

Groton Daily Independent

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

**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Service Notice: Carole Roettele

Memorial services for Carole Roettele, 84, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 6th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Carole passed away October 3, 2018 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol.

Groton Area

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 5, 2018

Faculty In-service. NO SCHOOL.

Monday, October 8, 2018

No School: Native American Day

4:00pm: Volleyball: Girls 7th/8th Match at Milbank
C Team Volleyball Jamboree at Warner (All matches will be in the New Gym. No admission will be charged.)

5:00: Warner C vs Groton Black and Redfield vs Groton Gold

6:00: Warner C vs Redfield and Groton vs Warner 8th

7:00: Groton Black vs Redfield and Warner C vs Groton Gold

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Northwestern Middle School Music Festival at Mellette

Oral Interp at Milbank High School

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

PSAT Testing for Sophomores and Juniors at GHS.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

All-State Chorus Day at South Dakota State University

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

October 9, 2018 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of September 10, 2018 and September 24, 2018 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...*as fiscal agent*.
3. Acknowledge receipt of public school exemption #19-11.
4. Approve open enrollment #19-21.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Program Overview Presentations
 - a. Science...K. Gonsoir, T. Kurth, J. Sternhagen, L. Hawkins
 - b. English/Language Arts, Reading...S. Hanten, D. Kurtz, J. Seibel, K. Anderson
3. Approval of September 2018 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of September 2018 District bills for payment.
5. Approval of September 2018 School Transportation report.
6. Approval of September 2018 School Lunch report.
7. Internal Control Report – Credit Cards and Checking Account.
8. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. **Building, Grounds, & Transportation:** Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder
 - b. **Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum:** Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis
 - c. **Negotiations:** Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Marty Weismantel
9. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Authorize promissory note from general fund to special education fund retroactive to September 30.
2. Approve request from School District Attorney, Rodney Freeman, for contribution of \$135 toward his attendance at the National Education Law Association 2018 Annual Meeting.
3. Appoint member to the ASBSD Delegate Assembly.
4. Approve amended work agreements and assignment changes:
 - a. Kami Lipp (salary from \$17,433.46 to \$16,424.76)

ADJOURN

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City to get on state water plan for new water tower project

Northeast Council of Government's representative, Ted Dickey, introduced the state water plan. Groton must participate in the state water plan in order to be eligible for state funding for a new water tower. The City will most likely only be eligible for loans for the project, and not grant money. Loans would be available at 2.5% for a thirty-year term, and 2.25% for a twenty-year term. The council authorize Mayor Hanlon to sign the state water plan application with secondary looping projects which will include installing a water main going south of Railroad Avenue.

Airport land rent sealed bids were opened and read aloud.

Thurston Cattle Company offered 185.00 per acre.

Rix Farms Inc. offered 187.57 per acre.

Shawn Gengerke Farms offered 170 per acre.

The council accepted the high bid from Rix Farms Inc. Three years ago the price was \$203 per acre.

The council decided to consolidate the City's Wells Fargo checking account and the First State Bank savings account into the City's SD FIT savings account.

The following streets will be closed for the Festival of Bands on October 12th: 2nd Street, Main Street, Railroad Avenue, Ninth Avenue and any other streets necessary to reach the nursing home.

McGannon reported everything going as planned for Pumpkin Fest preparation. They are still looking for volunteers for the October 6th event.

The City's 2003 White Chevrolet Silverado 1500 1/2 ton with 77,184 miles was declared surplus with a value of \$5,500. Sealed bids will be opened at the October 15th Council meeting.

The second reading of the increased water rates was approved.

United Blood Services will be able to use the Groton Community Center free of charge as needed.

The council approved to send Hope Block and one other city employee to the Safety and Loss Control Training Conference to be held Nov. 7-8 in Pierre.



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER



Has a new
wage scale

LPN and RN

RN \$25-31

LPN \$20-26

For more details or to apply please call or
stop in and speak to Brynn Pickrel at

605-397-2365.

Everyone scores in Groton's 3-0 win over Tiospa Zina



Indigo Rogers returns the ball.

(Photo by Sierra Bohlmann)

Everyone who played Thursday night scored at least one point in Groton Area's 3-0 win over Tiospa Zina.

In the first game, Groton Area earned 20 of 25 points while Tiospa Zina did not earn a point. The Tigers scored the last 13 points of the game to post a 25-3 win.

The second game was tied 10 times and there were six lead changes before Groton Area scored seven straight points to take the lead and go for the win, 25-16. Groton Area earned 17 of the 25 points while Tiospa Zina earned eight of its 25 points.

Groton Area jumped out to an 18-2 lead in the third game en route to a 25-5 win. The Tigers earned 20 of their 25 points and the Wambdi earned three points.

In summary, Jennie Doeden had 9 kills, 4 ace serves and 1 block; Nicole Marzahn had 6 kills, Indigo Rogers had 5 kills, Payton Maine had 4 kills and 3 ace serves, Kaylin Kucker had 3 ace serves and 1 kill, Taylor Holm had 5 kills, Eliza Wanner added 1 ace serve and 4 kills, Miranda Hanson had 2 ace serves, Portia Kettering had 2 kills, Tadyn Glover had 3 ace serves, and Payton Colestock had 1 kill.

Individual stats from the game:

Payton Maine was 11 of 11 in serving with 3 ace serves, was 6 of 6 in attacks with 4 kills and 14 digs.

Nicole Marzahn was 15 of 15 in attacks with 6 kills and 4 digs.

Tadyn Glover was 12 of 12 in serving with 3 ace serves, had 2 assists and had 5 digs.

Portia Kettering was 2 of 2 in serving, was 9 of 11 in attacks with 2 kills and had 2 digs.

Indigo Rogers was 3 of 3 in serving, 15 of 17 in attacks with 5 kills and had 1 assist.

Miranda Hanson was 10 of 11 in serving with 2 ace serves, was 2 of 2 in attacks, had 17 assists and had 2 digs.

Payton Colestock was 5 of 6 in attacks with 1 kill.

Eliza Wanner was 8 of 8 in serving with 1 ace serve, was 11 of 12 in attacks with 4 kills and had 16 digs.

Taylor Holm was 9 of 10 in attacks with 5 kills and had 2 dig.

Kaylin Kucker was 16 of 16 in serving with 3 ace serves, was 2 of 2 in attacks with 1 kill, had 15 assists and had 3 digs.

Jennie Doeden was 14 of 15 in serving with 4 ace serves, 16 of 18 in attacks with 9 kills, had 1 block and had 3 digs.



Miranda Hanson sets the ball.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Payton Colestock returns the ball. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Taylor Holm gets ready to hit the ball with Jennie Doeden in the background. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Cade Guthmiller at state



Groton Area's Cade Guthmiller placed 44th at the state golf meet held in Dell Rapids. (Courtesy Photos)

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Today in Weather History

October 5, 1982: Strong thunderstorms developed across central South Dakota and raced into portions of southwest Minnesota. The storms were prolific lightning producers in South Dakota setting several structures on fire. An electrical substation was damaged near Salem, an elementary school was set ablaze in Aberdeen, and several homes in Sioux Falls were struck as well. One home in Sioux Falls had a hole knocked in a wall by a lightning strike.

Numerous fires were also started in southern Minnesota by the same line of storms. Strong thunderstorm winds leveled several buildings, damaged a house, and moved a hog shed off its foundation on three separate farms near Worthington. The winds also turned over railroad cars near Pipestone. Worthington narrowly escaped damage as a small tornado touched down two miles southwest of town and moved southeast. Fortunately, the tornado's damage was confined to trees and crops.

October 5, 2013: A historic blizzard pounded western South Dakota with record-setting snowfall and high winds for almost 48 hours from the evening of October 3 through the afternoon of October 5. One to two feet of snow was reported over the plains of western South Dakota, with three to five feet of snow falling over the northern and central Black Hills. Wind gusts to 70 mph across the plains produced significant blowing and drifting snow, with visibilities near zero for much of the day on October 4. The heavy wet snow and strong winds downed trees and power lines, causing prolonged outages and impassable highways. The roofs of several businesses, a middle school, and community center collapsed from the heavy snow. Thousands of livestock were killed from hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board received reports of over 21,000 cattle; over 1300 sheep; 400 horses; and 40 bison deaths from the storm. Tree and debris removal costs were several million dollars. An unyielding low-pressure area moving across the region brought an early fall blizzard to most of the counties west of Missouri River on October 4th and 5th. The snowfall and blizzard conditions occurred mainly along the western parts of the counties. The snowfall amounts varied broadly from 1 to 2 inches to as much as 22 inches in far western Corson County. Very strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph brought blizzard conditions and significant travel problems. Interstate-90 was closed from Murdo to the Wyoming border from 7 pm on October 4th to the evening of the October 8th. No travel was advised on all roads west of the Missouri River. Many cattle were also lost in western Corson County due to the storm. The heavy snow along with strong winds resulted in some power outages along with some downed tree branches. The snowfall began in the late morning hours of the 4th and ended in the early afternoon hours of the 5th. Some snowfall amounts that occurred were 1 inch at Murdo; 2 inches at Timber Lake and 5 miles west of Hayes; 4 inches at McIntosh; 16 inches southeast of Morrystown; and 22 inches southwest of Keldron.

1864: A tropical cyclone hit India near Calcutta, devastating the city and killing about 60,000 people in the region.

1972: Tropical Storm Joanne, earlier a hurricane, moves across the Baja California peninsula and came ashore in western Mexico south of Ajo. The storm brought heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. This storm is the first documented tropical storm to reach Arizona with its cyclonic circulation intact. Over 5 inches of rain was reported on the Mogollon rim southeast of Flagstaff. Additional rainfall amounts included 4.44 at Flagstaff, 3.80 at Prescott, 2.21 at Yuma, 1.95 at Phoenix, 1.63 at Nogales, and 1.63 at Tucson.

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Today



Chance
Drizzle

High: 48 °F

Tonight



Decreasing
Clouds

Low: 27 °F

Saturday



Partly Sunny

High: 44 °F

Saturday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 29 °F

Sunday



Cloudy then
Slight Chance
Rain

High: 47 °F

**Continued Unsettled &
Chilly Today**

**Light Afternoon Showers
Highs In The 40s**

**Clearing & Cold Tonight
Lows: 20s & Low 30s**



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic created
10/5/2018 4:46 AM

Published on: 10/05/2018 at 4:53AM

A humid, cool airmass remains in place today, with a system bringing some light showers (mainly rain - but cant rule out some light snow mixed in) through this afternoon. We will see Canadian high pressure move in overnight, with readings potential down into the 20s again.

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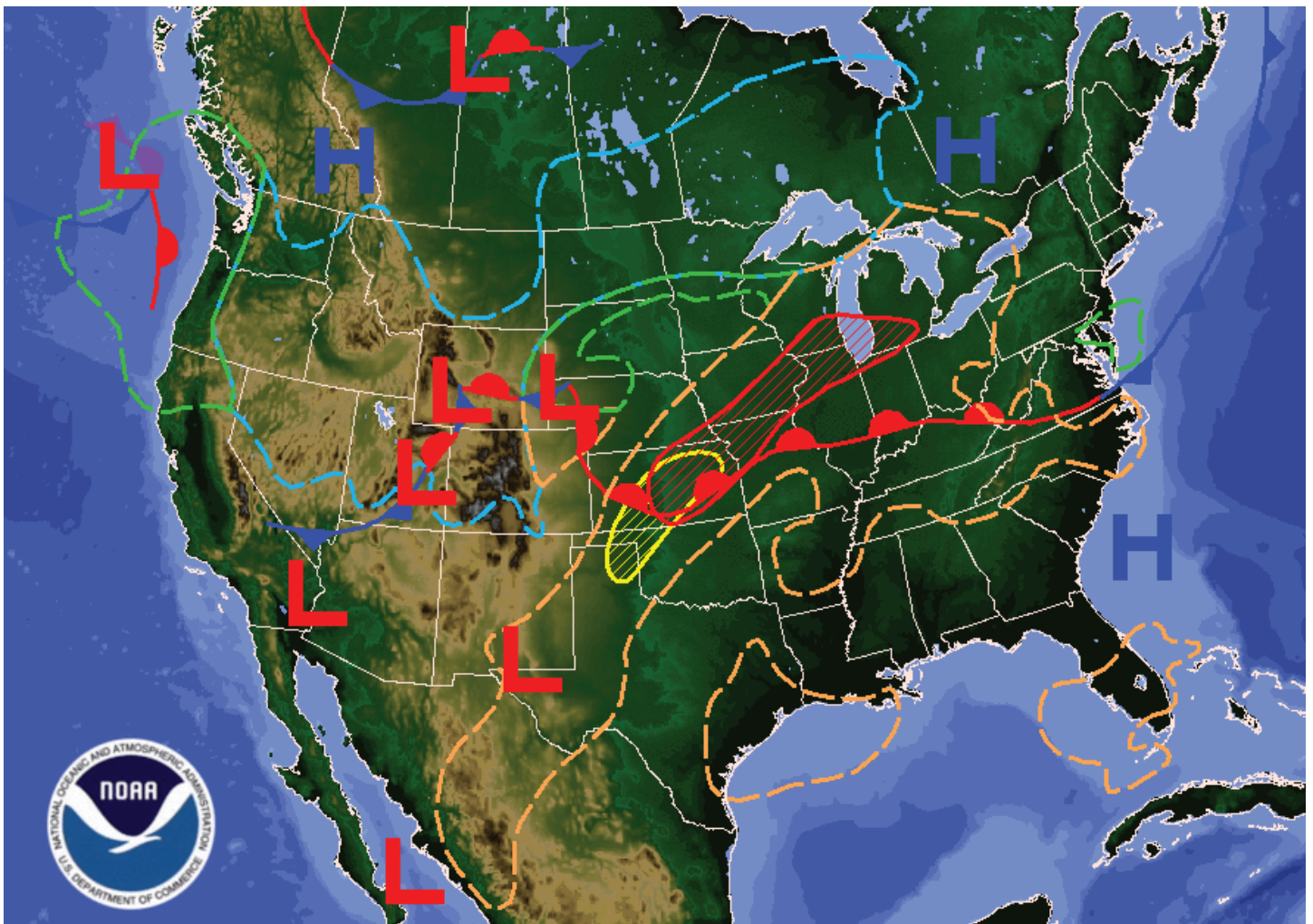
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 1:13 PM
Low Outside Temp: 22 °F at 6:19 AM
High Gust: 13 mph at 2:07 PM
Precip: 0.20

Today's Info

Record High: 96° in 1963
Record Low: 19° in 1935
Average High: 63°F
Average Low: 37°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.32
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.20
Average Precip to date: 18.80
Precip Year to Date: 13.77
Sunset Tonight: 7:06 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Oct 05, 2018, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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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HEALING HEARTS - BINDING WOUNDS

No matter where we look, we find pain and suffering.

Hospitals are crowded with people who were once healthy but are now waiting to heal. Our prisons are filled with shattered lives and unfulfilled dreams where hope once lived. Mental institutions have waiting lists for troubled minds and broken spirits. Divorce courts are now busier than ever as people uncouple.

Every home seems to have its share of sadness. Eyes once filled with joy and expectation are filled with blank stares. Hearts that once sang praises are now hushed in silence because doubt and fear have overcome faith. Minds once focused on things above are now filled with self-centeredness and greed.

Years ago there were craftsmen who were jacks of all trades - masters of none. George placed a sign above the door to his shop that read: We can mend everything but broken hearts and bodies.

But the Psalmist reminds us of the One who can do just that: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Recently, I sat in the office of my neurosurgeon to review my post-surgery status. As I sat there, I reflected on all who were involved in restoring my health: nurses, surgeons, pharmacists, anesthesiologists, dieticians - and the list seemed endless. And then God spoke to me and said, You're right. They were only involved. It's up to Me and My Father's grace as to what the outcome would be.

He - and only He - can bind up wounds and bring healing.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to realize what You can do in us, for us, through us and with us because You truly love us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the  Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Sisseton, 25-18, 25-13, 25-13
Arlington def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-7, 25-15, 25-18
Avon def. Bridgewater-Emery, 27-25, 25-22, 16-25, 16-25, 15-10
Belle Fourche def. Douglas, 25-18, 25-18, 27-29, 25-18
Bennett County def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 20-25, 25-18, 25-16, 21-25, 15-5
Beresford def. Alcester-Hudson, 19-25, 25-15, 25-15, 25-14
Burke def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-11, 25-10, 25-13
Canistota def. Howard, 25-19, 25-16, 25-12
Canton def. Garretson, 25-14, 25-19, 25-22
Castlewood def. Lake Preston, 25-23, 25-14, 25-17
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McIntosh, 25-16, 25-11, 25-16
Clark/Willow Lake def. Deuel, 25-22, 25-21, 25-20
Crazy Horse def. Oelrichs, 25-0, 25-0, 25-0
Deubrook def. DeSmet, 25-15, 25-17, 25-12
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Tri-Valley, 25-23, 25-18, 25-8
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-14, 25-22, 25-19
Estelline/Hendricks def. Colman-Egan, 25-12, 25-21, 25-11
Faith def. Philip, 25-17, 24-26, 25-23, 25-18
Gayville-Volin def. Menno, 25-18, 25-18, 13-25, 19-25, 15-12
Groton Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-3, 25-16, 25-5
Hamlin def. Webster, 25-17, 28-30, 26-24, 25-20
Hanson def. Mitchell Christian, 25-22, 25-18, 25-12
Herreid/Selby Area def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-19, 25-7, 25-10
Jones County def. Dupree, 25-23, 25-19, 27-25
Kimball/White Lake def. Parkston, 25-9, 25-13, 25-10
Langford def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-13, 25-14, 25-18
Leola/Frederick def. Britton-Hecla, 25-21, 23-25, 25-19, 25-23
McCook Central/Montrose def. West Central, 25-16, 22-25, 25-17, 25-14
Miller def. James Valley Christian, 25-18, 25-9, 25-9
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Chamberlain, 25-9, 25-18, 25-14
New Underwood def. Lemmon, 20-25, 25-6, 25-19, 25-8
Northwestern def. Faulkton, 25-18, 25-17, 25-20
Platte-Geddes def. Gregory, 25-22, 25-18, 25-23
Potter County def. Edmunds Central, 25-15, 25-20, 25-21
Rapid City Christian def. Hill City, 14-25, 25-17, 22-25, 25-19, 15-9
Redfield/Doland def. Milbank Area, 23-25, 26-24, 25-16, 27-25
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 19-25, 25-21, 25-19, 23-25, 15-12
Scotland def. Centerville, 25-19, 25-12, 25-13
Sioux County, Neb. def. Edgemont, 26-24, 25-18, 21-25, 16-28, 15-12
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-16, 25-20
St. Thomas More def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-16, 25-20, 15-25, 23-25, 15-6
Sturgis def. Red Cloud, 25-21, 20-25, 25-18, 25-22
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Iroquois, 25-19, 25-21, 25-15

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Wall def. Custer, 25-10, 25-12, 22-25, 25-12

Waverly-South Shore def. Florence/Henry, 25-19, 25-14, 25-10

Wessington Springs def. Highmore-Harrold, 29-27, 25-22, 22-25, 18-25, 15-12

Winner def. White River, 25-17, 25-10, 25-12

Defense: Stacy Phelps to testify in own defense at trial

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former nonprofit official accused of trying to avoid a potential state audit in South Dakota didn't commit any crimes and plans to testify in his own defense, his attorney told jurors Thursday in a case that began after the nonprofit's financial officer died in a 2015 murder-suicide.

Prosecutors allege Stacy Phelps, the former CEO of the American Indian Institute for Innovation, altered contracts to conceal his alleged inappropriate spending and avoid an audit. Phelps' attorney said Phelps didn't know that the group's chief financial officer, Scott Westerhuis, was embezzling money before he shot his wife, his four children and then himself in September 2015.

The deaths spurred a financial investigation that led to charges in 2016 against Phelps and two others who worked with Westerhuis at the Institute or Mid-Central Educational Cooperative. The nonprofit Institute helped Mid-Central administer a college-readiness grant program called Gear Up.

During opening statements in Phelps trial Thursday, defense attorney Dana Hanna said Phelps didn't intend to deceive anyone when he backdated contracts between the nonprofit and Mid-Central in 2015. Hanna said Phelps got played by Westerhuis, whom he called a "criminal" and a "con man."

Authorities have said they believe Westerhuis and his wife, who were also business employees at Mid-Central, stole more than \$1 million before their deaths.

"Stacy Phelps did not know that man was stealing money until that man slaughtered his family," said Hanna, noting that Phelps isn't accused of theft or helping Westerhuis embezzle.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said the case was about a "cover up" of the financial dealings of the nonprofit and Phelps' conduct. Jackley said the contracts were altered, signed and backdated.

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

Judge Bruce Anderson has excluded records of Phelps' alleged misspending from being used at trial, but said he might decide to allow it if the state provides "substantial evidence" the funds were inappropriately used.

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.

Phelps is the second and final defendant to head to trial in what prosecutors have dubbed the Gear Up case. 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.

Mid-Central's former director, Dan Guericke, was to stand trial with Phelps, but instead took a plea deal last week. Guericke testified Thursday in Phelps' trial, saying he signed and backdated the contracts at Westerhuis' request in August 2015 because he was having trouble locating the originals for an audit.

The jury also heard from a state Division of Criminal Investigation agent and an auditor for the Department of Legislative Audit. Testimony in the trial was set to continue on Friday.

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Charges resolved in Poet's Table vandalism case

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors have resolved charges against two sisters accused of vandalizing a popular Black Hills hiking spot known as Poet's Table.

Skyler Anders and Shelby Johnson originally were cited with intentionally damaging property and petty theft, both misdemeanors, and were set for trial this month.

But the Custer County State's Attorney's Office says Anders and Johnson have entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the state. Both women must perform 40 hours of community service, remain law abiding and write a letter acknowledging their actions.

The Argus Leader reports if the women don't comply with the terms, the state can proceed with prosecution.

The women's attorney has said the sisters were only doing what state park officials should have done years ago to the treasured hiking destination — tidy it up.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Oct. 2

Much to consider on a sensitive subject

In July, Time magazine highlighted the Canadian Medical Association Journal's research that showed "some specific journalistic practices about a death by suicide may make suicide contagion worse."

"Our goal is not to blame journalists; it's not to tell journalists how to do their jobs," Dr. Ayal Schaffer told Time. "But it is to provide a pretty strong research base to support specific guidelines about how reporting suicide should be done."

Most often, The Daily Republic does not report on suicide. We've set a clear policy in recent years due to the sensitivity of the subject, and we use research-based guidelines in that policy. When we hear of a local death and learn it was suicide, we typically move on without reporting it.

One exception is when a suicide — or an attempted suicide — becomes a public matter. That was the case Friday night. You likely read the headline Saturday, "Man shoots, injures self before football game."

The accompanying story explained that, according to authorities, a suicidal man shot himself resulting in minor injuries at the site of a high school football game in Chamberlain. The shooting, which occurred following a high-speed chase, was adjacent to the school's football stadium.

When authorities surrounded the vehicle, the man got out and shot himself. The game was delayed, as players and fans were evacuated from the stadium.

Immediately Friday night and over the weekend, some readers contacted The Daily Republic to voice their displeasure with our decision to report on the matter.

While we recognize that this is a difficult time for this man, his friends and his family, we feel it's important to note we did not name the person.

Our decision to report on this also factored in the harm this man put others in by bringing a gun to a high school athletic event.

The Daily Republic's reporters and editors considered the sensitivity of this unusual, talk-about incident Friday night, but ultimately decided that our duty was to inform the public of what happened in a public setting. We felt it was also our job to report the successes of local law enforcement and school district employees who properly followed protocol to handle a scary and potentially unsafe situation.

We considered our responsibilities and we reported only what we felt was necessary to the story. There may be additional follow-up reporting from Friday's matter, but we'll wait to gather additional information, such as pending criminal charges, before that happens.

The World Health Organization says close to 1 million people die annually to suicide. Research also shows that suicide is a very complex issue, and the media is one of many factors to influence it.

We don't take that lightly, and we will always be sensitive when reporting on it.

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Oct. 4 **City's role in IHS discussion isn't finished**

A potential path to better Native American health care just turned hazy.

Tribal voices crowded Monday's City Council meeting to question competing visions. One faction backed renovations at aging Sioux San Hospital. Another sought construction of a new tribally managed health care hub along Rapid City's eastern edge. A third sought no hospital changes but better federal funding.

West River tribal members support the plan to build new on 25 acres of donated land closer to Interstate 90, near thriving retail and Native homes. They view construction of a large health care hub in Rapid City as a potential magnet for physician specialists.

Current users of aging Sioux San Hospital in West Rapid, meanwhile, doubt a new hospital — built anywhere — will erase endemic Native health care failures. One elder questioned why current Sioux San users hadn't been consulted and expressed doubt that inexperienced joint tribal management can do better.

After hearing all of that and ignoring calls for more public discussion, the Council voted overwhelmingly to support the move east. To them, it's a potential economic development opportunity they cannot pass up. That's a simplistic view. To quote President Trump: "Nobody knew health care could be so complicated."

Did we just watch a project which aims to improve Native health care slam into a wall of endless delay?

Already complex, the project now has more moving parts and competing interests. Will IHS shelve preliminary schematics costing \$1.5 million to initiate a lengthy study and parse the options? Will the lack of consensus among Native Americans pave a road to court hearings, protests and appeals?

A year ago, IHS projected a 12-year-old, \$120 million effort to renovate Sioux San could get rolling before next January. Now, the timing is anybody's guess.

The pre-eminent priority of any IHS or tribal plan should be the near-term creation of a stable and efficient means of delivering quality care to Native Americans.

The recent infamous IHS failures eliminate any need to list past shortcomings. It is no coincidence that a bill sponsored by Sen. Mike Rounds calls for an independent audit of IHS operations. An obvious root cause of IHS disasters has been perpetual underfunding, resulting in a death spiral of equipment shortages, poor staff morale, physician vacancies, service cuts, and declining patient numbers.

Renovating Sioux San or building a new Rapid City hospital will not, by itself, fix that. Regional Health, for example, also struggles to recruit physician specialists and sufficient nurse numbers.

The complications listed here are far from exhaustive. What are the IHS plans for historic buildings at Sioux San? How long will it take for tribal council accreditation so it can assume management? Most of all, how will any of this create financial stability for a facility whose annual costs could total \$100 million based on projected size?

If competing interests are allowed to distort this issue, the problems will not improve. West River health care will continue to suffer.

Plans for a new hospital along the city's eastern edge still have merit, but the many questions must be answered — and soon. To avoid needless delays, the Native American community also must work hard to achieve consensus.

By weighing in on this matter, the City Council assumed a responsibility for helping Native Americans reach consensus.

It should research the issues, sponsor meetings and foster discussions. Otherwise, its action probably just threw a wrench into the machinery.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Oct. 1 **Local Growth: Fact vs. Fiction**

As we move closer to Election Day, whether it's a statewide or a local race, please educate yourself on the candidates and the issues. It is our right and our privilege to have the opportunity to vote and it seems to me we should go to the polls armed with the facts and not fiction.

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For example, Bruce Jensen's recent letter to the editor (which, due to the political nature of said letter, should have run as an ad) "Financial Favoritism" is all about speculation in regards to the motives of the current county commissioners and the decision to ". approve a bond for a pellet plant in Yankton County."

His concern that it "appears" to grant financial advantage to one business over similar businesses is certainly not based on fact. In fact, any qualifying manufacturing business would be eligible for this federal government bond while those funds are available.

The county's (for that matter, city or state) involvement is simply a conduit, between the bank and the business, for the funds as defined by the federal government. It makes the bonds income tax-free to the investors, bonds those investors can buy on the open market.

He is right in that "this bond won't cost the county any money ."; in fact, it will generate new property tax revenues based on the increased value of the developed property. Isn't it a good thing for the county to encourage new business or business expansion/development in order to help potentially reduce the tax burden of its citizens?

Does this establish a precedent for any new business? We certainly hope so. Whether it gives the new business an unfair advantage over existing similar businesses remains to be seen. But again, any "qualifying" manufacturing business would potentially be eligible for this federal government bond.

We would encourage any qualifying business owner to take advantage of these funds. Arrange similar financing, properly present it to your County Commission, seek the same pass-through conduit for funds, then decide if there is any unfair advantage. While investors have different methods of financing available to them, wouldn't any smart business want this advantage if offered? Again, this method of financing simply offers investors income tax-free bonds with the county acting as the pass-through and creating ZERO liability for the citizens of this county.

So, while these investors may be ". capable of using methods of borrowing money that do not involve our county commission .," we do not see how a county commission is granting them a favor. An opportunity was presented and an educated decision was made. If your business qualifies, as this one does, ask for the same "favor" and see what happens.

We encourage all county commissioners, both now and in the future, to be pro-growth and use all the tools available in the economic tool box.

5 years after devastating storm, sense of failing remains

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The legacy of Winter Storm Atlas for livestock producers five years after one of the worst blizzards in South Dakota history could be a lingering distrust of a daily staple of life in agriculture — a weather forecast.

"To this day when you start seeing weather forecasts like last weekend, a forecast of snow in the Black Hills, some people will say this looks just like the forecast we got a week before the Atlas blizzard hit," said Ken Olson, South Dakota State University extension associate professor and beef specialist.

In October 2013, a preliminary call for rain changing into a routine first snow of the season suddenly turned into a monster: heavy, wet snow driven by gale-force winds, blindsiding and immobilizing cattle producers with their herds still in summer pasture.

Because the storm hit so early in the season, animals also lacked protective winter coats.

When the storm, also rightly called the Cattleman's Blizzard, finally abated, more than 43,000 cattle, sheep, horses and even bison were dead, either from exposure or suffocated by the wet snow.

The emotional aspects of the losses were devastating.

"The sense of failing when they weren't able to provide the best of care and the livestock losses piled up was disturbing to a lot of people," Olson told the Rapid City Journal.

The blizzard struck at a time of government shutdown, with a soon-to-be expired farm bill containing no

provisions for disaster relief.

An emergency bailout, quickly passed once Congress got back to work, helped ranchers deal with massive financial losses.

In the weeks and months following the storm, the South Dakota Rancher Relief Fund collected and distributed nearly \$5.5 million to more than 600 families who suffered blizzard-related livestock losses. Other ranchers donated livestock to help producers rebuild herds.

"Without the bailout program, there would have been people that went under," Olson said.

Record livestock prices in 2014 continued through most of 2015, but a pendulum drop in prices through 2016 and 2017 again put financial stress on many producers.

Good moisture years followed the blizzard until 2017, when drought enveloped much of the state.

The dry conditions continued through the winter until the spring of 2018 when heavy snow and unseasonably cold temperatures hit during the peak of the spring calving season.

Some ranchers reportedly lost as many as a third of their spring calves, Olson said, and the latent stress on breeding cows won't be known until next year.

"I'm concerned," Olson said.

Life goes on for the agriculture industry, as it always has, and while the grieving for the losses inflicted by the 2013 blizzard may have been displaced by worries of the present and future, the memories of five years ago aren't far below the surface, Olson said.

"I don't think that people will get over the shock and fear that it could happen again," he said.

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

Judge refuses to suppress statements in fatal stabbing case

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A judge has denied a defense request to suppress statements made to police by a Mitchell man accused of fatally stabbing another man.

Forty-nine-year-old Anthony Lewis is charged with murder in the August 2017 death of 30-year-old Quinn Schleunig during a confrontation outside of an apartment complex. He has pleaded not guilty.

The Daily Republic reports that Lewis' attorneys sought to suppress statements he made to law officers after his arrest, saying police continued to question Lewis after he said he wanted an attorney.

Judge Chris Giles sided with prosecutors, saying it wasn't clear that Lewis was asking for an attorney.

A jury trial is scheduled for later this year. Lewis remains jailed in lieu of \$500,000 bond.

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

South Dakota billionaire makes Forbes ranking at No. 316

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota billionaire known for making significant charitable contributions to health care, education and other causes is continuing to accrue wealth.

T. Denny Sanford's net worth jumped \$400 million in a matter of months, according a Forbes ranking of billionaires.

The Argus Leader reports the credit card magnate's net worth is listed at \$2.6 billion, landing him at number 316 on the list. He is the only South Dakotan on the list.

Sanford's lifetime giving total is \$1.6 billion, which equals 38 percent of his net worth.

Sanford owns First Premier Bank and First Premier Bankcard. His contributions to a Sioux Falls-based hospital system in 2007 prompted the system to change its name in his honor. Sanford Health has benefited from about \$1 billion in donations from the philanthropist.

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

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Three-fourths of South Dakota's winter wheat crop seeded

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three-fourths of South Dakota's winter wheat crop is now in the ground, as farmers also make progress on harvesting late-season crops.

The federal Agriculture Department in its weekly crop report says 3 percent of the sunflower crop, 9 percent of the sorghum, 11 percent of the corn and 21 percent of the soybeans are harvested.

Subsoil moisture is rated 57 percent adequate to surplus, and topsoil moisture is 72 percent in those categories.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 43 percent in good to excellent condition, up slightly over the week.

Bond set at \$100,000 for priest accused of child assault

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$100,000 cash for a priest in the Rapid City Catholic Diocese who's accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old child.

Thirty-eight-year-old John Praveen appeared in Pennington County court via video from jail Wednesday.

The Rapid City Journal reports Magistrate Judge Scott Bogue says the high bond was due to the seriousness of the charges and Praveen's flight risk since he has few ties to the community.

Praveen most recently worked at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City. He was previously assigned as a parochial vicar to All Saints Church in Eagle Butte.

The priest is charged with two counts of sexual contact with a child under 16.

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

Swedish girl Saga pulls out pre-Viking era sword from lake

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Her name conjures up Old Nordic tales about heroic accomplishments and that's exactly what Saga this summer did when she stumbled on a pre-Viking-era sword in a southern Sweden lake.

Saga Vanecek, 8, was helping her father with his boat in the Vidostern lake when she stepped on an 85-centimeter (34-inch) sword in a holster made of wood and leather. The sword is believed to be about 1,500 years old.

Mikael Nordstrom of the local Jonkoping County museum said Friday that the little girl's find prompted others to seek out long-lost treasures in a lake that had been diminished by drought.

A broach from between 300 to 400 A.D. was eventually found.

Nordstrom said archaeologists are trying to understand why the items were there. For sacrificial purposes is one suggestion.

Nobel Peace Prize honors the fight against sexual violence

By MARK LEWIS and JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The Nobel Peace Prize on Friday was awarded to a Congolese doctor and an Iraqi woman who was held captive by the Islamic State group for their work to highlight and eliminate the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad "have made a crucial contribution to focusing attention on, and combating, such war crimes," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its announcement.

"Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims. Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others."

Mukwege, 63, founded a hospital in eastern Congo's Bukavu and has treated thousands of women, many of whom were victims of gang rape. Armed men tried to kill him in 2012, forcing him to temporarily leave the country.

"The importance of Dr. Mukwege's enduring, dedicated and selfless efforts in this field cannot be overstated. He has repeatedly condemned impunity for mass rape and criticized the Congolese government

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and other countries for not doing enough to stop the use of sexual violence against women as a strategy and weapon of war," the Nobel committee said in its citation Friday.

Eastern Congo has seen more than two decades of conflict among armed groups that either sought to unseat presidents or simply grab control of a piece of the country's vast mineral wealth.

Murad is one of an estimated 3,000 Yazidi girls and women who were victims of rape and other abuses by IS militants. She managed to escape after three months and chose to speak about her experiences. At the age of 23, she was named the U.N.'s first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.

Her book, "The Last Girl," tells of her captivity, the loss of her family and her eventual escape.

The Yazidis are an ancient religious minority, falsely branded as devil-worshippers by Sunni Muslim extremists. IS, adopting a radical interpretation of ancient Islamic texts, declared that Yazidi women and even young girls could be taken as slaves.

"We want to send a message that women who constitute half the population in those communities actually are used as weapons and that they need protection, and that the perpetrators have to be prosecuted and held responsible," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chairwoman of the Norwegian committee.

Congo's government congratulated Mukwege while acknowledging that relations with him have been strained.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende told The Associated Press that Mukwege did "remarkable" work, though he said the laureate tended to politicize it. However, "we salute that a colleague is recognized," he said.

Iraq celebrated the announcement, with state TV interrupting normal program to report Murad's win.

Both honorees are the first from their countries to receive a Nobel Prize.

"I am proud to be Congolese," said the country's top opposition leader, Felix Tshisekedi, in a Twitter post. "Good done for others always ends up being rewarded."

The award comes amid heightened attention to sexual abuse of women in the workplace and socially, broadly referred to as the "#MeToo" movement.

"MeToo and war crimes is not quite the same thing, but they do however have in common that it is important to see the suffering of women," said Reiss-Andersen.

The 2018 prize is worth 9 million Swedish kronor (\$1.01 million). Last year's winner was the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

In other Nobel prizes this year, the medicine prize went Monday to James Allison of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University, whose discoveries helped cancer doctors fight many advanced-stage tumors and save an "untold" numbers of lives.

Scientists from the United States, Canada and France shared the physics prize Tuesday for revolutionizing the use of lasers in research.

On Wednesday, three researchers who "harnessed the power of evolution" to produce enzymes and antibodies that have led to a new best-selling drug won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

The winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, honoring Alfred Nobel, the founder of the five Nobel Prizes, will be revealed on Monday.

No Nobel literature prize will be awarded this year due to a sex abuse scandal at the Swedish Academy, which chooses the winner. The academy plans to announce both the 2018 and the 2019 winner next year — although the head of the Nobel Foundation has said the body must fix its tarnished reputation first.

The man at the center of the Swedish Academy scandal, Jean-Claude Arnault, a major cultural figure in Sweden, was sentenced Monday to two years in prison for rape.

Heintz reported from Moscow. Cara Anna in Johannesburg, Dave Bryan in Cairo and Carley Petesch in Daka, Senegal, contributed.

India signs \$5 billion deal for Russian air defense systems

By **ASHOK SHARMA and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press**

NEW DELHI (AP) — India signed a \$5 billion deal to buy five Russian S-400 air defense systems on Friday despite a looming threat of U.S. sanctions on countries that trade with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors.

The deal was signed in New Delhi during a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss nuclear energy, space exploration and trade.

India has requested that the U.S. grant it a waiver for the deal from sanctions prescribed by the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, a U.S. law passed in August 2017 that is intended to punish Russia for its annexation of Crimea and alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. elections.

The U.S. did not spare China from sanctions last month for purchasing its own Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile systems and fighter jets.

If the U.S. does impose sanctions on India, it is unclear how India could pay Russia for the military equipment, since the law bars dollar-denominated financial transactions.

Jinnie Lee, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, declined to comment on whether India would be granted a waiver, but said in a statement that the sanctions were "not intended to impose damage to the military capabilities of our allies or partners."

Officials with India's external affairs and defense ministries confirmed the deal was signed after Putin and Modi made no reference to it during a news conference following their talks.

An 11-page joint statement made only passing mention, saying that "the two sides welcomed the conclusion of the contract."

The deal will likely bolster the close relationship between India and Russia that dates back to the Cold War, when the U.S. tilted toward Pakistan, India's neighbor and archrival. But it is also likely to strain ties with Washington.

India is the world's largest importer of military hardware, according to Mumbai-based think tank Gateway House, and has depended on Russia for political support as well as billions of dollars in military hardware. Nearly 70 percent of India's present-day defense equipment was procured from Russia, according to India's Defense Ministry.

India's acquisition of the S-400 long-range missile systems has been considered critical to countering a perceived threat from China, which is increasingly making economic inroads throughout South Asia, India's traditional sphere of influence, according to military experts.

"It gives the capability to destroy targets inside another country. It's a very important capability," said retired Indian air force Air Marshal Nirdosh Tyagi.

India has also developed closer defense ties to the U.S. in recent years with joint military drills and defense sales.

India has signed more than \$15 billion in U.S. defense contracts since 2008, including for C-130J and C-17 transport aircraft, P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, Harpoon missiles and Apache and Chinook helicopters.

Crew recount terror of tsunami that dumped ferry in village

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

WANI, Indonesia (AP) — The captain and crew sailing the Sabuk Nusantara ferry to new owners on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi got the task done and then some.

The hulking red and yellow ship was bounced like a basketball as a massive earthquake rocked the region and it landed in front of a row of houses in the village of Wani, dumped by tsunami waves that the crew say were a towering 15 meters (50 feet) or higher.

A week after the magnitude 7.5 quake and tsunami hit central Sulawesi, the captain and 20 crew of the ferry remain on board, waiting for an assessment team to arrive and decide if the ship, its propeller jutting over the waterfront, can be put back to sea.

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In interviews on the bridge, the captain, second-in-command and petty officer recounted minutes of chaos and sheer panic as at least 10 other vessels twisted and collided and the rapidly retreating tide — a sure sign a tsunami is coming — sucked the Sabuk Nusantara away from the pier.

"It was just sudden," said the vessel's second-in-command, Jona Johanes. "We felt the ship was like a basketball being bounced" as the quake rocked the region.

The double disaster that struck the city of Palu and other settlements killed more than 1,550 people, left about 70,000 homeless and wiped away buildings along Sulawesi's coastline. The city of 380,000 people has experienced days of lost power and water, dry gasoline stations and a slow dribble of aid.

The ferry, built in 2014, was docked outside Wani because the state-owned company that owns it was delivering it to a new owner. That was also serendipitous because there were no passengers on the 63-meter (208-foot)-long vessel.

Captain Edy Junaidi said the tide retreated about 7 meters (23 feet) immediately after the quake and he thought the tsunami wave was 10-15 meters (33-50 feet) high. Petty officer Imat, who uses one name, said 20 meters (66 feet) and Johanes estimated it at 15-20 meters (50-66 feet).

Their accounts exceed the highest estimates of disaster officials, who said the wave could have been 6 meters (20 feet) or higher based on a man who survived by climbing a tree. A tsunami warning issued after the quake predicted waves of up to 3 meters (10 feet).

Johanes was in his cabin turning on the TV when the quake hit just after 6 p.m. on Sept. 28. There was "extreme shaking" and the light bulb fell out and the air conditioning unit plunged to the floor, he said.

By the time he reached the deck, a huge wave was approaching and the pier had collapsed.

In the preceding one to two minutes, the panicked crew had donned lifejackets and released all of the ship's mooring lines except one — the head line at the front of the ship — which was stretched incredibly tight as the tide rushed out, forcing Imat, the petty officer, to let it go.

"There is no doubt as a human being of course I'm panicking," said Imat. "But we have to realize that this is a natural phenomenon. It's the will of God and we are chanting God is Great. But without forgetting our position, our duty," he said.

To the crew, the sudden drop in water level was bewildering and it seemed like the Earth was rising.

"I saw the ground getting higher and higher. It was so high. Then I saw the pier had collapsed. It was chaotic. I could see a wave, a dark high wave. I cannot imagine that," said Imat.

"The ship was driven all the way back and only then did I realize that it was the water that had gone down," he said.

Johanes, at the bridge when the wave hit, was bracing for a collision with the broken pier.

"I was holding on. I thought we were going to be thrown when we hit the pier. Then I just realized we weren't thrown. We were flying," he said.

The time that elapsed between the tide retreating and the tsunami hitting was "just a matter of minutes," Imat said. "Maybe it was 3-5 minutes. It was really fast."

At first the crew didn't realize they'd been dropped on land because the ship remained surrounded by water after being lifted and pushed forward by the surging sea.

In retrospect, it was a "smooth" landing and the ship appeared completely undamaged, Imat said. The captain, Junaidi, estimated the ferry now lies about 50 meters (yards) from its original position at the dock.

"We all panicked," said Johanes. "We have a plan to abandon the ship but we are waiting for the captain's instruction. The captain managed to calm us down," he said.

"If it is necessary we will abandon the ship but at the end the ship didn't go anywhere. After 30 minutes we saw solid ground around us. We realized it's not ocean around us. It's solid ground," he said, days later still absorbing the ordeal the crew endured.

They cracked dark jokes about their experience and seemed content to wait on a vessel that has none of the deprivations of the nearby villages.

"We can go down from the ship but where can we go? There's no market around. The shops are still closed," said Johanes. "And a few days ago there was looting around this area. So we don't know where to go if we go to the ground."

Associated Press journalist Fadlan Syam contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. JUDGE'S FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE

The Senate is poised to take a crucial vote Friday on whether to advance Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court as key Republican senators remain undecided.

2. CONGOLESE DOCTOR AND FORMER ISLAMIC STATE GROUP CAPTIVE RECOGNIZED

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict."

3. MASS BURIALS WITH MANY MORE MISSING IN INDONESIA

The death toll from the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that spawned a tsunami has risen to 1,558, with scores more believed buried in deep mud and under debris of collapsed buildings and homes.

4. CHICAGO TRIAL OF POLICE OFFICER NEARS CONCLUSION

The jury has begun deliberations in the case of Jason Van Dyke, charged with murder in the 2014 shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald.

5. GOP SEEN RIDING HIGH AMID KAVANAUGH FIRESTORM

The Republicans is threatening to erode Democrats' enthusiasm advantage as the fiery debate over his Supreme Court nominee enters its final phase.

6. SUSPECTED GUNMAN WAS COMPETITIVE SHOOTER

A 74-year-old man accused of shooting seven South Carolina law enforcement officers, killing one, is a Vietnam veteran and disbarred attorney who used his marksmanship to hold officers back as their comrades lay bleeding on the ground.

7. IDENTITY OF WHITE HOUSE CRITIC STILL A MYSTERY

One month ago, an unidentified Trump administration official set off a firestorm by claiming in an opinion piece to be part of a secret "resistance" force out to undermine parts of President Donald Trump's agenda.

8. WHO BOUGHT \$5 BILLION WORTH OF ARMS

With Vladimir Putin there to ink the deal, India purchases the Russian S-400 air defense system despite a looming threat of US sanctions.

9. IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S YOUR CAR

Toyota Motor Corp. says it has issued a recall for 2.43 million hybrid vehicles around the world, including 807,000 in the U.S., for potential problems with stalling.

10. DISGRACED CHAMP'S NEMESIS LAUNCHING OWN SQUAD

Floyd Landis is using money he earned by taking down Lance Armstrong to start his own cycling team.

Muslims pray for strength in quake-hit Indonesian city

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — Hundreds of Muslim survivors in the Indonesian city of Palu gathered at shattered mosques for Friday prayers, seeking strength to rebuild their lives a week after a powerful earthquake and tsunami killed more than 1,500 people.

Men with skull caps sat on prayer mats in an open field outside the damaged Agung Mosque in Palu, some weeping openly as they reflected on their losses and prayed for their loved ones.

A regular worshipper, Abu Shamsuddin, said he was at a loss for words to describe the horrifying moment when the disasters struck. He said he is clinging to his faith to overcome his grief after one of his sons perished.

"Praise to Allah, one of my sons who worked in a bank was called by Allah. He was buried the day after. I hope my dead son has gone to heaven because he was in the middle of praying. Allah willing, heaven

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for him. I have faith in that," he said.

Others braved the scorching sun as they listened to the mosque's imam exhorting them to be courageous.

Hundreds more, including women, gathered at the Talise beach in Palu where the tsunami struck to pray.

The national disaster agency said the confirmed death toll from last Friday's 7.5 magnitude earthquake that spawned a tsunami has risen slightly to 1,571.

Volunteers earlier Friday buried more victims in a mass grave after ambulances brought the first group of six remains. One of the volunteers, 48-year-old Asep Junaedi, said 643 people had been buried in the grave so far.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a briefing in Jakarta that the search will continue for hundreds more still missing and buried in deep mud and debris from collapsed houses and buildings.

But hopes are dim for any survivors.

Frustrated French rescuers early Friday resumed their search at the Mercure Hotel in Palu but failed to detect the possible sign of life that was picked up by their sensors a day earlier. The sensors can identify breathing and heartbeats, but gas leaks and other factors can result in false positives.

"We are perplexed and frustrated mostly. We strongly believed in it yesterday. Now we have nothing at all. ... We tried everything and have no response," said Philippe Besson, president of the International Emergency Firefighters team.

Local rescuers were continuing to dig at the collapsed four-star hotel. The French rescuers said on their Facebook page that 40 people including six workers are missing from the hotel.

Thousands of others have been injured and more than 70,000 evacuated to shelters and makeshift tents that have sprouted across Palu, the provincial capital of Sulawesi island where most deaths occurred, and its surrounding areas. After days of initial chaos and looting by desperate survivors, some stability has returned to Palu with some shops reopened and electricity restored in some parts of the city.

Nugroho said some 67,000 military and police personnel have been deployed to the disaster areas to ensure law and order, as well as to accelerate distribution of aid to survivors in outlying areas. Ships and more than two dozen military transport planes, including ones from Japan, New Zealand and India, have arrived in Palu carrying hundreds of tons of food and badly needed supplies and heavy equipment.

Officials have listed tents, water treatment equipment, electric generators and disinfectants to fog campsite areas to prevent disease as immediate needs.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla, who arrived Friday in Palu to assess the situation, said it will take at least two years to reconstruct the disaster zone.

Still Anonymous: White House hunt for op-ed author fades

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Remember Anonymous?

One month ago Friday, an unidentified Trump administration official set off a White House firestorm by claiming in a New York Times opinion piece to be part of a secret "resistance" force out to undermine parts of President Donald Trump's agenda.

The article triggered cries of "treason" from Trump and a demand that the powers of the federal government be brought to bear to root out the disloyal officials.

And then ... not much happened.

The investigation, which existed more in name than practice, stalled. A move to clean house never occurred. The author's identity is still a mystery.

Still, publication of the piece, along with a new Bob Woodward book painting a picture of a president whose impulses were being thwarted by his own staff, has had some lasting aftershocks.

The president, already besieged by leaks, has closed ranks around the Oval Office, growing far more suspicious of staff and trusting fewer West Wing personnel. That's according to four White House officials and Republicans close to the White House who were not authorized to speak publicly about private

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conversations.

The Sept. 5 publication of the op-ed rocked Washington. The author, described only as a senior administration official, wrote that "Many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump's more misguided impulses until he is out of office."

The writer went on: "It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room. We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what's right even when Donald Trump won't."

The piece landed the same week as Woodward's "Fear" and emphasized the new book's themes: that Trump appeared unfit for office and some of his closest aides viewed themselves as a bulwark between his worst decisions and the American public.

Trump was incensed about the op-ed, calling around to confidants to vent about the author, solicit guesses as to his or her identity, seethe that it appeared in the newspaper he loves to hate, and complain that a "deep state" within the administration was conspiring against him. At a rally that week in Montana, he called the author "an anonymous, gutless coward."

"You look at this horrible thing that took place. Is it subversion, is it treason?" Trump bellowed. "It really is terrible."

The Beltway guessing game seeped into the White House, as current and former staffers traded calls and texts trying to figure out who could have written the piece, some even asking reporters for clues. Trump ordered aides to unmask the writer, cited "national security" concerns to justify a possible Justice Department investigation and issued an extraordinary demand that the newspaper reveal the author.

Trump's anger triggered an extraordinary parade of senior officials, Cabinet members and even the vice president, who issued statements and stood before cameras to deny that they were part of the resistance.

Some Trump advisers, like attorney Rudy Giuliani, suggested that it would be "appropriate" for Trump to ask for a formal investigation into the identity of the op-ed author. And Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a key ally of Trump's, called for the president to order those suspected of being the author to undergo lie-detector tests.

But then, mirroring the very thesis of the op-ed, Trump's requests to the government largely went ignored.

It was never expected that the Justice Department would move to open an investigation. A White House official later said Trump's call for the investigation was an expression of his frustration with the op-ed, rather than an order for federal prosecutors.

White House chief of staff John Kelly, communications director Bill Shine and press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders convened a series of closed-door meetings and ordered a cursory leak search, including enforcing a pre-existing ban on personal phones, according to three White House officials not authorized to speak publicly about internal meetings. But as the op-ed was wiped from the headlines by other news events, most notably the contentious confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, the probe was quietly pushed aside.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Though the president continued to vent about the leaks, aides never conducted an exhaustive search, according to two of the officials. And many administration officials recognized that there was a long list of officials who plausibly could have been the author.

The West Wing and, for the most part, Trump himself moved on, focusing on the upcoming midterm elections and the push to get Kavanaugh on the bench.

But Trump has confided to allies that he still is frustrated by frequent leaks and feels that there are few aides around him whom he can fully trust, according to the three White House officials and Republicans close to the White House.

Beyond a network of outside advisers Trump has known for decades, the officials said, those on the inside the president continues to trust include family: daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, both senior advisers.

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Kavanaugh bump? GOP fights for new energy as vote nears

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — On the brink of a political gender war, President Donald Trump's Republican Party is threatening to erode Democrats' enthusiasm advantage as the fiery debate over his Supreme Court nominee enters its final phase.

Political strategists in both parties suggest the GOP's enthusiastic embrace of Brett Kavanaugh despite multiple allegations of sexual misconduct may have shifted the political landscape — at least temporarily — by injecting new energy into the most passionate Republican voters a month before the election. Trump's aggressive defense of Kavanaugh — and more recent attacks against his female accuser — have resonated particularly with white working-class men, who are a shrinking voting bloc nationally but remain a critical segment of Trump's political base.

For now, many men apparently agree with Trump's warning that the surge in women speaking out against sexual violence in the #MeToo era has created "a very scary time" for men in America.

"Democrats have been trying to destroy Judge Brett Kavanaugh since the very first second he was announced," Trump declared as he rallied voters in Minnesota on Thursday night. He added: "What they're putting him through and his family is incredible."

Energy is everything in midterm elections, which typically draw fewer eligible voters to the polls. And through the first 21 months of the Trump era, Democrats have claimed an undisputed enthusiasm advantage — as evidenced by a slate of special election victories and fundraising successes.

Yet even a small erosion in the so-called enthusiasm gap could make a big difference in the Democratic Party's high-stakes push to wrest control of Congress from the GOP.

The Kavanaugh debate "is making the two groups of people who are already mad at each other in America even madder. To me, the question is, who is maddest?" said Gary Pearce, a veteran North Carolina Democratic strategist.

Just as Trump benefited from opposition to Hillary Clinton in his 2016 election, the GOP could benefit from opposition to the Democratic Party's handling of Kavanaugh this midterm season.

"This may be energizing the right — especially people who don't like Trump and may not have been motivated to vote," Pearce said. "This is the substitute for Hillary."

The Supreme Court clash has already attracted a surge of new campaign cash for both parties.

The Republican National Committee and its associated groups raised more than \$3 million in digital donations this past weekend, the most it's ever raised online, according to a GOP official. And last Saturday was the GOP's highest single-day online fundraising haul.

The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the fundraising details and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The GOP says the fundraising surge is fueled by anger over how allegations of sexual misconduct against Kavanaugh have played out.

On the other side, the online Democratic fundraising portal ActBlue pulled in \$25 million in just two days, while Emily's List, a group that aims to elect more Democratic women, also set a record for online fundraising.

Trump and his lieutenants on Capitol Hill tried to stoke that same anger on Thursday as they outlined an aggressive timeline for the Kavanaugh confirmation. A round of Senate voting is expected Friday, with the final vote likely Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that an FBI supplemental background investigation didn't corroborate any of the allegations against the Supreme Court nominee. The Kentucky Republican said senators wouldn't be "hoodwinked" by those who have tried to "smear" Kavanaugh's reputation.

"This is a search and destroy mission," the second-ranking Senate Republican, Sen. John Cornyn, added.

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The GOP's support of Kavanaugh puts the party at odds with the rising #MeToo movement that has empowered women across America to share their stories of sexual violence. The movement has triggered the downfall of powerful men in media, sports and politics — Republicans and Democrats alike.

"It's a very scary time for young men," Trump said this week. A day later, he mocked Kavanaugh's accuser's memory of the alleged sexual assault.

Many women, backed by liberal men, have been outraged by Trump's comments.

"The idea that it's a terrible time to be a young, white guy is completely absurd," said Florida-based Democratic strategist Steve Schale.

He noted, however, there is "some evidence that the Kavanaugh stuff is galvanizing Republicans, particularly Republican men."

"It's coming at a price," Schale added. "We're seeing Republican women throw their hands up."

Indeed, while Trump often states, falsely, that he won the women's vote in 2016, Democrats have enjoyed an advantage with women for most of the last three decades.

Political strategist Matthew Dowd, a former Republican who has criticized Trump, said it's unclear so far whether GOP energy behind Kavanaugh represents "some men on social media" or a "movement."

"I've always been a believer that the most motivating factor in these elections is who is the angriest," Dowd said. "Whoever loses is going to be the angriest."

There is scant polling so far suggesting that the GOP is truly benefiting from a Kavanaugh bump. Strategists note that polls often tighten in the month before any election.

A Quinnipiac University poll released this week shows that opposition to Kavanaugh is actually growing, as is the gender gap.

Women overall oppose the confirmation, 55 percent to 37 percent, while men support it 49 percent to 40 percent, Quinnipiac found.

The Trump White House is expected to intensify its support for Kavanaugh as the final vote approaches.

"You can feel the energy both for the president and for his nominee in Brett Kavanaugh," Trump spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told Fox News. "People are outraged at the way that the Democrats have totally made this process into a partisan battle and they've created something that should never have happened."

She continued: "And I think the message is very clear: Dems, you made a mistake here and it's going to show up in November."

AP writer Brian Slodysko in Indianapolis and Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Key senators undecided as Senate poised to vote on Kavanaugh

By LISA MASCARO and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is poised to take a crucial vote Friday on whether to advance Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court as key Republican senators remain undecided amid allegations of sexual misconduct and intense protests that have divided the nation.

The 53-year-old judge made what were in effect closing arguments by acknowledging that he became "very emotional" when forcefully denying the allegations at a Judiciary Committee hearing last week.

"I said a few things I should not have said," he wrote in an op-ed published Thursday evening. But he said he remains the same "hardworking, even-keeled" person he has always been. "Going forward, you can count on me," he wrote in The Wall Street Journal.

The op-ed, as well as a late boost from President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Minnesota, appeared aimed at winning over the three wavering senators from the slim GOP majority — Susan Collins of Maine, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — and one Democrat, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who has yet to announce his position.

Ahead of Friday's voting, Republicans emerged confident that an FBI investigation into the allegations unearthed no new corroborating details, they said. But a level of uncertainty lingered as Collins and Flake

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spent hours Thursday poring over confidential FBI documents in the secure basement briefing room long after others had left seemingly satisfied with the findings.

Even without locking in support, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell pushed ahead with trying to move Trump's nominee forward in what would be an election year win for his party. The Republican leader has little room for error with his party's slim 51-49 hold on the Senate, even if Vice President Mike Pence is called in to break a tie. A final vote is expected Saturday.

Tensions have been high at the Capitol with opponents of Kavanaugh, including survivors of sexual assault, confronting senators in the halls and holding vigil across the street at the Supreme Court. Supporters of Kavanaugh also turned out.

Trump said the protesters' "rage-fueled resistance is starting to backfire at a level nobody has ever seen before." He was referring to polling that shows some improvement for Republicans heading into the midterm election.

Friday's vote is a procedural one to end the debate, and some fence-sitting senators could conceivably vote to advance Kavanaugh's nomination but still hold out their support ahead of a final confirmation roll call over the weekend.

Two of the undeclared Republicans emerged from the secure briefing facility Thursday accepting the FBI report as "thorough," bolstering GOP hopes for confirmation.

Flake told reporters that "we've seen no additional corroborating information" about the claims against Kavanaugh.

Collins also expressed satisfaction, calling it "a very thorough investigation." She paid two visits to the off-limits room where the document was being displayed to lawmakers.

Murkowski said she was "still reviewing" her decision.

Democrats complained that the investigation, running just six days after Trump reluctantly ordered it, was shoddy, omitting interviews with numerous potential witnesses. They accused the White House of limiting the FBI's leeway.

Those not interviewed in the reopened background investigation included Kavanaugh himself and Christine Blasey Ford, who ignited the furor by alleging he'd molested her in a locked room at a 1982 high school gathering.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the Judiciary Committee's top Democrat, said while her party had agreed to a weeklong FBI probe with a finite scope, "We did not agree that the White House should tie the FBI's hands."

A hefty police presence added an air of anxiety, as did thousands of anti-Kavanaugh demonstrators. U.S. Capitol Police said 302 were arrested — among them comedian Amy Schumer, a distant relative of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, issued a statement late Thursday that said the FBI reached out to 11 people and interviewed 10. Six of the witnesses involved Ford's claims, including an attorney for one of them, and four were related to Deborah Ramirez, who has asserted that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her when both were Yale freshmen. Grassley said the FBI concluded "there is no collaboration of the allegations made by Dr. Ford or Ms. Ramirez."

Senators said the documents they examined totaled about 50 pages.

The underlying material from the FBI included text and Facebook messages, said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., including screenshots that "were very helpful" in understanding the communications between various people discussing the situation.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said nine of the pages were about Mark Judge, the Kavanaugh friend who Ford said also jumped on her while Kavanaugh assaulted her. Judge has said he doesn't recall the incident.

White House spokesman Raj Shah rebuffed Democrats' complaints, saying, "What critics want is a never-ending fishing expedition into high school drinking."

Barring leaks, it was unclear how much if any of the FBI report would be made public.

AP reporters Mary Clare Jalonick, Matthew Daly, Kevin Freking, Padmananda Rama, Juliet Linderman,

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Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Catherine Lucey and Zeke Miller in Washington and John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia, contributed.

As Gaza worsens, Palestinian leader controls fate of US plan

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been sidelined, isolated and humiliated by the Trump administration. But the embattled Palestinian leader may have the final say in determining the fate of the White House's long-awaited vision for Mideast peace.

In recent weeks, Abbas has thwarted a series of internationally backed initiatives aimed at rehabilitating the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. With Gaza expected to be the centerpiece of the U.S. peace plan, Abbas has given himself a virtual veto over the expected American initiative. The deadlock over Gaza appears to be a key reason behind the repeated delays in unveiling the plan.

"The U.S. is trying to use the humanitarian situation in Gaza as a tool to implement its plan," said Mohammed Ishtayeh, a top Palestinian official. "We say that Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian lands, and solving the problems of Gaza should be in the context of a broad political framework."

For all of its talk about bringing a new approach to Middle East diplomacy, the Trump White House is running into a familiar obstacle that has confounded its predecessors and the international community for over a decade: the Hamas militant group's continued control over Gaza.

The American refusal to work with Hamas, which it brands a terrorist group, and its inability to oust it, has made it virtually impossible to move forward on the diplomatic front — a weakness that Abbas now appears to be exploiting.

Abbas has two main concerns. First, he fears that any interim cease-fire deal in Gaza will deepen Hamas' control over the territory.

Second, after Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his attacks on the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Abbas fears the U.S. is trying to remove sensitive issues from the negotiating agenda. For him, Gaza is the last obstacle preventing the U.S. from forcing what he sees as an unacceptable plan on him.

"What is left for this administration to give to the Palestinian people? Humanitarian solutions?" Abbas said in an address to the U.N. General Assembly last week.

Hamas, a militant group that opposes Israel's existence, seized control of Gaza from Abbas' forces in 2007. Despite three wars with Israel, an Israeli-Egyptian blockade that has devastated the economy and international isolation, Hamas remains firmly in control.

Abbas says there can be no progress on the diplomatic front until he regains control of Gaza. Attempts to reconcile with Hamas have repeatedly failed, leaving the Palestinians divided between rival governments in the West Bank and Gaza.

Abbas seeks an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. The two-state solution has widespread international support.

But since taking office, President Donald Trump's Mideast team, led by his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, has backed away from the two-state solution. Although the Trump team has refused to reveal details of its plan, the Palestinians fear the U.S. is plotting to impose a "mini state" that would consist of Gaza and only small pieces of the West Bank.

Two senior Palestinian officials confirmed that Abbas has been working behind the scenes to scuttle U.N. and Egyptian attempts to forge a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas or to carry out large infrastructure projects that would bring relief to Gaza's beleaguered population.

As the officially recognized Palestinian representative, Abbas' government continues to coordinate the movement of goods through Israeli-controlled crossings into Gaza. This has given him the ability to block large-scale projects, even when approved by Israel.

Israel, which has come under fierce international criticism over Gaza's dire state, has in recent days seized on Abbas' moves, perhaps to deflect attention from its own policies.

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On Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Abbas of "choking" Gaza, warning it could "lead to very difficult consequences."

The Palestinian officials also said Abbas has relayed messages to the U.S. through his Arab allies, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, that there can be no peace plan that excludes him from Gaza.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing internal Palestinian deliberations, said Abbas fears various plans under consideration will end up entrenching Hamas and freezing him out of Gaza.

Abbas believes there can be no significant progress in Gaza without a reconciliation deal that brings him back to power in the territory. The talks have repeatedly broken down over Hamas' refusal to disarm.

This week, another set of Egyptian-brokered talks ended inconclusively, according to people close to the talks.

"Until yesterday, we did not reach any result worth mentioning," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas official in Gaza. He accused Abbas of taking "retaliatory" action against the people of Gaza.

Abbas has taken a series of measures against the territory, slashing the salaries of thousands of former government workers in Gaza and cutting fuel subsidies to pay for electricity, all in an effort to step up pressure on Hamas.

These measures, combined with the decade-long blockade, have sent Gaza's economy into freefall. The increasingly desperate Hamas has stepped up mass protests along the Israeli border in hopes of pressuring Israel to ease the blockade. Nearly 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, yet Israel shows no signs of lifting the closure.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly last week, Abbas threatened to tighten the screws even harder, warning he could not "bear any responsibility" for Gaza if the deadlock with Hamas continues.

At the same time, Israel and international donor nations were meeting on the sidelines of the assembly to discuss ways to improve conditions in Gaza. Those talks, like similar meetings in recent months, ended inconclusively.

Jason Greenblatt, the White House's Mideast envoy, blamed Hamas for the dire conditions in Gaza and said the U.S. "will not fund a situation that empowers Hamas."

Yet he also voiced frustration with Abbas, urging other countries to be "direct and frank" in pushing the Palestinian Authority to forge a "new, sustainable path."

The Gaza conundrum is just the latest obstacle for the U.S. peace plan. The Palestinians cut off ties with the White House after Trump declared Jerusalem to be Israel's capital and moved the U.S. Embassy there.

The Trump administration has also cut hundreds of millions of dollars of aid to the Palestinians, including \$300 million for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, and shuttered the Palestinians' diplomatic mission in Washington.

Accusing the U.S. of being unfairly biased toward Israel, Abbas has already said he will not consider the American peace plan.

Greenblatt acknowledged the challenge ahead at the donor meeting. Refusing to say when his plan would be released, he pleaded for all sides to consider the proposal.

"Palestinians and Israelis deserve to read it, think about it, engage on it, and see if we can make it happen," he said.

Mohammed Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, and Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

Kavanaugh says he 'might have been too emotional' at hearing

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh acknowledged Thursday he "might have been too emotional" when testifying about sexual misconduct allegations as he made a final bid to win over wavering GOP senators on the eve of a crucial vote to advance his confirmation.

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Three GOP senators and one Democrat remain undecided about elevating Kavanaugh to the high court. Two of the Republicans signaled Thursday that they were satisfied with the findings of a confidential new FBI report into the assault allegations, boosting the hopes of GOP leaders.

President Donald Trump rallied behind Kavanaugh during a campaign event in Minnesota Thursday night, telling supporters that the "rage-fueled resistance" to his nominee "is starting to backfire at a level nobody has ever seen before."

Still, Kavanaugh's op-ed underscored that his performance at a Senate hearing last week opened new questions about his impartiality and judicial temperament. Democrats say Kavanaugh's assertion that left-wing groups seeking "revenge on behalf of the Clintons" were behind the misconduct allegations suggests he would rule from the bench with a partisan bent.

In an op-ed Thursday in *The Wall Street Journal*, Kavanaugh said there were "a few things I should not have said" during the hearing.

"Going forward, you can count on me to be the same kind of judge and person I have been for my entire 28-year legal career: hardworking, even-keeled, open-minded, independent and dedicated to the Constitution and the public good," he wrote.

Senate leaders set a pivotal preliminary vote on Kavanaugh's nomination for 10:30 a.m. Friday. If that succeeds, a final roll call was expected Saturday as the long, emotional battle over the conservative jurist drew toward its climax.

Six days after Trump reluctantly ordered the FBI to scrutinize the accusations— which Kavanaugh has denied — leading GOP lawmakers briefed on the agency's confidential document all reached the same conclusion: There was no verification of the women's past claims and nothing new.

Democrats complained that the investigation was shoddy, omitting interviews with numerous potential witnesses, and accused the White House of limiting the FBI's leeway. Those not interviewed in the reopened background investigation included Kavanaugh himself and Christine Blasey Ford, who ignited the furor by alleging he'd molested her in a locked room at a 1982 high school gathering.

A week after a televised Senate Judiciary Committee hearing at which Kavanaugh and Ford transfixed the nation, the Capitol campus remained a stew of tension as the election-season cliff-hanger neared its conclusion. A hefty police presence added an air of anxiety, as did thousands of noisy anti-Kavanaugh demonstrators who gathered outside the Supreme Court and in Senate office buildings. U.S. Capitol Police said 302 were arrested — among them comedian Amy Schumer, a distant relative of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

"What we know for sure is the FBI report did not corroborate any of the allegations against Judge Kavanaugh," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters about the document, which was sent to Congress overnight. On the Senate floor, he witheringly called the accusations "uncorroborated mud."

Earlier, Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, one of the publicly undecided Republicans, told reporters "we've seen no additional corroborating information" about the claims against the 53-year-old conservative jurist and said the investigation had been comprehensive.

A second undeclared Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, also expressed satisfaction with the probe, calling it "a very thorough investigation." She paid two visits to the off-limits room where the document was being displayed to lawmakers. She told reporters she would not announce her position until Friday.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, said she was "still reviewing" her decision.

While GOP leaders were not saying they'd nailed down the support needed, backing from two of those three would ensure Kavanaugh's confirmation because every other Republican was poised to back him. Republicans have a narrow 51-49 Senate majority, and Vice President Mike Pence will be available to cast a tie-breaking vote.

The trio of GOP moderates, leery of three women's claims of alcohol-fueled sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh, had refused to let his nomination proceed last week until Trump ordered the FBI probe. The three were briefed together on the investigation in the secure room senators were using to view the report. They skirted reporters for much of the day, sometimes shielded by Capitol Police.

Underscoring the hardening partisan lines, one of the two undecided Democratic senators said she'd op-

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pose Kavanaugh. North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, who faces a difficult re-election race next month, cited concerns about his "past conduct" and said she felt his heated attacks on Democrats during last week's Judiciary Committee hearing raised questions about his "current temperament, honesty and impartiality."

West Virginia's Joe Manchin, the other undeclared Democrat, spent time looking at the report and said he would resume reading it Friday.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the Judiciary Committee's top Democrat, said while her party had agreed to a week-long FBI probe with a finite scope, "We did not agree that the White House should tie the FBI's hands."

Democrats also objected to a statement by committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who said the investigation "found no hint of misconduct." The Judiciary panel's 10 Democrats said in a statement that based on their briefing and study of the document, "That is not true."

Grassley also said the FBI could not "locate any third parties who can attest to any of the allegations," and he said there is "no contemporaneous evidence."

Neither side specified what they were referring to. Under rules Congress and the White House have used for years, FBI background checks are considered confidential, and lawmakers and aides are not supposed to reveal details.

White House spokesman Raj Shah rebuffed Democrats' complaints, saying, "What critics want is a never-ending fishing expedition into high school drinking." He said the FBI reached out to 10 people and interviewed nine, including "several individuals at the request of the Senate, and had a series of follow-up interviews ... following certain leads."

Senators said the documents they examined totaled about 50 pages. Some said there were notes on interviews with nine people, though others said 10.

Grassley issued another statement around midnight that listed the 10 people interviewed by the FBI, although not all of them were named. Six of the witnesses involved Ford's claims, including an attorney for one of them, and four were related to Deborah Ramirez, who has asserted that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her when both were Yale freshmen. Grassley said the FBI concluded "there is no collaboration of the allegations made by Dr. Ford or Ms. Ramirez."

Trump, who Tuesday scornfully mocked Ford's Judiciary panel testimony, tweeted that Kavanaugh's "great life cannot be ruined by mean" and "despicable Democrats and totally uncorroborated allegations!"

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said senators would sit around a rectangular table reading different sections of the report while a committee aide read other parts aloud. Senators were allowed to take notes but not remove them from the room, he said. The chamber, in the Capitol Visitor Center adjacent to the Capitol, is also used for secret intelligence briefings. Some lawmakers said they'd not been able to schedule time in the room until Friday.

Corker said nine of the pages were about Mark Judge, the Kavanaugh friend who Ford said also jumped on her while Kavanaugh assaulted her. Judge has said he doesn't recall the incident.

While the FBI interviews were to focus on sexual assault allegations, Democrats have also questioned Kavanaugh's drinking habits during high school and college and dishonest comments they say he has made about his background. Kavanaugh has said stories of his bad behavior while drinking are exaggerated.

Barring leaks, it was unclear how much if any of the FBI report would be made public.

AP reporters Mary Clare Jalonick, Matthew Daly, Kevin Freking, Padmananda Rama, Juliet Linderman, Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Catherine Lucey and Zeke Miller in Washington and John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia, contributed.

Amazon's \$15 an hour a win? Not so, some veteran workers say

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon's announcement that it would raise its hourly minimum wage to \$15 has been seen as a win for workers. But some longtime employees say they are losing out.

Those who already made \$15 will get an extra dollar an hour when the change is made next month, but they will also lose two benefits they relied on: monthly bonuses that could top hundreds of dollars and a chance to own Amazon's sky-rocketing stock, currently worth nearly \$2,000 a share.

At least four longtime workers, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear they would be fired, said the \$1 an hour raise would not make up for the lost benefits. The employees, all of whom work in different warehouses around the country, said the \$15 minimum wage was great for new workers, but the math didn't work out for those who have worked at Amazon's warehouses for a few years.

"I feel hugely disrespected," said a worker at a warehouse in North East, Maryland. "The ones who are loyal should be rewarded for loyalty, not smacked in the face."

According to Amazon, the wage increase will benefit more than 350,000 workers, including full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal positions, as well as those at its grocery chain Whole Foods. Economists said the move could put pressure on other large employers to raise wages.

Amazon said in a statement that the changes mean "compensation will be more immediate and predictable." The Seattle company, which has more than 100 warehouses around the country, said "the significant increase in hourly cash wages more than compensates" the benefits that will be phased out.

But others dispute that.

"They must have a different kind of calculator than us," said an employee at a Pennsylvania warehouse, who estimated she'll lose out on about \$3,000 a year.

From January to September, she made about \$150 a month in bonuses, which were tied to her attendance and productivity goals for the entire warehouse. But she earned an extra \$400 a month in October, November and December, during the busy holiday shopping season when Amazon doubles the bonuses to motivate workers to show up on time and churn out packages quicker.

"They took away all the incentives to work super hard," she said, estimating that the \$1 raise will give her about \$160 extra a month.

Amazon said its stock program, which typically gave workers one or two Amazon shares when they first started and then one a year, will be replaced with a method for workers to buy stock next year, but the company didn't provide details. Workers said managers at the warehouse also didn't know how it would work.

"Who that's making \$16.25 an hour is going to have \$2,000 to buy a stock?" said the person who works at the North East, Maryland, facility.

Thomas Kochan, a professor at MIT's Sloan Institute for Work and Employment Research, said taking away benefits from longtime workers can lead to higher turnover. He said Amazon needs to communicate to workers better if overall compensation is higher "or you're going to have morale problems."

Workers said warehouse managers who were tasked with telling them about the changes didn't seem to know the answer to some questions. Those that called an employee hotline seeking answers heard a prerecorded message: the employee resource center "does not have any additional information we can share with you at this time."

Instead, many workers called Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' office, who had been critical of Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos for paying what he described as low wages but praised the company when it raised the hourly minimum wage.

In a statement, the independent senator said, "Our understanding is that the vast majority of Amazon workers are going to see wage increases. I would hope that as a result of Amazon's new policy, no worker, especially long-time employees, sees a reduction in total compensation. Amazon can afford to make all workers whole and should do that."

One person, who has worked at a warehouse in Phoenix for several years, said the lost benefits means

working at Amazon is now “like any other warehouse” job.
“I’m updating my resume,” he said.

5 things to watch for in Friday’s monthly US jobs report

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is humming, unemployment is skating near a half-century low and businesses are eager — desperate, in some cases — to hire. And when the government issues its September employment report Friday, expectations are high for another sunny picture of the job market.

Economists have forecast that the government will report that employers added a solid 184,000 jobs, according to the data provider FactSet, and that unemployment dipped from 3.9 percent to 3.8 percent, matching an 18-year low.

The Trump administration’s trade fights are unlikely to have had any measurable effect on last month’s pace of hiring and probably won’t until sometime next year, economists say. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum as well as on roughly half of China’s imports to the United States. Most U.S. businesses will try to absorb the higher costs themselves, at least for now, and avoid any layoffs.

Still, should the tariffs remain fully in effect a year from now, roughly 300,000 jobs could be lost by then, according to estimates by Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics.

The monthly jobs report provides a wealth of information beyond the number of job added and the unemployment rate. Here are five things to watch in Friday’s jobs report for September:

WILL UNEMPLOYMENT HIT A NEARLY 50-YEAR LOW?

If the jobless rate should fall two ticks to 3.7 percent, it would reach the lowest level in nearly five decades. The unemployment rate hit 3.5 percent in December 1969, after a streak of brisk economic growth had kept joblessness at or below 4 percent for four years.

If the rate keeps dropping, it will heighten two concerns: Has the economy soaked up nearly all the people who want or are able to work? And if it has, will a shortage of workers compel businesses to raise pay quickly and sharply? Higher pay is good for workers and would likely fuel faster growth. But it could also accelerate inflation, which would arouse concern at the Federal Reserve and among stock and bond investors.

ARE MORE AMERICANS LOOKING FOR WORK?

If people who aren’t working are encouraged by steady hiring and pay increases to begin looking for a job, their influx could prevent unemployment from falling further.

Here’s why: The government counts people as unemployed only if they’re actively looking for a job. If more people start looking — and don’t immediately find a job — the government will count them as unemployed. And the unemployment rate could rise or — as other unemployed workers find jobs — stay the same.

For “prime age” workers — those who are 25 through 54 — the proportion who either have a job or are looking for one has crept up in the past year. Yet it’s still below its pre-recession levels. And the rising presence of prime-age people in the job market has been offset by the steady retirements of older members of the vast baby boom generation.

Still, if the prime-age workers increasingly enter the job market, their numbers could expand the workforce a bit and help accelerate economic growth.

ARE FULL-TIME JOBS STILL GROWING?

The healthy economy hasn’t only produced lots more jobs; it’s also allowed people to work more hours. A rising number of companies are converting part-timers who have wanted more hours to full-time workers and are posting more full-time jobs. At a time of intense competition in some industries for hires,

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offering full-time work is one way for employers to attract more applicants.

More hours, of course, mean larger weekly paychecks. The number of people working part time who would prefer full-time work has reached its lowest point since the Great Recession in 2008-2009.

WILL PAY KEEP RISING?

In August, average hourly wages rose 2.9 percent from 12 months earlier — the biggest year-over-year increase since the recession officially ended in June 2009. The strength of that gain, if it can be sustained, would suggest that the low unemployment rate is pressuring more companies to raise pay in order to attract and keep workers.

Amazon's announcement this week that it would increase its minimum hourly wage to \$15 for all its U.S. employees elevated the pressure on other employers to lift their wages as well. This is particularly true for retail and shipping companies, which are starting to increase hiring for the holiday shopping season.

Still, higher inflation is offsetting much of the wage gain. Consumer prices, for example, rose 2.7 percent in August from 12 months earlier.

EFFECT FROM HURRICANE FLORENCE?

Many economists have forecast that Hurricane Florence, which flooded parts of North and South Carolina last month, depressed September's job growth by roughly 30,000. In particular, hiring might have been constrained in construction and restaurants because the storm likely closed construction work sites and restaurants.

In part, that's because the Labor Department counts people as employed only if they were actually paid during the period of each month when it conducts its jobs surveys. So any hourly workers who weren't paid during the survey period because Florence forced their employer to close temporarily wouldn't have been counted as employed during September.

Poll: Young Americans say online bullying a serious problem

By MATT O'BRIEN and BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writers

WETHERSFIELD, Conn. (AP) — Teens and young adults say cyberbullying is a serious problem for people their age, but most don't think they'll be the ones targeted for digital abuse.

That's according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV, which also finds that about half of both young people and their parents view social media as having a mostly negative effect on the younger generation.

Fifteen-year-old Matty Nev Luby said she's learned to navigate Instagram and other social media apps by brushing aside the anonymous bullies.

"When I see a really mean comment about my appearance or something I did, if someone said that to me online, it means nothing to me, but if I pictured someone I know saying that, I would be really upset," Luby said.

Roughly three-quarters of 15- to 26-year-olds say that online bullying and abuse is a serious problem for their peers. Seven percent of young people say they have already been a victim of cyberbullying, with young women (11 percent) more likely to say they were bullied than young men (3 percent).

"People will make fun of their outfits or weight, their choices," said Luby, who lives in a suburb of Hartford, Connecticut, and has been dabbling in social media since age 12.

Her popularity on the lip-syncing app Musical.ly, which merged this summer into the Chinese video-sharing app TikTok, helped win her some modeling contracts. Now she's mostly focused on Instagram, where she follows makeup artists and fashion trends.

Her mother, Kerrylynn Mahoney, said she's impressed by her daughter's ability to keep bullies at bay. "Her responses blow my mind," Mahoney said. "I'd be fists up at her age. She's like, 'I'm sorry you feel that way. You should probably think in a more positive way and then we'd have more peace on earth.'"

But she's also vigilant about monitoring her daughter's accounts, blocking any followers who seem creepy

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or fake and trying to steer her away from fixating on pages that degrade women.

"I have to constantly keep her grounded," Mahoney said. "I'm thankful she's aware that this is not real. It's our jobs as parents to reel them back in."

The poll shows majorities of both young people and their parents think parents have a responsibility to help prevent online harassment.

The long-documented problem with online bullying is that it is relentless. It doesn't let up when kids get home from school, safely in their homes, or even when they move away from their tormentors. Still, like Luby, many young people tend to be more resilient to trolling from strangers online.

"If they don't know who it is, it doesn't seem to bother them as much," said Justin Patchin, a criminal justice professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center. "What concerns them is when it's some kid at school."

Patchin said that among adults, the people perpetuating harassment tend to be strangers, not people they know.

Leslie Hernandez, 39, said she thinks the impact of social media on people her age has been mostly positive.

"Adults tend to stay away from the drama that is part of adolescence," said Hernandez, who lives in Tucson, Arizona. "It allows you to connect with people from your past."

According to the poll, she is in the minority. Among parents of 15- to 26-year-olds, about a quarter, 23 percent, say social media has had a mostly positive effect on people their age, while 31 percent say it's been negative; 45 percent say it's neither positive nor negative. Among people aged 15 to 26, 47 percent say it's had a negative effect on their generation, and 26 percent say it's been a good thing, while another 26 percent think it's neither. About half of parents, 53 percent, agree social media has had a mostly negative effect on their child's generation.

No matter their age, the overwhelming majority say they see people using discriminatory language or posting such images. Seventy-eight percent of people aged 15 to 26 say they see such posts either sometimes or often, compared with 65 percent of their parents. Only 4 percent of young people and 10 percent of their parents say they never see discriminatory language or images.

Companies like Facebook and Twitter have been trying for years to clamp down on abuse and harassment, with varying degrees of success. Both parents (72 percent) and young people (67 percent) think the companies play a major role in addressing these problems.

Roughly two-thirds of parents also attribute responsibility to schools (68 percent), law enforcement (66 percent) and other users who witness the behavior (61 percent).

Currently, young internet users report using YouTube (48 percent), Facebook (47 percent), Instagram (40 percent) and Snapchat (39 percent) several times a day or more. Fewer use Twitter, Reddit, WhatsApp, Tumblr or LinkedIn as regularly. Parents who use the internet are most likely to report using Facebook (53 percent) several times a day or more, with few being heavy users of other social media sites.

Hernandez said she's "pretty active" on Facebook, in part because of her job as a student housing manager at a college.

"Snapchat feels a little less personal to me," she said. "On Facebook you can kind of follow people and see what's going on in their lives in a more permanent kind of way. A Snapchat image, people will forget. On Instagram, people can enjoy the pictures but don't really see a whole (life)."

Ortutay reported from San Francisco.

The Youth Political Pulse poll was conducted Aug. 23 to Sept. 10 by the AP-NORC Center and MTV. The poll was conducted using NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It includes 580 young people ages 15-26 and 591 parents in the same age group. The margin of sampling error for all young people is plus or minus 6.6 percentage points and for parents is plus or minus 7.5 percentage points.

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Online:

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research: <http://www.apnorc.org>

This story has been corrected to show the mother's name is Kerrylynn, not KellyLynn.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2018. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-wen'-sah) was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

On this date:

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in North Fairfield, Vermont.

In 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Washington state some 41 hours after leaving Japan.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1958, racially-desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was mostly leveled by an early morning bombing.

In 1969, the British TV comedy program "Monty Python's Flying Circus" made its debut on BBC 1.

In 1984, the space shuttle Challenger blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on an 8-day mission; the crew included Kathryn D. Sullivan, who became the first American woman to walk in space, and Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted former P-T-L evangelist Jim Bakker (BAY'-kur) of using his television show to defraud followers.

In 1999, two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station, killing 31 people.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2011, Apple founder Steve Jobs, 56, died in Palo Alto, California.

Ten years ago: Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin defended her claim that Barack Obama "pals around with terrorists," referring to his association on a charity board a few years earlier with 1960s radical Bill Ayers. Obama accused John McCain's campaign of trying to distract votes with "smears" rather than talking about substance.

Five years ago: In a stealthy seaside assault in Somalia and in a raid in Libya's capital, U.S. military forces struck out against Islamic extremists who had carried out terrorist attacks in East Africa, snatching Abu Anas al-Libi, allegedly involved in the bombings of U.S. embassies 15 years earlier. (Al-Libi has since pleaded not guilty to the embassy bombings.) A monster truck went out of control at an "Extreme Aeroshow" in Chihuahua, Mexico, killing eight people and injuring ten times as many. Wladimir Klitschko (VLAD'-uh-meer KLICH'-koh) retained his WBA and IBF heavyweight titles, unanimously outpointing previously undefeated Alexander Povetkin in Moscow.

One year ago: Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his company after a New York Times article detailed decades of alleged sexual harassment against women including actress Ashley Judd. The National Rifle Association and the White House expressed support for controls on "bump stock" devices like those that apparently aided the gunman behind the Las

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Vegas attack; the NRA later said it was opposed to an outright ban on the devices. California Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation extending protections for immigrants living in the United States illegally; police in California would be barred from asking people about their immigration status or taking part in federal immigration enforcement activities.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Glynis Johns is 95. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 81. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 77. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 75. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 75. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 71. Blues musician Rick Estrin is 69. Actress Karen Allen is 67. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 66. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 64. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 60. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 59. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 58. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 54. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 53. Actor Guy Pearce is 51. Actress Josie Bissett is 48. Singer-actress Heather Headley is 44. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 44. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 43. Actress Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 43. Actor Scott Weinger is 43. Actress Kate Winslet is 43. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 40. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 38. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 35. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 35. Actress Azure Parsons is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 33. Actor Kevin Bigley is 32. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 24. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 12.

Thought for Today: "The usefulness of a meeting is in inverse proportion to the attendance." — Lane Kirkland, American labor leader (1922-1999).