

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 02, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 086 ~ 1 of 47



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



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## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### 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



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

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



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

## Rounds Report: South Dakota Veterans Cemetery One Step Closer to Becoming Reality

Today, it was announced that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) signed off on the South Dakota state cemetery grant application, which puts our state on the priority list for grant funding to construct a state veterans cemetery in eastern South Dakota on land donated by the city of Sioux Falls. A grant could be awarded as early as next year. This is great news for South Dakota veterans and their families.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, this project has been a priority of mine, and I am happy to see it move forward. Once completed, this cemetery will not only serve as a final resting place for those who fought for our country, but it will be a place for all Americans to honor those who served. I thank the South Dakota Veterans Council, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and our local VSO chapters for their hard work on this important project.

Earlier this year, Governor Dugaard signed a bill to allow the state to apply to the National Cemetery Administration to construct a state veterans cemetery and set up an endowment fund to help pay the upfront costs of construction and maintenance.

## What to Do When Outside Insects Make a House Call

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Fall is when insects and spiders that overwinter as adults, begin looking for shelter. Often, making their way into our homes.

This activity often goes by unnoticed and the vast majority of these critters don't cause us any harm. However, there are some that we definitely don't want as roommates.

So, how do we know the difference between harmless house guests and bad tenants? And, what is the best way to evict the ones we don't want?

SDSU Extension has some answers thanks to the efforts of Amanda Bachman, SDSU Extension Pesticide Education & Urban Entomology Field Specialist, Patrick Wagner, SDSU Extension Entomology Field Specialist and Adam Varenhorst, Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension Field Crop Entomologist.

### How to manage pesky invaders

The first steps to managing pesky insects and arthropods who invade our indoor space, is to learn how to identify them and how to dispose of them. In case the reader is having a difficult time visualizing what an arthropod is, Bachmann has a simple way to describe the term. "Arthropods include insects, spiders, millipedes, centipedes and everything that is crunchy on the outside."

Begin with these precautionary steps:

Visually inspect the home for any structural entry points and fix any that are found.

Check the weather-stripping around doors and replace any that doesn't provide a tight seal or appears to be hard/weathered.

Check around windows to ensure there aren't any gaps or spaces around them and check to see that they close properly without any gaps.

Don't store grain or grain-based products (including dry pet food) in open containers or containers that don't provide an airtight seal.

Apply summer/fall insecticide perimeter sprays around the outside of the home.

### Harmful pests

Although most insects and arthropods are harmless, there are some that can cause harm to humans and/or pets either by direct feeding or by infesting food or clothing items.

These include: bed bugs, fleas and lice.

Getting rid of these serious pests requires professional assistance to provide the homeowner with protocols they can follow or, in the case of bed bugs, typically, professional pest control is required.

Although mosquitoes and ticks will feed on humans indoors, we have not included them in this category because they are not capable of completing their life cycle in the home.

Some less serious include: cockroaches, flour beetles, Indian meal moths, larder beetles, carpet beetles and clothes moths. These will feed on food items or animal-based household products such as clothes, carpet and, yes, even insect collections.

These less serious indoor insect pests can be handled in the following ways: for cockroaches, Indian meal moths and flour beetles, remove the food source and store products differently. Get rid of clothes moths by using cedar. And a vacuum can quickly take care of larder and carpet beetles.

## Accidental invaders

Like their group name implies, these are the insects and spiders that accidentally find their way inside and, they would much prefer to remain outdoors because accidental invaders do not feed or reproduce indoors.

Common fall invaders in South Dakota include picture wing/attic flies (Figure 2), boxelder bugs (Figure 3), multicolored Asian lady beetles and Western conifer seed bugs (Figure 4).

Most can be dealt with via mechanical means, such as a shoe, broom, vacuum or catch and release.

Now there is an exception, when it comes to the multicolored Asian lady beetle (Figure 1), a vacuum is not the best solution, as this particular species of lady beetle is capable of emitting a strong, displeasing odor that will linger in vacuums. The best course of action is to simply catch the beetle in a container with a lid and then discard outdoors.

Every fall, we get reports of millipedes in garages and basements - spaces that end up being too dry for these moisture-loving arthropods. They can't find their way out before drying out and dying. This is why they are normally observed curled up along a wall, these are best removed with a broom and dust pan.

Large spiders also fall into this category.

It seems that the larger the spider, the more dangerous people think it is. Thus, wolf spiders (Figure 5), grass spiders, and some of the bigger orb weavers get killed only because they look scary.

However, these insects do not pose a direct threat to humans and can be removed from a house using a catch and release tactic or simply by squishing them.

The presence of spiders around a home can indicate an increased amount of prey present around the home. One simple method of reducing spider populations is to ensure that insects aren't attracted to your home at night by reducing the amount of light shining through windows or reducing the time that outdoor lights are on.

## Need help with identification?

The SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic (<https://www.sdstate.edu/sdsu-plant-diagnostic-clinic>) can help with identifying insects and arthropods. Simply submit a clear picture to [sdsu.pdc@sdstate.edu](mailto:sdsu.pdc@sdstate.edu) or contact Bachmann at 605.773.8120 or [Amanda.bachmann@sdstate.edu](mailto:Amanda.bachmann@sdstate.edu).

# **Groton's 3rd Pumpkin Fest**

*Saturday, October 6, 2018*

*10am - 3pm*

Groton City Park



Hayrides to and from the Pumpkin Patch, Train Rides,  
Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting, Inflatables,  
Fall Mini Photo Sessions, Lunch Served 11am-1pm

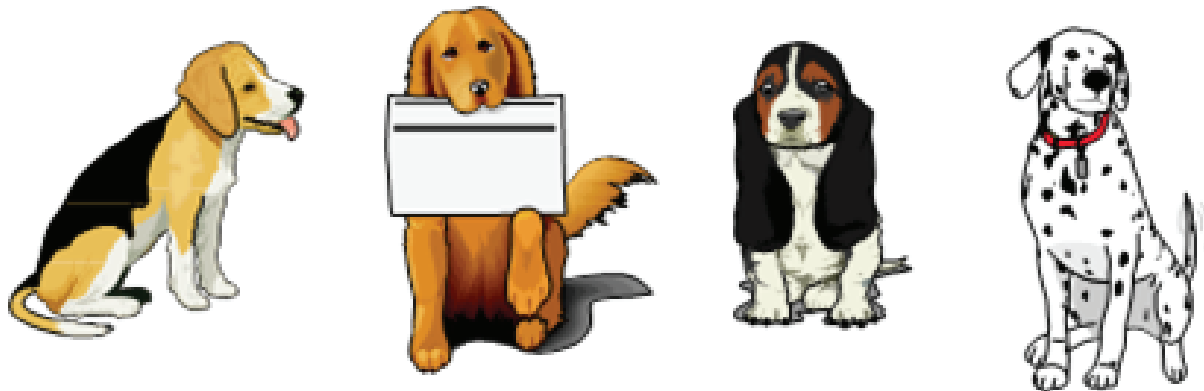
**Thanks to our many sponsors!!**

Alternate Date: October 7, 2018

## 2019 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!



**Licenses due by Dec. 28, 2018**  
**Fines start Jan. 2, 2019**



Please bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to City Hall or  
email to [library@grotonsd.net](mailto:library@grotonsd.net) or fax to 397-4498

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,  
otherwise \$10 per dog

## Motorists Seeing Unexpected Gas Price Jumps at the Pump

October 1, 2018 - Despite gasoline demand dropping to 9.0 million b/d and inventories growing to 235.7 million bbl, according to the latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, the national gas price average has increased three cents on the week to land at \$2.88 – a pump price not seen at the national average since mid-July.

“The last quarter of the year has kicked off with gas prices that feel more like summer than fall,” said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. “This time of year, motorists are accustomed to seeing prices drop steadily, but due to continued global supply and demand concerns as well as very expensive summertime crude oil prices, motorists are not seeing relief at the pump.”

### South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.901

Yesterday Avg. \$2.914

Week Ago Avg. \$2.858

Month Ago Avg. \$2.841

Year Ago Avg. \$2.489

Today's national gas price average (\$2.88) is the most expensive for the beginning of October since 2014. The average is four cents more than a month ago and 32 cents more than a year ago.

### Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$2.57), Alabama (\$2.57), South Carolina (\$2.58), Louisiana (\$2.59), Virginia (\$2.62), Arkansas (\$2.62), Tennessee (\$2.63), Texas (\$2.63), Missouri (\$2.68) and Delaware (\$2.69).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly changes are: Florida (+10 cents), Michigan (+10 cents), California (+8 cents), West Virginia (+7 cents), Missouri (+7 cents), Ohio (-6 cents), Delaware (-6 cents), New Mexico (+6 cents), Iowa (+6 cents) and Nebraska (+5 cents).

### Central and Great Lakes Region

Refinery maintenance across the Great Lakes and Central states continues to contribute to higher gas prices in the region. In fact, refinery utilization in the region dropped to 83 percent, which is the lowest rate since April 2016. On the week, four states have gas prices that are a nickel or more expensive: Michigan (+10 cents), Missouri (+7 cents), Iowa (+6 cents) and Nebraska (+5 cents). Once refineries wrap-up maintenance, gas prices in the region are expected to ease, though maintenance could last through November.

Three states in the region are benefitting from cheaper pump prices at the start of the week: Ohio (-6 cents), Indiana (-4 cents), Kentucky (-3 cents) and Illinois (-3 cents).

The positive news is that Great Lakes and Central states' gasoline inventories remain at a healthy 52.2 million bbl level. If inventories fall dramatically, motorists could see prices spike even more in the region.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased \$1.13 to settle at \$73.25. Crude prices rallied last week due to concerns around the impact of U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iran and economic collapse in Venezuela on global crude supply this fall. The increase in crude prices occurred despite crude oil inventories increasing to 396 million bbl last week after five consecutive weeks of decline, according to EIA's report for the week ending on September 21. The new crude data from EIA will likely leave the market searching for additional evidence of supply constraints, including this week's EIA report, which could push crude prices even higher this fall.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 59 million members nationwide and nearly 97,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, non-profit corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app ([AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile)) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

## Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert Systems Oct. 3

PIERRE, S.D. – Cell phone users will be part of a nationwide test of emergency alert systems scheduled for this Wednesday, Oct. 3. The test had originally been scheduled for Sept. 20, but was postponed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA). The WEA portion of the test begins at 1:18 p.m. CDT. The EAS portion begins at 1:20 p.m. CST.

All smartphone users will receive a wireless alert test message during the WEA scenario. The message will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed." Cell phones will display the test message under the header "Presidential Alert."

Phone numbers are not shared with anyone.

Tina Titze, director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management, says the WEA system is used to warn the public about dangerous weather or other critical situations. She says the test warning will be broadcasted for about 30 minutes, but cell phones will receive the message just once.

"This is the system that is used when the public, especially in a specific area, needs to be notified immediately," she says. "This is a way that citizens can prepare for an imminent situation."

The EAS test is made available to EAS participants such as radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video providers. It will last one minute and is similar to regular monthly EAS test messages heard on radio and television. Some cell phones, but likely not all, may receive this message as well.

Titze says the tests are designed to test the system that would be used in actual emergencies. "We encourage citizens to take these test warnings seriously," she says. "Someday it may be a real situation and these tests can help you and your family stay safe."

More information on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and Wireless Emergency Alerts is available at [www.ready.gov/alerts](http://www.ready.gov/alerts).

The Office of Emergency Management is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

## State Park Entrance Licenses Available for 2019

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2019 annual park entrance license for South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas is available for purchase.

The 2019 park entrance license is valid from Oct. 1, 2018, through May 17, 2020. An annual park entrance license is \$30. Purchasers of one license can also buy a second at half price. The license is required for entrance into designated state parks, recreation areas and lakeside use areas, although it does not cover camping costs or additional fees.

South Dakota state parks offer a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, kayaking, disc golf, fishing, archery and bird watching.

Entrance licenses can be purchased online at [campsd.com](http://campsd.com), at local state park offices or by calling 1.800.710.2267.

The 2019 annual entrance license celebrates the state park system's 100 years of outdoor tradition. Custer State Park was designated the first state park in 1919.



## SDDOT Receives Additional Federal Transit Funding

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) says they have received five grant awards for an additional \$2,774,400 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding through FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program competitive grant program.

"The SDDOT will be receiving these federal funds on behalf of public transit sponsors who will pay the required match on these grants. The application process for these funding opportunities was a team effort by the South Dakota transit providers, FTA and SDDOT. The awards reflect another great example of the positive partnership forged between the entities," says Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist.

These funds are designated to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders by replacement, rehabilitation and construction of bus-related facilities, such as buildings for bus storage and maintenance. The funds awarded to SDDOT will be used to address the needs of public transit vehicle replacements, facilities and equipment. The federal funds awarded are required to be matched by local funds obtained by the subrecipient noted in the award notice.

The grants provide funding for replacement of numerous vehicles throughout the state to improve reliability and capacity, construction of a new transit facility in Highmore, a remodel of River Cities Public Transit's existing facility to enhance their call center operations in Pierre, expansion of the Yankton Transit Facility and acquisition of snow removal equipment for Prairie Hills Transit and River Cities Transit to enhance their service capacities during inclement weather.

\$262,200: The Oglala Sioux Tribe will receive funding to purchase accessible transit vehicles equipped with ITS technology. The project will help replace older vehicles with newer, more reliable models to improve service.

\$400,000: The South Dakota Department of Transportation will receive funding for the Highmore Transit Facility. The project will construct a modern facility for maintenance and operations in an area that currently lacks a centralized facility.

\$160,000: The South Dakota Department of Transportation will receive funding for the River Cities Public Transit (RCPT) Call Center. The project will help RCPT managed increased demand by scheduling and dispatching rides more effectively.

\$80,000: The South Dakota Department of Transportation on behalf of Prairie Hill Transit and River Cities Transit will receive funding for snow removal equipment. The project will help ensure reliable service in inclement weather.

\$350,000: The South Dakota Department of Transportation will receive funding for the Yankton Transit Facility. The project will help expand the existing facility to better protect and maintain vehicles.

## Doeden leads Groton Area with win over Florence/Henry



**Jennie Doeden going after the ball in the volleyball match against Florence/Henry.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Jennie Doeden had 13 kills, five ace serves and two blocks as the Groton Area Volleyball team defeated Florence/Henry Monday night in Groton, 3-0. Game scores were 25-22, 25-9 and 25-12.

The first game was tied three times at the beginning before the Falcons took the lead and held a six-point advantage at one point, 11-5. Groton Area rallied to tie the game at 15, but did not take the lead until 21-20. Groton Area won, 25-22. The Tigers had 11 kills led by Doeden with four and Nicole Marzahn with three. Florence/Henry had 10 kills and one block.

Groton Area took charge of the second game, jumping out to a 10-0 lead en route to a 25-9 win. The Tigers had 15 kills with Doeden having five kills, two blocks and an ace serve in the second game while Eliza Wanner had five kills. Florence/Henry was limited to three kills in the second game game.

Groton Area got the early lead again in the third game at 4-0 and

went on for the 25-12 win. Groton Area had 13 kills and five ace serves with Doeden having four kills and four ace serves in the final game and Indigo Rogers and Wanner each had three kills. The Falcons had five kills and an ace serve.

For the match, Groton Area was 65 of 72 in serving with 10 ace serves. Doeden was 14 of 16 with five ace serves and Payton Maine was 15 of 16 with two ace serves. Florence/Henry was 32 of 36 with one ace serve by Carlie Moe.

In sets, Groton Area had 35 assists with Kaylin Kucker having 33. Florence/Henry had 89 assists with Brooke Stevens having 14.

In attacks, the Tigers were 96 of 110 with 39 kills. Doeden was 29 of 35 with 13 kills, Eliza Wanner had nine kills, Nicole Marzahn seven, Indigo Rogers five, Portia Kettering two and Maine and Miranda Hanson each had one. Florence/Henry was 71 of 91 with 14 kills. Jacey Orthaus was 21 of 28 with six kills and Mykcel Sprung was 19 of 24 with five kills.

Doeden had two blocks and Maine had 17 digs while Kucker had seven digs. Florence/Henry had one block by Sprung and Orthaus had 23 digs.

The Tigers will travel to Frederick tonight to take on the Leola/Frederick T

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**Roger Rix (right), Groton Kiwanis acting president, introduced his speaker at the September 26 Kiwanis weekly dinner meeting, Ruby Donovan (left.) Donovan spoke on suicide. (Courtesy photo)**



**Lee Schinkel's guest at a recent Groton Kiwanis meeting was Groton Area Elementary Principal Brett Schwan. Pictured on the right is acting Groton Kiwanis President Roger Rix. (Courtesy photo)**

## Snowfall Climatology

*With below average temps and above average precip likely through at least the first 2 weeks of October, will 2018 be ahead of schedule for first measurable snowfall?*

1<sup>st</sup> 0.1" or greater snowfall

Average 1<sup>st</sup> 0.1" or greater snowfall

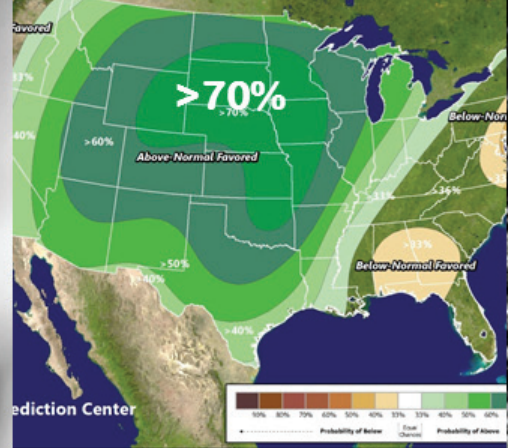
Aberdeen	Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> (1995)	Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>
Watertown	Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> (1995)	Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>
Pierre	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> (1999)	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>
Mobridge	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> (1999)	Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>
Sisseton	Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> (1942)	Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>
Kennebec	Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> (1912)	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>
Timber Lake	Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> (1912)	Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>
Wheaton	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> (2006)	Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

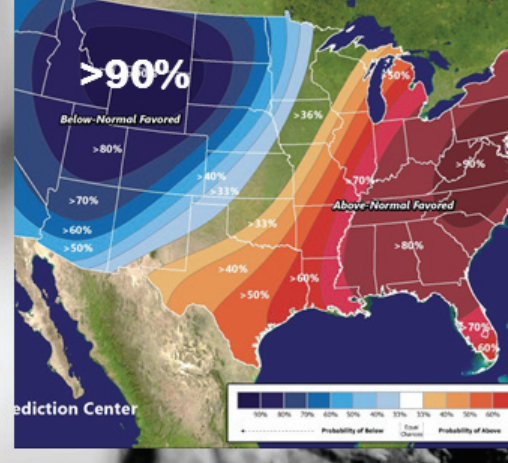


Published on: 10/01/2018 at 7:46PM

### 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook Oct 07 - Oct 11, 2018



### 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook Oct 07 - Oct 11, 2018



While October has just begun, a persistent cold and wet pattern may accelerate the timetable for the season's first measurable snowfall.

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## Today in Weather History

October 2, 1971: Heavy wet snow of over a foot fell in the northern Black Hills. The heavy snow was accompanied by high winds which caused extensive damage to trees and utility lines. The power company said it was one of the worst storms they had experienced.

1858: The only hurricane to impact California struck San Diego on this day. Two researchers with NOAA Michael Chenoweth and Christopher Landsea reconstructed the path of the storm using accounts from newspapers of the high winds. They estimated that if a similar storm were to have hit in 2004, it would have caused around \$500 million in damage.

1882 - An early season windstorm over Oregon and northern California blew down thousands of trees and caused great crop damage in the Sacramento Valley. (David Ludlum)

1959 - A tornado struck the town of Ivy, VA (located near Charlottesville). Eleven persons were killed, including ten from one family. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature at Blue Canyon, CA, soared to 88 degrees, an October record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Severe thunderstorms raked Phoenix, AZ, with heavy rain, high winds, and hail up to an inch and a half in diameter, for the second day in a row. Thunderstorms on the 1st deluged Phoenix with .68 inch of rain in five minutes, equalling their all-time record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A fast moving cold front produced snow flurries from Minnesota to the Appalachian Mountains, and gale force winds behind the front ushered cold air into the Great Lakes Region. Valentine NE reported a record low of 25 degrees. Temperatures recovered rapidly in the Northern High Plains Region, reaching the lower 80s by afternoon. Jackson, WY, warmed from a morning low of 21 degrees to an afternoon high of 76 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Early morning thunderstorms in Georgia produced three inches of rain at Canton and Woodstock. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Flooding due to thunderstorm rains in the southeastern U.S. on the last day of September and the first day of October caused the Etowah River to rise seven feet above flood stage at Canton GA. Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in northeastern Georgia, with six inches reported at Athens GA in 24 hours. One man was killed, and another man was injured, when sucked by floodwaters into drainage lines. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Partly Sunny

High: 68 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance  
T-storms

Low: 54 °F

Wednesday



Chance  
Showers and  
Areas Fog

High: 72 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Mostly Clear  
and Blustery  
then Frost

Low: 31 °F

Thursday



Frost then  
Rain Likely

High: 45 °F

Today	Tonight	Wednesday
<p><b>Mix of Sun &amp; Clouds</b></p> <p><b>Temperatures MN &amp; Northeast SD: Low 60s West River: Upper 70s</b></p>	<p><b>Storms North Central &amp; Northeast SD</b></p> <p><b>Cloudy Elsewhere</b></p> <p><b>Temperatures Lows in the 50s</b></p>	<p><b>Clearing</b></p> <p><b>Temperatures 60s North &amp; 80s South</b></p> <p><b>Very Windy Evening</b></p>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 10/2/2018 4:52 AM Central

Published on: 10/02/2018 at 5:00AM

We are in an active pattern this week and next. Today will feature a mix of sun and clouds with milder temperatures for a good part of the state. That warm air spreads east, along with the risk for a few weak storms tonight into Wednesday. A front moving across the area will cause very strong winds late Wednesday with very cold air pouring into the Dakotas. Cold enough that some spots could dip below freezing by Thursday morning.

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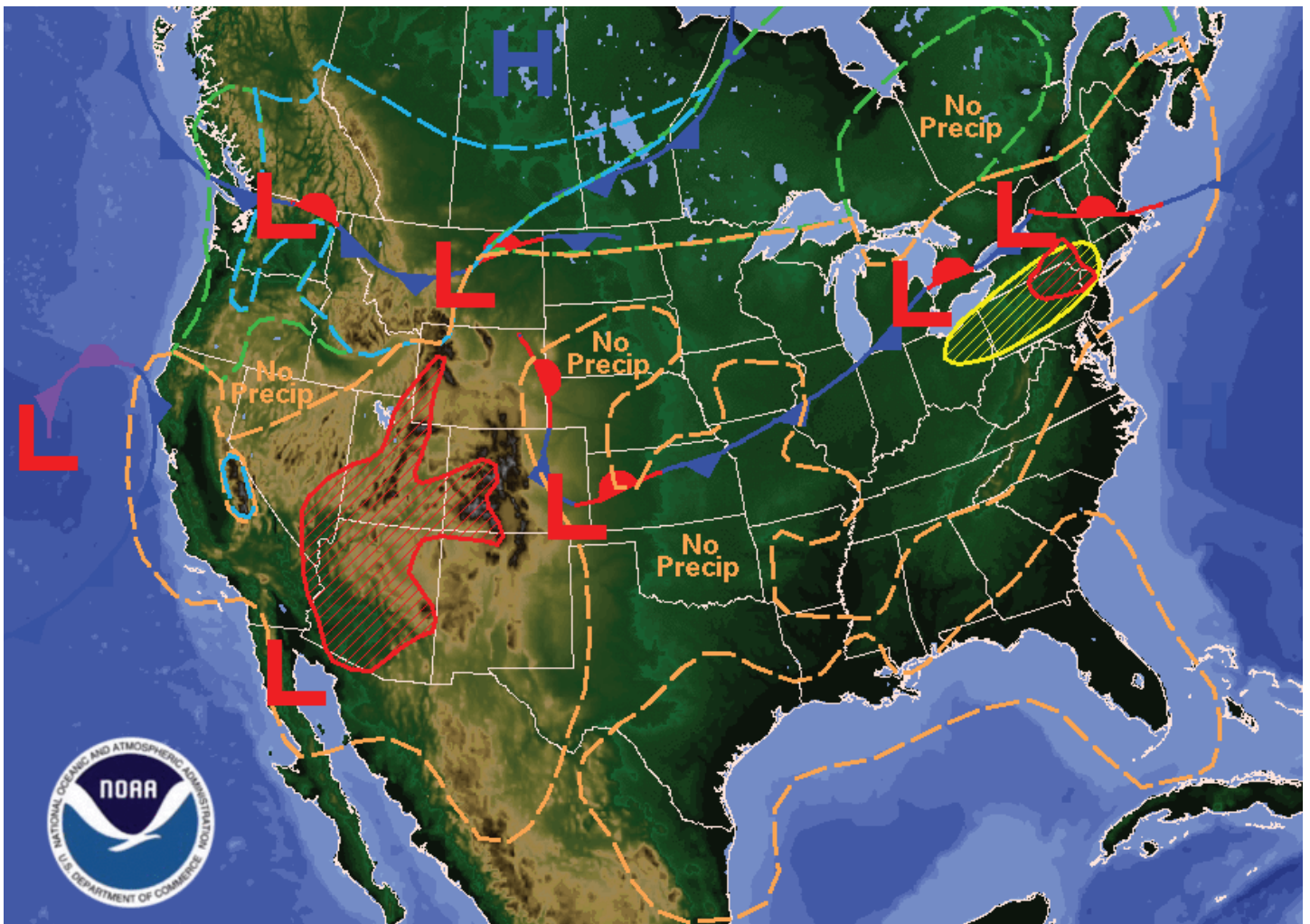
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 55 °F at 5:47 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 38 °F at 12:11 AM**  
**High Gust: 14 mph at 9:37 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 91° in 1897**  
**Record Low: 17° in 1974**  
**Average High: 65°F**  
**Average Low: 38°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.08**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.56**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.57**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:12 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:34 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Oct 02, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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

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## OPENED EYES, CLOSED MIND

Sir Isaac Newton is generally recognized as the most original and influential theorists in history. His impact on physics and mathematics was profound, and he is the one who also discovered gravity.

One day a visitor to his study remarked, Sir Isaac, I dont understand: you seem to believe the Bible like a little child. I have tried, but I cant. Many of the statements mean nothing to me. I cant believe, and I cant understand why.

Sir Isaac replied, Sometimes I come to my study, and in my absentmindedness, I attempt to light my candle when the extinguisher is over it. I fumble about trying to light it but cannot. But when I remove the extinguisher, then I am able to light the candle.

I am afraid the extinguisher in your case is your love for sin. It is deliberate unbelief that is in you. Turn to God in repentance, be prepared to let the Spirit of God reveal His truth to you, and it will be His joy to show the glory of the grace of God shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

It is unbelief that keeps the truth of Gods Word from entering our minds, hearts, and lives. Reading and doubting are the opposite of reading and accepting. If we expect God to speak to us from His Word, we must first take Him at His Word, and the truth that is in His Word: For by grace are you saved through faith.

The Lord, said the Psalmist, gives sight to the blind. He will open our eyes if we open our hearts.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to the grace You offer us through Christ and our eyes to see the truth in Your Word. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 146:8a The Lord gives sight to the blind.



## 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

### Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### Volleyball

Bon Homme def. Hanson, 25-18, 25-17, 12-25, 25-21  
Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-18, 28-26, 21-25, 17-25, 15-10  
Dell Rapids def. Dakota Valley, 25-23, 25-13, 24-26, 25-9  
Deubrook def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-21, 25-7, 25-15  
Edmunds Central def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-7, 25-12, 25-7  
Ipswich def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-12, 23-25, 26-24, 25-14  
Marshall, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-17, 25-8, 25-18  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Baltic, 25-12, 25-19, 25-9  
Redfield/Doland def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-14, 25-13, 25-18  
Tri-Valley def. Garretson, 20-25, 25-17, 25-17, 25-20  
Wagner def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-16, 25-9, 25-13  
Warner JV def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-23, 25-16, 25-23  
Waubay/Summit def. Britton-Hecla, 25-18, 25-18, 25-16  
Waverly-South Shore def. Lake Preston, 25-12, 25-19, 25-13  
West Central def. Sioux Valley, 25-15, 25-18, 25-18  
Wilmot def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-20, 15-25, 25-23, 25-19

### South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 3 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.<

#### Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;(30);6-0;150;2
2. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;-;5-1;115;1
3. Sioux Falls Washington;-;4-2;92;3
4. Brandon Valley;-;4-2;59;4
5. Watertown;-;5-1;34;5

Others receiving votes: None.<

#### Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Pierre;(30);5-1;150;1
2. Yankton;-;3-3;113;3
3. Harrisburg;-;3-3;81;2
4. Mitchell;-;3-3;61;RV
5. Brookings;-;3-3;27;5

Others receiving votes: Huron 18.<

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## Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Dakota Valley;(27);6-0;142;1
2. Tea Area;(3);6-0;118;2
3. Madison;-;5-1;88;3
4. Hot Springs;-;5-1;34;RV
5. West Central;-;3-3;25;4

Others receiving votes: Lennox 6, Todd County 4, Dell Rapids 3.<

## Class 11B

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Canton (29);6-0;149;2
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan -;5-1;103;1
3. Mount Vernon-Plankinton (1);6-0;95;3
4. SF Christian -;5-1;72;4
5. Winner -;4-2;23;5

Others receiving votes: Beresford 4, Lead-Deadwood 4.<

## Class 9AA

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Wolsey-Wessington (29);7-0;148;1
2. Bon Homme (1);6-1;116;2
3. Gregory -;5-1;87;3
4. Garretson -;6-0;52;4
5. Arlington-Lake Preston -;6-0;45;5

Others receiving votes: Hamlin 1, Webster Area 1.<

## Class 9A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Britton-Hecla;(27);6-0;147;1
2. Canistota-Freeman;(3);6-0;110;3
3. Clark-Willow Lake;-;6-1;97;4
4. Warner;-;5-2;40;3
5. Timber Lake;-;7-0;37;5

Others receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson 17, Howard 2.<

## Class 9B

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sully Buttes (28);6-0;147;1
2. Colome (2);6-0;118;3
3. Colman-Egan -;6-0;90;4
4. Castlewood -;5-1;49;2
5. Wall -;6-0;37;5

Others receiving votes: Faulkton Area 7, Harding County 2.<

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## South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the final South Dakota media volleyball poll for the 2018 season. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

### Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. O'Gorman	(11)	13-2	82	1
2. R.C. Stevens	(5)	20-1	75	2
3. S.F. Washington	(2)	13-2	59	3
4. Watertown	-	10-4	32	RV
5. Mitchell	-	11-3	17	4

Others receiving votes: Huron (10-4) 5.

### Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(18)	17-7	90	1
2. Miller	-	19-2	72	2
3. Winner	-	15-1	53	3
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	-	15-3	34 5
5. Elk Point-Jefferson	-	-	19-3	7 RV

Others receiving votes: Dakota Valley (12-6) 6, Dell Rapids (12-6) 5, St. Thomas More (21-5) 2, Wagner (15-3) 1.

### Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(18)	22-2	90	1
2. Warner	-	23-2	72	2
3. Chester Area	-	16-4	53	3
4. Ethan	-	19-3	31	4
5. Faith	-	16-0	18	5

Others receiving votes: Wall (4-0) 3, Burke (2-1) 1, Arlington (3-3) 1, Herreid-Selby Area (7-0) 1.

## Sioux Falls police searching for suspect in casino robbery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a man who robbed a casino over the weekend.

Authorities say the man entered the Empire Casino about 9 a.m. Sunday and demanded money. He implied he had a gun but didn't display one.

The man fled with an undisclosed amount of money. No one was hurt.

## Midwest economy: September state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for September:

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**Arkansas:** The September overall index for Arkansas sank to 52.5 from August's 58.7. Components of the index were new orders at 56.2, production or sales at 53.7, delivery lead time at 52.2, inventories at 52.6, and employment at 52.9. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Arkansas employers increased the hourly work week by 1 percent, well above the regional median, and average hourly pay by 1.8 percent, well below the regional median, Goss said.

**Iowa:** The September index for Iowa advanced slightly to a healthy 59.4 from 59.2 in August. Components of the overall index were new orders at 67.2, production or sales at 58.3, delivery lead time at 54.9, employment at 59.9, and inventories at 56.8. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Iowa employers increased the hourly work week by 0.4 percent, equal to the regional median, and average hourly pay by 3.6 percent, well above the regional median, Goss said.

**Kansas:** The overall Kansas index for September fell to 56.9 from August's 60.2. Components were new orders at 59.7, production or sales at 57.5, delivery lead time at 55.9, employment at 55.3, and inventories at 56.3. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Kansas employers increased the hourly work week by 0.8 percent, well above the regional median, and average hourly pay by 4.3 percent, also well above the regional median, Goss said.

**Minnesota:** The overall index for Minnesota declined to a healthy 60 from August's 61.9. Components of the overall September index were new orders at 61.8, production or sales at 60.5, delivery lead time at 58.8, inventories at 60.2, and employment at 58.8. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Minnesota employers increased the hourly work week by 0.1 percent, well below the regional median, and average hourly pay by 2.5 percent, slightly below the regional median, Goss said.

**Missouri:** The overall index for Missouri decreased to 54.8 from 56.5 in August. Components of the overall index were new orders at 57.2, production or sales at 53.8, delivery lead time at 57.2, inventories at 52.6, and employment at 53.0. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Missouri employers increased the hourly work week by 0.6 percent, slightly above the regional median, and average hourly pay by 3.0 percent, equal to the regional median, Goss said.

**Nebraska:** The overall index for Nebraska declined to 55.1 from August's 61.9. Components of the index were new orders at 58.2, production or sales at 55.3, delivery lead time at 53.7, inventories at 54.1, and employment at 54.2. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Nebraska employers decreased the hourly work week by 1.2 percent, well below the regional median, but increased average hourly pay by 2.7 percent, slightly below the regional median, Goss said.

**North Dakota:** The overall index for North Dakota fell to a very healthy 69.0 from 76.0 for August. Components of the overall index were new orders at 68.8, production or sales at 70.7, delivery lead time at 68.7, employment at 67.7, and inventories at 69.1. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, North Dakota employers increased the hourly work week by 1.3 percent, well above the regional median, and average hourly pay by 1.8 percent, also well below the regional median, Goss said.

**Oklahoma:** The overall index for Oklahoma has now remained above 50 for the last 14 months. The overall index declined to a solid 57.6 from August's 60.4. Components of the overall index were new orders at 60.1, production or sales at 58.0, delivery lead time at 56.4, inventories at 56.7, and employment at 56.6. Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, Oklahoma employers decreased the hourly work week by 0.2 percent, well below the regional median, but increased average hourly pay by 3.4 percent, which was above the regional median, Goss said.

**South Dakota:** The overall index for South Dakota sank to 50.4 from 55.6 for September. Components of the overall index were new orders at 54.6, production or sales at 50.1, delivery lead time at 48.7, inventories at 49.0, and employment at 49.7. "Over the past year, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, South Dakota employers increased the hourly work week by 0.4 percent, equal to the regional median, and average hourly pay by 4.1 percent, which was well above the regional median," Goss said.

## Family of woman killed in crash upset with man's punishment

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Family of a 19-year-old University of South Dakota cheerleader killed in a crash aren't happy with the punishment doled out to a Monroe man convicted of careless driving in the incident. Fifty-three-year-old Mark Begeman was fined \$120 on Friday in the March 8 crash that killed Caitlyn Carman.

The Argus Leader reports Carman's mother, Barb Olson, called it "a slap in the face."

Authorities say Carman was stopped at an intersection waiting to turn when her vehicle was rear-ended by Begeman's vehicle and pushed into the path of an oncoming semitrailer.

Careless driving is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine. But the judge ruled that since a \$120 fine was listed on Begeman's ticket, that was the maximum he could receive.

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

## Economy remains strong in Midwest but trade worries linger

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy remains strong in nine Midwest and Plains states, but business leaders are concerned about the ongoing trade disputes, according to a new monthly survey released Monday.

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, who oversees the survey, said he expects business will slow but continue growing in the next few months because of the trade concerns and rising interest rates.

"I expect expanding tariffs, trade restrictions, and rising short-term interest rates from a more aggressive Federal Reserve, to slow regional growth to a more modest but still positive pace in the months ahead," Goss said.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Any score above 50 suggests growth, while a score below that suggests decline, according to survey organizers.

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

Even with the trade tensions, Goss said business leaders remain fairly optimistic because profits have been strong. The survey's confidence index jumped to 68 in September from August's 60.8.

Business costs continue to increase. The survey's inflation index remained high at 76.1 in September even though it declined slightly from August's 80.5.

The survey showed strong trading numbers, but Goss said that might be the result of some businesses buying in advance of new tariffs and trade restrictions.

The export index grew to 53.1 in September from August's 51.8. The import index decreased slightly to 57.2 from August's 58.1.

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

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

Tours will be shut down from mid-October until about April, as workers upgrade structures built in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including sidewalks, stairs, guardrails, handrails and lights.

The structures were built in an "ad hoc manner" and are difficult to maintain and repair, Superintendent Michelle Wheatley said in a statement. The work will address safety concerns, including slips and trips, and will eliminate the possibility of falls for the 80,000 people who tour the cave each year, she said.

The National Park Service awarded the nearly \$5 million contract to MAC Construction of Rapid City. Company co-owner Brett Oleson said the job presents some challenges.

When some of the concrete walkways were built in the cave decades ago, workers cut tire inner tubes in half, filled them with wet concrete, slung them over their shoulders, and lugged them into the cave,

he told the Rapid City Journal. MAC Construction plans to use equipment that will make it easier for his workers, including electrically propelled carts and dollies.

"We're fairly confident in our ideas," Oleson said. "But I do imagine there is going to be some adjustment once we get down there."

Precautions will be taken to prevent damage to the sensitive cave environment. Blankets will protect cave surfaces, and dust will be captured by filters on tools and by plastic enclosures built atop work spaces. Workers will use electronic power tools and equipment, to prevent damaging the cave with exhaust fumes or other fuel-related contaminants.

Jewel Cave National Monument, known for its caverns with jewel-like calcite crystals, is 13 miles west of Custer in the southern Black Hills. Its visitor center, park store and surface trails will remain open during the rehabilitation.

"It's such a great landmark for our area, and to be able to say you had some part working in there, I think it's going to be pretty rewarding for me, our company and our guys," Oleson said.

## Sioux Falls home struck by bullets; no one injured

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — No one was injured when a Sioux Falls home was struck by bullets.

Officers responded to the area a little before midnight Sunday after a report of gunshots. The caller reported as many as four shots, and a vehicle driving away from the scene.

Authorities say an area residence was struck by bullets, but they're still investigating what happened. There have been no arrests.

## Suicidal man shoots self near high school football game

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — A suicidal man caused a stir when he shot himself near the site of a high school football game in Chamberlain after a chase with police.

The Daily Republic reports the Friday chase began at Lower Brule and ended in a practice field next to Chamberlain's football stadium.

When authorities surrounded the vehicle, the man got out and shot himself, suffering minor injuries. The nearby players from Chamberlain and Winner who were warming up for the game fled from the area, and spectators moved behind the bleachers.

The game started about half an hour later than scheduled.

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

## Amazon raising minimum wage for US workers to \$15 per hour

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon is boosting its minimum wage for all U.S. workers to \$15 per hour starting next month.

The company said Tuesday that the wage hike will benefit more than 350,000 workers, which includes full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal positions. Employees at Whole Foods, which Amazon now owns, will get the same pay hike. Amazon's hourly operations and customer service employees, some who already make \$15 per hour, will also see a wage increase, the Seattle-based company said.

Amazon has more than 575,000 employees globally.

Pay for workers at Amazon can vary by location. Starting pay is \$10 an hour at a warehouse in Austin, Texas, and \$13.50 an hour in Robbinsville, New Jersey. The median pay for an Amazon employee last year was \$28,446, according to government filings, which includes full-time, part-time and temporary workers.

Amazon is facing criticism from labor rights groups and others over pay and working conditions at its warehouses. One of its harshest critics is U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders. His Twitter account, which has nearly 9 million followers, frequently points out the disparity between Amazon's median employee pay and the vast fortune of CEO Jeff Bezos.

The company this summer said that it would begin to pay workers to be "ambassadors" and tweet full-

time about how satisfied they were at their jobs.

Amazon has revolutionized how people shop online and is the world's dominant internet retailer. In two decades the company expanded far beyond its bookseller beginnings, combining its world-spanning retail operation with less flashy but very profitable advertising and cloud computing businesses. Last month it became the second publicly traded company to be worth \$1 trillion, hot on the heels of Apple.

But it shares one potential hurdle that is growing higher for almost all employers: a tightening labor market. The last hiring figures from the U.S. Commerce Department showed that in August, the pace of hiring rose again and wages grew at their fastest pace in nine years.

Competition among companies for qualified workers is growing more intense, and they are increasingly willing to pay.

Last fall Target committed to giving its employees \$15 per hour by the end of 2020. And in January Walmart raised its starting wages to \$11 per hour.

But corporate profits in the U.S. are booming, and that wealth isn't being spread out nearly fast enough for many.

On Tuesday, fast food workers in Michigan are going to kick off a series of protests in the Midwest and elsewhere around the country in support of unions and a \$15 minimum wage.

Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, said Tuesday that while Amazon's wage hike is a politically savvy move, it's also a change made out of economic necessity. With a healthy U.S. economy, Americans looking for work have an increasing number of job options, so Amazon has to find ways to entice people to join its company.

Amazon said its public policy team will start pushing for an increase in the U.S. federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

"We intend to advocate for a minimum wage increase that will have a profound impact on the lives of tens of millions of people and families across this country," Jay Carney, senior vice president of Amazon global corporate affairs, said in a statement.

Amazon is also increasing wages in some areas outside the U.S. The company announced that the minimum wage will be 10.50 pounds an hour in London and 9.50 pounds in other parts of the UK. The increases will include 17,000 Amazon employees as well as 20,000 seasonal workers.

## Democrats question Kavanaugh's credibility, temperament

By LISA MASCARO and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are raising new questions about the truthfulness of Brett Kavanaugh's sworn testimony to the Senate, shifting tactics against President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee as they await the results of the FBI's background investigation into sexual misconduct allegations.

Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democrats' leader from New York, accused Kavanaugh of delivering a "partisan screed" during the Judiciary Committee hearing last week. He said Kavanaugh seemed willing to "mislead senators about everything from the momentous to the mundane" to ensure his ascension to the high court.

"The harsh fact of the matter is that we have mounting evidence that Judge Kavanaugh is just not credible," Schumer said Monday.

Not so, argued Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, contending the Democrats are simply looking to "move the goalposts" to prevent Kavanaugh's confirmation. He pledged that the full Senate would begin voting on Kavanaugh's nomination this week.

"The time for endless delay and obstruction has come to a close," he said.

Kavanaugh's confirmation hinges on a handful of key Republican and Democratic senators who have not yet fully tipped their votes. One of them is Republican Jeff Flake of Arizona, who was greeted by hundreds of liberal protesters, victims of sexual assault among them, during an appearance Monday in Boston.

Flake and Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were instrumental last week in holding up Kavanaugh's confirmation vote. They forced the White House to open a supplemental background



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investigation of sexual misconduct allegations against the judge.

The votes of the three Republicans and those of red-state Democrats Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota will largely determine whether Kavanaugh is confirmed.

Flake said he would ensure it's a "real investigation," by the FBI as Democrats demanded that Trump give them a full readout of his instructions to the agency.

"It does us no good to have an investigation that just gives us more cover," Flake said.

Heitkamp, meanwhile, noted that Trump himself called for a "broader" FBI investigation into the allegations. She said, "I'm waiting to see what the results are."

Kavanaugh has emphatically denied Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that he sexually assaulted her at a gathering when they were teens. He has also denied an accusation from Deborah Ramirez, a classmate at Yale, who said he exposed himself to her at a dorm party more than 25 years ago. A third claim — from Julia Swetnick, who is represented by attorney Michael Avenatti — accuses Kavanaugh of excessive drinking and inappropriate treatment of women at parties in the early 1980s. Kavanaugh denies that as well.

Democrats have seized most recently on Kavanaugh's indignant, emotional testimony before the Judiciary Committee to question whether he has the temperament for a lifetime appointment on the nation's highest court.

In particular, Democrats have homed in on his contention that the allegations against him are an "orchestrated political hit" funded by left-wing groups seeking "revenge on behalf of the Clintons."

Sen. Mazie Hirono, a Democrat from Hawaii, said, "We're going to put a conspiracy theory believer on the court?"

Democrats are also questioning Kavanaugh's honesty, particularly over statements he made about his drinking in high school and college.

Kavanaugh testified that while he enjoys drinking beer, and often did so in high school, he never drank to excess. He lashed out at senators who asked if he had ever blacked out. In one notable exchange, he snapped at Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., "Have you?"

Schumer said Kavanaugh was "rudely interrupting" senators in a way he'd never seen from a witness.

Former classmates have stepped forward to challenge Kavanaugh's testimony about his drinking. Charles "Chad" Ludington, who said he was a friend of Kavanaugh's at Yale University and now teaches at North Carolina State University, called Kavanaugh "a frequent drinker, and a heavy drinker." But the White House released statements from two other Yale classmates Monday who said they never saw Kavanaugh black out or treat women with disrespect.

Pushing back on the Democratic attacks, Republicans said Kavanaugh had every right to be upset during the hearing.

McConnell mocked the questions from Democrats about Kavanaugh's drinking in high school and college. He said Kavanaugh was "rightfully angry" about the accusations, and he added, "Who wouldn't be?"

Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana, a Republican member of the Judiciary Committee, said Kavanaugh has only been responding to Democratic attacks.

"He's on trial for his life, so is his spouse, so are his parents, so are his kids, and he got mad. Now they are criticizing him for getting mad. I think that's the height of hypocrisy."

The FBI is expected to spend the coming days investigating the sexual misconduct claims against Kavanaugh. Senators have said they want the investigation completed by Friday.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons said after speaking with White House counsel Don McGahn over the weekend he remained "very concerned" the FBI's probe would be too narrow.

Responding to those concerns, Trump said at a press conference he wants the FBI to do a "comprehensive" investigation and "it wouldn't bother me at all" if agents pursued accusations made by the three women. But he also said Senate Republicans are determining the parameters of the investigation and "ultimately, they're making the judgment."

"My White House will do whatever the senators want," Trump said. "The one thing I want is speed."

Still, Trump slammed Senate Democrats during a campaign rally in Tennessee Monday night. "If we took 10 years, they'd want more time," he groused.

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

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

## White House tells FBI it can talk to anyone about Kavanaugh

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has given the FBI clearance to interview anyone it wants to by Friday in its investigation of sexual misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

The new guidance, described to The Associated Press by a person familiar with it, was issued to the FBI over the weekend in response to Democratic and news media pushback that the scope of the probe was too narrow.

It comes as the FBI presses ahead with its investigation, questioning in recent days at least four people about accusations of misconduct against Kavanaugh dating to when he was in high school and college. Among the witnesses interviewed were men who California college professor Christine Blasey Ford says were present at a party of teenagers in the early 1980s at which she says she was sexually assaulted by Kavanaugh.

President Donald Trump, addressing concerns about the probe's expansiveness at a news conference Monday, said he wants the FBI to do a "comprehensive" investigation and "it wouldn't bother me at all" if agents pursued accusations made by three women who have come forward. But he also said Senate Republicans are determining the parameters of the investigation and "ultimately, they're making the judgment."

"My White House will do whatever the senators want," Trump said. "The one thing I want is speed."

The White House instructed the FBI to interview anyone it deems relevant to the inquiry, but required the work to be done by Friday, according to the person familiar with the discussions, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The revised guidance was aimed at promoting an investigation that could tamp down Democratic criticism and satisfy on-the-fence Republicans about its thoroughness and fairness while also ensuring a fixed deadline to prevent the probe from becoming open-ended and spanning weeks. Officials said it was possible, but not likely, the bureau could complete its work before Friday.

Trump said a comprehensive investigation is "a good thing" for Kavanaugh and that while it was fine that the FBI wants to interview all three women who have made accusations, "we don't want to go on a witch hunt, do we?"

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine — one of three Republican senators who was instrumental last week in holding up Kavanaugh's confirmation vote — said she had extensive conversation with the White House counsel's office and is "confident that the FBI is doing a thorough investigation and that it will be helpful to us as we make our decisions."

As Republicans and Democrats quarreled over whether the FBI would have enough time and freedom to conduct a thorough investigation before a vote on the nomination, FBI agents have been interviewing multiple witnesses from Kavanaugh's high school and college years.

They include Mark Judge, a high school friend of Kavanaugh's who Ford has said was in the room when a drunken Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her. Judge has denied misconduct allegations. On Monday, his lawyer Barbara "Biz" Van Gelder said Judge had been interviewed "but his interview has not been completed." She declined to elaborate.

Another witness, Patrick "P.J." Smyth, answered "every question" he was asked and told agents he had "no knowledge" of the small gathering that Ford described, according to his attorney, Eric Bruce. Smyth

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also told the FBI he doesn't have "knowledge of Ford's allegations of improper conduct against Kavanaugh," Bruce said.

Ford has said Smyth, whom she remembered as "P.J.," was downstairs, not anywhere near the event.

The FBI has also interviewed Leland Keyser, who Ford said attended the same party. Keyser's attorney, Howard Walsh, said she was questioned by FBI agents Saturday, but he didn't provide any additional details about the interview.

Walsh has said his client doesn't know Kavanaugh and has no recollection of ever being at a party with him. He has said Keyser believes Ford's account but is "unable to corroborate it because she has no recollection of the incident in question."

Ford shared her allegation at an extraordinary congressional hearing last week that also included Kavanaugh's angry and emotional denial. As of Monday afternoon, she had not been contacted by the FBI to schedule an interview, according to a person close to her.

The FBI interviewed a separate accuser over the weekend — Deborah Ramirez, who has said Kavanaugh exposed himself to her when both were students at Yale University in the 1980s. Ramirez also provided investigators with the names of others who she said could corroborate her account, according to a person familiar with her questioning.

Kavanaugh has denied that allegation.

Since Trump, under pressure from three undecided Republicans, ordered the FBI to reopen Kavanaugh's background check Friday, the White House has scrambled to defend the process from Democratic complaints that certain witnesses were being kept off-limits.

Officials insisted that they were not "micromanaging" the new one-week review of Kavanaugh's background and insisted that Republican senators were dictating the inquiry's scope.

But questions about the investigation's expansiveness mounted as additional witnesses came forward with accounts they wanted to present to the FBI about Kavanaugh's behavior.

In a statement 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 said Kavanaugh was "a frequent drinker, and a heavy drinker."

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.

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

Swetnick's attorney, Michael Avenatti, said Monday that his client was willing to cooperate with the FBI but has not been contacted.

As the fresh review unfolded, the prosecutor brought in by Republicans to question Ford at last week's hearing outlined in a memo why she did not believe criminal charges would be brought against Kavanaugh if it were a criminal case rather than a Supreme Court confirmation process.

Rachel Mitchell argued that there were inconsistencies in Ford's narrative and said no one has corroborated Ford's account. Ford was not questioned as part of a criminal proceeding but in the confirmation process.

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Catherine Lucey, Alan Fram and Darlene Superville in Washington and Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston contributed to this report.

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

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## Nobody better: Betts, Yelich clear choices for MVP awards

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that the regular season is finally in the books, time to bestow baseball's biggest individual prizes. It took one extra day to sort out the playoff bracket, but these debates have been underway for weeks.

Christian Yelich seems a cinch for NL MVP, but is it Mookie Betts or Boston teammate J.D. Martinez in the American League?

Jacob deGrom or Max Scherzer for the NL Cy Young Award?

Shohei Ohtani or Miguel Andujar for AL Rookie of the Year?

Martinez has been a monster at the plate in his first season with the Red Sox after signing a \$110 million, five-year contract. He launched 43 home runs and led the majors with 130 RBIs. He compiled a 1.031 OPS and hit .330, finishing second to Betts (.346) in the batting race.

All big reasons why Boston had the best record in baseball at 108-54.

Hitting at the top of the order, Betts had 32 homers, 80 RBIs, 129 runs and a whopping 1.078 OPS.

But on defense and the bases, it's no comparison. Martinez started 57 games in the outfield but 93 at designated hitter. Betts, a sensational defender, started 115 games in right field and 13 in center. Plus, he stole 30 bases in 36 attempts.

All those elite skills. That's why he led the majors in wins above replacement with 10.9 (per baseball-reference.com).

"I'd vote for Betts," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "The impact that he has defensively is what sets him over the top for me. I told people, he's the best right fielder I've ever seen. He makes plays that people in the stands don't realize are not routine. Throws well. Steals a base when he needs to. He's special."

Angels star Mike Trout merits his annual look, along with Houston third baseman Alex Bregman, Cleveland infielder Jose Ramirez and Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor.

But in the end, Betts is the clear winner after being runner-up to Trout two years ago.

Voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America is conducted before the postseason opener Tuesday night, and results will be announced in November.

Here are our selections for the other top awards:

**NATIONAL LEAGUE MVP:** With a huge second half, Yelich practically carried Milwaukee to an NL Central championship and the best record in the league during his first season with the team. He came within a wisp of becoming the first Triple Crown winner in the National League since Joe "Ducky" Medwick in 1937. Yelich won the batting title with a .326 average and had 36 homers to go with 110 RBIs, 118 runs, 22 steals in 26 tries and a 1.000 OPS that led the league by a wide margin. He came through with three hits and an RBI as the Brewers beat the Cubs 3-1 on Monday in a one-game tiebreaker for the division crown at Wrigley Field.

That's how MVP awards are won, and this election won't be close. Could be unanimous.

"Down the stretch, he's been willing that team it seems like. One night it's the cycle, one night it's a homer late, another night he walks five times. I think it's Yelly," said Don Mattingly, manager of the Miami Marlins team that traded Yelich last offseason.

**AL CY YOUNG:** Young lefty Blake Snell of the Tampa Bay Rays wins with a 21-5 record and league-leading 1.89 ERA in 180 2/3 innings. But it should be a tighter vote than projected. The guy getting overlooked a bit is Houston ace Justin Verlander (16-9, 2.52), who had a lower WHIP than Snell in 214 innings. Verlander struck out a league-high 290 hitters and walked only 37. Incredible.

**NL CY YOUNG:** At one point late in the season, this was a close and compelling three-way race between deGrom, Scherzer and Aaron Nola. And then deGrom left everyone in the dust, finishing with a major league-low 1.70 ERA in 217 innings. His pedestrian 10-9 record for a struggling New York Mets team that provided little support? Pretty irrelevant.

Nola tailed off a bit with Philadelphia and went 17-6 with a 2.37 ERA and 224 strikeouts in 212 1/3 innings. Scherzer, winner of two consecutive NL Cy Young Awards with Washington and the 2013 AL prize

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for Detroit, was 18-7 with a 2.53 ERA in 220 2/3 innings. He struck out 300 batters, 31 more than deGrom, but also gave up 13 more home runs.

"I would say it's still pretty close," Mattingly said. "I'm probably like everybody else, because I'm kind of like, what Jacob's doing is incredible, you know? Max, too, but Max has done it so many times. So I think deGrom wins it."

**AL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Maybe the toughest award to dissect, because one of the top candidates was a two-way player for a while. How much of a boost does Ohtani get for the 10 starts he made on the mound before his elbow injury put pitching on hold? The Japanese star went 4-2 with a 3.31 ERA and 63 strikeouts in 51 2/3 innings. Not to mention he batted .285 with 22 homers, 61 RBIs, 10 stolen bases and a .925 OPS in 367 plate appearances as a designated hitter. Pretty much unprecedented.

Meanwhile, the steady Andujar hit .297 with 27 homers, 92 RBIs and an .855 OPS in 149 games as the everyday third baseman for a Yankees team that made the playoffs. Hard to compare.

Ohtani wasn't on the field all that much, but hey, it's not an MVP award. Picking him seems more fun.

**NL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Another close call. The impressive numbers for 20-year-old Atlanta outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. and 19-year-old Washington slugger Juan Soto are remarkably similar. Acuna earns a slight edge for his speed and defense. "For me, just seeing Acuna straight up, I think he had a bigger impact on that club," Mattingly said.

**AL MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** So difficult to choose between Oakland's Bob Melvin and Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash. They both did a masterful job despite a low payroll and little starting pitching. Melvin piloted the Athletics (97-65) to a surprise playoff berth, while the Rays somehow went 90-72 in a division that included the Red Sox and Yankees. Take a look at the two rosters, though. And while the A's were adding help at the trade deadline, Tampa Bay was selling off veterans. So by the slimmest of margins, it's Cash.

**NL MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** Craig Counsell was our pick from a competitive field last year, even though Milwaukee fell short of the playoffs. He received three first-place votes but came in fourth. Often overlooked, Counsell gets the nod this time after the Brewers won their final eight regular-season games to finish 96-67 and overtake the favored Cubs in the NL Central. A close second is Brian Snitker, the 62-year-old skipper who did a wonderful job in guiding the Baby Braves to a surprise NL East title.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLB> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Desperation explodes to anger as Indonesia quake toll rises

By NINIEK KARMINI and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Desperation exploded into anger four days after an earthquake and tsunami decimated parts of the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi, leaving hungry residents grabbing food from damaged stores on Tuesday and begging the president for help. The confirmed toll exceeded 1,200 dead with hundreds severely injured and still more trapped in debris.

Most of the attention of rescuers so far has focused on the biggest affected city, Palu, which has 380,000 people and suffered considerable damage. Other hard-hit areas have been largely cut off due to impassable roads and downed power and phone lines after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Friday and generated a tsunami said to have been as high as 6 meters (nearly 20 feet) in places.

"We feel like we are stepchildren here because all the help is going to Palu," said Mohamad Taufik, 38, from the area of Donggala, who said five of his relatives are still missing. "There are many young children here who are hungry and sick, but there is no milk or medicine."

The death toll for all affected areas reached 1,234, national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in Jakarta. More people remain trapped in Sigi and Balaroa, meaning the toll is likely to rise.

"With all the logistical aid coming in, the service to the refugees is better," Nugroho said. "We still need more time to take care of all the problems."

He said 153 bodies were buried Monday in a mass grave and the operation continued Tuesday.

A special aircraft carrying 12,000 liters (3,170 gallons) of fuel had arrived and trucks with food were on

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the way with police escorts to guard against looters. Nugroho said many gas stations were inoperable either because of quake damage or from people stealing fuel.

In Donggala, the frustration of waiting for days without help boiled over for some.

"Pay attention to Donggala, Mr. Jokowi. Pay attention to Donggala," yelled one resident in a video broadcast on local television, referring to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and the lack of aid reaching his town. "There are still a lot of unattended villages here."

The town's administrative head, Kasman Lassa, all but gave residents permission to take food — but nothing else — from shops.

"Everyone is hungry and they want to eat after several days of not eating," Lassa said on local TV. "We have anticipated it by providing food, rice, but it was not enough. There are many people here. So, on this issue, we cannot pressure them to hold much longer."

Desperation was visible in Palu as well. Signs propped along roads read "We Need Food" and "We Need Support," while children begged for cash in the streets and long lines of cars snarled traffic as people waited for gas.

Teams were searching for trapped survivors under destroyed homes and buildings, including a collapsed eight-story hotel in the city, but they needed more heavy equipment to clear the rubble. Nearly 62,000 people have been displaced from their homes, Nugroho said.

Many people were believed trapped under shattered houses in Balaroa, where the earthquake caused the ground to heave up and down violently.

"I and about 50 other people in Balaroa were able to save ourselves by riding on a mound of soil which was getting higher and higher," resident Siti Hajat told MetroTV, adding her house was destroyed.

In Palu's Petobo neighborhood, the quake caused loose, wet soil to liquefy, creating a thick, heavy mud that resulted in massive damage. "In Petobo, it is estimated that there are still hundreds of victims buried in mud," Nugroho said.

Residents who found loved ones — alive and dead — over the weekend there also expressed disgust that it took rescue teams until Monday to reach the area.

President Jokowi authorized the acceptance of international help, Nugroho said Monday, adding that generators, heavy equipment and tents were among the most-needed items. The European Union and about 10 countries have offered assistance, including the United States and China, he said.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Tuesday that his government has given \$360,000 to help victims and is in talks with Indonesian authorities about a second round of aid. The initial funds are to go to the Indonesian Red Cross for the most obvious emergency aid needs, such as tarpaulins.

Nugroho said only two of the 122 foreigners in the area remained unaccounted for — one from South Korea and the other from Belgium.

The coastline at Palu was strewn with rubble and a few brightly colored cargo containers poking out of the water. Buildings near the water were ruined shells. The arches of a large yellow bridge rested in the water and eerie drone video showed a Ferris wheel, untouched, on a beach scraped bare by the waves.

In Petobo, Edi Setiawan said he and his neighbors rescued children and adults, including a pregnant woman. His sister and father, however, did not survive.

"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."

Indonesia 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. A powerful quake on the island of Lombok killed 505 people in August, and two moderate quakes near an eastern island on Tuesday reportedly damaged a bridge.

The vast archipelago is home to 260 million people on more than 17,000 islands that stretch a distance similar to that between New York and London. Roads and infrastructure are poor in many areas, making access difficult in the best of conditions.

Associated Press writers Margie Mason and Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

## 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 DEMOCRATS ARE QUESTIONING

The truthfulness of Brett Kavanaugh's sworn testimony to the Senate as the FBI continues an investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against the Supreme Court nominee.

### 2. PLEASE, MR. PRESIDENT, JUST WAIT

From his Cabinet, to his border wall, to Robert Mueller, Trump's advisers are hoping he will hold off on any impulsive action until after Election Day.

### 3. FURY BUILDS AS AID SLOW TO REACH INDONESIA VICTIMS

Hunger-driven desperation explodes into anger in Palu, the town closest to the epicenter of the massive earthquake and tsunami as the death toll crosses 1,200.

### 4. NORTH KOREA SAYS PEACE DECLARATION NOT A BARGAINING CHIP

Pyongyang suggests the lifting of sanctions could be an incentive in talks that would end the Korean War.

### 5. AFTER HARVEY, A SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Several Houston schools with large enrollments of at-risk students defied expectations in the aftermath of the hurricane and showed improvement in state scores.

### 6. HOW EXPERTS ARE RETHINKING ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENT

Two studies are trying to prevent the disease by targeting the earliest brain changes while memory and thinking skills are still intact.

### 7. 'I STILL HAVE TO TRY'

Abdullah Morsi, son of Egypt's jailed former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, tells AP he wants more access to and better treatment for his ailing father.

### 8. SOMBER TRIBUTES ON VEGAS SHOOTING ANNIVERSARY

The marquees on the Las Vegas Strip dim their lights as officials read the 58 names of the people killed in the country's deadliest mass shooting in modern history.

### 9. WHO IS THE MOST DANGEROUS CELEBRITY ONLINE

A cybersecurity firm says searches for "Orange Is the New Black" actress Ruby Rose are most likely to land users on websites that carry viruses or malware.

### 10. PREDICTING BASEBALL'S TOP HONORS

Milwaukee's Christian Yelich seems a cinch for NL MVP, but voters will duke it out between Mookie Betts and Red Sox teammate J.D. Martinez in the AL.

## Dimmed lights, somber tributes on Vegas shooting anniversary

By KEN RITTER and REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The marquees on the glimmering Las Vegas Strip dimmed their lights for three minutes Monday night as officials slowly read the 58 names of the people killed one year earlier in the country's deadliest mass shooting in modern history.

The names of the slain were recited before a silent crowd punctuated by sobs shortly after 10:05 p.m., nearly the exact time that a gunman in a tower suite at the Mandalay Bay casino-resort opened fire on the crowd of 22,000.

Rick Barnette, whose 34-year-old daughter Carrie was one of those killed, sobbed and looked at the sky Monday as the names were read. He wore a T-shirt with a picture of his daughter on it.

"It's really hard. Every night, when I go to bed, I think about her. Every day," Barnette said after the ceremony. "They say you get over it. I don't think you can get over it."

The ceremony ended a somber day of events reuniting survivors and the family members of those killed

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at last year's country music festival.

Jane Matusz of San Diego, who had attended the festival with friends, said memories of the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting returned Monday as she attended memorial events in Las Vegas.

"There is something very comforting about being with other survivors (and) family members," she said. "It's a very strange club to be a part of."

Hours earlier, victims' families, survivors and elected officials marked the anniversary of the tragedy by placing roses on a tribute wall and dedicating a downtown memorial garden.

The dedication ceremony under a cloud-streaked orange sunset drew at least 200 people, including former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona, herself a survivor of a 2011 mass shooting.

The garden, which features a tree for each of the 58 victims and an oak that represents life, is the only permanent public space that has been created as a memorial to the shooting. It was built by volunteers and created days after the shooting as the community's way of reacting to the searing violence, according to the project's co-creator.

"We've pushed back with a very deliberate act of compassion," Jay Pleggenkuhle said.

The city known for its gambling and entertainment started the tributes Monday with a sunrise ceremony where a flock of doves were released, with each bird bearing a leg band with the name of one of the 58 people slain.

"Today we remember the unforgettable. Today, we comfort the inconsolable," Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval told several hundred survivors, families of victims, first-responders and elected officials who gathered at the dawn ceremony at an outdoor amphitheater.

He added: "Today, we are reminded of the pain that never really goes away."

The festival venue that became a killing ground has not been used in the year since the shooting. MGM Resorts International, the owner of the property and Mandalay Bay hotel, has not said if or when it will reopen.

On Monday night, hundreds of survivors of the shooting formed a human chain around the shuttered site, linking arms and hands to show solidarity. Nearby, a procession of pickup trucks with American flags flying from their truck beds drove the Strip while honking their horns.

Many who were cheering Jason Aldean's headline set on at the Route 91 Harvest Festival 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 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 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.

Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo declared the police investigation finished in August, issuing a report that said hundreds of interviews and thousands of hours of investigative work could not provide answers to what made Stephen Craig Paddock unleash his hail of gunfire.

That has left unanswered the question of why a 64-year-old former accountant, real estate investor, small plane pilot and high-limit video poker player assembled his arsenal and attacked the 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.

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 have said.

Jim Murren, the chief executive and CEO of MGM Resorts International, issued a statement calling the



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shooting “an unforgettable act of terror.”

“Oct. 1 will forever be a day of remembrance, reflection and mourning as we struggle to comprehend the incomprehensible — the senseless act of evil that caused such a tragic loss of life, along with the suffering that we know continues,” Murren said.

Associated Press writers Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas and Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

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

## Election ahead, Trump’s advisers try to get him to hold back

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — Please, Mr. President, just wait.

Donald Trump’s advisers have been sounding that nervous refrain in the lead-up to the midterm elections, hoping the president will hold off on a series of actions he’s been itching to take, but that could hinder Republicans on Nov. 6.

Trump has made clear he would shut down the government if necessary to win money for his long-sought wall on the Mexican border. He’s talked about getting rid of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein or Attorney General Jeff Sessions. For months, there’s been speculation he’ll make a move against special counsel Robert Mueller.

But with 35 days to go before midterm elections that look increasingly challenging for Republicans, Trump allies are trying to hold back the president’s impulses just a little bit longer, hoping to contain his ire until Election Day.

For now, Trump has mostly heeded the message.

He signed a budget bill last week that will head off a government shutdown at least through Dec. 7, acquiescing to requests from GOP leadership and political counselors to put off a showdown over his proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump has made clear that Sessions’ job is safe — at least until polls close. And while a high-stakes meeting between Trump and Rosenstein looms after an explosive New York Times report, Trump has suggested he’s inclined to keep the deputy attorney general for now.

Trump signaled last week that he was likely to hold off on any action related to Rosenstein, saying he would “much prefer keeping” him. That was after Rosenstein denied press reports that he had discussed possibly secretly recording the president and using the Constitution’s 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office.

Some around Trump believe that the reports provide a defensible basis for the president to part with Rosenstein even during the final sprint to Election Day. But in recent days the cautious view that Trump should hold off for at least a month has appeared to take hold with the president.

Trump acknowledges there are political implications to the timing of his actions.

He said Monday he’d love to push for more money for the border wall before the election — “but I don’t want to do that for a different reason: because I have some very fine people that are running in close races, and it may affect them and it may not.”

“I happen to think it would be good for them,” he added.

While Trump’s reality television flair helped propel him to the White House in 2016, aides and advisers have warned Trump that he needs to lay off the drama — at least temporarily.

Even so, Trump can’t resist generating his share of controversy. He drew criticism recently when he rejected the official death count in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria.

He also has a pre-election to-do list that includes getting embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh installed on the high court before voters head to the polls.

Trump has been urged to be increasingly mindful of the political consequences if Republicans can’t retain

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their majorities in the House and Senate. Aides have warned of the specter of endless oversight investigations — even impeachment — if Democrats take control of Congress.

The effort to contain the president's impulses comes as the White House has shifted into what aides have described as "political mode" ahead of the elections. The swing is natural for most White Houses leading up to elections, but aides suggested it is more pronounced in the Trump West Wing, where the policy staff has thinned out in recent months.

After initially showing little interest in deploying his political capital to help other Republicans, Trump has grown more focused on the fall campaigns, aides say, and views the election as a referendum on his presidency and aggressively hitting the trail for Republicans.

He said Monday that his supporters would vote for him — but "Congress is on the ticket." He added: "I try and tell my people, 'That's the same thing as me, in a sense.'"

His efforts come as the administration is increasingly anxious about losing the House after a wave of retirements, redistricting and a sustained burst of Democratic enthusiasm.

Advisers worry that Trump's actions may damage or potentially derail struggling Republicans, particularly those in swing districts populated by independent and moderate GOP voters who have turned away from Trump. Other drama they'd prefer to avoid until November is any move against Sessions or Mueller.

Trump has railed against his attorney general for months, never forgiving him for recusing himself from the Russia investigation. Despite Trump's repeated verbal lashings, Sessions has indicated he has no plans to exit the role. While Republicans have worried about Trump taking action, some have indicated recently that he may make a change after the elections.

Sen. Lindsay Graham, a South Carolina Republican and Trump confidant, recently told NBC that Trump and Sessions had a "dysfunctional relationship."

"We need a better one. Is there somebody who's highly qualified that has the confidence of the president who'll also understand their job is to protect Mueller? Yes, I think we can find that person after the election, if that's what the president wants," Graham said.

The White House is trying to slow-walk Trump's response to Mueller's ongoing Russia probe.

In recent months, Trump's anger at the probe has grown, with the president believing that the special counsel was biased, overstepping his authority and potentially threatening Trump's immediate family, particularly his eldest son. Trump has complained repeatedly about curtailing the investigation only to be persuaded by a number of his closest advisers, including attorney Rudy Giuliani, not to take the step.

Follow Lucey on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/@catherine\\_lucey](http://twitter.com/@catherine_lucey), Miller at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## North Korea says peace declaration not a bargaining chip

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea warned Washington through its state media Tuesday that a declaration ending the Korean War shouldn't be seen as a bargaining chip in denuclearization talks — but suggested lifting sanctions might be.

The North's official news agency issued a commentary claiming Pyongyang has taken significant measures to end hostile relations between the two countries but said the U.S. is "trying to subdue" it through sanctions, a not-so-subtle call for Washington to lift sanctions if it wants further progress in their stalled nuclear negotiations.

The commentary said a declaration replacing a 65-year-old armistice to formally end the war "is not just a gift from a man to another," and added, "it can never be a bargaining chip for getting the DPRK denuclearized."

The DPRK is short for the North's official name — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The commentary was directed at supporters of the U.S. policy to maintain maximum pressure and sanctions on North Korea until it has made clear and significant moves to denuclearize.

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U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo — a vocal advocate of that policy — is expected to travel to Pyongyang soon to try to revive the negotiation process and set the stage for a second summit between President Donald Trump and leader Kim Jong Un.

The commentary echoes a speech by North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, at the United Nations last week in which he claimed North Korea is ready to implement the agreements Trump and Kim made during their first summit, in Singapore in June, but also accused Washington of failing to demonstrate its willingness to ease tensions and build mutual trust.

"Without any trust in the U.S., there will be no confidence in our national security," he said, "and under such circumstances there is no way we will unilaterally disarm ourselves first."

The North's emphasis on lifting sanctions and building trust above all else puts a spotlight on the rift between its position and Washington's since the Singapore summit, when Trump and Kim issued a vague statement about a nuclear-free peninsula without describing when and how it would occur.

Negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have since been rocky, with neither side able to agree on a starting point and widespread skepticism in the United States over whether Pyongyang is serious about renouncing an arsenal it sees as the only way to guarantee its safety.

Hopes for progress in the talks got a boost last month, when South Korean President Moon Jae-in met with Kim in Pyongyang for their third summit.

The summit resulted in a joint statement in which the North expressed willingness for a "permanent" dismantling of its main nuclear facility in Nyongbyon — if the United States takes corresponding measures — and the dismantling of a missile engine test site and launch pad in northwestern North Korea.

What the North would see as corresponding measures wasn't specified. But Tuesday's commentary and the U.N. statement suggest sanctions are a primary concern.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended in what was intended to be a temporary ceasefire. Moon and Kim are pushing for the end-of-war declaration by December. The declaration would be less difficult to make than a formal peace treaty, and Moon says he and Kim have agreed such a "political declaration" wouldn't require the pullout of 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

## Studies in healthy older people aim to prevent Alzheimer's

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer**

PHOENIX (AP) — It may be too late to stop Alzheimer's in people who already have some mental decline. But what if a treatment could target the very earliest brain changes while memory and thinking skills are still intact, in hope of preventing the disease? Two big studies are going all out to try.

Clinics throughout the United States and some other countries are signing up participants — the only studies of this type enrolling healthy older people.

"The excitement in the Alzheimer's field right now is prevention," said Dr. Eric Reiman, executive director of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, which is leading the work.

Science so far has failed to find a drug that can alter the progression of Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia; 146 attempts have failed over the last decade, a recent industry report found. Even drugs that help remove the sticky plaques that clog the brains of people with the disease have not yet proved able to stave off mental decline.

It may be that they were tried too late, like lowering cholesterol after someone has suffered a heart attack whose damage can't be undone, Reiman said.

"What we have been learning, painfully, is that if we really want to come up with therapies that will modify the disease, we need to start very, very, very early," said Dr. Eliezer Masliah, neuroscience chief at the National Institute on Aging.

His agency is funding the prevention studies with the Alzheimer's Association, several foundations, and Novartis and Amgen, makers of two experimental drugs being tested.

The goal is to try to block the earliest steps of plaque formation in healthy people who show no symptoms of dementia but are at higher risk for it because of age and a gene that makes it more likely.

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To participate, people must first join GeneMatch, a confidential registry of folks interested in volunteering for various Alzheimer's studies who are ages 55 to 75 and have not been diagnosed with any mental decline.

They are checked for the APOE4 gene, which doesn't destine someone to develop Alzheimer's but raises that risk. About one in four people have one copy of the gene and about 2 percent have two copies, one from each parent.

More than 70,000 people have signed up since the registry began three years ago, said Jessica Langbaum, one of the Banner study leaders.

"Most of them have been touched by the disease personally," either by having a family member or close friend with it, she said.

Langbaum's 67-year-old mother, Ivy Segal, gave a DNA sample through a cheek swab and joined the registry in August. Her father was a patient at Banner and died of Alzheimer's in 2011 at age 87. Watching him go from a mild-mannered man whose smile could light up a room to what he was like when he died was devastating, she said.

Being in GeneMatch doesn't necessarily mean you'll find out if you have the gene — folks with and without it may be contacted about various studies. But to be in one of the two prevention studies, people must agree to learn their APOE4 status and have at least one copy of the gene.

Participants get periodic brain scans and memory and thinking tests every six months. They are given experimental drugs or placebo versions of them for several years.

One study is enrolling people with two copies of the gene. They are given either shots every few months of a drug intended to help the immune system clear plaque from the brain or daily pills of a drug intended to prevent first steps of plaque formation, or placebo versions of these experimental treatments.

The other study is in people who either have two copies of APOE4 or one copy of the gene plus evidence on brain scans of plaque starting to build. They will get one of two doses of the drug to prevent plaque formation or placebo pills.

Larry Rebenack, 71, of the Phoenix suburb of Surprise, Arizona, joined GeneMatch in August.

"I have a lot of friends and acquaintances I've seen deteriorate," including one who started blowing through stop signs on a route to a golf course they had safely traveled for years, and another who forgot not only where he had parked his car but even what kind of car it was, Rebenack said. "It's a disease that takes a little part of you away each day."

Rebenack has decided to learn whether he has the gene if researchers give him the chance to find out.

"It's like any other piece of information. It helps you plan your life and you owe it to all your loved ones, too."

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Marilynn Marchione can be followed at @MMarchioneAP .

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## Showtime: Mahomes rallies Chiefs past Broncos, 27-23

By ARNIE STAPLETON, AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — Patrick Mahomes is athletic, agile — and ambidextrous, apparently.

Thanks in part to a nifty left-handed throw as he was about to get sacked by Von Miller at midfield on the game-winning drive, the right-handed Mahomes rallied the unbeaten Kansas City Chiefs past the Denver Broncos 27-23 on Monday night.

By overcoming a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit, the Chiefs (4-0) took a two-game lead over the Broncos (2-2), their AFC West rivals whom they've now beaten six straight times.

The only other remaining unbeaten team is the Los Angeles Rams.

Down 23-13, Mahomes directed a 12-play, 75-yard drive that ate up more than six minutes and culminated with a 2-yard TD toss to tight end Travis Kelce.

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After a three-and-out by Denver, Mahomes added a 60-yard touchdown drive, handing off to Kareem Hunt for the 4-yard score with 1:39 remaining.

On that last drive, Mahomes was getting dragged down by Miller on third-and-5 at midfield when he shifted the ball to his left hand and threw it to Tyreek Hill a yard past the first-down marker at the Broncos 49.

"He's actually more athletic than people" realize, Denver linebacker Brandon Marshall said. "People talk about his arm, but he can move out of the pocket and make the necessary throws."

Even with his left hand.

"I didn't know he threw it with his left hand," marveled Miller. "He's a great quarterback."

"Patrick worked real hard on that left-handed throw," Chiefs coach Andy Reid quipped. "Some amazing plays there. We've seen it in practice but not under those conditions."

Mahomes proved slippery all night.

"We played well and we got to him but he would scramble out to his right as he likes to do," Marshall said. "It's almost like we'd have him in our fingertips and he'd scramble away and throw for a first down."

"The kid can play. He's going to be really good. He's really good right now, but we should have won the game."

It was the first time since 2004 that the Broncos blew a 10-point fourth-quarter lead at home.

RUN, ROOKIES, RUN

In between Kansas City's scoring drives, the Broncos, who had run roughshod over the Chiefs all night — a 7.2-yard average per run — suddenly abandoned their ground game in favor of three-wide receiver sets that resulted in a quick three-and-out that sent Denver's exhausted defenders right back out.

"We ran the ball to control the game," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said, "but you throw the ball to score."

After the three-and-out, struggling Broncos punter Marquette King shanked a 35-yarder out of bounds, giving the Chiefs the ball at their 40 with 4:35 left.

"He's got to perform better," Joseph said. "We're at home and it's his job to flip the field. It ain't happening."

If anything, the Broncos' 1-2 punch of rookie running backs needed more work.

Phillip Lindsay ran 16 times for 69 yards and a TD and Royce Freeman ran eight times for 67 yards and a TD.

Freeman took a toss from Case Keenum and slipped seven tackles on his way to a 14-yard touchdown in which he dragged linebacker Anthony Hitchens across the goal line in the first half.

BIG BLUNDERS

Mahomes overcame a couple of flags that put Kansas City in a second-and-30 hole from their 31 and completed consecutive passes covering 23 and 35 yard to reach the Broncos' 11 at the 2-minute warning.

That last play never should have counted because the play clock expired well before the snap. But referee Craig Wrolstad's crew missed it. Joseph said he raised the issue with an official who insisted the Chiefs had gotten the play off in time.

"I disagree. I disagree," Joseph said.

Cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said there should be some recourse when the officials blow a call.

"If a ref messes up on a call, yeah, you should be able to fix it. Go back and fix. Like, 'Dude, look how long the clock was on zero?' I mean, c'mon," Harris said. "That wasn't the reason we lost the game. We still had plenty of chances but that was a huge, huge no-call."

The officials had another blunder when Mahomes was about 1½ yards past the line of scrimmage when he scrambled and hit Kelce for a 29-yard catch to the 3 early in the second half. Joseph appeared to be reaching for his red challenge flag but never threw it.

Denver's defense bailed out its coach by forcing the Chiefs to settle for a field goal.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Thomas and Broncos teammate Brandon Marshall both stood with their teammates during the national anthem. Since the preseason, both players had been retreating to the tunnel nearest their bench during the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

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## INJURIES

Chiefs: Wide receiver Sammy Watkins pulled a hamstring in the second quarter and didn't return. Linebacker Dee Ford (groin) left in the fourth quarter.

Broncos: Right tackle Jared Veldheer left in the first quarter with a knee injury and was replaced by Billy Turner.

## UP NEXT

Chiefs: Host Jacksonville on Sunday to begin a stretch of three home games in four weeks.

Broncos: Visit the Jets on Sunday, the first of three road games in four weeks.

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## Despite hurricane, at-risk Houston students made gains

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — In the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Principal Jonathan Trinh feared the worst for his Houston high school.

He took in a hundred new pupils displaced by the storm, his students' overwhelmingly low-income families were struggling with lost jobs and other distractions, and Trinh worried this would be the year that test scores sank enough to make his Wisdom High School a target for state intervention.

But when the scores came out recently, there was only celebration. Wisdom and other Houston schools with some of the largest populations of at-risk students defied expectations and showed improvement in state scores — a feat attributed to perseverance in the face of adversity, and changes to the state accountability ratings that put more emphasis on progress.

Trinh gives credit to the resilience of the school community. He has lived in Houston since arriving as a Vietnamese refugee in 1978, and his immigrant background is a bond he shares with the large majority of the school's students.

"Our teachers, our students — somehow they made it work," Trinh said. "A lot of us endure so much."

Lorena Alaniz, an 18-year-old senior at Wisdom, maintained a 3.5 GPA despite having to work part-time to help her family rebuild their flooded home.

"Some days I would wake up in the morning and tell myself, 'I want to drop out. I want to just leave. But I can't,'" Alaniz said as she sat in her school's cafeteria. "I know I can and I have to keep going for myself, for my family. So I chose not to give up."

As the Carolinas are now experiencing in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, the storm that hit Houston was hugely disruptive for schools. The Category 4 hurricane that hit in August 2017 caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage and closed Houston-area schools for weeks on end. About 10 percent of students in Houston schools were displaced by the storm, state records show.

In the Carolinas, where schools were closed for tens of thousands of students, officials are still assessing damage from the storm that made landfall on Sept. 14. Among other measures to help districts deal with the storm's effects North Carolina officials have been looking into waivers to exempt schools from state calendar requirements.

For Houston school leaders, there was extra motivation in the decision by Texas officials not to excuse all schools in the Houston Independent School District from state testing ramifications. A third of the district's 281 campuses, including Wisdom, were not eligible for a state waiver, which was determined by the number of teachers and students displaced, school closure days or physical damage to the buildings. They were on the hook for their academic performance despite plenty of their own storm-related disruptions.

Some schools had not met state standards in so long that another failing grade could have triggered a forced takeover of the school campus or district board but, in the end, none of the schools in the greatest peril needed the waiver. Four schools that began the school year under threat of state take-over all

managed to pass state tests for the first time in years.

At Worthing High School, one of the four at-risk schools, Principal Khalilah Campbell helped find new housing for multiple struggling families after they lost subsidized housing. Three-fourths of the historically black school's students came from low-income families and less than half were meeting state achievement standards.

Campbell said she stayed focused by tapping every available resource. And ultimately, the number of students who met state standards in algebra doubled. They also made gains in English and history.

"It was like 'OK, it's time to fight,' and you have to fight really, really hard because the kids deserve it," Campbell said.

A key factor in the ability of schools like Wisdom to meet state standards was a new state accountability ratings system that emphasized progress over perfection. It benefited many lower-performing schools, and particularly the scores of students learning English.

Statewide, just 1 percent of the state's 1,200 school districts were noted as needing improvement, compared to 3.5 percent the previous year. In Houston, one of the country's largest and most diverse school systems, the number of schools that landed on the state's list of schools needing improvement dropped from 27 to 22.

Lauren Callahan, spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency, said growth was previously a factor but weighted differently. The new accountability system allows either test scores or the amount of growth attained to define ultimately how the school is rated.

"The hard work that Texas educators are doing in the classrooms is reflected in the system," Callahan said.

All states have in recent years revamped their school accountability systems and were required to submit their new plans to the U.S. Department of Education for approval under the Obama administration's "Every Student Succeeds Act" from 2015.

For Alaniz, school became a refuge after Harvey. Her family remains temporarily separated as her older siblings had to move out because there wasn't enough room in their half-repaired home. Her mother had to get two jobs to support the family and mother and daughter now rarely see each other with busy school and work schedules.

"I'm not happy that the storm happened but it actually made me grow more as a person," said Alaniz, who hopes to one day become a forensic anthropologist and an English teacher. "I'm happy I'm graduating."

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Associated Press writer Juan Lozano contributed to this report.

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Follow AP Education Reporter Sally Ho on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/\\_SallyHo](https://twitter.com/_SallyHo).

## Lawmakers debate fix after conservation fund lapses

By **MATTHEW DALY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A popular program that supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country expired after Congress could not agree on language to extend it.

Lawmakers from both parties back the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but the program lapsed Monday amid dispute over whether its renewal should be part of a broader package of land-use and parks bills.

A Senate panel is set to vote Tuesday on a bipartisan bill to permanently reauthorize the fund and ensure it is fully paid for.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to consider a bill offered by Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state, the panel's top Democrat. Cantwell calls the conservation fund "the key tool" that Congress uses to help communities "preserve recreation opportunities and make the most cost-effective use of the land."

Cantwell's bill has 47 co-sponsors, including six Republicans.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., called the 54-year-old fund one of the most popular and effective programs Congress has ever created.

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"I know my colleagues agree with me," Burr said last week on the Senate floor.

Burr called the congressional inaction frustrating, since no one disagrees that the program is valuable and cost-effective.

The program uses federal royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to fund conservation and public recreation projects around the country. The fund is authorized to collect \$900 million a year but generally receives less than half that amount from Congress.

"I can't think of a better legacy we can leave for generations to come than to permanently reauthorize" the fund, Burr said.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, agreed. Bishop chairs the House Natural Resources Committee and is a key player on a range of public lands bills. He said in a statement Monday that "LWCF can and will be reauthorized," but said the best path forward is in a broader legislative package that addresses a growing maintenance backlog at national parks and other lands-related issues.

Bishop and Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the top Democrat on the resources panel, recently announced a bipartisan agreement to permanently reauthorize the LWCF and address the multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog at the park service and other agencies.

The resources panel approved the bill last month, but the House adjourned until mid-November without voting on it.

"LWCF expired because Republican leaders let it expire, not because it's controversial," Grijalva said Monday. "The worst outcome" would be for GOP leadership to hold the conservation program "hostage" as a way to advance unrelated priorities, he said.

"Now is not the time to tie LWCF's fate to bills that can't pass Congress on their own steam. Let's pass LWCF as soon as we get back in session and handle other issues as they arise," Grijalva said.

The House bill from Grijalva and Bishop did not include a full-funding guarantee for the program, meaning that Congress would step in if oil and gas royalties did not reach certain goals. The Senate bill guarantees full funding.

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., urged permanent reauthorization of the conservation fund, which has typically been reauthorized in three-year increments.

"The permanence is important because you've got many individuals here who are working on longer-term projects and have the uncertainty of where we don't know if Congress is going to fund it from one year to the next," Daines said at a recent news conference in Montana.

Dave Chadwick, executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation, called the conservation fund "an example of the kind of thing that can pull Americans together, which I think we need a little bit more of now."

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Associated Press writer Matt Volz in Helena, Montana, contributed to this report.

## Help Wanted: Overseers for Social Security and Medicare

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key posts overseeing the financial health of Social Security and Medicare have been vacant for more than three years, leaving the programs without independent accountability in the face of dire predictions about approaching insolvency.

With Washington corroded by partisanship and consumed by political crises, gridlock has become the norm and hundreds of senior government jobs remain unfilled. For beneficiaries and taxpayers the lack of "public trustees" for Social Security and Medicare means a loss of outside supervision over bedrock middle-class programs.

Most Americans may not even realize there's a role in government for public trustees of Social Security and Medicare, but insiders say the special advisers help keep annual financial reports honest by acting as a check on the ever-present temptation for political appointees to tweak the numbers.

"The public really doesn't have a representative sitting at the table with the government officials, and I



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think that is concerning," said Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services secretary under President Barack Obama.

The public trustees — one Republican, one Democrat — are usually economists or retirement experts. They join four other trustees who are senior political appointees — the secretaries of the Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor departments, and the Social Security commissioner. Together they oversee annual financial reports and certify that the estimates are sound and unbiased.

Public trustees require Senate confirmation. Traditionally they are picked by the White House and the leadership of both parties, then nominated by the president. The White House has announced President Donald Trump's intention to nominate former Social Security official James Lockhart to fill the Republican seat; Democrats say they're working with the administration on Democratic a candidate.

Trustees serve for four years, and their terms can be extended. Toward the end of his administration, Obama re-nominated the incumbent public trustees for a second term. But with 2016 elections approaching, the Senate didn't take a final vote and the posts have been vacant since.

This year's Social Security and Medicare report found both programs in deteriorating health. The insolvency date for Medicare's giant inpatient trust fund moved three years closer, to 2026. For Social Security, insolvency remained unchanged for 2034. But for the first time in 36 years, the cost of the retirement program was projected to exceed its annual income in 2018, meaning reserves will be tapped to pay benefits.

Nonetheless Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was upbeat. "The programs remain secure," said Mnuchin's statement at the time.

"The administration's economic agenda — tax cuts, regulatory reform, and improved trade agreements—will generate the long-term growth needed to help secure these programs and lead them to a more stable path," he added.

Mike Leavitt, health secretary under President George W. Bush, says the absence of public trustees is a symptom of deeper problems with old-age programs that Americans do not want to face. "We have become desensitized," said Leavitt.

Public trustees fulfill "a piercing and profound purpose" as "knowledgeable private citizens empowered with information to make a declaration to their fellow citizens," he added.

Several former public trustees said they were generally able to set aside ideological differences while working with career staff at Social Security and Medicare to validate long-range financial estimates.

Those estimates are built from moving parts such as economic growth, life expectancy, hospital costs, births, immigration, disability rates and the introduction of new drugs and technologies. Social Security and Medicare combined account for nearly 40 percent of the federal budget. Social Security has more than 60 million beneficiaries, and about 60 million people are covered by Medicare.

Economist Marilyn Moon, a Democratic public trustee under President Bill Clinton, said she was involved in "pushing back pretty hard on some political appointees who wanted to make a political statement."

Ultimately the only leverage public trustees have is to withhold their signatures from the final report.

Without public trustees, professionals at Social Security and Medicare are loath to make changes in assumptions underlying the financial estimates. That means those estimates can get out-of-date, said Rick Foster, Medicare's former chief actuary, or top number-cruncher. "The process can get a little stale," he said.

Economist Robert Reischauer, the Democratic public trustee on the 2011-2015 reports, said, "The closer we get to the cliff with these two programs, the more critical these positions and the integrity of the process become."

Stephen Kellison, the Republican public trustee on the 1996-2000 reports, said Americans are being deprived of a valuable perspective on programs they cherish.

"There's going to be a hard landing, and I don't have any confidence the way Congress works today that either party can solve the problem," Kellison said. "Could the public trustees be helpful? We probably need them now more than ever."

## Trump predicts havoc if Democrats take over Congress

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP) — As the fate of his Supreme Court pick hangs in the balance, President Donald Trump barnstormed for a Republican Senate candidate in Tennessee, warning that Democrats will unleash havoc if they gain control of Congress and accusing them of trying to sink his nominee.

"A Democratic takeover of Congress will plunge our country into gridlock and chaos and take away all of the wealth that you've earned over the last 20 months," Trump warned Monday night, claiming without evidence that the stock market would plummet, 401(k)s disappear, taxes rise beyond "your wildest imagination," and crime go through the roof.

It was a dire picture painted by a president eager to convince his raucous supporters of what's at stake in November as he headlined a high-dollar, closed-door fundraiser and appeared at a packed rally in Johnson City to boost U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn in her tight Senate race against the state's Democratic ex-Gov. Phil Bredesen for the seat being vacated by retiring Republican Sen. Bob Corker.

Trump praised Blackburn as a "true fighter" for the state, telling the crowd, "She's all about Tennessee values."

"A vote for Marsha is really a vote for me," he said.

Bredesen, like other Democratic candidates across Trump country, has painted himself as a pragmatist willing to work with the president on certain issues. The Tennessee campaign is among several closely watched races expected to determine control of the Senate, where Republicans are desperate to defend a narrow two-seat majority in the face of surging Democratic enthusiasm.

And the stakes couldn't be clearer. The rally came as the FBI investigated sexual misconduct allegations against Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh — a probe that was forced by a small group of undecided senators who could doom the nomination. Earlier Monday, Trump disputed reports that his White House tried to narrow the scope of the probe and limit which witnesses the FBI could interview, saying he wants them "to do a very comprehensive investigation, whatever that means."

But Trump was far less sympathetic in front of his enthusiastic rally crowd, accusing Democrats of trying to slow down the investigation and insisting that nothing will come of it.

"If we took 10 years, they'd want more time," he complained, charging that Democratic senators are "willing to do anything or hurt anyone" to subvert his agenda, including taking down his nominee.

"They're trying to destroy a very fine person, and we can't let it happen," Trump said.

Kavanaugh has staunchly denied allegations now leveled by multiple women, including one who testified that he pinned her against a bed, groped her, tried to take her clothes off and covered her mouth to silence her when they were in high school.

The rally was the first of a busy week of campaign travel for the president that will take him to states including Mississippi, Minnesota and Kansas.

Previewing his own re-election playbook, Trump criticized a number of rumored 2020 presidential opponents, including Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and former Vice President Joe Biden.

"We call him 1 percent Biden," said Trump, claiming that his political career was finished until former President Barack Obama "took him off the trash heap."

Trump, who railed against the North American Free Trade Agreement during his 2016 campaign, also hailed the revamped trade agreement with Canada and Mexico unveiled late Sunday, drawing loud cheers from his crowd.

"It's fair, it's modern and it's balanced," Trump said. "America's winning again."

But Trump spent far more time railing against "radical Democrats," who he said had been "in a blind rage" since his election win.

"They've gone crazy," he said. "Trying to burn our future down."

Blackburn's contest, in a state that Trump won by 26 points, has drawn heavy interest from the White House, with repeat visits by both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

Bredesen has tried to distance himself from the national Democratic Party, presenting himself as an

independent thinker who will support Trump's policies when they're beneficial to the state.

The former two-term governor, who would be the first Democrat to win a Senate campaign in Tennessee since Al Gore in 1990 if he's victorious, has run TV ads in which he says that he's "not running against Donald Trump" and learned long ago to "separate the message from the messenger." He held an event Monday night in Chattanooga that he'd hoped would be a debate with Blackburn, and he has been needing her for not agreeing to one there.

"Presidential visits are good for fundraising, but I've found that Tennesseans are independent thinkers who can make up their own minds," Bredesen said in a statement after Trump's visit.

Trump, as he has in other states, argued that Bredesen is not the centrist he says he is and will wind up voting with Democratic leaders including Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi if he gets to Washington.

Republicans hold a narrow 51-49 advantage in the Senate.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin and Lemire on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/JonLemire>

## AP FACT CHECK: New trade deal not as big as Trump claims

By PAUL WISEMAN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump inaccurately described his new trade deal with Canada and Mexico as the biggest ever — it's not even close — and glossed over some possible consequences of the agreement, such as higher car prices.

A sampling of his expansive statements on the deal Monday and the complexities behind them:

TRUMP: "The agreement will govern nearly \$1.2 trillion in trade, which makes it the biggest trade deal in the United States' history."

THE FACTS: That's wrong, simply by virtue of the number of trade partners involved.

The proposed new agreement, replacing the North American Free Trade agreement, covers the same three countries. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated by the Obama administration, included the three NAFTA partners — United States, Canada and Mexico — plus Japan and eight other Pacific Rim countries. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact on his third day in office.

Even the Pacific deal pales in comparison with one that did go into effect with the U.S. on board — the Uruguay Round. Concluded in 1994, the round of negotiations created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the following year that the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP: "This deal will also impose new standards requiring at least 75 percent of every automobile to be made in North America in order to qualify for the privilege of free access to our markets."

THE FACTS: That's true. But as with any such requirement, it could make autos more expensive by discouraging the use of cheaper components from overseas. The same could be true of another provision, requiring at least 40 percent of a car's content to be built where workers earn \$16 an hour. The new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement indeed contains greater worker protections, a tradeoff that could mean higher costs.

The pact, if approved by Congress, will raise the percentage of a car's content that must be built within the trade bloc to 75 percent from 62.5 percent if it is to qualify for duty-free status.

Similarly, the deal would give pharmaceutical companies that make biologics — ultra-expensive drugs produced in living cells — 10 years of protection from generic competition, two more years than the Obama administration had negotiated under the Pacific deal. That also comes with the possible tradeoff of higher costs for users of the drugs.

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TRUMP, on overcoming the major hitch with Canada: "Dairy was a deal-breaker. And now for our farmers it's, as you know, substantially opened up much more. And I know they can't open it completely. They have farmers also. You know, they can't be overrun. And I fully — and I tell them that. I say, 'Look, I understand you have limits.' But they could do much better."

THE FACTS: That's a fair reading of one of the agreement's most significant changes — though dairy only accounts for about 0.1 percent of U.S.-Canada trade. Canada's tariffs on dairy imports can approach 300 percent. U.S. dairy farmers have also complained about Canadian policies that priced the U.S. out of the market for some dairy powders and allowed Canada to flood world markets with its own versions.

The new agreement would end the discriminatory pricing and restrict Canadian exports of dairy powders. Still, it's in some respects an incremental advance from the Pacific deal that Trump walked away from. It would expand U.S. access to up to 3.75 percent of the Canadian dairy market, versus 3.25 percent in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Above that level, U.S. dairy farmers will still face Canada's punishing tariffs.

TRUMP: "As one primary aspect, it will transform North America back into a manufacturing powerhouse."

THE FACTS: North America already is a manufacturing powerhouse. The United States ranks No. 2 in the world behind China in manufacturing output. Mexico ranks 11th and Canada 13th, according to United Nations numbers pulled together by the Brookings Institution.

TRUMP: "I think my biggest concession was making the deal, because we could have done it a different way. But it would have been nasty, and it wouldn't have been nice, and I don't want to have that."

THE FACTS: Other concessions were made, as is typically the case in trade agreements.

For one, the "supply management" system Canada uses to protect its farmers would remain largely intact. For another, 2.6 million passenger vehicles from Canada and Mexico each would be exempt from tariffs of up to 25 percent that he has been threatening to impose on imported cars, trucks and auto parts. And Canada prevailed in insisting that a NAFTA dispute-resolution process be retained. The U.S. wanted to get rid of it.

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## In neighborhood buried by quake, kin found in final embrace

By NINIEK KARMINI and TODD PITMAN, Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — For two days, Edi Setiawan helped pull the dead and the living out of a sea of mud and debris, all of them victims of one of Indonesia's deadliest earthquakes in years.

And then, half-buried in the brown sludge, he saw two motionless bodies that broke his heart.

"I could see my father still embracing my sister," Setiawan said Monday, recounting the devastating moment he found the pair entombed in mud near their home in the city of Palu.

"I just cried," he said. "I was able to save other people, but I was unable to save my own family."

Friday's magnitude 7.5 quake killed more than 840 people and destroyed thousands of homes, triggering a humanitarian crisis with survivors now in desperate need of food, water and fuel.

Most of the casualties were caused by the quake itself and a deadly tsunami that slammed into the coastline around Palu. But hundreds of others were buried alive by a phenomenon called liquefaction, in which loose soil shaken by a quake gives way and collapses.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said Palu's Petobo neighborhood, where Setiawan lived, was especially hard-hit. "There are still hundreds of victims buried in mud" in the area, he said.

On Monday, newly arrived rescue teams were confronting the behemoth task of trying to dig them out.

Palu, a city of 380,000 on the western coast of central Indonesia's Sulawesi island, stood in ruins. Toppled cellphone towers have cut off communications, while downed power lines leave the city in darkness after the sun sets.

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While thousands of desperate people swarmed the airport tarmac trying to escape on board a military aircraft that arrived with aid, burials began in a freshly dug mass grave.

When the massive quake struck on Friday, Setiawan said he was cleaning debris from another strong tremor that had cracked the walls of his home just hours earlier but left it standing.

As the 32-year-old rushed outside, "the ground I stepped on cracked ... water and mud came out, more and more from all directions."

His neighborhood seemed to be sinking.

His wife and year-old daughter were fine, but other family members, friends and neighbors were missing.

He tried to reach his parents' home, about 300 meters (yards) away, but the sea of mud that engulfed the area made it too hard to reach. With other villagers, he turned to saving whoever he could.

"I took a 2-year-old (child) on my head, a 3-year-old on my back, and held a 5-year-old while struggling to swim out from mud to the asphalt road," Setiawan said.

Villagers hurled ropes to people stuck in pools of thick mud that seemed like quicksand, and pulled them out by hand. Some of them saved his mother.

By Saturday, they had rescued 11 adults, including a pregnant woman, and two other children — although one later died.

Then they turned to the dead, recovering four bodies. It was Saturday when Setiawan saw the bodies of his father and sister in the sludge, locked in the embrace that had marked the last moment of their lives.

Many complained bitterly at the failure of rescue teams, overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis, to make it to their neighborhood in time.

Idrus, 52, who like many Indonesians uses only 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," he said. "Now, their cries are no longer heard."

Setiawan said the first government rescue teams arrived in his area Sunday, but because the mud was still unstable, they were only able to take photos documenting the tragic scene.

On Monday, they returned, and recovered eight bodies.

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Pitman reported from Jakarta.

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This story has been corrected to with the man's name spelled Setiawan, not Setiwan.

## Asian markets fall on US-China trade worries

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares fell on Tuesday as relief that the United States had brokered a trade deal with Canada gave way to concerns that negotiations with China were at a standstill.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.2 percent to 24,294.43. Hong Kong's Hang Seng tumbled 1.6 percent to 27,333.36. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.7 percent to 6,130.20, ahead of a statement by the Reserve Bank of Australia, which is expected to keep its benchmark interest rate at a record-low 1.5 percent. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.7 percent to 2,322.58. Markets in the Chinese mainland were closed for a week-long holiday.

WALL STREET: Stocks advanced after the U.S. and Canada agreed to a new trade deal, but the rally fizzled, leaving major indexes mixed on Monday. The S&P 500 index added 0.4 percent to 2,924.59. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.1 percent to 8,037.30, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 0.7 percent to 26,651.21. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 1.4 percent to 1,672.99, its worst loss since late June.

U.S.-CANADA DEAL: Canada joined the revamped North American trade agreement with the U.S. and Mexico late Sunday after weeks of negotiations. On Monday, President Donald Trump hailed the agreement as a breakthrough for U.S. workers and vowed to sign it by late November. Trump branded the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement as "USMCA" and added that the new name had a "good ring to it." Canadian Prime

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Minister Justin Trudeau said the deal was a “win-win-win for all three countries.” But the new agreement still faces a lengthy path to congressional approval, having been a lightning rod for criticism among labor unions and manufacturing workers.

**ANALYST’S TAKE:** “The revamped trade pact adds to KORUS, the bilateral trade agreement between the U.S. and Korea, to show that the Trump administration has capacity to strike trade deals,” Zhu Huani of Mizuho Bank said in a commentary. “Nonetheless, a protracted trade war with China is still expected given both sides have little appetite for further negotiation at this juncture,” she added.

**TESLA:** Tesla logged its biggest gain in five years after company founder Elon Musk reached a settlement with securities regulators on Monday that will allow him to stay on as CEO of the electric car maker. Its stock soared over 17.3 percent to \$310.70. Musk agreed to give up the chairman’s role for at least three years, while Tesla will appoint two new, independent directors to its board. On Friday, Tesla plunged 14 percent after the Securities and Exchange Commission said Musk had misled investors with a tweet saying he had secured the funding to take Tesla private. The SEC said in a court filing that it wanted to bar Musk from serving as an officer or director of a publicly traded company and called his actions securities fraud.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude added 24 cents to \$75.54. The contract climbed 2.8 percent to \$75.30 a barrel in New York on Monday, its highest price since November 2014. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 3 cents to \$85.01 per barrel in London. It was also trading at four-year highs, after adding 2.7 percent to \$84.98 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar weakened to 113.94 yen from 113.92 yen on Monday. The euro fell to \$1.1572 from \$1.1575. The Canadian dollar rose to \$1.2805 from \$1.2787.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 2, the 275th day of 2018. There are 90 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Oct. 2, 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

On this date:

In 1780, British spy John Andre was hanged in Tappan, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a serious stroke at the White House that left him paralyzed on his left side.

In 1941, during World War II, German armies launched an all-out drive against Moscow; Soviet forces succeeded in holding onto their capital.

In 1950, the comic strip “Peanuts,” created by Charles M. Schulz, was syndicated to seven newspapers.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1970, one of two chartered twin-engine planes flying the Wichita State University football team to Utah crashed into a mountain near Silver Plume, Colorado, killing 31 of the 40 people on board.

In 1971, the music program “Soul Train” made its debut in national syndication.

In 1984, Richard W. Miller became the first FBI agent to be arrested and charged with espionage. (Miller was tried three times; he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released after nine years.)

In 1985, actor Rock Hudson, 59, died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, after battling AIDS.

In 1986, the Senate joined the House in voting to override President Reagan’s veto of stiff economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 2002, the Washington, D.C.-area sniper attacks began, setting off a frantic manhunt lasting three weeks. (John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were finally arrested for killing 10 people and wounding three others; Muhammad was executed in 2009; Malvo was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2006, an armed milk truck driver took a group of girls hostage in an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel

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Mines, Pa., killing five of them and wounding five others before committing suicide.

Ten years ago: Republican Sarah Palin and Democrat Joe Biden sparred over taxes, energy policy and the Iraq war in a high-profile vice-presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis, in which Palin sought to reclaim her identity as a spirited reformer and Biden tried to undercut the maverick image of GOP presidential hopeful John McCain. More than a year after millionaire adventure Steve Fossett vanished on a solo flight over California's rugged Sierra Nevada, searchers found the wreckage of his plane but no body inside. (Fossett's remains were discovered in late Oct. 2008.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama met privately with congressional leaders at the White House for the first time since a partial government shutdown began, but there was no sign of progress toward ending the impasse. Overloaded websites and jammed phone lines frustrated consumers for a second day as they tried to sign up for coverage using new health insurance exchanges. A jury in Los Angeles cleared a concert promoter of negligence, rejecting a lawsuit brought by Michael Jackson's mother claiming AEG Live had been negligent in hiring Conrad Murray, the doctor who killed the pop star with an overdose of a hospital anesthetic.

One year ago: Hours after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, President Donald Trump condemned the Las Vegas shooting that left 58 dead as an "act of pure evil." Rock superstar Tom Petty died at a Los Angeles hospital at the age of 66, a day after suffering cardiac arrest at his home in Malibu, California. The trial of Ahmed Abu Khattala, described as the mastermind of the 2012 attacks on a U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya, that left four Americans dead, got under way in Washington. (Khattala would be convicted of terrorism-related charges and sentenced to 22 years in prison.) Three Americans were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering key genetic "gears" of the body's 24-hour biological clock.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer-musician Leon Rausch (Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys) is 91. Retired MLB All-Star Maury Wills is 86. Movie critic Rex Reed is 80. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 73. Cajun/country singer Jo-el Sonnier (sahn-YAY') is 72. Actor Avery Brooks is 70. Fashion designer Donna Karan is 70. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 69. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 68. Singer-actor Sting is 67. Actress Robin Riker is 66. Actress Lorraine Bracco is 64. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 64. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Freddie Jackson is 62. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 60. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 56. Former NFL quarterback Mark Rypien is 56. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 51. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 51. Country singer Kelly Willis is 50. Actor Joey Slotnick is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 48. Actress-talk show host Kelly Ripa (TV: "Live with Kelly and Ryan") is 48. Singer Tiffany is 47. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 45. Actor Efrén Ramirez is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 45. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "American Idol") is 42. Actress Brianna Brown is 39. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 36. Tennis player Marion Bartoli is 34. Actor Christopher Larkin is 31. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 30. Actress Samantha Barks is 28. Actress Elizabeth McLaughlin is 25.

Thought for Today: "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." — Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian political and spiritual leader (born this date in 1869, died 1948).