and farebox revenues and federal/state transportation funds on the other, Rapid Transit director Rich Sagen said the cost to city coffers is only about \$10,000 annually. By finding temporary employees, the city avoids hiring full-time, benefited employees for the service.

Even the initial purchase of the city's three trolleys — the trolley service initially started with two, with one for backup before the city reduced its service to one trolley per hour based on demand — didn't cost the city a dime. Federal transit funds covered 83 percent of the purchase while a private donation from a local resident covered the remaining 17 percent. Overall, the three buses were purchased for \$363,814, with two trolleys bought in 2007 and the third in 2008.

Sagen said the trolley with the most mileage has about 50,000 miles but other than basic maintenance like oil, brake and tire changes, the trolleys have avoided major work thus far. He also said the service, from his perspective, is worth it.

"If you're riding for the first time and you don't live here, you're going to learn a lot about the community," Sagen said. "There is a lot of real good historical information on there. They may not even know the Journey Museum exists but they go over there and then go 'Hmm, we're going to have to come back and go to this museum.'"

Even Rapid City residents, he said, can learn a thing or two from the ride.

"I just think it adds to the overall experience not just for the tourists but even for people who live here," he said. "We have people that are repeat riders every season and they call and want to know when it's starting."

So next June, as clear spring mornings recede into sultry summer afternoons, expect the red and green trolleys to reappear along city streets. And if you get a moment, consider giving it a shot. As Hunter S. Thompson once advised, "Buy the ticket, take the ride."

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

Authorities seek 5 children, wife of murder suspect

ROSE CREEK, Minn. (AP) — Authorities in Minnesota are seeking five children missing along with their mother, who is the wife of a murder suspect.

The Mower County Sheriff's Office is asking for help finding 39-year-old Izetta Cooley and her five children, ages 10 to 17.

Authorities say Cooley is under court order not to have contact with her children, but she came to a home in Rose Creek where they were staying and took three of them. Authorities say the other two children were not seen but it's possible all five are traveling with her.

Cooley's husband, 44-year-old Miguel Cooley of Moorhead, is accused of fatally shooting 20-year-old Gabriel Perez outside a McDonald's restaurant in Fargo, North Dakota, on Sept. 23. Miguel Cooley was later arrested in southeastern Minnesota.

Authorities say Izetta Cooley and her children may be in Minnesota but also may be traveling in South Dakota or North Dakota.

Rapid City arena's design planning moves forward

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The planning and design of Rapid City's new \$130 million arena are beginning to take shape.

Craig Baltzer, executive director of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, told the Rapid City Journal that city planners are completing final vetting of the new entertainment arena's design options. The civic center's arena is expected to open in 2021.

"We're trying to get a design of the building so that we can get to a price before they start inking blue-prints," Baltzer said.

Every design option, from the box office locations to the lobby size, needs to be vetted to reach an associated cost estimate in order to keep within the \$130-million budget, he said. Once the city's construction manager determines cost estimates, project planners can then begin the architectural design phase.

Rapid City and Black Hills residents will soon have an opportunity to weigh in on the arena plans. The city has been accepting applications for two committees to offer input on arena operations and design issues.

The operations committee will address issues such as public transit and how pedestrians will flow within the building. The design committee will focus on features such as interior finishes, lighting fixtures and the overall exterior design of the arena.

The goal is to invite "a diverse group of people that have a diverse set of experiences to weigh in on how it's going to work," he said.

Both committees will be comprised of between 10 and 12 people each. The groups will meet with city staff, as well as design, architectural and construction representatives.

"We want this building to be representative of not only Rapid City but of the Black Hills region," Baltzer said.

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

Yankton faces pressure over \$14M aquatic center project

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Yankton officials face pressure to take on a more than \$14 million aquatic center project to replace the city's 71-year-old pool.

The group pushing for the aquatic facility, Dive In Yankton, called on the Yankton City Commission at a recent meeting to move the project forward. The group has fundraised nearly \$870,000 for the aquatic center so far, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported .

Mayor Nathan Johnson praised the group's determination to replace the Fantle Memorial Park pool.

"After discussing a new aquatic center on and off for the last 15 years, at least, you have taken this issue to a level of awareness and urgency that we have not seen in previous efforts," he told the group.

The city has already committed \$2 million toward the project. A \$12 million, 20-year property bond has been proposed to fund the rest of the new facility's costs.

Former City Commissioner Pauline Akland, who was on the board when some of the aquatic center proposals were considered, urged commissioners to take on the project. She suggested that the city add to its \$2 million commitment with a yearly contribution from Second Penny sales taxes.

City Manager Amy Leon recommended that the City Commission wait until the Oct. 8 meeting to consider whether to hold a special election for a public vote on the bond issue.

"If the commission believes at that point that you have enough information and you have enough knowledge of what the community is looking for and there is enough public support associated with the project, you could approve that resolution at that time," she said.

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

Yale classmate recalls Kavanaugh as frequent, heavy drinker

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI agents interviewed one of the three women who have accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct as Republicans and Democrats quarreled over whether the bureau would have enough time and freedom to conduct a thorough investigation before a high-stakes vote on his nomination to the nation's highest court.

The White House insisted it was not "micromanaging" the new one-week review of Kavanaugh's background but some Democratic lawmakers claimed the White House was keeping investigators from inter-

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viewing certain witnesses. President Donald Trump, for his part, tweeted that no matter how much time and discretion the FBI was given, "it will never be enough" for Democrats trying to keep Kavanaugh off the bench.

And even as the FBI explored the past allegations that have surfaced against Kavanaugh, another Yale classmate came forward to accuse the federal appellate judge of being untruthful in his testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the extent of his drinking in college.

In speaking to FBI agents, Deborah Ramirez detailed her allegation that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s when they were students at Yale University, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of a confidential investigation.

Kavanaugh has denied Ramirez's allegation.

The person familiar with Ramirez's questioning, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said she also provided investigators with the names of others who she said could corroborate her account.

But Christine Blasey Ford, a California professor who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers, has not been contacted by the FBI since Trump on Friday ordered the agency to take another look at the nominee's background, according to a member of Ford's team.

Kavanaugh has denied assaulting Ford.

In a statement released Sunday, a Yale classmate of Kavanaugh's said he is "deeply troubled by what has been a blatant mischaracterization by Brett himself of his drinking at Yale." Charles "Chad" Ludington, who now teaches at North Carolina State University, said he was a friend of Kavanaugh's at Yale and that Kavanaugh was "a frequent drinker, and a heavy drinker."

"On many occasions I heard Brett slur his words and saw him staggering from alcohol consumption, not all of which was beer. When Brett got drunk, he was often belligerent and aggressive," Ludington said. While saying that youthful drinking should not condemn a person for life, Ludington said he was concerned about Kavanaugh's statements under oath before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Speaking to the issue of the scope of the FBI's investigation, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said White House counsel Don McGahn, who is managing Kavanaugh's nomination, "has allowed the Senate to dictate what these terms look like, and what the scope of the investigation is."

"The White House isn't intervening. We're not micromanaging this process. It's a Senate process. It has been from the beginning, and we're letting the Senate continue to dictate what the terms look like," Sanders said.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said the investigation will be "limited in scope" and "will not be a fishing expedition. The FBI is not tasked to do that."

Senate Judiciary Committee member Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., requested an investigation last Friday — after he and other Republicans on the panel voted along strict party lines in favor of Kavanaugh's confirmation — as a condition for his own subsequent vote to put Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court.



Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh testifies during the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington. (Tom Williams/Pool Image via AP)

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Another committee member, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Sunday that testimony would be taken from Ramirez and Kavanaugh's high school friend Mark Judge, who has been named by two of three women accusing Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct.

"I think that will be the scope of it. And that should be the scope of it," Graham said.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, called on the White House and the FBI to provide the written directive regarding the investigation's scope. In a letter Sunday, she also asked for updates on any expansion of the original directive.

Sen. Susan Collins said Sunday she is confident in the investigation and "that the FBI will follow up on any leads that result from the interviews." The Maine Republican supports the new FBI investigation and is among a few Republican and Democratic senators who have not announced a position on Kavanaugh.

Republicans control 51 seats in the closely divided 100-member Senate and cannot afford to lose more than one vote on confirmation.

Collins and Flake spoke throughout the weekend.

Senate Republicans discussed the contours of the investigation with the White House late Friday, according to a person familiar with the call who was not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had gathered Judiciary Committee Republicans in his office earlier. At that time, the scope of the investigation was requested by Flake, Collins and Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, said McConnell's spokesman Don Stewart.

Murkowski is not on the committee, but also has not announced how she will vote on Kavanaugh's confirmation.

Republicans later called the White House to discuss the scope of the probe, the person said.

McConnell's office declined to elaborate Sunday on which allegations would be investigated, reiterating only that it would focus on "current credible allegations." Stewart said the investigation's scope "was set" by the three GOP senators Friday and "has not changed."

But Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, a Judiciary Committee member, doubted how credible the investigation will be, given the time limit.

"That's bad enough, but then to limit the FBI as to the scope and who they're going to question, that - that really - I wanted to use the word farce, but that's not the kind of investigation that all of us are expecting the FBI to conduct," she said.

Trump initially opposed such an investigation as allegations began mounting but relented and ordered one on Friday. He later said the FBI has "free rein."

"They're going to do whatever they have to do, whatever it is they do. They'll be doing things that we have never even thought of," Trump said Saturday as he departed the White House for a trip to West Virginia. "And hopefully at the conclusion everything will be fine."

He revisited the "scope" question later Saturday on Twitter, writing in part, "I want them to interview whoever they deem appropriate, at their discretion."

Sanders said Trump, who has vigorously defended Kavanaugh but also raised the slight possibility of withdrawing the nomination should damaging information be found, "will listen to the facts."

At least three women have accused Kavanaugh of years-ago misconduct. He denies all the claims.

The third woman, Julie Swetnick, accused Kavanaugh and Judge of excessive drinking and inappropriate treatment of women in the early 1980s, among other accusations. Kavanaugh has called her accusations a "joke." Judge has said he "categorically" denies the allegations.

Swetnick's attorney, Michael Avenatti, said Saturday that his client had not been contacted by the FBI but was willing to cooperate with investigators.

Ford also has said Judge was in the room when a drunken Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her. Judge has said he will cooperate with any law enforcement agency that will "confidentially investigate" sexual misconduct allegations against him and Kavanaugh. Judge has also denied misconduct allegations.

Sanders spoke on "Fox News Sunday," Conway appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" and Graham and Hirono were interviewed on ABC's "This Week."

For more coverage of Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/KavanaughNomination>

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

Canada-US reach deal to stay in trade pact with Mexico

By **ROB GILLIES** and **PAUL WISEMAN**, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada was back in a revamped North American free trade deal with the United States and Mexico late Sunday after weeks of bitter, high-pressure negotiations that brushed up against a midnight deadline.

In a joint statement, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said the agreement "will strengthen the middle class, and create good, well-paying jobs and new opportunities for the nearly half billion people who call North America home."

The new deal, reached just before a midnight deadline imposed by the U.S., will be called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. It replaces the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement, which President Donald Trump had called a job-killing disaster.

Trump on Monday morning called it a "great deal," tweeting that it "solves the many deficiencies and mistakes in NAFTA, greatly opens markets to our Farmers and Manufacturers, reduces Trade Barriers to the U.S. and will bring all three Great Nations together in competition with the rest of the world."

He added: "Congratulations to Mexico and Canada!"

The agreement reached Sunday gives U.S. farmers greater access to the Canadian dairy market. But it keeps a NAFTA dispute-resolution process that the U.S. wanted to jettison and offers Canada protection if Trump goes ahead with plans to impose tariffs on cars, trucks and auto parts imported into the United States.

"It's a good day for Canada," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said as he left his office. Trudeau said he would have more to say Monday.

"We celebrate a trilateral deal. The door closes on trade fragmentation in the region," Jesus Seade, trade negotiator for Mexico's incoming president, said via Twitter.

Representatives for the government of Mexican president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador have called a press conference to discuss details of the trade deal on Monday.

Canada, the United States' No. 2 trading partner, was left out when the U.S. and Mexico reached an agreement last month to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau leaves the Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council after an agreement was reached in the NAFTA negotiations in Ottawa, Ontario, Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018. The U.S. and Canada reached the basis of a free trade deal Sunday night, a senior Canadian government official said.

(Justin Tang/The Canadian Press via AP)

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The Trump administration officially notified Congress of the U.S.-Mexico trade agreement on Aug. 31. That started a 90-day clock that would let outgoing Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto sign the new pact before he leaves office Dec. 1.

Trump threatened to go ahead with a revamped NAFTA — with or without Canada. It was unclear, however, whether Trump had authority from Congress to pursue a revamped NAFTA with only Mexico.

Some lawmakers immediately expressed relief that Canada had been reinstated in the regional trading bloc. "I am pleased that the Trump administration was able to strike a deal to modernize NAFTA with both Mexico and Canada," said Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "NAFTA is a proven success."

NAFTA tore down most trade barriers between the United States, Canada and Mexico, leading to a surge in trade between the three countries. But Trump and other critics said it encouraged manufacturers to move south of the border to take advantage of low-wage Mexican wages, costing American jobs.

Trump campaigned on a promise to rewrite NAFTA — or get rid of it. Talks on a rewrite began more than a year ago. To placate Trump, Mexico agreed in August to provisions that would require 40 percent to 45 percent of a car be built in countries where auto workers earn at least \$16 an hour to qualify for NAFTA's duty-free benefits.

It was surprising that the United States found it easier to cut a deal with Mexico than with Canada, a longtime ally with a high-wage economy similar to America's. "When this got started, Canada was the teacher's pet and Mexico was the problem child," said Michael Camunez, president of Monarch Global Strategies and former U.S. Commerce Department official.

But relations between Ottawa and Washington soured. In the aftermath of a disastrous G-7 summit in Quebec in June, Trump called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest."

The two countries need each other economically. Canada is by far the No. 1 destination for U.S. exports, and the U.S. market accounts for 75 percent of what Canada sells abroad.

Wiseman reported from Washington.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. WHAT IS REPLACING NAFTA

A revamped trade pact called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, gives American farmers greater access to the Canadian dairy market and offers Canada tariff protection in the auto industry.

2. FBI AGENTS INTERVIEW KAVANAUGH ACCUSER

Deborah Ramirez detailed her allegation that the Supreme Court nominee exposed himself to her at a party in the early 1980s when they were students at Yale University, a person familiar with the matter says, while another college classmate disputes his characterization of his past drinking.

3. BURIALS BEGIN IN INDONESIA

A mass burial of earthquake and tsunami victims begins in hard-hit Palu and the death toll of more than 840 is expected to rise as areas cut off by the damage are reached.

4. IRAN LAUNCHES MISSILES INTO SYRIA

The paramilitary Revolutionary Guard says it launched six ballistic missiles into eastern Syria, targeting militants the force blames for a recent attack on a military parade in Iran.

5. WHO WON THE NOBEL IN MEDICINE

American James Allison and Tasuku Honjo of Japan were honored for developing therapies for treating cancer.

6. VEGAS MARKS MASS SHOOTING ANNIVERSARY

It's been a year since the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, and a sunrise ceremony will commemorate the 58 lives lost, capped by a wall dedication at night.

7. SOUTH KOREA BEGINS REMOVING MINES

Troops enter the heavily fortified border with North Korea to remove mines under recent tension-reducing agreements and Seoul believes the North is reciprocating.

8. WHERE THE FIRST LADY IS HEADING

Melania Trump will travel to Africa on her first big solo international trip, aiming to make child well-being the focus of a five-day tour that will take her Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Egypt.

9. WIRELESS AIMING TO MAKE INROADS ON CABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Using emerging 5G technology, cellular companies like Verizon are promising services that would be ultra-fast, affordable and wireless.

10. WHAT'S NEVER HAPPENED IN BASEBALL

Major League Baseball is set to hold two division tiebreakers on the same day for the first time when the Brewers play the Cubs and the Rockies meet the Dodgers.



Rescuers evacuate an earthquake survivor by a damaged house following earthquakes and tsunami in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018. Rescuers were scrambling Sunday to try to find trapped victims in collapsed buildings where voices could be heard screaming for help after a massive earthquake in Indonesia spawned a deadly tsunami two days ago. (AP Photo/Arimacs Wilander)

Can wireless challenge cable for home internet service?

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cellular companies such as Verizon are looking to challenge traditional cable companies with residential internet service that promises to be ultra-fast, affordable and wireless.

Using an emerging wireless technology known as 5G, Verizon's 5G Home service provides an alternative to cable for connecting laptops, phones, TVs and other devices over Wi-Fi. It launches in four U.S. cities on Monday.

Verizon won't be matching cable companies on packages that also come with TV channels and home phone service. But fewer people have been subscribing to such bundles anyway, as they embrace streaming services such as Netflix for video and cellphone services instead of landline.

"That's the trend that cable has been having problems with for several years, and a trend that phone companies can take advantage of," Gartner analyst Bill Menzes said.

That's if the wireless companies can offer a service that proves affordable and effective.

T-Mobile and Sprint are also planning a residential 5G service as part of their merger proposal, though few details are known.

Verizon's broadband-only service will cost \$70 a month, with a \$20 discount for Verizon cellular customers. According to Leichtman Research Group, the average price for broadband internet is about \$60, meaning only some customers will be saving money.

Even so, Verizon can try to win over some customers with promises of reliability.

Verizon says its service will be much faster than cable. That means downloading a two-hour movie in high definition in two minutes rather than 21. The service promises to let families play data-intensive games

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and watch video on multiple devices at once, with little or no lag.

"The things that really matter to a customer are how fast it is and how reliable it is," longtime telecom analyst Dave Burstein said. In tests of Verizon's 5G so far, he said, "reliability is proving out quite nicely."

Verizon could also capitalize on many people's frustration with their cable companies. Consumer Reports magazine says customers have long been unhappy with perceived weak customer service, high prices and hidden fees.

The residential 5G service is part of a broader upgrade in wireless technology.

Verizon has spent billions of dollars for rights to previously unused radio waves at the high end of the frequency spectrum. It's a short-range signal, ideal for city blocks and apartment buildings, but less so for sprawling suburbs or rural communities. That's why Verizon is pushing residential service first, while AT&T is building a more traditional cellular network for people on the go, using radio waves at the lower end.

AT&T is aiming to launch its 5G mobile network this year in 12 cities, including Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina. Dish also has plans for a 5G network, but it's focused on connecting the so-called "Internet of Things," everything from laundry machines to parking meters, rather than cellphones or residential broadband.

Sprint tried to introduce residential wireless service before, using a technology called WiMax, but it failed to gain many subscribers as LTE trumped WiMax as the dominant cellular technology. This time, Verizon is using the same 5G technology that will eventually make its way into 5G cellular networks.

The Verizon service will start in parts of Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, California. "These are small areas but significant," said Ronan Dunne, president of Verizon Wireless. "Tens of thousands of homes, not hundreds of thousands of homes." Eventually, Verizon projects 30 million homes in the U.S. will be eligible, though there's no timeline.

For now, Verizon isn't planning to hit markets where it already has its cable-like Fios service. Verizon stopped expanding Fios around 2010, in part because it was expensive to dig up streets and lay fiber-optic lines. Verizon can build 5G more cheaply because it can use the same towers available for cellular service.

That said, Verizon might not recoup its costs if it ends up drawing only customers who stand to save money over cable, said John Horrigan, a broadband expert at the Technology Policy Institute.

And while Verizon says the new network will be able to handle lots of devices at once, anyone who's tried to use a phone during concerts and conferences will know that the airwaves can get congested quickly.

What Verizon's service won't do is extend high-speed internet access to rural America, where many households can't get broadband at all, let alone competition. Cable and other companies haven't found it



FILE- This April 23, 2018, file photo shows the logo for Verizon above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Cellular companies such as Verizon are looking to challenge traditional cable companies with residential internet service that promises to be ultra-fast, affordable and wireless. Using an emerging wireless technology known as 5G, Verizon's 5G Home service provides an alternative to cable for connecting laptops, phones, TVs and other devices over Wi-Fi. It launches in four U.S. cities on Monday, Oct. 1. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

profitable to extend wires to remote parts of the country. But Verizon will face the same problem, given that its short-range signal will require several wireless towers closer together. That's feasible only in densely populated areas.

That's not good enough, said Harold Feld, senior vice president of the advocacy group Public Knowledge. He said internet service at reasonable prices is "fundamental" for all Americans — not just those who live in populated areas.

T-Mobile and Sprint want to jointly create a 5G network that would also offer residential wireless broadband, but not for a few years. In seeking regulatory approval, the companies say 20 percent to 25 percent of subscribers will be in rural areas that have limited access to broadband. But the companies offered no details on how they would do so. T-Mobile and Sprint declined to comment.

AP Explains: Removal of mines from Korean Demilitarized Zone

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Seoul says the rival Koreas began removing mines and other explosives at two sites inside their heavily armed border on Monday as part of their recent tension-reduction steps. They will likely end up pulling out a very small portion of an estimated 2 million mines littered inside and near the 248-kilometer (155-mile) -long, 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) -wide Demilitarized Zone. But it would be the two countries' first joint demining work in more than a decade and comes amid international diplomacy aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

A look at the mine clearing:

THE SITES

The mine removal starting Monday took place at the Koreas' Joint Security Area in their shared border village of Panmunjom and another front-line area where the two countries plan their first joint searches for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Panmunjom, where an armistice was signed in 1953 to end the war, is the most famous DMZ site. Rival soldiers face each other only feet away from

each other, and it has been the scene of bloodshed and violence, including the 1976 ax-killing of two American troops. But it's also a venue for talks such as two of the three inter-Korean summit meetings so far this year, and its mystique makes it a popular tourist destination.

Under deals signed by their defense chiefs on the sidelines of a September summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the demining of the Joint Security Area is



FILE - In this April 18, 2018 file photo, three North Korean soldiers talk each others as a South Korean soldier, right, stands at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea. North and South Korea began removing mines at two sites inside their heavily fortified border Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, as part of their recent deals to ease decades-long military tensions. The mine removal took place at the Koreas' Joint Security Area in their shared border village of Panmunjom and another front-line area where the two countries plan their first joint searches for the remains of soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean War. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

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part of a broader step to "disarm" the zone and turn it to a "place for peace and unity."

The other area being demined is around the so-called "Arrow Head Hill," where some of the war's heaviest fighting took place over a strategically important hilltop position.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said the remains of about 300 South Korean, French and U.S. soldiers are believed to be in the area. The remains of a large number of Chinese and North Korean soldiers are also likely there.

During the war, an outnumbered French battalion belonging to the American-led U.N. Command repelled a series of Chinese attacks in the area in October 1952, months before a South Korean army division also turned back similar Chinese assaults.

THE MINES

Experts believe the South Korean and U.S. militaries have planted about 1-1.2 million mines south of the DMZ while North Korea has put about 800,000-1 million mines on its side. It's not known how many mines are at Panmunjom and Arrow Head Hill, but military commentator Lee Illwoo said the Koreans would be able to clear tens of thousands at most.

Experts believe both Koreas poorly managed their mines and don't know exactly how many they planted and in what specific places. It's not unusual for wooden North Korean mine boxes to wash down a swollen river in summer, causing deadly incidents in South Korea. A 2015 DMZ mine explosion blamed on North Korea that maimed two South Korean soldiers pushed the rivals to the brink of an armed conflict. Many South Korean mines are also believed to have been dislodged due to flooding or landslides.

At Panmunjom, the Koreas are to spend 20 days clearing mines before withdrawing troops, weapons and guard posts in the area over the next five days. They eventually plan to have 35 unarmed personnel from each side guard the village and let tourists freely cross ankle-high concrete slabs that mark the border there.

In the case of Arrow Head Hill, they aim to remove the mines by the end of November. After building a cross-border road and forming a joint excavation team, the Koreas are to launch a seven-month effort to locate remains in April next year.

THE RAMIFICATIONS

Monday's mine clearing is the first of its kind since the Koreas worked together to remove mines and explosives at a few border areas to accommodate now-stalled economic and transportation projects during a previous era of rapprochement in the 2000s. Other deals reached by the defense chiefs include withdrawing front-line guard posts and establishing buffer zones along the land, sea and aerial boundaries where live-fire drills and military flights would be banned.

"It's the start of peace," said Kim Ki-ho, head of the private Korea Mine Clearance Research Institute. "We have to remove those mines, though we are not taking out all the mines at the DMZ."

Lee, the commentator, played down the significance of the mine removal, saying that "North Korea's military threats won't disappear even though we get rid of a small number of front-line mines."

The complete removal of all the DMZ mines could be a dilemma for both Koreas. South Korea would find itself more vulnerable to North Korean infiltration and assault via land routes, while North Korea would worry about front-line soldiers and residents escaping to the South more easily, Lee said. Most North Korean refugees living in the South have fled via the less guarded border with China.

In recent years, South Korea has unilaterally removed thousands of mines annually near the DMZ as part of efforts to improve the lives and safety of civilians near the border area. Seoul's Defense Ministry told lawmakers in 2015 that at that rate, it would take about 200 years to remove all the mines on the southern side of the DMZ and nearby front-line areas.

If the demining effort is sustained and successful, it would be seen as progress in the international campaign to ban mines, said Kim Jae-yeop, a professor of defense strategy at South Korea's Hannam University.

The United States and South Korea are among the highest-profile countries that have refused to sign

the Ottawa Convention banning the use of mines in war, which came into effect in 1999, chiefly because mines are heavily used in the DMZ.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

Burials begin in Indonesia as survivors' desperation grows

By NINIEK KARMINI, Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Bright-colored body bags were placed side-by-side in a freshly dug mass grave Monday, as a hard-hit Indonesian city began burying its dead from the devastating earthquake and tsunami that killed more than 840 people and left thousands homeless.

The death toll, largely from the city of Palu, is expected to keep rising as areas cut off by the damage are reached. The magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck at dusk Friday and generated a tsunami said to have been as high as 6 meters (20 feet) in places.

Local army commander Tiopan Aritonang said 545 bodies would be brought to the grave from one hospital alone. The trench dug in Palu was 10 meters by 100 meters (33 feet by 330 feet) and can be enlarged if needed, said Willem Rampangilei, chief of Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

"This must be done as soon as possible for health and religious reasons," he said. Indonesia is majority Muslim, and religious custom calls for burials soon after death, typically within one day.

Local military spokesman Mohammad Thorir said the area adjacent to a public cemetery can hold 1,000 bodies. All of the victims, coming from local hospitals, have been photographed to help families locate where their relatives were buried. Video footage showed residents walking from body bag to body bag, opening the tops to check if they could identify faces.

Around midday, teams of workers, their mouths covered by masks, carried 18 bodies and laid them in the trench. A backhoe waited to push soil on top of the dead. More burials were expected to follow.

Military and commercial aircraft were delivering some aid and supplies. But there was a need for heavy equipment to reach possible survivors buried in collapsed buildings, including an eight-story hotel in Palu where voices had been heard in the rubble.

People suffering from a lack of food and supplies were also becoming more desperate. Local television said around 3,000 residents had flocked to the Palu airport trying to get out. Footage showed some people screaming in anger because they were not able to board departing military aircraft. The airport has resumed only some commercial flights.



Indonesian rescue team carry the body of a victim in a major earthquake and tsunami in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, Monday, Oct. 1, 2018. A mass burial of earthquake and tsunami victims was being prepared in a hard-hit city Monday as the need for heavy equipment to dig for survivors of the disaster that struck a central Indonesian island three days ago grows desperate.(AP Photo/Rifki)

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"We have not eaten for three days!" one woman yelled. "We just want to be safe!"

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo authorized the acceptance of international help, said disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, adding that generators, heavy equipment and tents were among the items needed. He said the European Union and 10 countries have offered assistance, including the United States, Australia and China.

"We will send food today, as much as possible with several aircraft," Widodo told journalists in the capital, Jakarta, adding that a supply of fuel was also set to arrive.

Nugroho said conditions in the Balaroa area of Palu were particularly bad because the earthquake caused the ground to violently heave up and sink down in places, trapping many people under destroyed houses. In Petobo, another area of the city, the temblor caused liquefaction, when loose, water-filled soil near the surface loses its strength, causing massive damage.

"In Petobo, it is estimated that there are still hundreds of victims buried in mud material," he said.

Villagers who pulled out loved ones — alive and dead — over the weekend expressed frustration that it took rescue teams until Monday to reach Petobo.

Edi Setiawan, 32, said he and fellow villagers were able to rescue five children and four adults, including a pregnant woman. However, his sister and father were not among them.

"My sister was found embracing her father," he said. "My mother was able to survive after struggling against the mud and being rescued by villagers."

Another villager, 52-year-old Idrus, who uses one name, said that "up to Saturday we still saw many people screaming for help from the roofs. But we could not do anything to help them. Now their cries are no longer heard."

But there were cases of survivors still being pulled from the rubble in different locations, including a 25-year-old woman found alive Sunday evening in the ruins of the Roa-Roa Hotel, according to the National Search and Rescue Agency, which released photos of her lying on a stretcher covered with a blanket.

The confirmed death toll of 844 released by Nugroho on Monday afternoon was an increase of only 12 since the previous day, with nearly all of the total from Palu. The regencies of Donggala, Sigi and Parigi Moutong — with a combined population of 1.2 million — had yet to be fully assessed. Nearly 50,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Palu alone, Nugroho said.

He said 114 foreigners were in Palu and Donggala during the disaster. All were accounted for except one Belgian, one South Korean and six French.

It was the latest natural disaster to hit Indonesia, which is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra island in western Indonesia triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries. More recently, a powerful quake on the island of Lombok killed 505 people in August.

In Donggala, the site closest to the earthquake's epicenter, aerial footage on Metro TV showed the sugary blond sands of beaches swept out to sea, along with some buildings. Some buildings in the town were severely damaged, with plywood walls shredded and chunks of concrete scattered on the pavement. Much of the damage, however, appeared limited to the waterfront.

Palu, which has more than 380,000 people, was strewn with debris from the earthquake and tsunami. A heavily damaged mosque was half submerged and a shopping mall was reduced to a crumpled hulk. A large bridge with yellow arches collapsed.

The city is built around a narrow bay that apparently magnified the force of the tsunami as the waves raced into the tight inlet. Nugroho said waves were reported as high as 6 meters (20 feet) in some places.

In one devastated area in Palu, residents said dozens of people could still be buried in their homes.

"The ground rose up like a spine and suddenly fell. Many people were trapped and buried under collapsed houses. I could do nothing to help," resident Nur Indah said, crying. "In the evening, some of them turned on their cellphones just to give a sign that they were there. But the lights were off later and the next day."

With hundreds injured, earthquake-damaged hospitals were overwhelmed.

Indonesia is a vast archipelago of more than 17,000 islands home to 260 million people. Roads and

infrastructure are poor in many areas, making access difficult in the best of conditions.

Associated Press writers Margie Mason and Todd Pitman in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

Off limits: Report on state college abuse kept from public

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press

Even as top Pennsylvania officials assail the Catholic Church over its cover-up of clergy sexual abuse, a state agency is refusing to release a report on allegations of sexual abuse by a high-ranking state university administrator despite lingering questions about how the accusers' complaints were handled.

In a case that bears some broad similarities to — and contains important differences with — the Pennsylvania church scandal that exploded in August, Pennsylvania's higher education agency won't agree to allow the public to see the 10-year-old report on former East Stroudsburg University Vice President Isaac Sanders. The report has taken on fresh significance in the wake of a new federal lawsuit by Sanders over his firing that could put Pennsylvania taxpayers on the hook for millions of dollars.

The office of Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro — acting as the higher-ed agency's lawyer — says the report on Sanders remains subject to an 8-year-old confidentiality agreement and can't be released. But Sanders' lawyer says he "could care less" if the document is disclosed, and the students who accused Sanders of sexual assault and harassment have long wanted the state's evidence against him made public, only to be rebuffed by state officials.

The government's position that it should remain out of public view stands in sharp contrast to Shapiro's well-publicized effort to force the Catholic Church to be more transparent about child sexual abuse.

The first-term Democrat has been on a media blitz since he released a blockbuster grand jury report that found senior officials in the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania covered up widespread abuse by predator priests.

Shapiro blasted church leaders for "protecting their institution at all costs" and ridiculed clergy who fought to block the release of the grand jury report, declaring "they wanted to cover up the cover-up." He's now waging a legal battle against nearly two dozen priests who are fighting to keep their names blacked out of the public version of the 900-page document.



FILE- In this Aug. 14, 2018 file photo, Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro speaks during a news conference at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. Even as top Pennsylvania officials assail the Catholic Church over its cover-up of clergy sexual abuse, a state agency is refusing to release a report on allegations of sexual abuse by a high-ranking state university administrator despite lingering questions about how the accusers' complaints were handled. The office of Shapiro - acting as the higher-ed agency's lawyer - says the report on East Stroudsburg University Vice President Isaac Sanders remains subject to an 8-year-old confidentiality agreement and can't be released. (AP Photo/

Matt Rourke, File)

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"Every name of a predator priest left redacted means the silencing of a victim's voice," Shapiro said last week.

In the Sanders case, though, the state has long refused to share what it knows with the public.

The former students at East Stroudsburg, a state-run university in the Pocono Mountains, claim Sanders used his high-powered job to offer them gifts, scholarships and campus jobs, then sexually harassed or assaulted them — including forced oral sex. Their lawyer portrayed him as a predator who targeted emotionally fragile black men from broken homes because he believed they'd be less likely to report the abuse. The state's investigation into Sanders, which led to his 2008 ouster, found he "exercised exceedingly poor judgment toward" students and mishandled donor funds, according to his termination letter.

Sanders has never been charged with a crime and has always categorically denied sexually touching any of the men. A federal jury sided with the former university official in a 2014 lawsuit brought by the students. Sanders, who faced a similar accusation of sexual misconduct when he worked at Stillman College in Alabama in the 1990s, recently filed a wrongful termination suit against the state, alleging he was railroaded.

After Sanders sued, The Associated Press asked Shapiro's office and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to release the 2008 investigative report on him. Both agencies declined — the attorney general's office acting on behalf of its client — citing a court order still in effect from the students' lawsuit.

The secret document entered the federal court system after a half-dozen men sued Sanders and the university in 2009. The university turned it over to the plaintiffs, but the parties agreed in court that it would be sealed from public view. It has remained that way ever since, even though the case is now over.

After losing at trial, the students' lawyer asked the attorney general's office in 2016 to abandon the confidentiality agreement and release the report. "Failure to disclose," wrote the attorney, Albert Murray Jr., is "tantamount to a cover-up ... by the state."

The government rejected the students' request.

Murray declined to comment for this story.

Shapiro's office would not say whether he favored the report's release, given his high-profile assertions about the church cover-up. Shapiro, who took office in 2017, did not respond to an interview request.

"The Office of Attorney General has a legal and ethical duty to zealously represent its clients — here a state university. The report is not ours to release; it is the client's report and remains under court seal," said Joe Grace, Shapiro's spokesman.

The university system, meanwhile, has relied on exceptions to Pennsylvania's open records law as well as the confidentiality agreement to block requests for the document. Spokesman Kenn Marshall said the agency doesn't "plan to seek any change to the status of the report." He wouldn't elaborate.

The state's actions in the Sanders case and the clergy abuse cover-up differ in important aspects. University officials advised the students to talk to the local district attorney, while Catholic church leaders discouraged victims from reporting to law enforcement. Sanders was fired; abusive priests were simply moved to new parishes. The attorney general's role in each case was different, too, leading a grand jury probe into church abuse while, in the Sanders case, representing East Stroudsburg's interests in court.

But there are also broad similarities.

Just as church officials failed to report abusive clergy to law enforcement, the university system didn't go to police or prosecutors with the results of its months-long probe. In fact, when law enforcement officials asked for the report years ago, the higher-ed agency refused, citing the confidentiality agreement.

Yet the system got the report from its outside law firm in 2008 — a full two years before it was sealed by a federal judge at the request of the parties in the civil suit.

Legal experts said the agency could have and should have turned it over.

"As a general proposition, I think they had a duty to disclose," said former federal prosecutor Gordon Zubrod. "If they were required to turn it over to a civilian party in a lawsuit, how can they say, 'We're not required to turn it over to law enforcement?' That's just crazy talk."

It remains unclear the extent to which law enforcement investigated the students' allegations or the claims of financial malfeasance. The local district attorney said he turned the investigation over to federal

prosecutors years ago. The U.S. Attorney's Office did not immediately respond to a request for information about Sanders. The state attorney general's office has said it couldn't do its own criminal investigation because its civil division was already representing East Stroudsburg in the students' lawsuit.

Nearly all of the allegations made by the students are too old to prosecute, though one student's 2007 sex assault claim against Sanders might conceivably fall within the statute of limitations. But Zubrod said a prosecutor would probably be reluctant to take on such a case at this point, given the students lost their lawsuit against Sanders.

New Tesla chair must rein in CEO Musk at key moment

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It won't be an easy job.

Whoever becomes the new chairman of Tesla Motors will face the formidable task of reining in Elon Musk, the charismatic, visionary chief executive with an impulsive streak, while also helping Musk achieve his dream of turning Tesla into a profitable, mass-market producer of environmentally-friendly electric cars.

Musk is giving up the chairman's role under a settlement announced Saturday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Besides a new chairman, Tesla was also ordered to appoint two new, independent members to its board. A more assertive board could provide the kind of tighter oversight that many legal experts, and Tesla investors, say is overdue for a company of Tesla's market value. Shares in the company surged 15 percent in premarket trading.

The settlement stemmed from a lawsuit the SEC filed charging Musk with misleading investors in August with a tweet that said he had "funding secured" for taking the company private.

Yet a more forceful board, coupled with a domineering CEO like Musk, could create conflicts at a risky time for the company. Visionary CEOs such as Apple's Steve Jobs and Twitter's Jack Dorsey have been forced out by strong boards of directors, though both eventually returned to their companies.

Even with the settlement, Tesla faces a daunting array of challenges.

The Justice Department has opened its own investigation into Musk's Aug. 7 tweet, in which he said he would take the company private at \$420 a share. The SEC's lawsuit charged that the tweet, which caused Tesla's shares to jump, was misleading because he did not actually have the funding lined up for such a



FILE - In this Dec. 14, 2016, file photo, Tesla CEO Elon Musk listens as President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with technology industry leaders at Trump Tower in New York. Electric carmaker Tesla must find a new chair for its board of directors under a settlement announced Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Whoever takes on the job will face the formidable task of overseeing Musk, a charismatic, visionary executive with an impulsive streak. (AP Photo/Evan

Vucci, File)

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move.

Tesla is also under heavy pressure to turn a profit because it is burning through \$1 billion in cash every three months and, as of the end of June, had just \$2.2 billion in the bank.

Musk has said the company needs to produce 7,000 cars a week to make money, a target he aimed to reach in the July-September quarter. The company is likely to report production numbers this week and financial results from that quarter in early November.

Another concern: About \$1.3 billion in Tesla debt is due to be repaid by March, including \$230 million in November.

Some investors might want more than a new chairman. Tesla has no chief operating officer, a critical No. 2 executive in most companies. That's a stark contrast to other startups, such as Facebook, where Mark Zuckerberg hired Sheryl Sandberg as a highly influential COO.

In the lawsuit filed Thursday by the SEC, the agency said it was seeking to remove Musk from Tesla management altogether. Many investors have argued that keeping Musk as CEO is critical at such a time.

"I do not doubt the value of Musk to Tesla," John Coffee, a Columbia University law professor and corporate governance expert, said. "Without him, they are just a struggling start up that is burning cash at a hopeless rate and is facing a debt refunding crisis in the near future.

"Musk is an iconic entrepreneur but he needs adult supervision," Coffee added.

That's where the new board members come in. The current board, which includes Musk's brother, Kimbal Musk, is widely seen as subservient to Musk. They have publicly expressed support for many recent moves, such as his rejection last week of an early SEC settlement offer.

"The board is truly the alpha chapter of the Elon Musk fan club," said Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

Teresa Goody, a former SEC attorney and founder of The Goody Group, a consulting firm, said that many startups begin with a powerful CEO who typically puts "friendlies" on the board.

As a company grows and becomes more sophisticated, Goody said, more independent directors are typically brought on board to provide better oversight.

"That's happening a little later in the life cycle of the company in the case of Tesla," she said.

Still, Elon Musk is different than many CEOs because he owns roughly 20 percent of the company's stock. That gives him more influence.

"In a typical case, the CEO is a high-priced employee" of the board, Gordon said. "Musk will still be more powerful than the board chair."

There will be other constraints on Musk's behavior: As part of the SEC settlement, his tweets and other comments will have to be vetted by the company before they can be released to the public.

"This humiliation — that Elon can't go outside unless he's on a leash — that will bother him the most," Gordon said. He called it an "extraordinary measure."

Gordon thinks the SEC should have gone further and sought to add as many as four new board members and remove some old ones.

Still, Gordon said, "I think this experience has shown him that however smart he is, or however powerful he thinks he is, the government is also powerful too."

Musk may want to keep a close eye on the new chairman, however. Musk himself was the chair of the board, after investing in the company, before firing the chief executive and taking over as CEO

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher contributed to this story from Detroit.

'Tragedy of grand scale': Events mark date of Vegas shooting

By KEN RITTER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It has been a year since the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, and a woman set to talk at a sunrise ceremony commemorating the lives lost says that although hearts are still healing, she hopes people can move forward from the enormous tragedy with "love and light."

Among survivors, victims' family members, first-responders and elected officials offering prayers, songs and speeches on Monday, Mynda Smith will remember her sister.

Nyesa Davis Tonks was killed by a gunman in a high-rise hotel raining gunfire into a crowd of 22,000 at an outdoor country music concert on the Las Vegas Strip.

Nyesa pronounced her name "Nee-sha." She was a 46-year-old single mother originally from the Salt Lake City area who was raising three boys in Las Vegas. Smith said she was energetic, adventurous, a fan of all kinds of music.

"I want to bring the message about living life to the fullest," Smith told The Associated Press. "About how grateful we are for our community, the love and support that we got, and being 'Vegas Strong.'"

Smith started a scholarship fund for victims' children and says she reached loved ones of almost all the dead. Thirty-three were from California, six others from Nevada, four from Canada and 12 from other U.S. states.

"It was a heartbreak every time," Smith said. "This was a tragedy of grand scale. We have a long way to go. But we have to move forward with love and light."

Many who were cheering Jason Aldean's headline set on the Las Vegas Strip late Oct. 1, 2017, said later they thought the rapid crack-crack-crack they heard was fireworks — until people fell dead, wounded, bleeding.

From across neon-lit Las Vegas Boulevard, a gambler-turned-gunman with what police later called a meticulous plan but an unknown reason fired assault-style rifles for 11 minutes from 32nd-floor windows of the Mandalay Bay hotel into the concert crowd below. Police said he then put a pistol in his mouth and killed himself.

Medical examiners later determined that all 58 deaths were from gunshots. Another 413 people were wounded, and police said at least 456 were injured fleeing the carnage.

A flock of 58 doves will be released at the daybreak memorial, and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo also are due to speak. They won't provide answers to what made Stephen Craig Paddock unleash his hail of gunfire.

Lombardo declared the police investigation ended in August. He issued a report that said hundreds of interviews and thousands of hours of investigative work found no motive, no conspiracy and no other



FILE - In this Oct. 2, 2017 file photo, a woman sits on a curb at the scene of a shooting outside a music festival on the Las Vegas Strip. It took 11 minutes for the gunman in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history to kill 58 people. Then he killed himself. A year later, Las Vegas police and the FBI have found no motive for the rampage.

(AP Photo/John Locher, File)

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shooters.

A final FBI report, including a behavioral analysis of Paddock, is expected by year-end.

Another report last month involving the Federal Emergency Management Agency found communications were snarled and police, fire and medical responders were overwhelmed by 911 calls, false reports of other shootings and the number of victims.

Las Vegas police continue to make weekly releases of material collected following the attack under court order in a media public records lawsuit. Included have been investigative documents, 911 audio recordings, police reports, witness statements and many hours of officer body-worn video.

Unanswered in the 21 batches posted to date: What made a 64-year-old former accountant, real estate investor, small plane pilot and high-limit video poker player assemble an arsenal and attack a concert crowd?

Paddock was characterized by police as a loner with no religious or political affiliations who became obsessed with guns, spent more than \$1.5 million in the two years before the shooting and distanced himself from his girlfriend and family.

A forensic accountant recently put the value of Paddock's estate at just under \$1.4 million. Paddock's mother said the money should go to victims. A disbursement plan has not yet been established.

Paddock's gambling habits made him a sought-after casino patron. Over several days, Mandalay Bay employees readily let him use a service elevator to take suitcases to the \$590-per-night suite he had been provided for free. The room had a commanding view of the Strip and the Route 91 Harvest Festival concert grounds across the street.

After breaking out windows, Paddock fired 1,057 shots in 11 minutes, police say.

Incendiary shots hit airport fuel tanks but didn't ignite. He sprayed gunfire through his suite door, wounding a hotel security guard in the leg. Paddock may have seen the guard coming with a camera set up on a service cart in the hall, police said.

On Las Vegas Boulevard, uniformed police officers crouched near patrol vehicles being pocked by gunshots. Windows broke. One officer was struck in the arm. Another was hit in the neck. Both survived.

Officer Charleston Hartfield, who was off-duty attending the concert, was killed.

Sixty-four minutes after shooting stopped, a SWAT officer with explosives blasted through Paddock's hotel room door. Officers found him dead on the floor with guns and ammunition clips strewn about. Drapes fluttered next to broken windows.

Sirens wailed. Strangers carried wounded concert-goers to pickup trucks driven by volunteers that snaked through jammed traffic to hospitals.

Paddock left survival gear and thousands of rounds of ammunition in the room and bomb-making materials in his car parked in the Mandalay Bay valet area. Police said he left no suicide note or manifesto.

Find complete AP coverage of the Las Vegas mass shooting here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>

Iran Guard launches missiles into Syria over parade attack

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched six ballistic missiles early Monday toward eastern Syria, targeting militants it blamed for an attack on a military parade in Iran last month while also threatening regional adversaries as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers unravels.

The launch saw the Guard fire missiles with enough range to strike regional U.S. military bases and targets inside both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran's supreme leader has called out those two nations by name, accusing them of being behind the Sept. 22 attack on the parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz, something denied by both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

The strike on Monday marked the second-such attack by Iran in a month's time and highlighted the greater tension felt across the Mideast as U.S. sanctions targeting Tehran's oil industry will take effect in

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early November.

"This is the roaring of missiles belonging to the Revolutionary Guard of the Islamic Revolution," the state TV's reporter said as the missiles launched behind him. "In a few minutes, the world of arrogance — especially America, the (Israeli) Zionist regime and the Al Saud — will hear the sound of Iran's repeated blows." Al Saud is a reference to Saudi Arabia's royal family.

Iranian state TV and the state-run IRNA news agency said the missiles "killed and wounded" militants in Syria, without elaborating. Iran also launched drone attacks on the site afterward, the TV said. Syrian state media did not immediately acknowledge the strike.

Iranian TV identified the area from where the missiles were launched as in Iran's western province of Kermanshah. It also aired a graphic, suggesting the missiles flew over central Iraq near the city of Tikrit before landing near the city of Boukamal in the far southeast of Syria.

Boukamal is held by forces loyal to Syria's embattled President Bashar Assad. However, the city has been targeted even now by IS militants who have lost almost all the territory they once held in both Syria and Iraq.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, told The Associated Press that the Iranian missiles hit the IS-held town of Hajin, just north of Boukamal.

Strong explosions shook the area in the early hours of Monday, reverberating east of the Euphrates River, he said. The area of Hajin and IS militants there have been under attack for weeks by U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters.

The U.S. military's Central Command, which is aiding Kurdish forces, acknowledged that Iranian forces "did conduct no-notice strikes" in the area.

"At this time, the coalition is still assessing if any damage occurred and no coalition forces were in danger," U.S. Army Col. Sean Ryan told the AP.

A Syria-based official with the so-called "Axis of Resistance" led by Iran, which includes Iran, Syria, the Lebanese militant Hezbollah and other groups fighting alongside Assad's forces said the missiles hit "the last pocket held by Daesh" in Syria, using an Arabic term to refer to IS.

The official spoke to the AP via text messages from Syria on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists. IS militants did not immediately acknowledge the attack.

The missile launch further adds to confusion over who carried out the assault on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahvaz on Sept. 22 that killed at least 24 people and wounded over 60.

Iran initially blamed Arab separatists for the attack in which gunmen disguised as soldiers opened fire on the crowd and officials watching the parade from a viewing platform in the southwestern city. Arab separatists also immediately claimed the attack and offered details about one of the attackers that ulti-



In this photo released on Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, missiles are fired from city of Kermanshah in western Iran targeting the Islamic State group in Syria. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said Monday it launched ballistic missiles into eastern Syria targeting militants it blamed for a recent attack on a military parade. (Sepahnews via AP)

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mately turned out to be true.

The separatists want to see that oil-rich region of Iran break away from Tehran's theocratic government and accuse its Persian officials of discriminating against their minority. Previously, they only attacked targets like unguarded oil pipelines at night.

The Islamic State group also claimed responsibility for the Ahvaz assault, but initially made factually incorrect claims about it. Later, IS released footage of several men that Iran ultimately identified as attackers, though the men in the footage never pledged allegiance to the extremist group.

In announcing the launch, Iranian state media said the missiles targeted both "takfiri" militants — a term it often applies to the Islamic State group — and Ahvazi separatists. The separatists have not been known to work with IS in the past.

Mohsen Rezaei, who formerly led the Guard, praised the missile strike on Twitter, adding that the "main punishment is on the way," suggesting more attacks could be imminent.

The strike may have been for an entirely different audience, however.

One missile shown on Iranian state television bore the slogans "Death to America, Death to Israel, Death to Al Saud," referring to Saudi Arabia's ruling family.

The semi-official Fars news agency, believed to be close to the Guard, identified the six missiles used as Zolfaghar and Qiam variants, which have ranges of 750 kilometers (465 miles) and 800 kilometers (500 miles) respectively. Those missiles can reach Emirati and Saudi targets, as well as U.S. bases.

Tensions in the region have been rising for months after President Donald Trump pulled America out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in May. The United Nations says Iran still honors terms of the accord, which saw it limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Iran's already weak economy has suffered since the American withdrawal, its rial currency now trading at 170,000 to one U.S. dollar. In May, the rial stood at around 62,000 to \$1. A year ago, it was 39,000 to \$1.

This is the third time in about a year that Iran has fired its ballistic missiles in anger.

Last year, Iran fired ballistic missiles into Syria over a bloody IS attack on Tehran targeting parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In September, Iran fired missiles into Iraq targeting a base of an Iranian Kurdish separatist group. The separatists say that strike killed at least 15 people and wounded over 50.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Melania Trump forges ahead as first lady with Africa trip

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Melania Trump heads for Africa on her first big solo international trip, aiming to make child well-being the focus of a five-day, four-country tour that will take her to every corner of the vast and impoverished continent.

Departing on Monday, she opens her first-ever visit to Africa on Tuesday in Ghana in the West, followed by stops in Malawi in the South, Kenya in the East and Egypt in the Northeast.

Her first extended turn on the world stage outside the shadow of President Donald Trump could still be complicated by her husband, who has spoken of the continent in impolite and even vulgar terms.

That leaves the first lady with some fence-mending duties.

"She's got some heavy lifting to do on this trip and it's a little bit unfair because that's not what a first lady's trip should be about," said Judd Devermont, the Africa program director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. First ladies usually practice a softer form of diplomacy, showing interest in a host nation's schools, hospitals and arts programs, and avoiding thornier issues.

Joshua Meservey, a senior Africa policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, countered by noting the "positive engagements" the president has had with some African heads of state, including President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, who met with Trump at the White House in late August. Trump also met last week in

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New York with President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt.

Meservey also noted that the U.S. spends considerable amounts on public health and development initiatives in Malawi, which is among the world's least-developed countries.

"I think the U.S.-Africa relationship is much bigger than the president's comments, and it's been going on for decades and decades," he said. "Frankly, I suspect the vast majority of average Africans have not heard of any of those dust-ups. It's very much an elite preoccupation."

"Africans are, generally speaking, very gracious hosts" who will "roll out the red carpet and do their absolute best to be hospitable," Meservey said.

Days before the first lady was to board a U.S. government airplane for the flight across the Atlantic, Trump declared at the United Nations that he and his wife "love Africa."

Mrs. Trump's five days on the continent will feature a mix of visits to hospitals, schools and shelters as she focuses on the well-being of children.

Child welfare is a top issue for Mrs. Trump, the mother of a 12-year-old son. She focuses on the issue in the United States through an initiative she launched this year named "Be Best." This week's trip will mark her first extended period promoting the program and its goals abroad, separate from an event she held during a stop in London with the president in July.

A former fashion model born in Slovenia and now a naturalized U.S. citizen, the 48-year-old Mrs. Trump has traveled extensively with the president, including to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Italy, Brussels, France, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom. She was in Finland for the president's July summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin but did not go to Singapore for Trump's June meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Her only other international foray was brief: a September 2017 day trip to Toronto to join Britain's Prince Harry at a military athletic competition.

Often seen as a reluctant first lady — she did not fully move into the White House until nearly six months after Trump took office, due to her son's schooling in New York — Mrs. Trump has kept a low profile in comparison to her immediate predecessors. She was sidelined for several weeks following kidney surgery in May.

Immediate predecessors Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush and Michelle Obama all made multiple trips abroad without their spouses during their administration's two terms. Such travel has become expected of first ladies, and a similar excursion was viewed as a next step in Mrs. Trump's evolution in one of the world's most scrutinized roles.

Former first ladies Clinton, Bush and Obama also made repeat solo trips to Africa.



In this Sept. 26, 2018, photo, first lady Melania Trump leaves the podium after speaking during a reception at the United States mission to the United Nations. Pushing forward in her role as first lady, Trump is scheduled to leave Monday on her way to Africa on her first big international trip without the president and plans to make child well-being the focus of a five-day, four-country tour partly designed to engender goodwill toward the United States in each corner of the vast and impoverished continent. (AP

Photo/Jason DeCrow)

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"The first lady, when she travels to a foreign country, can carry the flag and there's a great deal she could do to engender good feeling about the United States and I hope she can do that," Myra Gutin, who studies first ladies at Rider University in New Jersey, said of Mrs. Trump.

President Trump raised ire across Africa earlier this year after his private complaint about the continent's "s---hole countries" was leaked to journalists.

He later offered a partial denial in public but privately defended his remarks, The Associated Press reported in January. He also didn't deny the comment when he was asked about it while hosting Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at the White House in April.

The president further roiled South Africa when he recently claimed on Twitter that the country is seizing farms and that high numbers of farmers are being killed. He pushed "send" on the tweet after watching a Fox News segment about land issues in South Africa. While killings of farmers have been taking place for more than 20 years and are widely seen as part of South Africa's high crime rate, experts say white farmers have not been the target. Nor are there signs of widespread killings, they said.

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

One and not done: Brews-Cubs, Rockies-Dodgers in tiebreakers

By BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer

Triple Crown contender Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers at Wrigley Field. Nolan Arenado and the big-hitting Colorado Rockies at Dodger Stadium.

October baseball is about to begin with Game No. 163 on Monday.

Two tiebreakers on the same day for the first time in major league history. Both to divvy up divisions, too.

"It's interesting that baseball is such a perfect game in some ways that it takes 162 to not decide anything," Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo and the Cubs begin the doubleheader drama when they host Milwaukee for the NL Central crown. Later in the afternoon, Dodgers rookie Walker Buehler is set to start when Los Angeles faces Colorado for the NL West title.

There's a catch, though.

All four teams are already assured playoff spots, either as a division champ or wild card. The Dodgers, Rockies, Brewers and Cubs knew that going into Sunday, the final scheduled day of the regular season, and then romped by a combined score of 48-5.

So, it means this: These matchups are not one-and-done.

Never before has a team that lost a tiebreaker got to keep playing. Bucky Dent's pop-fly homer finished off the Red Sox in 1978. Matt Holliday slid home — and maybe touched the plate — to eliminate San Diego in 2007. David Price pitched Tampa Bay past Texas in 2013 to win the most recent matchup.



Christian Yelich de los Cerveceros de Milwaukee festeja tras batear un jonrón ante los Tigres de Detroit, el sábado 29 de septiembre de 2018. (AP Foto/Morry Gash)

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This time, they're all in. But, there's still a big difference between winning the division or going into the postseason as a wild card.

The Brewers-Cubs winner gets to start the best-of-five Division Series at home on Thursday against the wild card winner. The Colorado-Los Angeles winner also begins the NLDS at home versus Atlanta.

"It's a game where obviously it's not do-or-die, but I think that it's a must-win game," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said after a 15-0 rout in San Francisco.

"To win the game and get a couple days off, to host the Division Series is very important," he said.

The tiebreaker losers play Tuesday at the NL Central's site to determine who advances.

The AL playoff scenario is set.

Oakland and the Yankees hold the wild-card game Wednesday night in New York and the winner goes to Boston on Friday. Defending World Series champion Houston opens the ALDS against Cleveland.

Arenado homered twice and Charlie Blackmon hit for the cycle as the Rockies roughed up Washington 12-0. The Nationals decided to skip ace Max Scherzer and instead start Erick Fedde.

Colorado, which has never won a division title since beginning play in 1993, will try to deny the defending NL champion Dodgers their sixth straight West title. German Marquez, who struck out eight straight batters to begin his last start, takes on Manny Machado, Justin Turner and their Los Angeles teammates.

"It's two of the best young starting pitchers in the big leagues pitching in this type of game," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "It's great."

The Dodgers topped Colorado 12-7 in the season series. The Cubs are 11-8 against Milwaukee.

At Wrigley, lefty Jose Quintana is set to start for the Cubs. He's 6-2 with a 1.60 ERA in 10 starts against Milwaukee. The Brewers haven't announced their starter.

The Cubs put themselves in this position with a 10-5 win at home over St. Louis. Milwaukee won its seventh in a row, trouncing Detroit 11-0.

"Expecting it to be fairly hostile tomorrow," Yelich said. "Any time we play the Cubs, it's a hostile environment, especially in Wrigley Field. It's going to be a lot of fun. We're looking forward to it."

Yelich is hitting .323 in his first season with Milwaukee, sealing the first batting title in Brewers' history. He has 109 RBIs, tied with Arenado and two behind Javier Baez of the Cubs. Yelich's 36 home runs are even with Colorado's Trevor Story and St. Louis' Matt Carpenter, one behind Arenado.

Since the tiebreakers are considered game No. 163 of the regular season, all stats Monday will count, giving Yelich a chance to win the first NL Triple Crown since Joe Medwick in 1937.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

California's tough net neutrality bill prompts US lawsuit

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation's toughest net neutrality measure Sunday, requiring internet providers to maintain a level playing field online. The move prompted an immediate lawsuit by the Trump administration.

Advocates of net neutrality hope the new law in the home of the global technology industry will have national implications by pushing Congress to enact national net neutrality rules or encouraging other states to follow suit.

But the U.S. Department of Justice wants to stop the law, arguing that it creates burdensome, anti-consumer requirements that go against the federal government's approach of deregulating the internet.

"Once again the California Legislature has enacted an extreme and illegal state law attempting to frustrate federal policy," U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement.

The law is the latest example of the nation's most populous state seeking to drive public policy outside its borders and rebuff President Donald Trump's agenda.

Brown did not explain his reasons for signing the bill or comment on the federal lawsuit Sunday night.

Supporters of the new law cheered it as a win for internet freedom. It is set to take effect Jan. 1.

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"This is a historic day for California. A free and open internet is a cornerstone of 21st century life: our democracy, our economy, our health care and public safety systems, and day-to-day activities," said Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener, the law's author.

The Federal Communications Commission last year repealed rules that prevented internet companies from exercising more control over what people watch and see on the internet.

Telecommunications companies lobbied hard to kill it or water it down, saying it would lead to higher internet and cellphone bills and discourage investments in faster internet. They say it's unrealistic to expect them to comply with internet regulations that differ from state to state.

USTelecom, a telecommunications trade group, said California writing its own rules will create problems.

"Rather than 50 states stepping in with their own conflicting open internet solutions, we need Congress to step up with a national framework for the whole internet ecosystem and resolve this issue once and for all," the group said in a Sunday statement.

Net neutrality advocates worry that without rules, internet providers could create fast lanes and slow lanes that favor their own sites and apps or make it harder for consumers to see content from competitors.

That could limit consumer choice or shut out upstart companies that can't afford to buy access to the fast lane, critics say.

The new law prohibits internet providers from blocking or slowing data based on content or from favoring websites or video streams from companies that pay extra.

It also bans "zero rating," in which internet providers don't count certain content against a monthly data cap — generally video streams produced by the company's own subsidiaries and partners.

Oregon, Washington and Vermont have approved legislation related to net neutrality, but California's measure is seen as the most comprehensive attempt to codify the principle in a way that might survive a likely court challenge. An identical bill was introduced in New York.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Mike Balsamo in Washington and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento contributed to this report.



FILE - In this June 29, 2018, file photo, California Gov. Jerry Brown speaks at a forum in Sacramento, Calif. Brown signed the nation's toughest net neutrality measure Sunday, Sept. 30, requiring internet providers to maintain a level playing field online. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File)

Economy remains strong in Midwest but trade worries linger

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey suggests the economy remains strong in nine Midwest and Plains states, but business leaders are concerned about the ongoing trade disputes.

The overall economic index for the region slipped to 57.5 in September from August's 61.1, but it remained in positive territory.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says he expects business will slow down but continue growing

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in the next few months because of the trade concerns and rising interest rates.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2018. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 1, 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

On this date:

In 1890, Congress passed the McKinley Tariff Act, which raised tariffs to a record level.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a bomb explosion and fire; 21 Times employees were killed.

In 1937, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black delivered a radio address in which he acknowledged being a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, but said he had dropped out of the organization before becoming a U.S. senator.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing. A 42-day strike by the United Steelworkers of America began over the issue of retirement benefits.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley. Japan's first high-speed "bullet train," the Tokaido Shinkansen, went into operation between Tokyo and Osaka.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1972, the book "The Joy of Sex" by Alex Comfort was first published by Mitchell Beazley of London.

In 1982, Sony began selling the first commercial compact disc player, the CDP-101, in Japan.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area.

In 1994, National Hockey League team owners began a 103-day lockout of their players.

In 1996, a federal grand jury indicted Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski in the 1994 mail bomb slaying of advertising executive Thomas Mosser. (Kaczynski was later sentenced to four life terms plus 30 years.) The federal minimum wage rose 50 cents to four dollars, 75 cents an hour.

Ten years ago: After one spectacular failure in the House, the \$700 billion financial industry bailout won lopsided passage in the Senate, 74-25, after it was loaded with tax breaks and other sweeteners. Nick Reynolds, a founding member of the Kingston Trio, died in San Diego at age 75. TV actor House Peters Jr., the original "Mr. Clean," died in Los Angeles at age 92.

Five years ago: The federal government partially shut down because of a budget impasse in Congress, the same day Americans got their first chance to shop for health insurance using the online marketplaces that were at the heart of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul (however, government websites designed to sell the policies struggled to handle the traffic, with many frustrated users reporting trouble setting up accounts). Novelist Tom Clancy, 66, died in Baltimore.

One year ago: A gunman opened fire from a room at the Mandalay Bay casino hotel in Las Vegas on a crowd of 22,000 country music fans at a concert below, leaving 58 people dead and more than 800 injured in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history; the gunman, 64-year-old Stephen Craig Paddock, killed himself before officers arrived. O.J. Simpson was released from a prison in Nevada a few minutes after midnight, after serving nine years for a botched hotel-room heist in Las Vegas. Germany celebrated its first same-sex weddings, after a law took effect putting gay and lesbian couples on an equal legal footing with heterosexual couples.

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Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 94. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 83. Actress Stella Stevens is 80. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 75. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 73. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 72. Actress Yvette Freeman is 68. Actor Randy Quaid is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 63. British Prime Minister Theresa May is 62. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 60. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 59. Actor Esai Morales is 56. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 55. Actor Christopher Titus is 54. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 53. Producer John Ridley is 53. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 50. Actor Zach Galifianakis (ga-lih-fih-NA'-kihs) is 49. Singer Keith Duffy is 44. Actress Kate Aselton is 40. Actress Sarah Drew is 38. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 34. Actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell is 32. Actress Brie Larson is 29. Singer/songwriter Jade Bird is 21. Actor Jack Stanton is 10.

Thought for Today: "It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere." — Agnes Repplier (REHP'-leer), American essayist (1858-1950).