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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

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

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Juniors' Post-High Planning Day at Northern State University

2:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Northeast Conference @ Webster Golf Course

4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th Grade only Game (Rescheduled from 09-20-18) vs. Aberdeen Central @ Aberdeen

4:30pm: Volleyball hosts Redfield-Doland. 7th and 8th grade matches at 4:30 p.m.,

6 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Tiospa Zina. JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Friday, October 5, 2018

Faculty In-service. NO SCHOOL.

Monday, October 8, 2018

No School: Native American Day

We will have the volleyball match results from last night in tomorrow's GDI. Groton won, 3-0

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Tiospa
Zina
Wambdi VS



Groton Area Tigers

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

It's time we begin to think for ourselves!

I stood with a blue marker in my hand writing on the white flip chart paper as I facilitated a community group that was brainstorming all the factors that needed to be true to accomplish their purpose of building stronger community connections. As they named multiple statements, I wrote them on the flip chart – “strong communication, hosting hard conversations ... and lastly, people must have their own thoughts and ideas.” The last statement had me curious and needed some clarity from the group. I asked for an example of why people currently aren't thinking for themselves. A member of the group spoke up, “When the negative voices in our community start to make noise it pulls us away from our purpose and each other... pretty soon people start believing what is the loudest rather than search for the facts.” This breakthrough led me to do some of my own research to discover an answer to the question, “How can we help people learn to think for themselves?”

My research led me to a 2014 study by a group of University of Virginia researchers. Participants were asked to just sit in a room and think. Easy enough, right? The researchers quickly found the task of sitting alone to think wasn't as simple as they assumed. Participants in the study struggled to sit with their thoughts for a limited time of 15 minutes. Left in a room with nothing else but their thoughts, participants could sit quietly or choose to receive one stimulus, an electric shock. Astonishingly, 70% of the male participants and 25% of the female participants administered electric shocks to themselves, rather than taking a few minutes to think.

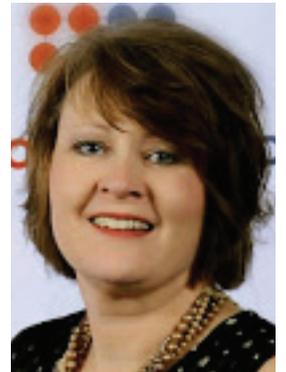
It appears from the research that we may be living in a world of non-thinkers. Ultimately, this deficiency leads to a population who cannot determine the difference between fact and opinion.

We all face day-to-day problems in our personal lives and in our communities. These problems require us to think through a solution, whether it's who to vote for, what job offer to accept, or how to deal with a negative community member. These opportunities to make decisions should lead us to examine the facts, ask questions, seek counsel and take wise action.

If you're someone who would rather receive an electric shock than think for yourself, then I invite you to consider these questions to start the process:

What are the facts? If someone is trying to convince you of something, then seek evidence to prove the facts being shared. Demand to be convinced and do some of your own research using reliable sources.

What do I value? (and Why?) You might be surprised to learn how many of your cultural values have



Paula Jensen
Vice President
of Advancement
Dakota Re-
sources / Dako-
tas America

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been shaped by family, community, religion, schools, organizations, or employers. Write down a list of things you value as a member of those groups. Then decide whether you truly believe those values or not.

What are the opposing viewpoints? One good way to form your own opinion is to make sure you're getting input from a lot of different viewpoints, not just one person's opinion. Document the viewpoints, give yourself time to sort through it, and then make your own decision.

How can I resist peer pressure? If you have a lot of friends saying the same thing, resist making your decision based on peer pressure. Sometimes it's best to not respond, because the more you do, the more others might try to convince you of their point of view.

How do my values align with this decision? Learning to think for yourself isn't going to have much of an impact if you don't act on what you value and believe. Once you've had time to think about things decide about how you'll act and stick to it.

How do I track my progress? Keep a journal. Begin by describing a situation that is significant to you. Next, write in detail how you responded to the situation. Then, write how you will respond in the future.

If you've had a hard time thinking for yourself in the past, you might find that you're swayed by other people the first few times you try. That's okay! Changing habits of thoughts are some of the hardest habits to change. Give yourself time to learn how to resist other people's opinions, seek out evidence and think for yourself!

I have you thinking now... don't I?

Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula resides in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution with the purpose of stimulating financial and human investments in rural communities that are invested in themselves. Contact her at paula@dakotaresources.org.



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605-397-2365.

Silage Harvest Options for a Wet Fall

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Rains have caused many saturated fields and left some producers concerned that there will be little to no opportunity to harvest silage before corn dries down past desired moisture levels or the first frost.

"This has been a challenging year with heavy spring precipitation and now extensive fall precipitation in some parts of southeastern South Dakota. Remember, all hope is not lost for your forage crop. There is no easy fix to a missed silage cutting, but there are a few options to consider," explained Sara Bauder, SDSU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist.

Why optimum moisture levels matter?

Because creating quality silage is most dependent on harvest plant moisture, ideally, when chopping silage, kernels should be one-third to two-thirds down the milk line and on average, 32-38 percent dry matter.

Harvesting at more than 40 percent dry matter reduces digestibility of fiber and starch, and also causes packing issues. More specifically, the optimum silage moisture ranges, depending on storage facility, include the following:

Upright oxygen-limiting silos: 55-60 percent

Upright stave silos: 60-65 percent

Bags: 60-70 percent

Bunkers: 65-70 percent

"In other words, wetter silage tends to work best in bags, bunkers and piles for better packing," Bauder said. "Dryer silage tends to work better in upright silos to minimize seepage."

What now?

If corn does dry down before silage can be cut, there are still a few options available for those who want to produce wet feed this year.

Equipment availability and plant moisture should help determine what works best on your operation.

"If precipitation continues, farmers may have to wait until freeze-up to enter some fields," Bauder said.

Chopping dry silage

Although not ideal for optimum feed value and storage, if a producer chooses to chop silage above 40 percent dry matter, there are several considerations to make:

- * Reduce chop length to release more plant fluids and improve packing.
- * Use a kernel processor to improve digestibility - the more mature the corn the less digestible it becomes.
- * Use silage inoculants to improve fermentation. Liquid inoculants may be more effective in dry silage.
- * If piling or using bunker silos, use extra heavy tractors for packing and pack no more than six inches at a time.
- * Blend wetter feeds with your dry silage like forage sorghum, alfalfa or later-planted green corn.
- * Place your wettest forage on the top layer of the pile or horizontal bunker for sealing and weight. Adding water to the top layer of the pile may also help with this.
- * Cover tightly with silage plastic and/or oxygen barrier to keep the environment as anaerobic as possible.

"Some producers may choose to add water as they pile or fill silos; however, it takes approximately seven gallons of water for every ton of silage to raise moisture content one point and corn plant mate-

rial absorbs water quite slowly," Bauder said. "Therefore, a large amount of water would be required at a very fast rate to keep up with most silage harvest processes, making wetting nearly impossible to render major results."

Bauder reminds producers that dry silage can often heat and mold, lowering protein digestibility and energy. "This happens mainly due to oxygen embedded in the silage due to poor packing," she said.

Chopping earlage

Earlage is defined as ensiled corn grain, cobs, and in some cases, husks and a portion of the stalk depending upon harvest method.

"With an energy content higher than corn silage but lower than corn grain and a similar protein content to corn silage, earlage makes a good alternative," Bauder said.

Ideally moisture content is 35 to 40 percent (60-65 percent dry matter).

A silage chopper with a snapper head can be used.

"Other producers have successfully used combines set to retain a portion of the cob with the grain," Bauder said.

She explained that much like silage, if harvested too wet, seepage may occur; if harvested too dry it will not pack well which causes excessive spoilage.

Things to consider when chopping earlage:

- * Make sure that every kernel is cracked and that the cob portions are no larger than a thumbnail to improve pack density and digestibility.
- * Consider using a kernel processor to improve digestibility.
- * Use inoculants to improve fermentation.
- * If piling or using bunker silos, use extra heavy tractors for packing.
- * Cover tightly with silage plastic and/or an oxygen barrier to keep the environment as anaerobic as possible.

Baling Corn Residue

Although removing all corn residue off of a field in the late fall is hard on soil health (much like chopping silage), if an operator feels it is their only option, harvesting corn for grain and baling corn residue may be a viable feed option.

"Corn grain and corn stover can be ground and mixed into feed rations as an alternative to feeding corn silage," said Warren Rusche, SDSU Extension Beef Feedlot Management Associate.

Rusche encouraged livestock producers to contact an animal nutritionist for assistance creating a total mixed ration.

"If at all possible, plan on returning manure with or without bedding to these fields to help replace soil organic matter," he said.

Grazing Corn

This practice can be accomplished successfully, but it requires intensive management and involves live-

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stock health risks if not carefully monitored.

Strip grazing and/or limit feeding are both important parts of grazing corn fields. Swath grazing is sometimes a good alternative to grazing standing corn.

In this process, the producer swaths the standing corn or corn stover and allows mature cattle to graze throughout the winter.

Grain overload or founder is a concern. "If access is not strictly controlled, producers run the risk of severe digestive upset or death due to consuming too much corn at once," Rusche said.

"Again, grazing the entire corn plant requires intensive management. Implementing this strategy should be planned carefully and in most cases is a last resort if all other options to salvage value are not feasible," Rusche said.

Baling the entire plant

Although not recommended, baling standing corn can be accomplished in some cases.

According to Bruce Anderson, University of Nebraska - Lincoln Extension Forage Specialist, whole plant dry matter levels should be at 80 percent-plus when baling.

Stalks should be conditioned or cut with a rotary mower to allow moisture to escape.

Getting stalks dry for baling, keeping bales tight, and avoiding ear molds in this case can be very difficult. If a producer does bale standing corn it is best to feed bales quickly to avoid storage problems.

What to watch for

Flooded corn can contain many contaminants.

"Watch for corn ear molds, stalk molds, and if the plant is quite dirty, soil contaminants," Rusche said.

He explained that preservatives and fermentation do not lower the concentration of these toxins in feed.

"If you have concerns or have seen any of these issues in the field, first consider identifying ear or stalk diseases. Then, contact your crop insurance agent to determine the right procedure," he said.

For more information about harvesting corn as a forage, contact SDSU Extension staff near you. For a complete listing, visit iGrow.org and look under the Field Staff icon.

Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert Systems is today

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.

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

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Today in Weather History

1841 - An October gale, the worst of record for Nantucket, MA, caught the Cap Cod fishing fleet at sea. Forty ships were driven ashore on Cape Cod, and 57 men perished from the town of Truro alone. Heavy snow fell inland, with 18 inches near Middletown, CT. (David Ludlum)

1912 - The longest dry spell of record in the U.S. commenced as Bagdad, CA, went 767 days without rain. (David Ludlum)

1964 - Hurricane Hilda struck Louisiana spawning many tornadoes, and claimed twenty-two lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1979 - The first killer tornado of record in October in Connecticut destroyed sixteen vintage aircraft at the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks. The tornado damaged more than one hundred homes causing 200 million dollars damage. Three persons were killed, and 500 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Remnants of Hurricane Paine deluged Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas with 6 to 10 inch overnight rains. Hardy, OK, was drenched with 21.79 inches. Heavy rain between September 26th and October 4th caused 350 million dollars damage in Oklahoma. (The Weather Channel)

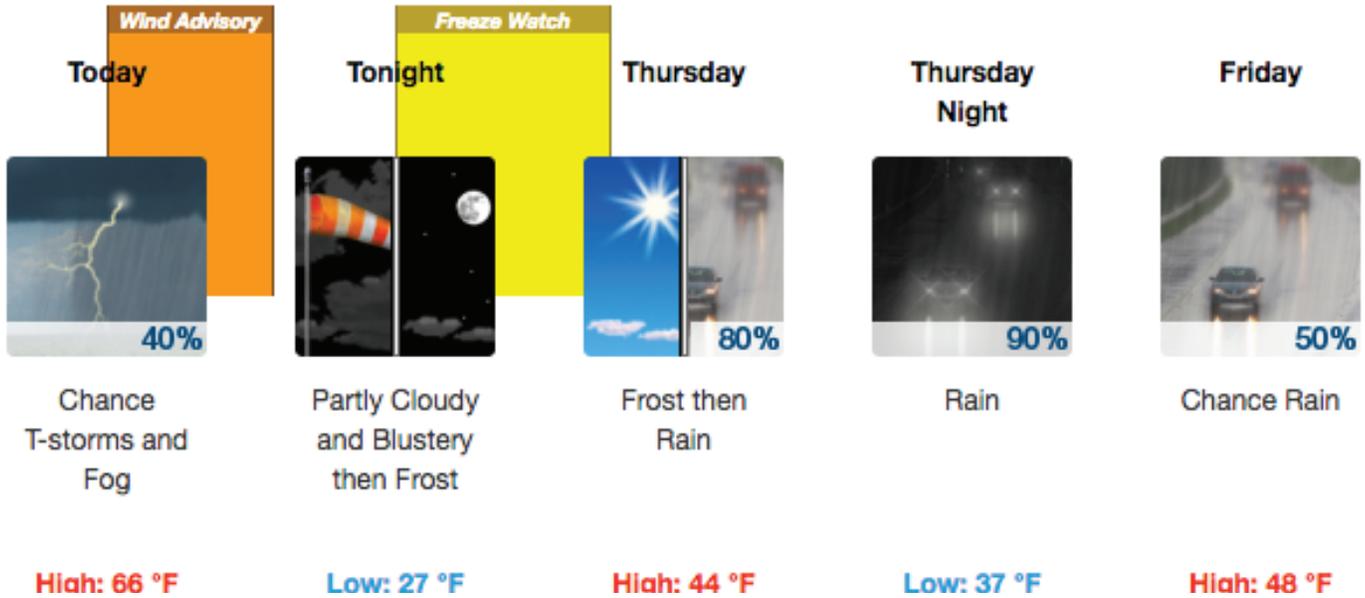
1987 - Twenty-five cities in the Upper Midwest, including ten in Iowa, reported record low temperatures for the date. Duluth MN, Eau Claire, WI, and Spencer, IA, dipped to 24 degrees. Temperatures warmed into the 80s in the Northern and Central High Plains Region. At Chadron, NE, the mercury soared from a morning low of 29 degrees to an afternoon high of 88 degrees. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in southern California. The high of 108 degrees at Downtown Los Angeles was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold Canadian air invaded the north central U.S. bringing an end to the growing season across those states. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Phoenix, AZ, reported a record high of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. A dozen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck, ND, and Williston, ND, with readings of 16 degrees above zero. An upper level weather disturbance brought snow to parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, with five inches reported at West Yellowstone, MT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Mild
Turning Windy Later Today

Cold With Frost Tonight

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 10/3/2018 4:13 AM Central

Published on: 10/03/2018 at 4:21AM

Despite the clouds that cover the area this morning, warmer air is streaming into the region today, so once we clear temperatures will rebound. This is ahead of a cold front, and with its passage this afternoon and evening, expect strong northwest winds upwards of 50mph. Cold air will drop out of Canada, and by Thursday morning we can expect readings down to around 30 degrees.

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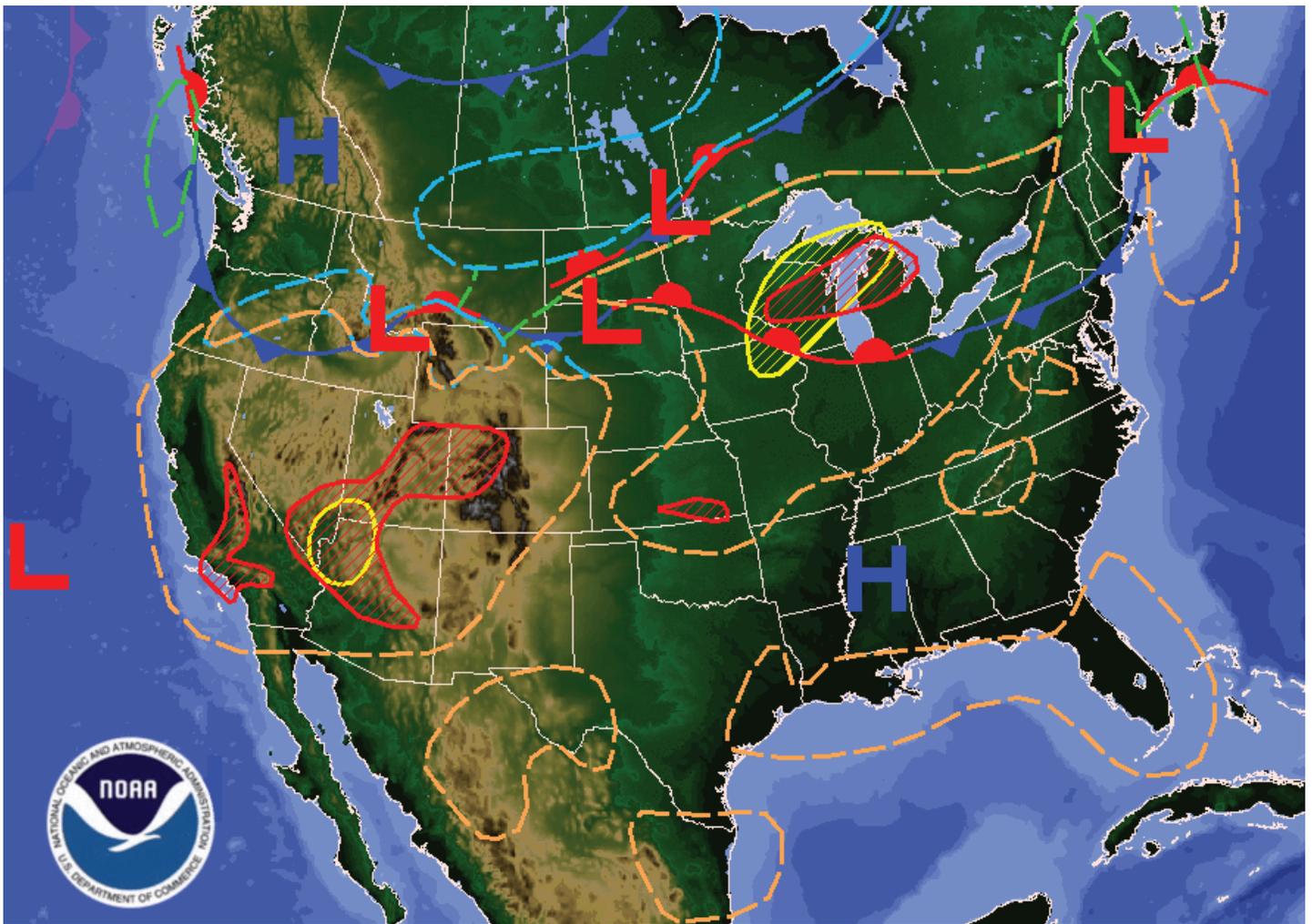
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 56 °F at 5:53 PM
Low Outside Temp: 41 °F at 5:58 AM
High Gust: 18 mph at 11:15 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1922
Record Low: 20° in 1894
Average High: 64°F
Average Low: 38°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.16
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 18.64
Precip Year to Date: 13.57
Sunset Tonight: 7:10 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Oct 03, 2018, issued 4:37 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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KINGDOM WORK

What happens when God's people do God's work? Can what we do provide evidence to His mercy and grace? Can those around us actually see Him by what we do?

The Psalmist said that "Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land."

In other words, when people become born again – accept God's salvation through faith in Christ – there will be evidence of God's Kingdom on earth. Christians will busy themselves in working with the needy, bring hope and help to those who are suffering, seek justice for those who are wronged and establish rules that are just and fair.

In Psalm 85:11 we read, "Faithfulness (to God's Word) will spring forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven." If we believe the Word of God, we are to live the Word of God and that means we are to do whatever is within our power to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Whenever people's hearts are right with God, we see God-things happen. The abolition of slavery and the end of child labor followed a resurgence of faith in God. The Salvation Army came to life when General Booth was convicted that God called him to "bring God's love to the needy". Seeing children, who were neglected, ignorant and hungry burdened Robert Raikes to start "Sunday" school. Many educational and charitable institutions came into existence because God's people saw God's children in need and were convicted by His Spirit to do something about it. Good deeds and showing compassion are evidence that righteousness on earth comes from Heaven!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to see what You see and then become Your hands and feet on earth to show Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 85:11 Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.

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

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Arlington def. Deuel, 25-18, 25-16, 25-20
Baltic def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-15, 26-24, 25-22
Bennett County def. Red Cloud, 26-24, 19-25, 16-25, 25-22, 15-9
Brandon Valley def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-22, 25-21
Bridgewater-Emery def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 18-25, 25-7, 25-19, 25-15
Brookings def. Mitchell, 25-21, 25-22, 25-17
Burke def. Avon, 25-22, 25-19, 27-29, 25-17
Canistota def. Menno, 18-25, 20-25, 25-12, 25-12, 15-12
Castlewood def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 25-15, 25-15
Chester def. Tri-Valley, 25-13, 25-13, 25-12
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Little Wound, 25-11, 25-12, 25-21
Crow Creek def. Marty Indian, 25-17, 27-25, 25-11
Dell Rapids def. Vermillion, 25-22, 25-22, 25-19
Deubrook def. Milbank Area, 25-21, 21-25, 26-24, 25-20
Ethan def. Wessington Springs, 26-24, 25-9, 25-20
Faith def. Belle Fourche, 25-19, 25-20, 25-13
Flasher, N.D. def. McIntosh, 25-19, 25-17, 25-19
Garretson def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-18, 25-13, 25-21
Gayville-Volin def. Irene-Wakonda, 17-25, 28-26, 25-20, 25-17
Great Plains Lutheran def. Clark/Willow Lake, 18-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-16
Groton Area def. Leola/Frederick, 25-14, 25-18, 25-16
Hamlin def. Sioux Valley, 26-24, 25-18, 28-26
Hanson def. Centerville, 25-10, 25-12, 25-14
Herreid/Selby Area def. Potter County, 25-15, 25-20, 25-11
Huron def. Pierre, 25-22, 25-18, 26-24
James Valley Christian def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-11, 25-7, 25-22
Kadoka Area def. Lyman, 25-12, 25-21, 25-17
Kimball/White Lake def. Chamberlain, 25-16, 25-19, 25-19
Lead-Deadwood def. Harding County, 28-26, 25-22, 12-25, 25-16
Madison def. Tea Area, 19-25, 25-17, 26-24, 26-24
McCook Central/Montrose def. Howard, 25-13, 25-14, 25-11
Miller def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-18, 25-9, 25-22
Newell def. Dupree, 25-23, 25-22, 25-10
Northwestern def. Webster, 25-7, 25-13, 25-6
Parker def. Lennox, 25-9, 25-12, 22-25, 27-25
Platte-Geddes def. Parkston, 25-21, 27-25, 25-17
Rapid City Central def. Douglas, 25-18, 25-13, 25-11
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-12, 24-26, 25-17, 25-13
Sioux Falls Christian def. Canton, 25-19, 25-8, 25-12
Sioux Falls Washington def. Aberdeen Central, 25-17, 22-25, 25-14, 21-25, 15-10
Spearfish def. Sturgis, 28-26, 19-25, 25-20, 25-15
Sully Buttes def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-23, 25-16, 25-20
Timber Lake def. Lemmon, 20-25, 25-22, 28-26, 23-25, 15-8

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Wagner def. Scotland, 25-13, 25-19, 25-13
Warner def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-16, 25-19, 25-12
Watertown def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-16, 25-14, 20-25, 23-25, 15-13
Waverly-South Shore def. Estelline/Hendricks, 27-25, 25-14, 26-24
White River def. Todd County, 25-9, 25-14, 26-24
Winner def. Gregory, 25-10, 25-9, 25-7
Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois, 25-6, 25-13, 25-6
Ainsworth Triangular
Ainsworth, Neb. def. Colome, 20-25, 25-13, 25-20, 15-25, 15-10

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-22-29-31-34, Mega Ball: 1, Megaplier: 3

(two, twenty-two, twenty-nine, thirty-one, thirty-four; Mega Ball: one; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$367 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$229 million

Rapid City area priest accused of sexually assaulting child

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A priest in the Rapid City Catholic Diocese is accused of sexually assaulting a child.

Police say 38-year-old John Praveen was arrested Tuesday on possible charges of sexual contact with a child under 16. Rapid City police and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office say a joint investigation began after a juvenile came forward alleging sexual contact with the priest.

The Rapid City Journal reports Praveen has been serving as a temporary priest in the Rapid City area since early summer. A diocese newsletter says Praveen was previously assigned as a parochial vicar to All Saints Church in Eagle Butte and all of its parishes.

Sheriff's Capt. Corey Brubakken says the investigation continues. The diocese says it's cooperating with investigators and Praveen has been removed from all ministry in the diocese.

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

Nonprofit official goes to trial in contract backdating case

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press Writer

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota nonprofit official accused of trying to avoid a potential audit is heading to trial, capping a years-long case that began when the nonprofit's financial officer died in a 2015 murder-suicide.

Jury selection begins Wednesday in Sioux Falls for former American Indian Institute for Innovation CEO Stacy Phelps, who prosecutors allege backdated contracts with an educational cooperative to avoid a potential audit of the nonprofit and scrutiny over his spending.

Phelps is the second and final defendant to head to trial in what prosecutors have dubbed the Gear Up case. It's named for a grant program caught up in the complicated scandal. Here's a look at key details about Phelps' trial:

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THE CASE

The trial comes more than three years after the nonprofit's chief financial officer, Scott Westerhuis, shot his wife and their four children, set fire to their home and then killed himself in September 2015. Authorities have said they believe Westerhuis and his wife, who both also worked at Mid-Central Educational Cooperative, stole more than \$1 million before their deaths.

It was against that backdrop that Phelps and two others were indicted in 2016, but Phelps isn't charged with theft or participating in Westerhuis' embezzlement scheme. Prosecutors allege Phelps backdated two contracts between Mid-Central and the nonprofit Institute in August 2015 before they were made available to legislative auditors.

Prosecutors contend Phelps wanted to deflect scrutiny from the nonprofit because he'd misused the organization's funds for meals at steakhouses, electronics and other personal expenses.

"Because of his unauthorized spending, Phelps had as much motive as Westerhuis to avoid an audit, and therefore, as much motive to alter the contracts as Westerhuis," prosecutors claim in a court record.

DEVELOPMENTS

Judge Bruce Anderson has issued rulings ahead of trial that could complicate prosecutors' case. That includes a decision blocking the state from claiming that Phelps' motive was to keep the nonprofit's board members from becoming aware of his spending.

Anderson also excluded records of Phelps' alleged misspending from being used at trial, although he held open the possibility he might decide to allow it if the state provides "substantial evidence" the funds were used inappropriately.

Anderson wrote that the evidence shows "most of these invoices and expenditures were for legitimate business purposes."

THE DEFENSE

Phelps, 45, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of falsifying evidence and two counts of conspiring to offer forged or fraudulent evidence. He faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine per count.

"The defense contends that the evidence will prove that Mr. Phelps had no intention to defraud or cheat anyone, and in fact no one was defrauded or cheated by any of his actions," said Phelps' attorney, Dana Hanna.

THE TWO OTHERS

Prosecutors have achieved split outcomes against the two other people accused in the case. Former Mid-Central Director Dan Guericke, who was to stand trial with Phelps, instead pleaded guilty last week in an agreement with prosecutors to one felony count of falsifying evidence. Guericke's sentencing is set for Nov. 26, and he faces up to two years in prison.

But a jury in June cleared onetime Mid-Central assistant business manager Stephanie Hubers, who had been accused of receiving about \$55,000 to keep quiet about Westerhuis and his wife's alleged stealing. Hubers was found not guilty of grand theft, grand theft by deception and alternative receiving stolen property charges.

Judge dismisses challenge to tribal education services

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by two Native American tribes in South Dakota over the federal government's reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Education.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe contended that the Department of Interior failed to properly consult with them about the reorganization of the tribes' education services agency, as required by federal law. The Bureau of Indian Education is a division within the Interior Department that operates schools on reservations and gives over control of some schools to tribes through contracts or

grants.

The tribes also argued that the department's decision violates the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, which required the government to provide teachers on the reservations.

But Judge Karen Schreier ruled that the department's consultation with the tribes was enough to meet federal law requirements, the Argus Leader reported.

Twelve Bureau of Indian Education regional and individual consultation sessions were held with tribes in 2015. The government used the sessions to gather information on challenges faced by Bureau of Indian Education schools. Eight of the sessions were in South Dakota, which included individual consultations with the Cheyenne River and Rosebud tribes.

Schreier noted in her ruling that the Bureau of Indian Education made several changes to its plans as the result of its meeting with the South Dakota tribes.

"These meetings not only built upon one another but had a substantive impact on several BIE decisions," Schreier wrote.

She also said that the government showed that restructuring the bureau isn't connected to the treaty's text and "inconsistent with the understanding that the signatories to the Treaty would have had."

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

Speedway in Brandon will be razed if not sold

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — The owners of Badlands Motor Speedway in Brandon say they will tear down the complex if it isn't sold by the end of the year.

A post on the Badlands' website says the current ownership is already securing quotes to remove and recycle the facility. The purchase price for the former Huset's Speedway is nearly \$6.3 million. The website says the property would be returned to its natural habitat once the complex is torn down.

Huset's ran races for more than 60 years before it was acquired and renamed by payday loan operator Chuck Brennan. He bought the speedway in 2015. After South Dakota voters capped payday loan interest rates in 2016, Brennan has worked to liquidate his properties.

Appeals court won't rehear South Dakota death sentence case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal appeals court has refused to rehear the case of a man sentenced to death for the killing of a South Dakota doughnut shop employee in 1992.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied Charles Russell Rhines' petition for a rehearing and his request for a rehearing by the full appeals court.

In August, the appeals court affirmed Rhines' death sentence and murder conviction.

Rhines was convicted in the stabbing death of 22-year-old Donnivan Schaeffer while Rhines burglarized a Rapid City doughnut shop in March 1992. A jury convicted Rhines in 1993, and the state Supreme Court affirmed his sentence and conviction in 1996.

Rhines has 90 days to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear his case.

Rapid City cuts number of charges against pet store owner

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City has significantly dropped the number of abuse charges in its case against the owner of a pet store that was raided by authorities in August.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Marinda Parks had originally faced over 200 charges after officials seized pets and dead animals from her yet-to-be-opened store. The city is now charging her with 55 counts including inhumane treatment and care and treatment violations.

Parks' attorney, Timothy Rensch, pleaded not guilty to the charges at a Monday court hearing, saying he would challenge probable cause. Prosecutors are now trying to prove abuse against fewer animals including dogs, kittens, hamsters, a finch and a catfish.

Investigators seized animals from the unopened store in August after tips from the public. Rensch has

said his client doesn't abuse animals.

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

Redfield school apologizes after Wagner bus vandalized

REDFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Officials at Redfield Public School have apologized for vandalism to a school bus owned by the Wagner school district.

The Wagner football team's bus was vandalized Friday with paint and eggs during a game between the two schools in Redfield.

The Daily Republic reports that the Redfield school issued an apology on the school's Facebook page, saying the school's homecoming week was "tarnished." School officials also called the Wagner school and its football coaches to apologize.

Officials also are asking anyone with information about the vandalism to contact the school or the Spink County Sheriff's Office.

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

Rapid City man sentenced for raping, impregnating teen girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to serve 13 years in prison for raping and impregnating a teenage girl.

Authorities said 33-year-old Terry Anderson assaulted the girl in late 2016 or early 2017.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Anderson eventually pleaded guilty to fourth-degree rape in a plea deal with prosecutors in which other charges were dismissed. He was sentenced Monday.

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

34-year-old man dead after pickup truck crash in Spearfish

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A 34-year-old man is dead after a pickup truck crash off Interstate 90 in Spearfish. The Highway Patrol says the pickup left the roadway about 3:20 p.m. Monday, went through a golf course and came to a stop at a fence.

The driver was taken to a Spearfish hospital and later pronounced dead. He wasn't immediately identified.

Trump mocks Kavanaugh accuser he had called credible witness

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (AP) — President Donald Trump ignited a crowd at a campaign rally in Mississippi by mocking a woman who has claimed she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago.

The audience laughed as Trump ran through a list of what he described as holes in Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. She testified that Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, tried to take off her clothes and covered her mouth in the early 1980s, when the two were teenagers. Kavanaugh has denied Ford's allegations.

"How did you get home? 'I don't remember,'" Trump said at the rally Tuesday in Southaven. "How did you get there? 'I don't remember.' Where is the place? 'I don't remember.' How many years ago was it? 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.'"

Imitating Ford, he added, "But I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember."

It marked the sharpest criticism by Trump of Ford since she came forward publicly with the allegation last month. He had previously called Ford a "very credible witness."

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Ford's lawyer Michael Bromwich called Trump's attack "vicious, vile and soulless."

"Is it any wonder that she was terrified to come forward, and that other sexual assault survivors are as well?" Bromwich tweeted. "She is a remarkable profile in courage. He is a profile in cowardice."

Arizona Republican Sen. Jeff Flake said Wednesday on NBC's "Today" that mocking "something this sensitive at a political rally is just not right."

"I wish he hadn't done it," Flake said. "It's kind of appalling." Flake is a key GOP vote in the confirmation battle, and while he said last week he would vote to confirm Kavanaugh, he also called for an expanded FBI investigation that resulted in a one-week delay. Flake has not said how he will vote if the nomination comes up this week.

The president was in Mississippi on Tuesday looking to use his influence to sway the outcome of a low-profile election that could tip the balance of the Senate.

As Republicans fight headwinds ahead of the Nov. 6 midterm election, Trump sought to rally his supporters behind GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who was appointed to fill the seat of Republican Thad Cochran, who retired in April. She faces three candidates — Republican Chris McDaniel and Democrats Mike Espy and Tobey Bernard Bartee — in next month's special election for the remainder of the two-year term.

"She's always had my back," Trump said. "She's always had your back. And a vote for Cindy is a vote for me."

But Trump spent much of the rally lamenting the treatment of Kavanaugh by Democrats, whose attacks, he said, had taken their toll on the judge's family.

"A man's life is in tatters," he said. Of Democrats, he added, "These are really evil people."

He even raised questions about the drinking habits of Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy in an attempt to turn the tables on Democrats who have gone after Kavanaugh's beer drinking. Trump told the crowd they should do an online search for "Patrick Leahy slash drink." Leahy's office didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Tuesday.

Some Republicans and White House allies have suggested the allegations against Kavanaugh can be potent political fodder in the run-up to Nov. 6, animating GOP voters who have so far lacked the same motivation to head to the polls as their Democratic counterparts.

Republican officials and the White House expect Hyde-Smith's race to go to a runoff under the state's jungle election rules that force a showdown between the top two finishers if no candidate wins at least 50 percent of the vote on Election Day. With Republicans defending majorities in the House and Senate next month, officials cast Trump's visit as an attempt to get ahead of a potentially perilous situation.

Officials said Trump is seeking to boost Hyde-Smith as close as possible to the 50 percent threshold and lend momentum for a possible runoff. Depending on how Republicans perform on Nov. 6, the eyes of the nation could fall on a Nov. 27 Mississippi runoff in what could become an expensive and high-profile race to determine control of the Senate.

"Your vote in this election will decide which party controls the United States Senate," Trump said.

A vocal minority of the crowd Tuesday backed the other conservative in the race, McDaniel, a state senator, and booed Hyde-Smith when Trump introduced her. They launched into occasional chants of "We want Chris."

Earlier Tuesday, Trump told electrical contractors gathered in Philadelphia that his economic policies would translate into more jobs for their ranks as he highlighted a new trade deal among the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

"We're in the midst of a manufacturing renaissance — something which nobody thought you'd hear," Trump said in a speech to the National Electrical Contractors Association Convention a day after celebrating the new North American trade deal.

In fact, 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 calls the new trade agreement USMCA, for U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. "Like YMCA or U.S. Marine Corps with an A at the end," he explained.

He said he doesn't want to use the previous name, NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he contends cost American jobs and railed against during his 2016 presidential campaign. The new trade deal still must be approved by Congress.

"We are finally rebuilding our country, and we are doing it with American aluminum, American steel and with our great electrical contractors," he said.

Trump said the strong economy "means more jobs for our great electrical contractors."

Before departing the White House, Trump tweeted, "THE ONLY REASON TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT IS IF YOU'RE TIRED OF WINNING!"

Kavanaugh's 'revenge' theory spotlights past with Clintons

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — To some, Brett Kavanaugh is clearing his name. To others, he's veering into conspiracy theory.

But in blaming "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" for the sexual misconduct allegations against him, the Supreme Court nominee is drawing new attention to his time on the Kenneth Starr team investigating Bill Clinton. And in doing so, he's shown he can deliver a Trump-like broadside against detractors even if it casts him in a potentially partisan light.

As a young lawyer, Kavanaugh played a key role on Starr's team investigating sexual misconduct by then-President Bill Clinton, helping to shape one of the most salacious chapters in modern political history.

Kavanaugh spent a good part of the mid-1990s jetting back and forth to Little Rock, Arkansas, digging into the Clintons' background, according to documents that were made public as part of his nomination to the Supreme Court.

It was Kavanaugh who pushed Starr to ask Clinton, in graphic detail, about the nature of his sexual relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. In a memo from 1998, Kavanaugh wrote that Starr should ask Clinton whether he engaged in phone sex and specific sexual acts with her.

Starr took Kavanaugh's advice. His resulting report ultimately presented evidence that Clinton, in denying the affair, lied under oath. The report became the grounds for Clinton's impeachment.

Now it's Kavanaugh who is facing sexual misconduct allegations, including from Christine Blasey Ford, who said he groped her at a party when they were teens and tried to remove her clothes. And it's Kavanaugh who was pushed to speak publicly in personal, painful detail.

In his testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Kavanaugh forcefully denied ever sexually assaulting Ford or anyone else. In an emotional statement, he put the blame for the accusations against him partly on the Clintons.

"This whole two-week effort has been a calculated and orchestrated political hit," Kavanaugh testified. The 53-year-old said it was being fueled by "pent-up anger" over President Donald Trump's 2016 election victory and outside groups stoking fear about his judicial record. He also said it was revenge on behalf of the Clintons.

The "revenge" line has reverberated this week as senators await the results of an FBI background check investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against Kavanaugh. Democrats have called the comment a breathtaking breach of judicial impartiality that should be disqualifying on its own, while Republicans have defended the tenor of his remarks, saying he had every right to be upset. GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah calls it "righteous anger."

Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, who was in Congress during Clinton's impeachment, acknowledged Tuesday that Kavanaugh's "lock-her-up grace note may be appealing to some." But, he said, "it speaks volumes about this judge and how he would serve."

At an event Tuesday, Hillary Clinton scoffed, "Boy, I'll tell you, they give us a lot of credit."

Clinton tried to run the logic of Kavanaugh's claim during an event hosted by The Atlantic. "It would've had to have happened 36 years ago," she said, "and that seems a stretch, even for the vast right-wing conspiracy stories about me."

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At last week's hearing, Democratic senators on the dais were stunned.

"Is it your testimony — that the motivation of the courageous woman who sat where you did just a short time ago was revenge on behalf of a left-wing conspiracy or the Clintons?" asked Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.

Others welcomed Kavanaugh taking a page from the playbook of the man who nominated him, President Donald Trump.

It wasn't quite a "Lock her up!" Trump rally cry, but Kavanaugh's allies appreciated a hard-hitting defense of his own name and character that name-checked the Clintons. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. backed him up.

"Would you say you've been through hell?" Graham asked the judge.

"I've been through hell and then some," Kavanaugh testified.

While Kavanaugh's role in the Starr investigation is a part of the appellate court judge's resume that may have received short shrift during days of confirmation hearings, plenty of players from that era remain central to today's confirmation fight.

Graham had been a chief House prosecutor during Clinton's impeachment trial. Other senators on the dais straddle both eras. Clinton has been making media rounds. Starr has recently published a new book about his experience.

A former top aide to Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, Brian Fallon, leads the outside group Demand Justice that Kavanaugh was likely referring to in his outburst. Fallon said Tuesday that Kavanaugh's "unhinged, partisan rant last week is just another reason he is not fit for a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court."

Democrats had tried to portray Kavanaugh as a partisan warrior from the moment he was nominated, but failed to gain much traction with it. But the Clintons' revenge theory revealed a different side of Kavanaugh that won't be forgotten if he makes it to the high court.

Julian Zelizer, a professor of history at Princeton University, said Kavanaugh "has been fighting the Republican war since the 1990s."

"He revealed a great deal about who he is and what drives him," he said.

Horror difficult to erase for Indonesians as toll tops 1,400

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — For some who survived the massive earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island last week, the memories and the horror of experiencing a disaster that has left more than 1,400 people dead are both hard to erase and understand. Nature simply unleashed its fury on them.

Furniture maker Khairul Hassan recalled working at a shop near the beach in front of a row of warehouses when the ground came alive and shook violently. He ran to a nearby hill and watched as the ocean heaved up and hurled forward. Now he can't forget.

"I saw the waves come and sweep out everything — buildings, factories, warehouses and some people who were lost, racing from the waves, some of them women and children," he said Wednesday. "Also, warehouse workers who were trapped under goods, all swept by the sea. It's so tragic. It's so scary to remember."

Five days later, aid was slowly creeping into areas where victims have become increasingly desperate after being left without food, water, fuel and medicine. In one neighborhood in the city of Palu, residents celebrated as they swarmed a truck delivering aid — clapping, cheering and high-fiving.

"I'm so happy," said Heruwanto, 63, who goes by one name. He was clutching a box of instant noodles. "I really haven't eaten for three days."

The official death toll increased to 1,407 on Wednesday, with thousands injured and more than 70,000 displaced from their homes, said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said the number of dead would increase, but that rescue crews had reached all affected areas.

The U.N. humanitarian office estimated that some 200,000 people need assistance in the disaster zone and announced a \$15 million allocation to bolster relief efforts. Help has been slow to reach many victims,

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especially those living in areas cut off by impassable roads. But large fuel and food convoys, guarded by security forces, have been making their way in.

In addition to the quake and tsunami, Indonesia also demonstrated Wednesday what it means to sit on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" when a volcano erupted in another part of Sulawesi island about 940 kilometers (585 miles) northeast of the earthquake zone. It sent a plume of ash more than 6,000 meters (20,680 feet) into the sky. Planes were warned of the cloud billowing from Mount Soputan because the material can be hazardous for aircraft engines, but no evacuations were ordered in the area.

Experts said it's possible the quake accelerated the eruption, but there is no concrete evidence to prove that. Activity at the volcano had been increasing since August and began surging on Monday, Kasbani, who heads Indonesia's Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Agency and uses one name, told an online news portal.

More than 25 countries offered assistance after President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo appealed for international help. He visited the disaster zone Wednesday, saying there's still work to be done, but that conditions were improving with businesses starting to reopen, helping people to start returning their lives to normal. He said U.S. President Donald Trump called him Tuesday night, offering assistance.

"We are going in phases. There are lots of things happening related to evacuation, as aid and fuel are also coming in," he said, noting that 30 people remain buried under rubble at the Roa Roa Hotel in Palu. "Every province has different cases, including security."

Some homeless residents weren't waiting for help. Dozens sifted through what remained of the flattened complex of warehouses along Palu's ravaged coastline, looking for anything they could salvage to either sell or help them rebuild. They carted away corrugated metal, wood, piping and other items.

"We have to do this because there's no assistance from the government," said Zaitun Rajamangili, 41, adding that his home was swept away but his family survived.

Following widespread looting and aid vehicles being stopped and surrounded by people on roads, Indonesian military chief Hadi Tjahyanto said one soldier and one police officer would be placed on every aid truck and soldiers would be sent to secure markets, the airport and fuel depots to maintain order. He added that a Singaporean military transport plane will help evacuate victims from the airport in Palu. In addition, aircraft from South Korea, the United Kingdom and Japan were expected to ferry aid.

Australia announced it will send 50 medical professionals as part of a \$3.6 million aid package. The United States and China are among other countries that have offered assistance.

The U.N. said the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs has asked the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, to send social workers to support vulnerable children who are alone or became separated from their families. It said the World Health Organization is warning that a lack of shelter and damaged water sanitation facilities could lead to outbreaks of communicable diseases.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 260 million people, 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.

Associated Press writers Niniek Karmini in Palu, Indonesia; Margie Mason and Eileen Ng in Jakarta, Indonesia; Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Syria hopes to jumpstart rebuilding despite massive hurdles

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — With back-to-back trade fairs held in Damascus this month, Syria is hoping to jumpstart reconstruction of its devastated cities by inviting international investors to take part in lucrative opportunities.

But the absence of significant Western participants, the challenges posed by international sanctions and

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the lack of a political solution to the seven-year-old conflict point to massive hurdles ahead.

The government says it will only award contracts to “friendly countries” that have supported Syria throughout the civil war. In an address to the U.N. General Assembly last week, Syria’s foreign minister said Western countries that set political conditions before committing reconstruction funds are “neither invited nor welcome to help.”

But the relatively small-scale participation of companies from Syria’s allies, Russia and Iran — both under U.S. sanctions — can hardly even begin to cover the enormous reconstruction costs in Syria, estimated to be anywhere between \$250 billion and \$400 billion. A U.N. agency estimates the war has cost \$388 billion, and Syria says it needs \$48 billion in short term investments for the housing sector alone.

Around half of Syria’s pre-war population of 23 million has been uprooted - nearly 6 million fled abroad, while 6.6 million are displaced within Syria — and entire cities lay in ruins, their infrastructure decimated.

Syrian officials say that with the government’s military gains over the past year, it’s now time to focus on rebuilding. The government now holds just over 60 percent of Syria’s territory, with the north largely controlled by U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces, opposition fighters allied with Turkey, and insurgent groups.

“The process of eradicating terrorism has reached its final stages, and the reconstruction phase is knocking on the doors,” Public Works and Housing Minister Hussein Arnous said Tuesday, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurating the 4th International Trade Exhibition for Rebuilding Syria.

Arnous said 270 companies from 29 countries are taking part in this year’s exhibition despite the sanctions imposed on Syrian.

Most of the companies participating in the four-day exhibition are Syrian, followed by Lebanese and Iranian exhibitors.

“I don’t hope that the West will come here, because it had a big hand in the war against Syria,” said Youssef Alousi, sales manager at Balkis Ceramics, a Syrian tile manufacturer which was showcasing, among other designs, a picture of Syrian President Bashar Assad printed on tiles. “Syria will be rebuilding Syria,” he added.

The exhibition is being held at the Damascus International Fairgrounds near the airport, not far from wrecked former rebel strongholds. Israel struck targets near the airport last month.

Buildings with gaping holes and others with their top floors collapsed could be seen on each side of the highway leading to the fair — testimony to the ferocious fighting that raged there for years.

At the opening of the convention on Tuesday, Syrian officials, journalists and visitors walked among stalls for construction materials, industrial supplies, and even an Iranian maritime company with intricate model ships.

Syria’s tiny neighbor, Lebanon, had the second highest number of participants, with 35 companies exhibiting their products Tuesday. Lebanese companies are anxious to get a piece of the reconstruction cake, but the Lebanese government is split, with Prime Minister Saad Hariri reluctant to normalize relations with Syria under Assad.

But Nasri Khoury, who heads the Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council, an organization set up in the early 1990s to support bilateral cooperation, said it is “high time for the Lebanese government to reconsider its existing policy if wants to play a principle role in rebuilding Syria.”

Although 38 Russian companies took part in the Damascus International Fair last month, only one made it to Tuesday’s opening. Russia is a key ally of President Assad, and its military support, starting in 2015, has helped turn the tide in his favor. Russian President Vladimir Putin has been lobbying for Western aid funding, while helping the Syrian government prepare for an offensive to retake the last rebel stronghold of Idlib, in northwestern Syria.

Anisimov Valeriy, who works for the Russian petrochemical firm JSC Promcatalys, says it hopes to tap into the underserved market but has yet to find a way around the sanctions. He said he was hoping to speak with other business people at the conference about transferring money into and out of Syria.

“There are many problems with Syria industry because of U.S. sanctions, and our company is ready to provide all the catalysts, all the technologies that Syrian customers cannot get because of these sanctions,” he said, adding that his company is in talks with two oil refineries in Syria.

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Russian companies face competition from China, which is making serious, if cautious, efforts to snap up reconstruction offers.

Tarif Nahhas, the Syrian representative of the Chinese Truemax engineering solutions company, said China is still trying to find its way in Syria, with many companies worried about security and stability. He said exhibitions like these help company representatives assess the situation on the ground for themselves.

For now, Syria will have to rely on small-scale investments and development projects to jumpstart reconstruction efforts, but critics say the government lacks a clear strategy for rebuilding.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., insisted last week that America will not "rebuild Syria" for Assad and his Russian supporters, calling the idea "absurd."

"The U.S. taxpayer is certainly not going to subsidize Assad's campaign of destruction," she said. The State Department on Tuesday linked reconstruction assistance with the need to achieve "irreversible" progress in a U.N.-sponsored political process.

Iran's ambassador to Syria, Javad Turk-Abadi, said it's only natural that Iranian investors should come to Syria to help it rebuild, shrugging off U.S. sanctions against both countries.

"America's sanctions, same as with its politics, are unilateral, and the result is that America will stand alone, punishing only itself," he said.

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. 'I DON'T REMEMBER'

Trump ignites a campaign rally crowd in Mississippi by mocking the testimony of Christine Blasey Ford, who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault.

2. KAVANAUGH'S 'REVENGE' THEORY OPEN TO INTERPRETATION

To some, the Supreme Court hopeful is clearing his name. To others, he's veering into conspiracy territory when he partly blames sexual assault allegations against him as "revenge on behalf of the Clintons."

3. SURVIVORS CHEER LONG-AWAITED SUPPLIES

Aid is trickling into areas devastated by the powerful earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island as the death toll crosses 1,400.

4. SYRIA RECONSTRUCTION FACING OBSTACLES

A dearth of Western investors, international sanctions and a devastating war underscore the massive hurdles ahead.

5. WHO WON THE NOBEL IN CHEMISTRY

Three researchers were honored, including Frances Arnold of Caltech for her work that led to the development of new biofuels and pharmaceuticals.

6. DEATH OF INSTAGRAM MODEL SHOCKS IRAQIS

The brazen daytime killing of Tara Fares follows the slaying of a female activist and the mysterious deaths of two well-known beauty experts.

7. 1 YEAR ON: WEINSTEIN AND #METOO

Institutional changes have been made but actresses, filmmakers and others make it clear: Hollywood has a long way to go.

8. EPA PROPOSING RADIATION REGULATION CHANGES

Medical workers doing X-rays and CT scans, people living next to Superfund sites and workers at nuclear installations and oil and gas drilling sites could be most at risk, AP finds.

9. WHAT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A RIPPLE EFFECT ON WAGES

Amazon's \$15 minimum wage will intensify pressure on other companies to lift pay levels for America's low-wage workers.

10. 'PROBABLY THE BIGGEST HIT I'VE EVER HAD'

Tony Wolters' tiebreaking single in the 13th inning lifts the Colorado Rockies past the Chicago Cubs 2-1

in an epic NL wild-card game.

Proposed rule change worries some about radiation regulation

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The EPA is pursuing rule changes that experts say would weaken the way radiation exposure is regulated, turning to scientific outliers who argue that a bit of radiation damage is actually good for you — like a little bit of sunlight.

The government's current, decades-old guidance says that any exposure to harmful radiation is a cancer risk. And critics say the proposed change could lead to higher levels of exposure for workers at nuclear installations and oil and gas drilling sites, medical workers doing X-rays and CT scans, people living next to Superfund sites and any members of the public who one day might find themselves exposed to a radiation release.

The Trump administration already has targeted a range of other regulations on toxins and pollutants, including coal power plant emissions and car exhaust, that it sees as costly and burdensome for businesses. Supporters of the EPA's proposal argue the government's current model that there is no safe level of radiation — the so-called linear no-threshold model — forces unnecessary spending for handling exposure in accidents, at nuclear plants, in medical centers and at other sites.

At issue is Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule on transparency in science.

EPA spokesman John Konkus said Tuesday: "The proposed regulation doesn't talk about radiation or any particular chemicals. And as we indicated in our response, EPA's policy is to continue to use the linear-no-threshold model for population-level radiation protection purposes which would not, under the proposed regulation that has not been finalized, trigger any change in that policy."

But in an April news release announcing the proposed rule the agency quoted Edward Calabrese, a toxicologist at the University of Massachusetts who has said weakening limits on radiation exposure would save billions of dollars and have a positive impact on human health.

The proposed rule would require regulators to consider "various threshold models across the exposure range" when it comes to dangerous substances. While it doesn't specify radiation, the release quotes Calabrese calling the proposal "a major scientific step forward" in assessing the risk of "chemicals and radiation."

Konkus said the release was written during the tenure of former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. He could not explain why Calabrese was quoted citing the impact on radiation levels if the agency does not believe there would be any.

Calabrese was to be the lead witness at a congressional hearing Wednesday on the EPA proposal.

Radiation is everywhere, from potassium in bananas to the microwaves popping our popcorn. Most of it is benign. But what's of concern is the higher-energy, shorter-wave radiation, like X-rays, that can penetrate and disrupt living cells, sometimes causing cancer.

As recently as this March, the EPA's online guidelines for radiation effects advised: "Current science suggests there is some cancer risk from any exposure to radiation."

"Even exposures below 100 millisieverts" — an amount roughly equivalent to 25 chest X-rays or about 14 CT chest scans — "slightly increase the risk of getting cancer in the future," the agency's guidance said.

But that online guidance — separate from the rule-change proposal — was edited in July to add a section emphasizing the low individual odds of cancer: "According to radiation safety experts, radiation exposures of ... 100 millisieverts usually result in no harmful health effects, because radiation below these levels is a minor contributor to our overall cancer risk," the revised policy says.

Calabrese and his supporters argue that smaller exposures of cell-damaging radiation and other carcinogens can serve as stressors that activate the body's repair mechanisms and can make people healthier. They compare it to physical exercise or sunlight.

Mainstream scientific consensus on radiation is based on deceptive science, says Calabrese, who argued in a 2014 essay for "righting the past deceptions and correcting the ongoing errors in environmental

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regulation.”

EPA spokesman Konkus said in an email that the proposed rule change is about “increasing transparency on assumptions” about how the body responds to different doses of dangerous substances and that the agency “acknowledges uncertainty regarding health effects at low doses” and supports more research on that.

The radiation regulation is supported by Steven Milloy, a Trump transition team member for the EPA who is known for challenging widely accepted ideas about manmade climate change and the health risks of tobacco. He has been promoting Calabrese’s theory of healthy radiation on his blog.

But Jan Beyea, a physicist whose work includes research with the National Academies of Science on the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, said the EPA science proposal represents voices “generally dismissed by the great bulk of scientists.”

The EPA proposal would lead to “increases in chemical and radiation exposures in the workplace, home and outdoor environment, including the vicinity of Superfund sites,” Beyea wrote.

At the level the EPA website talks about, any one person’s risk of cancer from radiation exposure is perhaps 1 percent, Beyea said.

“The individual risk will likely be low, but not the cumulative social risk,” Beyea said.

“If they even look at that — no, no, no,” said Terrie Barrie, a resident of Craig, Colorado, and an advocate for her husband and other workers at the now-closed Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons plant, where the U.S. government is compensating certain cancer victims regardless of their history of exposure.

“There’s no reason not to protect people as much as possible,” said Barrie.

U.S. agencies for decades have followed a policy that there is no threshold of radiation exposure that is risk-free.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements reaffirmed that principle this year after a review of 29 public health studies on cancer rates among people exposed to low-dose radiation, via the U.S. atomic bombing of Japan in World War II, leak-prone Soviet nuclear installations, medical treatments and other sources.

Twenty of the 29 studies directly support the principle that even low-dose exposures cause a significant increase in cancer rates, said Roy Shore, chief of research at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, a joint project of the United States and Japan. Scientists found most of the other studies were inconclusive and decided one was flawed.

None supported the theory there is some safe threshold for radiation, said Shore, who chaired the review.

If there were a threshold that it’s safe to go below, “those who profess that would have to come up with some data,” Shore said in an interview.

“Certainly the evidence did not point that way,” he said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which regulates electronic devices that emit radiation, advises, broadly, that a single CT scan with a dose of 10 millisieverts may increase risks of a fatal cancer by about 1 chance in 2,000.

Supporters of the proposal say it’s time to rethink radiation regulation.

“Right now we spend an enormous effort trying to minimize low doses” at nuclear power plants, for example, said Brant Ulsh, a physicist with the California-based consulting firm M.H. Chew and Associates. “Instead, let’s spend the resources on minimizing the effect of a really big event.”

Rockies top Cubs 2-1 in 13 innings in epic wild-card game

By JAY COHEN, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

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"Probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure," he said.

The 26-year-old Wolters, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves, that's for sure," Story said, "but we're going to enjoy this one tonight and we're definitely not done."

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley. Terrance Gore tried to sell that he was hit by a pitch, but was sent back to the plate after a replay review confirmed the initial call.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging for the final out, Wolters ran out and grabbed Oberg. They were soon joined by the rest of the excited Rockies in a rollicking purple mob near the mound.

"You're always wondering, 'How's this going to end?' But our guys fought all night and to be able to get that last out there was great," Oberg said.

Wolters got his first hit since Sept. 10 in his playoff debut, and it was just the second postseason game for Oberg. Previously, the longest winner-take-all games in the postseason were 12-inning affairs in the 2014 AL wild-card round and Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

This one lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes, and had pretty much everything, too. Hendricks was the third starting pitcher used by the Cubs, after Jon Lester worked six solid innings and Cole Hamels was pressed into action after the teams were tied at 1 through nine. Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado exchanged a memorable hug with Javier Baez after he tagged the excitable Cubs star in the 11th.

Colorado moved on to the Division Series for the first time since 2009. The Rockies lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game a year ago.

"Such a crazy game," Story said.

The Cubs made it to the NLCS in each of the previous three seasons, winning the 2016 World Series to break a 108-year drought, but they were plagued by an inconsistent offense all season long. Chicago finished with six hits and left 10 runners on base after managing only three hits in Monday's 3-1 home loss to the Brewers in the NL Central tiebreaker.

"We played that game a lot," said manager Joe Maddon, who matched a postseason record by using 23 players. "Believe me, it was on my mind for a large part of it."

This time, it was Kyle Freeland cruising through Maddon's lineup.

Starting on three days' rest for the first time in the pros, Freeland struck out six in 6 2/3 scoreless innings. The Denver native looked quite comfortable in his first career playoff appearance, helping his hometown team bounce back from Monday's NL West tiebreaker loss to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

"Sometimes you just get beat and we got beat tonight," Lester said.

Lester helped Chicago stick around by matching a career playoff high with nine strikeouts in his 26th postseason appearance. But he took a little while to settle into the game, and the Rockies took advantage.

Charlie Blackmon led off with a five-pitch walk. DJ LeMahieu followed with a ground-rule double on a 3-2 pitch — with the ball getting stuck in the famed ivy in left-center — and Arenado's sacrifice fly drove in Blackmon.

Lester then limited the damage by striking out Story and Matt Holliday with LeMahieu on third.

That one run looked as if it might hold up as Freeland cruised into the seventh. After Story robbed Daniel Murphy of a hit with a diving grab at shortstop, manager Bud Black replaced Freeland with Adam Ottavino.

Chicago loaded the bases with two outs, getting some help when Drew Butera was called for catcher's interference, but Ottavino struck out pinch-hitter Jason Heyward to end the inning.

The Cubs got another chance when Anthony Rizzo singled with two outs in the eighth, and Maddon went for it. He ran for his star first baseman with the speedy Gore, who promptly swiped second.

Ottavino had an 0-2 count on Baez when his third pitch got too much of the plate. The free-swinging

slugger drove it into the gap in left-center for a tying double , easily scoring Gore from second and sending a charge through the crowd.

Hitters had been 0 for 36 against Ottavino with an 0-2 count this year.

"I think this is a classic," Black said. "I think this will go down as a Major League Baseball classic. ... And it's awesome that a number of these fellas will always remember this game."

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California law on company boards spotlights deep challenges

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON** and **MATT OTT**, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — California's new law requiring companies to include women on their boards of directors may not survive widely expected legal challenges but it has already spotlighted the entrenched practices and barriers that have helped keep women out of boardrooms.

Some of the country's best-known companies, along with many smaller ones, will have to overcome such obstacles to comply with the new measure, which requires public corporations headquartered in California to have at least one female director on their board by the end of next year. Companies with more than six board members would need three female directors by the end of 2021. Those with fewer than six members would need two women.

After years of public and internal pressure to increase gender parity at the top of the corporate ranks, few of the biggest companies have zero female board directors. But men vastly outnumber women on boards across nearly every industry, a landscape that has remained stubbornly unchanged despite years of debate and studies on the subject.

Facebook, Apple and Google's parent company Alphabet are among the several hundred companies headquartered in California that would have to add women to their boards by 2021 to comply with the law.

The law imposes a \$100,000 fine for a first violation and a \$300,000 penalty for subsequent violations, not huge sums for major corporations. Nevertheless, companies will likely begin efforts to comply with the law even as they keep track of — or participate in — legal efforts to block it, said Wendy Patrick, a professor of business ethics at San Diego State University.

Those efforts will push companies to work through obstacles frequently cited by corporate executives, including finding a wide pool of female talent, particularly in industries that are male-dominated from top to bottom. In the short term, Davis said the law might serve as catalyst for widening the pool if it encourages more women to seek out board positions. In the long term, the law will encourage companies to more aggressively recruit and retain women in all ranks, she said.

"Maybe this will encourage women to step up who otherwise never thought they had a shot," Patrick said.

Women held about 20 percent of board seats at Fortune 500 companies in 2016, according to the most recent census by the Alliance of Board Diversity. That was up from just under 17 percent in 2012, according to the study, which was conducted with Deloitte, an auditing, taxes and consulting services provider.

Among California-based companies, many of the top companies already have at least three women on their boards, including Walt Disney, Chevron, Oracle, HP Inc. and Twitter. Those with only two female directors include Facebook, Apple and Alphabet.

The scarcity of women on boards is more prevalent among smaller companies headquartered in the state, said Annalisa Barrett, the CEO of the Board Governance Research LLC, which researches corporate board practices and composition.

The new law will force 377 companies to add at least one female director to their boards by 2021, according to Barrett, who analyzed numbers provided by data-gathering firm Equilar Inc. for companies on the Russell 3000 Index that are headquartered in California. But she said that number does not reflect many companies that are too small to be included in the Russell 3000, many of which are likely to have all-male boards.

"Smaller companies haven't had as much pressure on them to take advantage of the benefits of hav-

ing a diversified board," said Barrett, a professor of corporate governance at the University of San Diego School of Business.

A number of corporate practices serve as potential barriers for recruiting women to boards, according to a 2017 Deloitte survey of 300 corporate directors and C-Suite executives at U.S. companies with at least \$50 million in annual revenue.

The survey found that more than 90 percent of board members would discount candidates without executive experience. That stacks the odds against women since the vast majority of CEOs at U.S. companies are men. The Deloitte study suggested that boards need to look outside their traditional recruitment practices, seeking out candidates with expertise in a certain field, or who reflect the customer base.

The Deloitte study also pointed to low turnover on boards. Less than 6 percent of companies surveyed in a 2016 Deloitte study on board practices have term limits for board members, although most have retirement age requirements.

To avoid dropping a male director or wait for a vacancy, most companies striving to comply with the California law will have to increase the number of board members, Barrett said. She noted that most companies have the flexibility to expand their boards in their bylaws.

The California law is almost certain to face legal challenges, something even Gov. Jerry Brown acknowledged when signing it Sunday.

A number of countries have implemented similar mandates, including France and Norway. In the United States, several states passed non-binding resolutions calling on companies to improve gender diversity on boards, following the lead of California, which became the first to do so in 2013. If California's new binding law survives legal challenges, other states can be expected to follow suit, Barrett said.

"Other states have followed along with California's movement. I would expect that if it indeed stands up to legal challenges, other states will follow along," Barrett said.

US to offer cyberwar capabilities to NATO allies

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — Acting to counter Russia's aggressive use of cyberattacks across Europe and around the world, the U.S. is expected to announce that, if asked, it will use its formidable cyberwarfare capabilities on NATO's behalf, according to a senior U.S. official.

The announcement is expected in the coming days as U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis attends a meeting of NATO defense ministers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Katie Wheelbarger, the principal deputy assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, said the U.S. is committing to use offensive and defensive cyber operations for NATO allies, but America will maintain control over its own personnel and capabilities.

The decision comes on the heels of the NATO summit in July, when members agreed to allow the alliance to use cyber capabilities that are provided voluntarily by allies to protect networks and respond to cyberattacks. It reflects growing concerns by the U.S. and its allies over Moscow's use of cyber operations to influence elections in America and elsewhere.

"Russia is constantly pushing its cyber and information operations," said Wheelbarger, adding that this is a way for the U.S. to show its continued commitment to NATO.

She told reporters traveling to NATO with Mattis that the move is a signal to other nations that NATO is prepared to counter cyberattacks waged against the alliance or its members.

Much like America's nuclear capabilities, the formal declaration of cyber support can help serve as a military deterrent to other nations and adversaries.

The U.S. has, for some time, considered cyber as a warfighting domain, much like air, sea, space and ground operations. In recent weeks the Pentagon released a new cybersecurity strategy that maps out a more aggressive use of military cyber capabilities. And it specifically calls out Russia and China for their use of cyberattacks.

China, it said, has been "persistently" stealing data from the public and private sector to gain an eco-

conomic advantage. And it said Russia has use cyber information operations to “influence our population and challenge our diplomatic processes.” U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Moscow of interfering in the 2016 elections, including through online social media.

“We will conduct cyberspace operations to collect intelligence and prepare military cyber capabilities to be used in the event of a crisis or conflict,” the new strategy states, adding that the U.S. is prepared to use cyberwarfare along with other military weapons against its enemies when needed, including to counter malicious cyber activities targeting the country.

The document adds that the Pentagon will “work to strengthen the capacity” of allies and partners.

NATO has moved cautiously on offensive cyber capabilities. At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, allies recognized cyberspace as a warfighting domain. It has said that a computer-based attack on an ally would trigger NATO’s commitment to defend its members. And last year the alliance agreed to create a new cyber operations center. But the focus has always been on defending NATO networks and those of its members, not offensive cyberwar.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday that the defense ministers will have a working session this week to address cyber and other risks, and how allies can cooperate to counter such threats. He did not provide details.

In Colorado’s suburbs, GOP’s midterm challenge is clear

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**, Associated Press

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — Mary Bazel has given up on Rep. Mike Coffman.

The 70-year-old retired civilian staffer at the Defense Department is a registered Democrat in suburban Denver who prides herself on not blindly voting for her party. She’s regularly voted for Coffman, welcoming his moderate stance on immigration and his military service record.

But Coffman’s streak with Bazel has run out thanks to President Donald Trump. The congressman may differ with Trump sometimes, but Bazel yearns for Democrats to control the House so they can launch investigations and provide a check on the president.

“I just feel like we’ve got to have a change to get rid of this awful person, before our democracy is destroyed,” Bazel said, referring to Trump.

If there are enough Mary Bazels here and in suburban congressional districts across the country, Democrats could be well on their way to gaining the 23 seats they need to flip control of the House. It’s a reversal of fortune for lawmakers like Coffman, whose occasional bucking of the GOP has long been a selling point to voters. But in the partisan turmoil of the Trump era, it could turn into a vulnerability if voters in critical swing districts reject anyone with an R by their name to send a message to the president.

Even some Republicans are concerned.

“There are going to be some candidates who are unavoidably going to be swept up because of feelings toward the party,” said David Flaherty, a Republican pollster in Colorado. “It doesn’t matter how good your constituent services are, how much you did for your district.”

As his district grew more Democratic over the years, Coffman kept winning. An Army and Marine veteran who served in both Iraq wars, Coffman initially was elected to a comfortably Republican district in 2008. But just before the 2012 elections, his district shifted to one evenly divided between Democrats, Republicans and voters who don’t register with either party. Once a supporter of legislation that would allow English-only ballots, Coffman learned Spanish, softened on immigration and became a fixture at Ethiopian church services, Hindu festivals and Salvadoran celebrations in his new district, where 1 in every 5 residents was born in another country.

Coffman comfortably beat back three Democratic challenges — debating one opponent in Spanish — even as his district leaned more and more to the left. In 2016, as Hillary Clinton won the district by 9 percentage points, Coffman ran ads promising to oppose her and Trump. Coffman won by 8 points.

Now he’s fighting for his political life against Democrat Jason Crow, himself a former Army Ranger. Coffman’s being outspent nearly 3-1 on the airwaves as gun control groups pour in money and hope to make

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an example of the Republican and his pro-gun stance in a district that includes the site of the Aurora theater shooting and abuts Columbine High School. The financial picture got grimmer last week when the political group tied to House GOP leadership canceled \$1 million in ads they had planned to air to support Coffman. The congressional arm of the GOP is trying to help by increasing its ad spending by \$270,000.

Coffman shrugs off the risk. On a recent Sunday night, he was brushing ashes off himself moments after lighting a bonfire in a park to celebrate an Ethiopian religious festival. His speech to the crowd moments earlier had climaxed with the congressman imploring people to fill out a survey Ethiopian Airlines is circulating to determine whether they should start direct flights from Denver. Asked if this campaign was different than his previous ones, he answered: "No, not really."

His work ethic is legendary — he's been videotaped doing push-ups while waiting at the Denver airport for his flight to Washington, and is notorious for burning through staff with his nonstop schedule. He contends he's better prepared for a Democratic wave because he's used to fighting uphill re-election battles, unlike some other House members who could be caught by surprise. Coffman acknowledges he's at a new disadvantage now because of all the Democratic money targeting him, but dismissed their attacks tying him to Trump.

"I work with this administration when I agree with them and I stand up to them when I don't agree with them," Coffman said.

Though Coffman has voted for some GOP priorities like the recent tax bill, he highlights when he disagrees with the administration. He sponsored a bill to restore net neutrality after the administration revoked it and voted against the final bill to roll back President Barack Obama's health care plan. He's criticized Trump for using a vulgarity to describe immigrants from some African countries, for separating families that cross the border and for ending an Obama administration program to prevent deportation of people brought to the U.S. illegally.

It's the last issue that Democrats frequently highlight to argue that Republicans like Coffman are all talk.

Coffman and other moderates vowed to defy their own leadership in the House, executing a parliamentary maneuver to force a vote on legislation to provide legal residency to people brought to the country illegally as children after Trump rescinded the program that prevented their deportation, known as DACA. The bill would have passed the House on a bipartisan vote, but in the end the moderates withdrew it as part of a deal with GOP leadership.

To Democrats, it's an example that, as long as Coffman lets Republican leaders control which bills get voted on in the House — and the committees that would otherwise investigate the president — what he says doesn't matter.

"We live in a very different world than we did two years ago, and so does Mike Coffman," Crow said in a recent interview in the basement of a VFW hall, where he had just finished an event with former Rep. Gabby Giffords and her gun control group. "He's spent his entire career positioning himself as the check on the party in power and he can't do that anymore."

That's the theme of the Democratic House campaign operation's first television ad against Coffman, which quotes him promising to stand up to Trump and then says he's voted with the president 96 percent of the time. The statistic is from the political website 538. Coffman says it's misleading, but Republicans used a similar percentage from the same site in 2014 as the centerpiece of their campaign to oust Democratic Sen. Mark Udall for voting too often with Obama.

Ruth Gonce, 63, is a Democrat who never was won over by Coffman.

"He's very good at standing up there with an immigrant and saying, 'I'm for these people,' and then he goes back to Washington and he votes with Trump," the retired real estate agent said as she waited at the Crow event.

Coffman's hope is there are enough people left like Neb Asfaw, an Ethiopian-American community organizer and active Democrat who accompanied the congressman at the religious festival and still supports him because of his service to the community.

"Nationally, I'd certainly like the Democrats to take the House," Asfaw said, "but at the end of the day, all politics are local."

A year after Weinstein, Hollywood is still soul-searching

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After Rashida Jones exited Pixar's "Toy Story 4" in 2017 she noted that the studio, after 25 years in business, had not made a single feature film directed by a woman, calling it "a culture where women and people of color do not have an equal creative voice."

So when Pixar co-founder and CEO John Lasseter stepped down earlier this year after acknowledging "missteps" in his behavior with employees, he was more than another casualty in the long list of film industry power players toppled by the #MeToo movement. He was a symbol of a Hollywood culture that is dying — or at least under siege.

"These giant, multi-billion-dollar companies, they all need a makeover," Jones now says. "And I think people are starting to recognize that. To me, that is a victory. Brave people have come forward and made this whole machine start to question itself."

In the year since sexual assault allegations surfaced against Harvey Weinstein, Hollywood has been soul-searching. The Weinstein case — along with those of Kevin Spacey, CBS' Les Moonves, Amazon Studios' Roy Price and many others — laid bare the painful reality for countless women in a movie industry where gender inequality was systematic and pervasive.

The #MeToo movement has gone far beyond the movies, but Hollywood remains ground zero in a cultural eruption that began 12 months ago with the Weinstein revelations, published by The New York Times and The New Yorker. Through interviews with actresses, filmmakers, producers and others, The Associated Press sought to assess whether it is a palpably different place today than a year ago.

"Definitely there's been a seismic shift," says Carey Mulligan, the British actress. "I feel like if I was walking down the street and someone said something or did something outside the bounds of appropriate, I would feel so much more empowered to tell them to f--- off while before I probably wouldn't. Those sort of gray area things are now no longer gray areas."

Mulligan, who played an early 20th century women's rights activist in 2015's "Suffragette" and has herself been vocal about Hollywood's pay gap, says that in every job she's had for the last year, there's been a well-known code of conduct on set. She's optimistic that more change is coming.

Researchers at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative have not yet found any marked difference in female representation on screen, behind the camera or in the boardroom. More data after the end of the year will give a clearer picture of 2018, but the previous 20 years have shown almost zero change. At least anecdotally, studios and production companies are more aggressively hunting for female filmmakers. Salma Hayek has said her production company has been struggling to find female writers and directors. They're all already booked.

"Everybody's looking for their female content," says Jones, whose documentary "Quincy" was recently released by Netflix. "They're starting to understand that content that's created by and shepherded by women and people of color is super underrepresented in the business. And everybody's scrambling to try to fix that."

Measuring cultural change in a far-flung, \$50 billion industry is difficult. Many of the epicenters of the movie business — red carpets, film festivals, award shows — have struck a different tone in the wake of Weinstein. While "who are you wearing" has steadily crept back into the red-carpet lexicon a year after women wore black to the Golden Globes, protest has engulfed many of the frothiest events on the movie calendar, from the Oscars to the Cannes Film Festival.

But some see a limit to what such demonstrations can accomplish.

"It's a great thing when you're on the red carpet and people are talking about sexual assault. At least it's out in the open," says actress Viola Davis. "My fear is that people feel like the focus of sexual assault is just on actresses in Hollywood and studio execs like Weinstein."

She worries about the movement becoming limited to "outing the men, putting them in the court of public opinion and just destroying their careers. It's way bigger than that. One out of every 4 women —

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and there's some statistics that say it's 1 out of 3 — will be sexually assaulted by the time they're 18."

Like many revolutions before it, #MeToo has sought to codify permanent changes. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences instituted a code of conduct and booted not only Weinstein but Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski.

In addition, "inclusion riders" — contractual agreements to try to hire diverse casts and crews — have proliferated. Last month, Warner Bros. became the first major studio to make a similar pledge. Many prominent film festival directors have also signed agreements to push their executive boards to gender parity.

In an attempt to abolish the "casting couch" culture that Weinstein allegedly exploited, The Screen Actors Guild created guidelines — supported by the producers' guild — instructing producers and executives to refrain from holding professional meetings in hotel rooms and homes. It urged members not to agree to meetings in "high-risk locations."

"People have been talking for decades about how terrible the casting coach is. Even with that knowledge, it was still going on. There was nothing concrete, written down saying: unacceptable," says Gabrielle Carteris, president of SAG-AFTRA. "Us putting that in a guideline was so empowering for members because we've all been put in that situation. And I really want to salute the studios because we did it really in partnership with them."

The guidelines will soon be expanded to establish rules around nudity on set.

"The kind of work we do is so intimate. It's different than being a lawyer or a doctor or a dentist," Carteris says. "But there are rules for workers in this country, and it was really important to define what those rules are."

The movie business still lacks a single, industry-wide reporting system for sexual harassment and assault, though a committee led by Anita Hill is working to create one. Time's Up, which is spearheading much of the pressure put on Hollywood, has also amassed a \$21 million legal-defense fund for women who suffer from harassment and assault at work in any industry.

Yet with everything that has happened in the last year, most observers say not nearly enough has been done to address long-term inequalities in Hollywood.

"It feels like we're moving in the right direction, but women and minorities are such a tiny percentage of this industry," says filmmaker Nicole Holofcener, whose latest is "The Land of Steady Habits." "I open up my Director's Guild magazine, and it has films that the DGA is screening and sometimes there's not one woman, not one black person. They are all white male directors and my jaw is on the floor. I think: How can this still be?"

Holofcener has mixed feelings about all the attention on gender.

"It's a good thing to highlight our work, but I wish we didn't have to," she says.

Julia Roberts, who was once among the highest paid movie stars, agrees.

"Every year that it's 'the year of the woman,' let's just have it always be the year of the artists," Roberts says. "If we have to keep spotlighting the gender of this and the gender of that, we're kind of blowing it."

There are plenty of others in Hollywood who have misgivings about #MeToo. Sean Penn derided what he called the movement's "salacious" quality, saying its spirit is "to divide men and women."

But as the recent re-editing of "The Predator" showed, some behavior remains a work-in-progress. Shane Black called his casting of an old friend, Steven Wilder Striegel, a previously convicted sex offender, an "irresponsible" decision. Striegel was cut from the film only after actress Olivia Munn alerted 20th Century Fox to Striegel's past.

Kirsten Schaffer, executive director of the advocacy group Women in Film, believes that the path to ending harassment is through parity. Evidence backs her up.

"The more women we have in leadership positions, the less likely the incidents of harassment. So we have a lot of work to do on that front," Schaffer says.

"We've been living in a sexist, racist society for hundreds of thousands of years," she adds. "We're not going to undo it in a year."

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Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP> .

Ripple effect? Amazon's \$15 wage may help lift pay elsewhere

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After years of sluggish pay gains, the economy may be starting to work for America's low-wage workers.

Amazon's announcement Tuesday that it will raise its minimum wage to \$15 an hour will intensify pressure on other companies to lift their pay levels as well. Among the most likely to do so: Amazon's rival retailers and warehouse operators, many of which are facing the prospect of staff shortages as they ramp up for the holiday shopping season.

"This is going to be a big deal for very low-wage workers," said Ben Zipperer, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. "It's going to compel other businesses to raise wages as well."

Low-wage workers typically receive higher pay from an expanding economy only after higher-income people have benefited, economists note. Now, with the unemployment rate near a 50-year low and the number of job openings exceeding the number of unemployed, more lower-income Americans are finally receiving meaningful raises.

Low-paid workers "get kicked the most in the recession, and they generally benefit more later in the boom," said David Neumark, an economist at University of California, Irvine.

Accordingly, retailers, who employ a sizable share of the nation's lower-paid workers, have been stepping up pay increases. Average hourly wages for retail workers, excluding managers, rose 4 percent in August compared with 12 months earlier.

Amazon's announcement will likely embolden labor activists and unions that have been pressing large fast-food and retail chains to raise pay, provide more reliable work schedules, and allow for union representation.

Among the critics Amazon has faced over its pay and work conditions, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has noted that some of its workers receive food stamps and other benefits that are geared for the poor, while its owner Jeff Bezos has become the world's wealthiest person.

"Now that activists have succeeded, they can now take that demand to other employers," said Marshall Steinbaum, a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute. "You say you can't afford this, but your competitor obviously can."

Indeed, shares of retail companies fell sharply Tuesday in a sign that investors expect them to have to raise pay to compete with Amazon, a step that would potentially slow their profits. Best Buy's share price dropped nearly 5 percent; Kohl's Stores fell 3.9 percent.

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, also said Tuesday that it will lobby to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour, though it did not say what figure it would push for. The impact of a higher federal wage, though, would likely be modest, because more than 20 states have minimum wages above the federal level.

A higher federal minimum wage could intensify pressures on smaller businesses that don't have the financial resources that Amazon has to raise pay significantly.

Historically, large companies have been a driving factor in pushing up the minimum wage, Steinbaum said. Once they start to raise pay in response to competitive forces, they typically lobby to push others to follow suit, to prevent other companies from undercutting them.

Darren Moscato, who owns an Express staffing agency in Buffalo, New York, where Amazon has built a warehouse, said the higher pay offered by Amazon "will make it harder for local businesses to compete for workers."

Moscato noted that smaller companies typically spend more on labor than does Amazon, which uses more automation.

"This is why Amazon is also pushing for a higher national minimum wage," Moscato said. "It will give them a competitive advantage."

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Other retailers and shipping companies are likely to feel the brunt of Amazon's decision as well, analysts said. The pay increases would apply to about 100,000 Amazon seasonal workers. That's equal to roughly 16 percent of the 623,800 retail jobs that the economy added in October and November last year.

"We've already seen just how much pressure there is — I think this is only going to increase it," said Judy Conti, director of government affairs at the National Employment Law Project.

An advocate for higher minimum wages, Conti added that Amazon would likely benefit if \$15 an hour became the new baseline. Any small businesses that compete with larger companies by providing better service rather than by matching every price cut should also manage fine, she said.

Companies like UPS, FedEx and XPO Logistics typically hire tens of thousands of seasonal workers to meet the crushing demands of online shopping during the winter holidays. Amazon plans to add 100,000, many of them at the higher \$15 wage, which takes effect Nov. 1.

"The crisis in warehouse and shipping personnel is very real, and there's going to have to be a meaningful increase in wages to attract and increase talent," said Steve Barr, consumer markets leader at PwC.

Iesha Townsend, who works as a McDonald's cashier in Chicago, said she hopes other companies follow suit. Townsend, 32, plans to demonstrate for higher pay on Thursday as part of the Fight for \$15 movement.

"Why shouldn't we get it too?" she said, referring to Amazon's raise. "We work so hard, and we get less."

AP Writers Anne D'Innocenzio in New York and Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

Chinese armed drones now flying across Mideast battlefields

By JON GAMBRELL and GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — High above Yemen's rebel-held city of Hodeida, a drone controlled by Emirati forces hovered as an SUV carrying a top Shiite Houthi rebel official turned onto a small street and stopped, waiting for another vehicle in its convoy to catch up.

Seconds later, the SUV exploded in flames, killing Saleh al-Samad, a top political figure.

The drone that fired that missile in April was not one of the many American aircraft that have been buzzing across the skies of Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. It was Chinese.

Across the Middle East, countries locked out of purchasing U.S.-made drones due to rules over excessive civilian casualties are being wooed by Chinese arms dealers, who are world's main distributor of armed drones.

"The Chinese product now doesn't lack technology, it only lacks market share," said Song Zhongping, a Chinese military analyst and former lecturer at the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force University of Engineering. "And the United States restricting its arms exports is precisely what gives China a great opportunity."

The sales are helping expand Chinese influence across a region vital to American security interests.

"It's a hedging strategy and the Chinese will look to benefit from that," said Douglas Barrie, an airpower specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I think the Chinese are far less liable to be swayed by concerns over civilian casualties," he said.

At the start of the year, a satellite passing over southern Saudi Arabia photographed U.S.-made surveillance drones at an airfield, alongside Chinese-manufactured armed ones.

According to the Center for the Study of the Drone at New York's Bard College, that was the first documented example of the two drone systems being used in the war in Yemen. The country has emerged as a "sort of a testing ground for these strike-capable drones," said Dan Gettinger, the co-director of the Center for the Study of the Drone. "There's a rapid turnaround from delivery to deployment."

U.S. drones were first used in Yemen to kill suspected al-Qaida militants in 2002.

One of the biggest Chinese exports is the Cai-Hong, or Rainbow, series made by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp., or CASC, the largest contractor for the Chinese space program.

CASC's CH-4 and CH-5 models are on a par with San Diego-based General Atomics' Predator and Reaper drones, and much cheaper. Independent analysts say the Chinese models lag behind their American coun-

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terparts but the technology is good enough to justify the price tag, which might be half or less.

A CASC executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists, said cutting-edge U.S. models like Boeing Co.'s Stingray, introduced this year for the U.S. Navy, still hold a technological advantage.

And while price is an advantage, so too is a more relaxed attitude toward how drones are used, said Ulrike Franke, an expert on drones and policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations

Since 2014, China has sold more than 30 CH-4's to countries including Saudi Arabia and Iraq in deals worth over \$700 million, according to CASC. Ten countries are currently in negotiations to purchase the CH-4, according to the firm.

Last year, China sold to the UAE the Wing Loong II, an armed unmanned aerial vehicle roughly equivalent to the American MQ-9 Reaper.

"In recent years, all types of drones have proven their value and importance through a high degree of use in warfare, and the military has noticed," said the top CASC executive. "Many countries are now speeding up the development for these weapons systems, including China."

During President Xi Jinping's five years in power, China has stepped up spending on stealth fighters and aircraft carriers for its own military, while boosting sales of advanced equipment such as attack submarines to close allies like Pakistan.

China still lags behind the U.S., Russia, France, and Germany in total arms sales but it's catching up. Chinese arms exports rose by 38 percent between 2008-12 and 2013-17, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which tracks the global arms trade.

Mounting criticism over the rising civilian death toll in Yemen prompted the U.S. to impose restrictions on drone sales, forcing foreign countries to go through the U.S. government to buy armed drones, including those with laser-guidance systems.

The Washington-based New America Foundation estimates more than 240 drone strikes in Yemen have killed more than 1,300 people, including at least 111 civilians.

But with China's drone sales booming, there's growing pressure from U.S. arms makers to remove restrictions to let them catch up.

After some U.S. lawmakers urged President Donald Trump to loosen controls and let General Atomics sell its armed Reapers to Jordan and the UAE, the administration on April 19 permitted U.S. manufacturers to directly market and sell drones, including armed versions.

The government must still approve and license the sales, which are also contingent on human rights and proliferation reviews and congressional authorization.

General Atomics did not respond to a request for comment.

China doesn't routinely announce arms sales like the U.S. and others, but a review of drone spottings gives some indication of who its customers are.

— In Iraq in October 2015, the country's then-defense minister inspected a CH-4 drone at an air base in the city of Kut.

— Chinese armed drones have been operating at Jordan's Zarqa Airport, at an air base in Pakistan and from bases in Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula and near its border with Libya, according to satellite photos analyzed by the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Satellite photographs taken of a mysterious air base in the United Arab Emirates' deep south — a desert area known as the Empty Quarter — appear to show three Wing Loong IIs, IHS Jane's Defense Weekly reported in January.

— Two CH-4s were spotted by satellite alongside surveillance-only Predators purchased by the UAE at Jizan Regional Airport in southern Saudi Arabia, near the kingdom's border with Yemen, according to the Center for the Study of the Drone.

— Outside of the Mideast, Nigeria has used Chinese armed drones against the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

Shih reported from Beijing.

In Mississippi, Trump mocks Ford's claims against Kavanaugh

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (AP) — President Donald Trump ignited a crowd at a campaign rally in Mississippi on Tuesday by mocking a woman who has claimed she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago.

The audience laughed as Trump ran through a list of what he described as holes in Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. She testified that Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, tried to take off her clothes and covered her mouth in the early 1980s, when the two were teenagers. Kavanaugh has denied Ford's allegations.

"How did you get home? 'I don't remember,'" Trump said at the rally in Southaven. "How did you get there? 'I don't remember.' Where is the place? 'I don't remember.' How many years ago was it? 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.'"

Imitating Ford, he added, "But I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember."

It marked the sharpest criticism by Trump of Ford since she came forward publicly with the allegation last month. He had previously called Ford a "very credible witness."

Ford's lawyer Michael Bromwich called Trump's attack "vicious, vile and soulless."

"Is it any wonder that she was terrified to come forward, and that other sexual assault survivors are as well?" Bromwich tweeted. "She is a remarkable profile in courage. He is a profile in cowardice."

The president was in Mississippi on Tuesday looking to use his influence to sway the outcome of a low-profile election that could tip the balance of the Senate.

As Republicans fight headwinds ahead of the Nov. 6 midterm election, Trump sought to rally his supporters behind GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who was appointed to fill the seat of Republican Thad Cochran, who retired in April. She faces three candidates — Republican Chris McDaniel and Democrats Mike Espy and Tobey Bernard Bartee — in next month's special election for the remainder of the two-year term.

"She's always had my back," Trump said. "She's always had your back. And a vote for Cindy is a vote for me."

But Trump spent much of the rally lamenting the treatment of Kavanaugh by Democrats, whose attacks, he said, had taken their toll on the judge's family.

"A man's life is in tatters," he said. Of Democrats, he added, "These are really evil people."

He even raised questions about the drinking habits of Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy in an attempt to turn the tables on Democrats who have gone after Kavanaugh's beer drinking. Trump told the crowd they should do an online search for "Patrick Leahy slash drink." Leahy's office didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Tuesday.

Some Republicans and White House allies have suggested the allegations against Kavanaugh can be potent political fodder in the run-up to Nov. 6, animating GOP voters who have so far lacked the same motivation to head to the polls as their Democratic counterparts.

Republican officials and the White House expect Hyde-Smith's race to go to a runoff under the state's jungle election rules that force a showdown between the top two finishers if no candidate wins at least 50 percent of the vote on Election Day. With Republicans defending majorities in the House and Senate next month, officials cast Trump's visit as an attempt to get ahead of a potentially perilous situation.

Officials said Trump is seeking to boost Hyde-Smith as close as possible to the 50 percent threshold and lend momentum for a possible runoff. Depending on how Republicans perform on Nov. 6, the eyes of the nation could fall on a Nov. 27 Mississippi runoff in what could become an expensive and high-profile race to determine control of the Senate.

"Your vote in this election will decide which party controls the United States Senate," Trump said.

A vocal minority of the crowd Tuesday backed the other conservative in the race, McDaniel, a state senator, and booed Hyde-Smith when Trump introduced her. They launched into occasional chants of "We

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want Chris.”

Earlier Tuesday, Trump told electrical contractors gathered in Philadelphia that his economic policies would translate into more jobs for their ranks as he highlighted a new trade deal among the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

“We’re in the midst of a manufacturing renaissance — something which nobody thought you’d hear,” Trump said in a speech to the National Electrical Contractors Association Convention a day after celebrating the new North American trade deal.

In fact, 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 calls the new trade agreement USMCA, for U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. “Like YMCA or U.S. Marine Corps with an A at the end,” he explained.

He said he doesn’t want to use the previous name, NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he contends cost American jobs and railed against during his 2016 presidential campaign. The new trade deal still must be approved by Congress.

“We are finally rebuilding our country, and we are doing it with American aluminum, American steel and with our great electrical contractors,” he said.

Trump said the strong economy “means more jobs for our great electrical contractors.”

Before departing the White House, Trump tweeted, “THE ONLY REASON TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT IS IF YOU’RE TIRED OF WINNING!”

NY Times: Trump got \$413M from his dad, much from tax dodges

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times reported Tuesday that President Donald Trump received at least \$413 million from his father over the decades, much of that through dubious tax dodges, including outright fraud.

The 15,000-word Times report contradicts Trump’s portrayal of himself as a self-made billionaire who started with just a \$1 million loan from his father.

The Times says Trump and his father, Fred, avoided gift and inheritance taxes by setting up a sham corporation and undervaluing assets to tax authorities. The Times says its report is based on more than 100,000 pages of financial documents, including confidential tax returns from the father and his companies.

A lawyer for Trump, Charles J. Harder, told the Times that there was no “fraud or tax evasion” and that the facts cited in the report are “extremely inaccurate.”

The White House dismissed the report as a “misleading attack against the Trump family by the failing New York Times.” It criticized the newspaper and other media outlets, saying their low credibility with the public is “because they are consumed with attacking the president and his family 24/7 instead of reporting the news.”

The New York state tax department told The Associated Press that it is reviewing the allegations in the Times and “is vigorously pursuing all appropriate avenues of investigation.” The department typically refers findings to the state attorney general’s office.

The Times says the Trump family hid millions of dollars of transfers from the father to his children through a sham company owned by the children called All County Building Supply & Maintenance. Set up in 1992 ostensibly as a purchasing agent to supply Fred Trump’s buildings with boilers, cleaning supplies and other goods, the father would pad invoices with markups of 20 percent or even 50 percent, thereby avoiding gift taxes, the newspaper reports.

The Times says that before Fred Trump died in the late 1990s, he transferred ownership of most of his real estate empire to his four living children. The value of the properties in tax returns summed up to \$41.4 million, vastly less than the Times says they were worth.

The same properties would be sold off over the next decade for more than 16 times that amount.

In total, the president’s father and mother transferred over \$1 billion to their children, according to the Times tally. That should have produced a tax bill of at least \$550 million, based on a 55 percent tax on

gifts and inheritance at the time.

Instead, the children paid \$52.2 million, or about 5 percent.

Tax experts cited in the report say that Trump is unlikely to face criminal prosecution in helping his parents evade taxes because the maneuvers occurred long ago and are past the statute of limitation.

The president's brother Robert Trump said that "all appropriate gift and estate tax returns" were filed. "Our family has no other comment on these matters that happened some 20 years ago," he said in a statement to the Times, "and would appreciate your respecting the privacy of our deceased parents, may God rest their souls."

The Times report says documents it reviewed show that the future president was earning \$200,000 a year in today's dollars at the age of 3. By the time Trump had graduated from college, the report says, he was getting the equivalent of \$1 million a year from his father.

When he was campaigning, Trump repeatedly boasted of his ability to turn a small loan from his father into his fortune. "My father gave me a very small loan in 1975," he said, "and I built it into a company that's worth many, many billions of dollars."

Suspicious envelopes sent to Trump, military officials

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **DEB RIECHMANN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities were investigating two envelopes suspected of containing a suspected poison that were addressed to top military chiefs and a third with unknown contents sent to President Donald Trump.

In a statement Tuesday evening, the Secret Service confirmed that a suspicious envelope had been sent to the president on Monday, but was not received at the White House, nor did it ever enter the White House. The agency did not disclose any details about what was in the envelope or where it was received. The White House had no comment.

Authorities at a Pentagon mail screening facility were investigating two envelopes suspected of containing a poison, ricin, made from castor beans. Those letters were addressed to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who is traveling in Europe this week, and the Navy's top officer, Adm. John Richardson, a defense official said.

They were turned over to the FBI for further analysis. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly ahead of FBI release of its findings.

Neither envelope entered the Pentagon. The mail screening facility is on the Pentagon grounds but separate from the main building.

Pentagon spokesman Chris Sherwood said the envelopes had been found on Monday.

Another Pentagon spokesman, Col. Rob Manning, said all U.S. Postal Service mail received at the screening facility on Monday was under quarantine and "poses no threat to Pentagon personnel."

Ricin is part of the waste "mash" produced when castor oil is made. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if it is made into a partially purified material or refined, ricin can be used as a weapon capable of causing death under certain circumstances.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2018. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington declared Nov. 26, 1789, a day of Thanksgiving to express gratitude

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for the creation of the United States of America.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1932, Iraq became independent of British administration.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again." "The Maltese Falcon" — the version starring Humphrey Bogart and directed by John Huston — premiered in New York.

In 1955, "Captain Kangaroo" and "The Mickey Mouse Club" premiered on C-B-S and A-B-C, respectively.

In 1962, astronaut Wally Schirra (shih-RAH') became the fifth American to fly in space as he blasted off from Cape Canaveral aboard the Sigma 7 on a 9-hour flight.

In 1967, folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie, the Dust Bowl Troubadour best known for "This Land Is Your Land," died in New York of complications from Huntington's disease; he was 55.

In 1981, Irish nationalists at the Maze Prison near Belfast, Northern Ireland, ended seven months of hunger strikes that had claimed 10 lives.

In 1991, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo "Siegfried & Roy" during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

Ten years ago: Amid dire warnings of economic disaster, a reluctant Congress abruptly reversed course and approved a historic \$700 billion government bailout of the battered financial industry; President George W. Bush swiftly signed it. Thirteen years to the day after O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, the former football star was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison.)

Five years ago: A Connecticut woman driving a black Infiniti with her 1-year-old daughter inside tried to ram a White House barricade, then led police on a chase toward the U.S. Capitol, where police shot and killed her. (The unarmed woman, 34-year-old Miriam Carey, had been diagnosed with postpartum depression and psychosis; her child was unharmed.) President Barack Obama canceled a trip to Asia to stay in Washington and push for an elusive funding agreement that would end a partial government shutdown. A smugglers' ship packed with African migrants sank off the coast of a southern Italian island, killing more than 365 people.

One year ago: President Donald Trump, visiting Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, congratulated the U.S. island territory for escaping the higher death toll of what he called "a real catastrophe like Katrina;" at a church used to distribute supplies, Trump handed out flashlights and tossed rolls of paper towels into the friendly crowd. The United States expelled 15 of Cuba's diplomats to protest Cuba's failure to protect Americans from unexplained attacks in Havana. Yahoo announced that the largest data breach in history had affected all 3 billion accounts on its service, not the 1 billion it had revealed earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Steve Reich is 82. Rock and roll star Chubby Checker is 77. Actor Alan Rachins is 76. Former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 75. Magician Roy Horn is 74. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 69. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 68. Blues singer Keb' Mo' is 67. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 67. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is 67. Baseball Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is 64. Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton is 64. Actor Hart Bochner is 62. Actor Peter Frechette is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Fred Couples is 59. Actor-comedian Greg Proops is 59. Actor Jack Wagner is 59. Actor/musician Marcus Giamatti is 57. Rock musician Tommy Lee is 56. Actor Clive Owen is 54. Actress Janel Moloney is 49. Singer Gwen Stefani (steh-FAH'-nee) (No Doubt) is 49. Pop singer Kevin Richardson is 47. Rock singer G. Love is 46. Actress Keiko Agena (KAY'-koh ah-GAYN'-ah) is 45. Actress Neve Campbell is 45. Actress Lena Headey (HEE'-dee) is 45. Singer India.Arie (ah-REE') is 43. Rapper Talib Kweli (tuh-LIB' kwah-LEE')

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is 43. Actress Alanna Ubach is 43. Actor Seann (cq) William Scott is 42. Actress Shannyn Sossamon is 40. Rock musician Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 39. Actor Seth Gabel is 37. Rock musician Mark King (Hinder) is 36. Actor Erik Von Detten is 36. Singer-musician Cherrill Green (Edens Edge) is 35. Actress Tessa Thompson is 35. Actress Meagan Holder is 34. Actress-singer Ashlee Simpson is 34. Rapper A\$AP Rocky is 30. Actress Alicia Vikander (ah-LIH'-see-ah vih-KAN'-duhr) is 30. Actor Noah Schnapp (TV: "Stranger Things") is 14.

Thought for Today: "The worst disease in the world is the plague of vengeance." -- Dr. Karl Menninger, American psychiatrist (1893-1990).