

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.

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

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Death Notice: Larry Pigors

Larry J. Pigors, 73, of Aberdeen passed away Saturday, October 6, 2018 in Canton, South Dakota. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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- 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

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Help Wanted: Citizens Needed

We've likely all heard the old saying, "If you don't vote, you can't complain!" Well, it sure looks like there are far more complainers than voters right now. The complainers seem to have it all figured out, they know what "we" need to do to fix all our problems. Sure, you bet. My dad used to have this goofy saying "They had all the answers, but they didn't know the questions!" That silly one-liner may apply today, what is the real question? I think the most important question we face is why the heck don't more people vote?

Voting is much more than a justification to complain, it's about taking ownership in what's already yours. As American citizens we all have a stake in how we govern ourselves. Most of us were born with that small slice of ownership, so we may not think much of it. Look at it this way, if you own your home, do you participate in the upkeep? Do you try to improve its value? Do you take pride? Citizenship works the same way. The Founders put a system in place that gives all citizens a real, tangible opportunity to be part of something much bigger than themselves, to be part-owners in something they can be proud of, our system of Democracy, or our Constitutional Republic, to be more specific.

Here's the catch, Citizenship comes with Duty. The largest and most basic part of that duty is to vote. To me, it's Personal Responsibility 101. Please stake your claim in our democratic process and exercise your right to vote. I firmly believe that the more people that vote, the better the end result. I just ask that you make a responsible effort to make educated choices. In today's age of smart phones and Google searches, there is no excuse to be uneducated. Don't let your voice be bought off by the partisan PAC money that has poisoned our politics. Make your own choice, you will feel better if you do.

The vast majority of people appreciate and admire the sacrifice of the men and women who serve our country. Let's try to emulate their sense of duty by fulfilling our duty as citizens and voting on November 6th.

Kelly Deckert
Brookings, SD

Living Christmas Tree Rehearsals starting soon

"The 30th Annual Living Christmas Tree Rehearsals are starting soon!

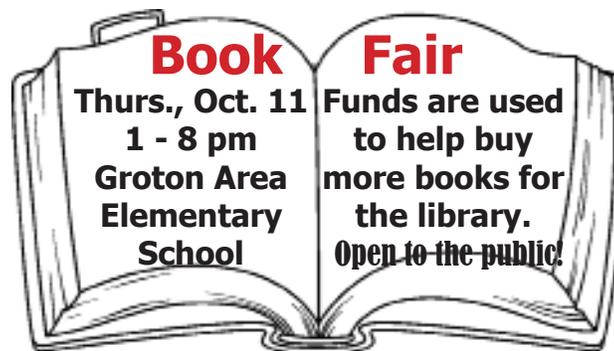
Please join us at the south entrance of the Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center on Sunday, October 21. Choir meets Sundays at 3pm and Mondays at 7pm.

Orchestra meets at 4:30pm, Sunday, October 21, and is pre-selected. Please call if interested.

Children's Choir (Grades 3-6) starts Monday, October 22 at 6:30-7:15pm.

For more information, contact us at (605) 229-6349 or [facebook.com/AberdeenLCT](https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenLCT)

All carolers are welcome in singing praise to the King of Kings!"



Measures seek to make amending constitution tougher, easier to understand

By Dana Hess, For the S.D. Newspaper Association

BROOKINGS — Two measures on the Nov. 6 ballot would make changes to the way the state's constitution is amended.

Amendment X would change the threshold for approving an amendment, raising it from a majority vote to 55 percent of the votes cast. Amendment Z would require that each constitutional amendment be limited to a single subject.

The bill that grew into Amendment X was championed in the Legislature by Sen. Jim Bolin, R-Canton, who said that the state's constitution is of such importance that it should take more than a majority vote to approve amendments.

"This is our foundational document," Bolin said. "It shouldn't be changed in a willy-nilly fashion."

The amendment was endorsed on an 11-2 vote by a task force that studied ballot issues in the summer of 2017. The task force included lawmakers from both parties as well as representatives of municipalities, county commissions, the board of elections and county auditors.

Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, served on the task force and is spearheading the effort against Amendment X.

Amendment X "assumes that the constitution is too easy to change already," Nesiba said. "It's not."

Nesiba said that 26,000 valid signatures are needed to get on the ballot. In reality, to hit that number, close to 50,000 signatures have to be collected. As an example, Nesiba noted two groups that tried to get amendments on this November's ballot. One collected 33,000 signatures and the other collected 37,000. Neither made it on the ballot.

Bolin points out that Amendment X has nothing to do with ballot access.

Amendment X is patterned after a proposal that was approved by Colorado voters in 2016. Florida has a 60 percent threshold and New Hampshire's original constitution, written in 1783, requires a two-thirds majority to pass an amendment.

"We're not breaking any new ground here, at all," Bolin said.

It's well-trodden ground, though, according to Nesiba with 240 amendments proposed in the state's history. Of those, 224 were put on the ballot by the Legislature and 16 were initiated by citizens.

From statehood through the last election, 51 percent of all amendments were approved by voters with just six of the citizen-initiated measures becoming part of the constitution.

"Citizens aren't doing this," Nesiba said. "Amendment X is another one coming from the Legislature."

Amendment Z also started in the Legislature, championed by Speaker of the House Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls.

Keeping constitutional amendments to a single subject, according to Mickelson, will keep voters from having to face a decision about voting for a measure because it has some good qualities, but having to accept its bad ideas as well.

"It makes it clear to the voter what they're voting on," Mickelson said. "This makes the constitution less able to be abused."

It's the voters who are being abused, according to Rebecca Terk, a lobbyist for Dakota Rural Action. Terk said both Amendments X and Z seem to be aimed at the notion that too many wealthy, out-of-state interests are crowding South Dakota's ballot.

"They're wealthy," Terk said. "They have the tools to overcome the hurdles in their path."

According to Mickelson, rules that allow citizens to put amendments on the ballot were put in place to help people who didn't think that lawmakers in Pierre were listening to their concerns. Those lawmakers weren't listening to Mickelson in the last session, so he spearheaded efforts to put an increased tobacco tax and a ban on out-of-state contributions to ballot measure committees on this year's ballot.

"I couldn't get those through the Legislature," Mickelson said, "but the people want these. That's a healthy process."

Terk isn't buying the idea that the constitution needs a higher vote threshold or simpler topics on which to vote. But, like Mickelson, she's putting her faith in voters.

"South Dakota voters are not dumb," Terk said. "They take the time to really understand what's on their ballot."

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings beat the Philadelphia Eagles 23-21 on Sunday, giving the team a much needed early-season win and a little redemption for the NFC Championship game last season. The Vikings' passing game was excellent, and the defense made some big plays to secure the win. The Vikings are now 2-2-1 on the season and are tied with the Green Bay Packers for second in the NFC North, one win behind the Chicago Bears.

Kirk Cousins was surgical on Sunday, completing 30 of 37 passes for 301 yards and one touchdown. He also had a beautiful touchdown pass to Adam Thielen at the end of the first half to put the Vikings up 17-3. The offensive game plan was to get the ball out of Cousins' hands as quickly as possible, which helps offset the Vikings' offensive line being outmatched – and he was only sacked once as a result.

Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs continue to shine, combining for 17 catches, 207 yards and a touchdown. Thielen also made NFL history on Sunday, becoming the first player since the NFL merger (1970) to have 100 receiving yards in the first five games of the season.

Coming into the game, the Vikings' running game was the worst in the league. They played a little better on Sunday, even without starting RB Dalvin Cook who missed the game because of injury. Latavius Murray, Roc Thomas and Mike Boone combined for 16 carries for 51 yards (3.2 yards per carry). Diggs also had two carries for 25 yards. The Vikings are still the only team in the league without a 100-yard rusher, but at least things are pointing in the right direction.

The Vikings defense played well, limiting the Eagles to 91 yards and four first-downs, and only allowing one third-down conversion in the first half. Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks finally played well, as Barr led the team in tackling and Kendricks had a fumble recovery that halted a very good drive by Philadelphia. The defensive line, without Everson Griffen again, had three sacks, two tackles for a loss and five quarterback hits.

The offensive player of the game must be Adam Thielen, who had seven catches for 116 yards and a TD. He was also the player who corralled the Eagles onside kick at the end of the game, sealing the win for the purple and gold. Thielen is proving that last year wasn't a fluke and that he is one of the best receivers in the NFL.

The defensive player of the game is Linval Joseph. He filled up the stat sheet against the Eagles with five tackles, one sack, one tackle for a loss, one quarterback hit, and the cherry on top – a 64-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown. Linval was a beast on defense, and even received the game ball from head coach Mike Zimmer after the game.

Looking ahead, the Minnesota Vikings will return home and host the Arizona Cardinals next Sunday. The game will start at noon (CT) next Sunday, October 14 and will be broadcast on Fox. The Cardinals were the last winless team in the NFL until this Sunday, when they beat the 49ers 28-18. ESPN gives the Vikings an 86% chance to win the game, but as we all know, the Vikings can't overlook any team in the league. Still, if the Vikings play like they are capable of, they shouldn't have any problems beating the Cardinals. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)



Pumpkin Fest Thank You

Despite the cold temperatures we still had an amazing turnout!! Thank you all for attending our event and a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers for making it happen!! See you next year, October 12, 2019!!

Pictured in back, left to right, are Topper Tastad, April Abeln, Bruce Babcock, Heather Nelson, Peggy Locke and behind her is David McGannon, Karyn Babcock, Joe Foertsch and Joel Bierman; in front, left to right, are Tyrel Telkamp, Kayleigh Englund, Brenda Englund and Justin Buckley. (Courtesy Photo)

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Vote Lana Greenfield for District 2 House
A WISE CHOICE; A STRONG VOICE



LANA GREENFIELD
DISTRICT 2
FOR **HOUSE**
LANAGREENFIELD.COM

Background:

- ★Raised on a farm near Bryant
- ★Received a Bachelor of Science in education from BHSU
- ★Married for 48 years, mother of three, grandmother

Experience:

- ★Owner of Greeny's, a restaurant-lodging facility in Doland
- ★Land owner
- ★Retired 37 year veteran teacher

Lana Supports:

- ◆ Life
- ◆ Gun Rights
- ◆ Stable education curriculum
- ◆ Small business and entrepreneurship
- ◆ Veterans
- ◆ Elderly and homes for the disabled
- ◆ No new taxes
- ◆ Common sense government
- ◆ A strict interpretation of the Constitution

*Re-elect Lana Greenfield on
November 6th, a
fiscally conservative Republican,
endorsed by the NRA.*

Paid for by Lana Greenfield for House,
Box 143, Doland, SD 57436



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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.

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Groton is
#COMMUNITYpowered!
We are proud to be YOUR
hometown power provider.
Learn more about your utility's value at www.hcpd.com/publicpower.

HEARTLAND

PUBLIC POWER WEEK
OCTOBER 7-13, 2018
Powering Strong Communities

Pictured: Groton Metering Technician Paul Kosel, Assistant Finance Officer April Abeln and Finance Officer Hope Block

Powering the community

Public power is not a term most are familiar with. But the fact is, if you live in Groton, you are served by a public power utility. The city has owned and operated the local electric utility for 97 years, providing you numerous benefits.

Groton provides power to 808 residential and commercial customers. Most of that electricity comes from hydropower generated at the federal dams. Supplemental power is purchased from Heartland Consumers Power District in Madison, S.D.

Heartland is proud to be Groton's public power provider as we celebrate Public Power Week October 7-13.

Public power utilities are owned by the community and decisions on how the electric utility is run are made by people who live and work in the community, not corporations.

They operate on a non-profit basis and invest an average of 5.6 percent of revenue directly back into the community.

By partnering with Heartland, Groton offers incentives, low-interest financing and other programs to entice business to set up shop or expand. Groton residents and business owners are also eligible for a variety of energy efficiency programs, which reward investment in energy efficiency lighting, heating and cooling systems, water heaters and more to help save money on electric bills.

Groton's utility employees are dedicated, knowledgeable and right here to help when needed. In fact, they are currently performing an electrical study to determine what updated need to be done to serve you better.

The city of Groton takes their job of providing reliable electric service seriously. For them, there is something special about powering the community. It means the city is actively working to improve the lives of residents, while making sure the lights always come on when you flip the switch.

Ann Hyland

Communications Manager

Heartland Consumers Power District

www.hcpd.com

(605) 256-6536



Groton is #COMMUNITYpowered!

We are proud to be YOUR hometown power provider.

Learn more about your utility's value at www.hcpd.com/publicpower.

PUBLIC POWER WEEK
OCTOBER 7-13, 2018
Powering Strong Communities

HEARTLAND

Pictured: Groton Electric Superintendent Shawn Lambertz and Electric Lineman Dan Sunne

Heartland divests of excess resource Sale will provide long-term rate stability for customers

MADISON, S.D. - Heartland Consumers Power District's vision for the future is to be a trusted leader and partner of choice in the delivery of competitively priced electricity. Heartland provides wholesale power to the city of Groton.

However, the prospect of fulfilling that vision was uncertain as a future loomed where excess generation would inhibit the ability to provide low-cost power.

But Heartland also operates by a mission that includes making sound decisions today for a brighter tomorrow.

With that in mind, Heartland recently sold one their longest-held assets, and is now looking toward a more stable future.

Heartland sold its share of the Missouri Basin Power Project, namely its 51 MW ownership of Laramie River Station.

According to Heartland CEO Russell Olson, the sale provides numerous benefits, including rate stability for customers.

"Divesting of LRS achieves many of the long-term goals we set forth in our strategic plan. Most importantly, it gives wholesale customers such as Groton steady rates and more certainty about the future."

Goals outlined in Heartland's strategic plan included stabilizing rates, enhancing customer relations and maintaining sound financial health. A resource divestiture was identified early on as the best way to achieve Heartland's goals.

"Our strategic plan was adopted after soliciting feedback from our customers, ensuring it was in line with their needs," said Olson. "We worked with outside consultants to determine the best way to accomplish our goals and a divestiture was kind of our silver bullet."

Heartland was previously looking at excess capacity of 30% after the year 2020, which would have to be sold in the market, presumably at a loss.

"This sale brings us into balance, with our load more equally matching our generation and reducing our reliance on the market."

It also decreases the company's coal exposure, providing a more balanced mix of resources and reducing risk of future regulation costs and will help the company's continual operation with sound financial metrics.

"At Heartland, our motto is the power of forward thinking. We couldn't sit back knowing we would have to substantially increase rates. We also weren't willing to sacrifice our financial health. We turned over every stone possible looking for savings. Divestiture was always the goal, and everyone here worked tirelessly to make that a reality."

Laramie River Station in Wheatland, WY was constructed as part of the Missouri Basin Power Project, which also includes Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir and nearly 650 miles of high voltage transmission line.

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Heartland had a 3% undivided ownership share of MBPP, including 51 MW from LRS. LRS was the first resource in Heartland's generating portfolio and began supplying electrical power to their customers in 1980.

"LRS has been reliable and low-cost for the past 40 years," said Olson. "It's also a marketable resource for those same reasons. It simply no longer fit in our portfolio."

Heartland is selling its interest in MBPP to Tri-State Generation & Transmission, a cooperative based in Colorado. Tri-State previously held a 24% ownership share in LRS.

The unit sale will consist of Heartland's ownership share in MBPP, retroactive to July 1, 2018, including capacity and energy from Heartland's MBPP entitlement of LRS, transmission and substation facilities, associated land, property and inventory.

Heartland's baseload resource now consists of 80 MW from Whelan Energy Center Unit 2, which became operational in 2011. Heartland has a 36% entitlement share in the 220 MW plant located near Hastings, Nebraska. It meets or exceeds all current pollution control standards and is well-positioned to meet any future proposed rules.

A purchased power agreement with NextEra Energy provides 51 MW of wind energy from the Wessington Springs Wind Energy Center. Heartland also utilizes contracts with customers and other utilities to acquire low-cost capacity resources.

Olson is excited about what the future holds for Heartland and their customers.

"We look forward to a strong future for our company and for our customers. Now that we've accomplished one of our most important goals, we can focus on providing excellent customer service and low-cost power and fulfilling our vision of being a trusted partner to our customers."

Heartland Consumers Power District is a non-profit, public power utility located in Madison, S.D. Heartland provides reliable power as well as energy services and community development programs to the city of Groton.



Jay Johnson for Governor?

Apparently, the news cycle in Groton is slow, so Jay Johnson is trying to drum up some conversation. Dorene Nelson submitted this photo just before publishing this morning's edition.



Celebrating Tribal Heritage

I have had the honor of receiving a Star Quilt from tribes in South Dakota on a few occasions. Star Quilts are often used in Native American culture as a symbolic way to honor and protect a person on their journey through life. It's incredibly meaningful and a big encouragement as we work together to tackle some of the challenges in the journey ahead.

Each October, we celebrate Native Americans' Day – an opportunity to honor South Dakota's nine Native American tribes, as well as their heritage, culture, and traditions. If you haven't been to a tribal celebration, I encourage you to find an opportunity this fall.

That said, there are tremendous challenges in Indian Country today – from economic and workforce development to healthcare. Despite a workforce shortage in good-paying, high-skill jobs on reservations, fewer than one in 10 Native American students will attend college. SDSU is pursuing one program to help change that, however. It's called the Wokini Initiative and is designed to help more tribal students earn their degree. We're working now to get more resources into the program, offering hope, enrichment, and upward mobility for many students.

Alongside workforce development, we need economic development. For too long, inconsistencies in tax law have created confusion and discouraged investment in Indian Country. Understanding this, I introduced legislation to better reflect the unique needs of tribal communities. More specifically, the bill puts tribal governments on equal footing with states, ensuring they are fully eligible under the tax code to receive certain tax benefits and enter into public-private partnerships. It also expands economic development tools to make investing more affordable in these high-need areas.

At the same time, we must address the tribal healthcare crisis. Today, many tribal members receive life-threatening "care" from a broken Indian Health Service (IHS). In recent years, watchdog reports have documented appalling cases of negligence and poorly delivered care. Babies were born on bathroom floors with no doctor present. Facilities were forced to wash surgical equipment by hand due to broken sterilization machines. Medical personnel were coming to work with certifications that had lapsed. An IHS pediatrician was tried for sexually abusing children. No one should have to live in these third-world medical conditions – especially not folks in South Dakota.

I've been working with tribal leaders to improve the IHS for years, and this summer, I introduced the most recent version of my comprehensive IHS reform bill. Through the legislation, we offer more tools to recruit and retain quality medical and administrative personnel. We would also cut red tape and increase transparency. I'm hopeful we'll be able to continue to drive this legislation forward in the weeks ahead.

It's critical we recognize and honor the tremendous contributions tribal communities have made throughout our shared history. That's why I worked to recognize the Tatanka as our country's national mammal and honor the Lakota Code Talkers with a Congressional Gold Medal. I'm proud of the rich Native American heritage that's woven into South Dakota and grateful that we, as a state, set aside a day each October to recognize that legacy.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



In SD, It's Native Americans' Day

If you look at your calendar, I'll bet on Monday, Oct. 8, it says "Columbus Day." Though the designation may serve as a good reminder for those who don't have school that day or whose offices are closed, it's not quite accurate for those of us in South Dakota. Here, it's Native Americans' Day.

The change came at the urging of Gov. George S. Mickelson in 1990 as part of his "Year of Reconciliation" efforts, making us the first state in the nation to establish Native Americans' Day as an official state holiday. Given that nine tribes share our borders and about 9 percent of our population is Native American, I'd say it was a fitting alteration.

This Native Americans' Day, I'm reflecting on our state's progress toward improving relations with tribal members. It's something I've tried to prioritize during my time in office. In 2011, I established the Department of Tribal Relations as a cabinet-level agency within state government and named J.R. LaPlante as the first-ever Secretary of Tribal Relations. J.R. and I initiated annual tribal visits in order to meet with tribal presidents and council members to better understand the specific issues affecting each tribe. This was something we continued under Secretary Steve Emery's leadership as well.

The Department of Tribal Relations has worked diligently to facilitate partnerships among state agencies and the nine tribes. For instance, we have tax collection agreements with eight tribes and also gaming compacts with eight tribes. In 2016 and 2017, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks signed cooperative Memorandums of Understanding with the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to improve communication and management of wildlife and lands. And the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has dedicated millions of dollars for the operation and maintenance of tribal drinking water systems.

The Department of Tribal Relations has also held annual trainings to encourage tribal participation in the legislative process. I signed a bill exempting elected tribal leaders from registering as lobbyists before testifying for or against legislation. We have been successful at passing other tribal legislation as well. This year I signed a measure that allows tribes to work directly with counties on extradition, rather than going through the state, as well as a bill authorizing tribal law enforcement officers to utilize the state Law Enforcement Training Center.

On the corrections front, we have implemented a very successful tribal parole program with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Part of the Criminal Justice Initiative of 2013, the program returns parolees to their tribal communities where family and community supports encourage compliance. This joint supervision program has resulted in higher parole completion rates, fewer instances of absconding and culturally relevant support systems for parolees returning home.

Relations between the tribes and the State of South Dakota have improved over the last several years. It's normal to have diverse viewpoints and some disagreements, but we continue to move in a positive direction. That's cause for celebration this Native Americans' Day in South Dakota.

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What's going in the state this week

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Wednesday, October 10, 2 p.m. CDT, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be a guest on 1240 AM KCCR with Zach Nelson.

Tuesday, October 9, 1 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota Primary Care Task Force Oversight Committee will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <http://doh.sd.gov/PrimaryCare/>.

Tuesday, October 9, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Economic Development Finance Authority (EDFA) board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9 at 9:30 a.m. CDT at 711 E. Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoeser, GOED Finance Director, at 605-773-GOED (4633) for more information. <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=30>.

Tuesday, October 9, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council will meet in the Sharpe Conference Room of the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. DDN sites are scheduled at the following locations:

- Pierre – Department of Labor and Regulation, 123 W. Missouri Ave.
- Rapid City – Department of Labor and Regulation, 2330 N. Maple, Ste. #1
- Sioux Falls – Department of Human Services, 811 E. 10th St.
- Aberdeen – Department of Labor and Regulation, 420 S. Roosevelt St.
- Watertown – Department of Labor and Regulation, 2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 200

Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=107/>. Questions may be directed to Deputy Secretary Tom Hart at 605-773-3101.

Wednesday, October 10, 8 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Veterans Commission will meet in the Highlands Room of the RedRossa Italian Grille. The Commission convenes at 8:00 am for strategic planning followed by the Commission meeting at 11:00 am. The Commission's agenda and supporting documents may be accessed online at either of the following two links: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/aboutsddva/veterans%20commission.aspx> or <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=101> For more information, contact Audry Ricketts at 605-773-8242.

Wednesday, October 10, 2 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Nursing Facility Administrators will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=69>.

Thursday, October 11, 10 – 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council will hold a meeting in the Sharpe Conference Room of the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. DDN sites are scheduled at the following locations:

- Aberdeen, Department of Labor and Regulation, 420 S. Roosevelt St.
- Rapid City, Department of Labor and Regulation, 2330 N. Maple, Suite 1
- Sioux Falls, Department of Human Services, 811 E. 10th St.

Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=99>. Questions may be directed to Unemployment Insurance Division Director Pauline Heier at 605-626-2310.

Thursday, October 11, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Department of Labor Employee Retirement Board (ERB) will hold a meeting in the Sharpe Conference Room of the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. DDN sites are scheduled at the following locations:

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- Aberdeen, Department of Labor and Regulation, 420 S. Roosevelt St.
- Rapid City, Department of Labor and Regulation, 2330 N. Maple Ave., Suite 1
- Sioux Falls, Department of Labor and Regulation, 811 E. 10th St.

Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=147>. Any questions regarding the ERB may be directed to Jennifer Kamps at 605-773-6804.

Friday, October 12, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Fort Pierre – The Department of Social Services' Psychologists Board of Examiners will hold a meeting at 110 E. Stanley Rd., Holiday Inn Express. For more information and to view the agenda, please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=81>.

Friday, October 12, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Arts Council will meet at 711 E. Wells Ave. in Pierre for its regular fall business meeting in Creekside Conference Room. An agenda will be posted 72 hours before the meeting at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=7>. At 1 p.m., the Council will reconvene with the Board of Directors of Arts South Dakota for a joint meeting in the main-level conference room at the same location.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Tuesday, October 9, to Thursday, October 11: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Tuesday, October 9:

- 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Custer – 420 Mt. Rushmore Rd. 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT, Deadwood – 80 Sherman St. 605-280-4307
- 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Eureka – 717 7th St. 605-280-4308
- 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Webster – 711 W. 1st St. 605-280-4306

Wednesday, October 10:

- 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – 101 1st Ave., SE, Suite 100 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Britton – 909 S. Main St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Martin – 105 E. Hwy 8 605-280-4308
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Pine Ridge – 1 Veterans Dr. 605-2850-4307

Thursday, October 11:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Ft. Yates, ND – Standing Rock Tribal Ofc. 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Leola – 421 Grant St. 605-280-4308

Tuesday, October 9, to Thursday, October 11 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Tuesday, October 9, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – At 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

· Thursday, October 11, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – At 420 S. Roosevelt St. Parties interested in attending should register by calling 605-626-2340 prior to 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 10. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.

· Thursday, October 11, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Watertown – At 2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 200. For more information, call 605-882-5131 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

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Tuesday, October 9, to Thursday, October 11 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, October 9, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

- Wednesday, October 10, 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At City Hall, 60 S. Main. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Thursday, October 11, 1 – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 9, through Thursday, October 11, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include productions workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 9 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Brookings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information, call 605-688-4370 or visit www.GED.com.

Wednesday, October 10, to Friday, October 12 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx. The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

- Wednesday, October 10, 1 – 5 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 420 S. Roosevelt St. This is the first day of a two-day workshop. For more information or to register, please call 605-626-2298. You may also register online at the link above.

- Wednesday, October 10, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave. Lunch is provided. To register, call 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

- Thursday, October 11, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 420 S. Roosevelt St. This is the second day of a two-day workshop. For more information or to register, please call 605-626-2298. You may also register online at the link above.

- Thursday, October 11, and Friday, October 12, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – At Spearfish Chamber of Commerce, 106 W. Kansas St. This is a two-day workshop. To register, call the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills at 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

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Wednesday, October 10 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, October 10, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CDT, Watertown – Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) is hosting a Career Search EXPO, designed to bring future employers and current LATI students together. The fair, at 1201 Arrow Ave., allows businesses to link career options with the skills, qualifications, aptitudes and interests of these students. The Expo may result in an interview, a position offered, or just a mutual gathering of information. DLR Watertown Job Service can help you prepare. Call 605-882-5131 for more information.

Thursday, October 11 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Armour, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, October 11, 9 – 10 a.m. CDT, Mitchell – The Mitchell Job Club is open to the public and held every Thursday at Mitchell Job Service, 1321 N. Main St. The meeting will discuss a variety of job search topics in detail, including online job searching, workforce training options, interview skills/techniques, and money management. Please call 605-995-8060 to register.

Thune's Office Accepting Spring Internship Applications

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) is currently seeking college students to serve as spring interns in his office in Washington, D.C., as well as in his offices in Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls.

Interns in Thune's state offices will participate in constituent service and state outreach activities, while students in the Washington, D.C., office will have the opportunity to witness the legislative process, give Capitol building tours, and attend Senate votes and hearings. Both in-state and Washington, D.C., internships will allow students to work closely with constituents, hone their research and writing skills, and learn a multitude of valuable office skills.

"The opportunity to intern in a Senate office is one of the best ways to learn how our federal government works," said Thune. "Interns in my office will experience the inner workings of a Senate office firsthand, while improving their legislative knowledge and communication skills. I encourage all college students to consider applying for this rewarding experience."

Thune is chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Senate Committee on Finance.

College students who are interested in interning in Thune's Washington, D.C., Aberdeen, Rapid City, or Sioux Falls offices should fill out an online application form with their resume and cover letter by October 31, 2018, at <https://bit.ly/2zU7D4h>, or they can locate the application by searching "intern program" on www.thune.senate.gov. Mailed-in applications will no longer be accepted.

For more information, please call 202-224-2321.

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15th Annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This October is the 15th annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, an initiative started by the Department of Homeland Security to highlight the importance of protecting our personal information online. As always, the goal is to make sure all Americans have the tools and knowledge they need to make safe and secure decisions on the internet and to improve our national cybersecurity efforts.

Attempts to obtain sensitive information online and execute successful cyberattacks are increasing in frequency as the internet has become an integral part of our daily lives. Hackers are using ever-evolving technologies to access our sensitive personal information, making it even more important to take precautions to improve our security measures.

South Dakotans can take a number of steps to protect themselves online. This includes setting strong, complex passwords for online accounts and not using the same password for everything. Multifactor authentication creates extra layers of security for your accounts and can be a good way to prevent others from accessing your information. You should also delete emails that seem suspicious, avoid clicking on links if you aren't sure of their authenticity and be sure to put a lock on your mobile devices at all times. Be cautious when logging onto unsecured Wi-Fi networks, such as at an airport, coffee shop or other public place. It is also discouraged to enter your credit card information, conduct online banking or engage in other sensitive tasks when on public Wi-Fi or when using a public computer. These are just a few ways you can protect yourself online. For more cybersecurity tips, visit www.dhs.gov/ncsam.

While we, as individuals, can take important steps to keep our personal information from leaking, the federal government must also consider the damage hackers can do if they are able to access secure military information, civilian infrastructure systems, electronic voting systems or any sensitive national security information. In the Senate, I chair the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Senate Armed Services Committee. We work with members of Congress, the administration, military leaders and industry stakeholders to develop laws and policies that will protect the United States from damaging cyberattacks. In particular, our Cybersecurity Subcommittee oversees cyber efforts at the Department of Defense (DoD). Keeping Americans safe is our top priority.

In recent years, the lack of serious consequences for countries responsible for cyberattacks has emboldened them and has left us vulnerable to more attacks. Take for instance the 2016 election: there is clear evidence Russia attempted to meddle in our election. There is no evidence that they tried to manipulate the voting systems, but they did attempt to influence opinions through disinformation campaigns on social media.

I am pleased President Trump signed an executive order in September to impose sanctions on any person or government that attempts to interfere in U.S. elections. It shows our adversaries that the U.S. government is taking its responsibility seriously to protect Americans from cyber threats. We have a great deal of work ahead in the cyber domain, but I am confident in our ability to respond to this threat that is constantly evolving.

Keeping Americans safe from malicious cyber activity can be best achieved by approaching it from multiple angles. While it is important that we have clear policies in place to retaliate against cyberattacks, we must also focus on preventing hackers from attacking us in the first place. In addition to the role of the federal government, each of us has a role to play in maintaining cybersecurity. I encourage all South Dakotans to spend time this month reviewing your online practices and making necessary improvements to stay safe online.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Happy Native Americans' Day

It's been 28 years since South Dakota started recognizing the second Monday in October as Native Americans' Day. In 1990, Governor George Mickelson led the state in a "Year of Reconciliation" with South Dakota's tribal communities – a fabric of our state's rich culture and history. To non-South Dakotans, it might seem like a small or trivial change, but by leaving Columbus Day in the past, the state turned an important page and looked entirely toward the future.

South Dakota has been home to some of history's greatest Native American warriors, including Chief Sitting Bull and Chief Crazy Horse. Today, we're lucky to have a new generation of tribal leaders who continue to fight day in and day out for the communities in which they live.

Whether I'm in Washington or back home in South Dakota, I often cross paths with folks who share both the successes and challenges they experience within their tribal communities. Their input is critical and helps me pursue policies in Congress that help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal programs that have a direct effect on their lives.

Thanks to their feedback, I've been working for years to reform and modernize the broken Indian Health Service (IHS). IHS is tasked with providing health care to tribal members in South Dakota and around the country – care they depend on, but for far too long has been substandard, an understatement to say the least.

Don't get me wrong, there are many talented and dedicated employees who work at IHS facilities in South Dakota and throughout the Great Plains, but the organization as a whole is so wrought with systemic problems that it hardly deserves the title in which it has been given. The agency can and must do better, and I will continue fighting for change.

I value hearing from members of South Dakota's Native American tribes and learning about what's important to them, but I also think it's good for my colleagues in the Senate to hear their perspective, too.

I recently invited Mona Thompson, the general manager for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority, to testify in front of the Senate Commerce Committee, which I chair. Her feedback on the progress of broadband deployment in rural parts of South Dakota was honest and helpful, and I'm glad she was willing to make the trip to Washington to share her observations.

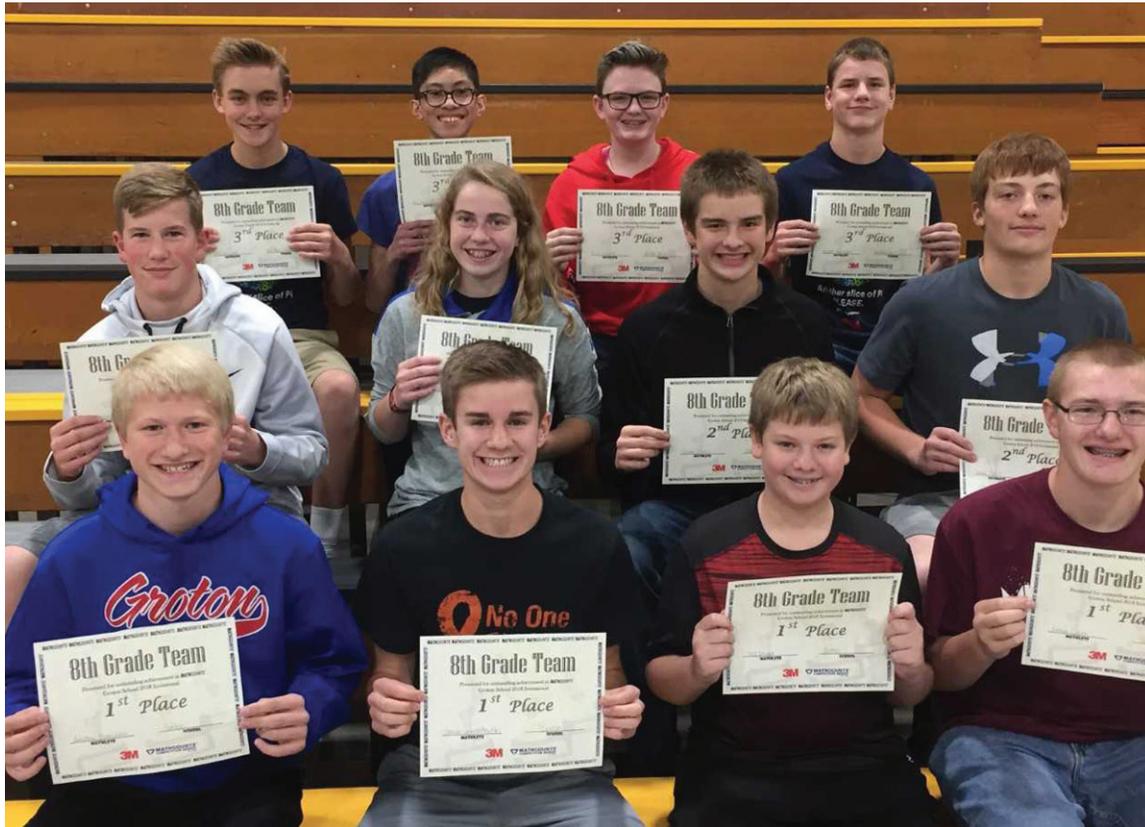
I know I'm not alone in considering myself extremely grateful to live in a state that honors its Native American history and traditions. Whether it's language, food, or events, the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people have left and are continuing to leave an important mark on South Dakota.

I appreciate all they've done for our state and look forward to continuing my partnership with them in the months and years ahead.

Happy Native Americans' Day!

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Groton Eighth Grade MathCounts places first

The Groton Area Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 in the high school gym.

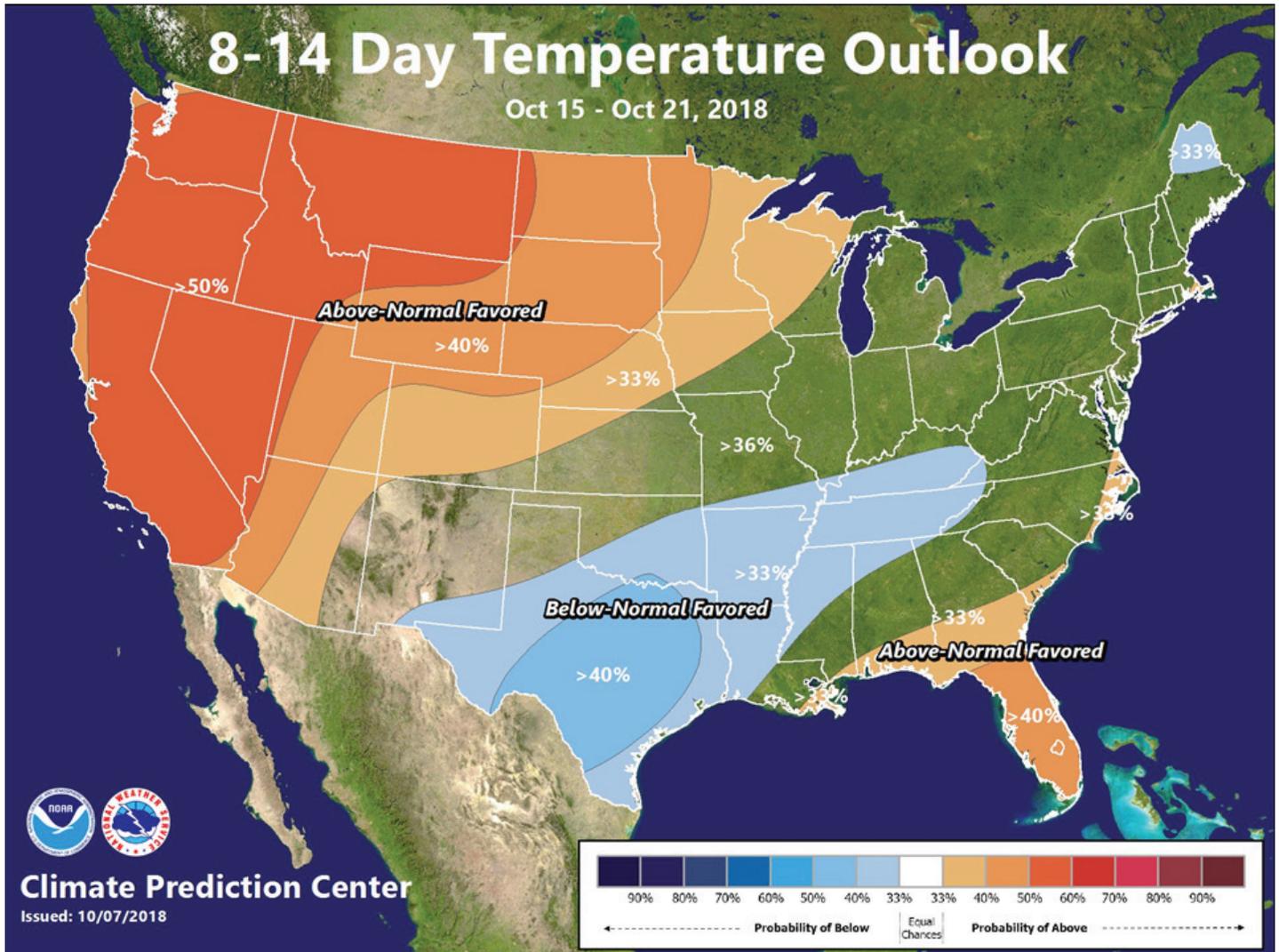
Ninty-eight students from seven Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Groton students, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Andrew Marzahn earned first place in the eighth grade team division. Ethan Clark received recognition for placing second and Jackson Dinger received recognition for placing third in the individual eighth grade portion of the competition.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, October 31.

Front row from left: Groton, 1st place, Andrew Marzahn, Jacob Lewandowski, Jackson Dinger, Ethan Clark
Middle row from left: Warner, 2nd place, Levi Scepaniak, Allison Ray, Carter Moen, Isaac Hoeft
Back row from left: Britton-Hecla, 3rd place, Will Schuller, Dyl Nebrida, D.J. Fischer, BoDell Davidson

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Published on: 10/07/2018 at 7:02PM

The last couple of 8 to 14 day forecasts suggest an uptick in temperatures next week as the weather pattern changes across the continental United States.

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Today in Weather History

October 8, 1982: October 8th and 9th, 1982 a record-breaking snowstorm (at that time) for so early in the Fall paralyzed the northern Black Hills with three to six feet of heavy, wet snow and winds of 40 to 70 miles an hour. Some snowfall amounts included 41 inches at Galena, 36 inches at Lead, and 23 inches at Deadwood. Five to six feet of snow was typical in the higher elevations. The heavy wet snow caused numerous problems. The roof of a clothing store in Lead collapsed under the weight of the snow, and several other businesses were damaged.

The roofs of at least three trailer homes also collapsed. The combination of high winds and heavy snow broke tree branches (causing extensive timber damage), power lines and telephone poles. Damage was done to 40 miles of power lines, including 30 broken power poles. Some residents were without power for five days. The city of Deadwood was without electricity and fresh water for at least three days.

1871: The Great Chicago Fire burns much of the city to the ground, fanned by strong southwest winds. An estimated 250 were killed. On the same night, forest fires swept through Peshtigo, Wisconsin. An estimated 1,500 to possibly as many as 2,500 died as gale-force winds push flames across town. Severe drought blamed for tinder-dry conditions. An additional 200 die in Michigan fires.

1919: An intense tornado moved through the town of Hoisington, 11 miles north of Great Bend, Kansas. It damaged or destroyed 60 homes which resulted in \$200,000 in damages. Business papers and canceled checks were found at Lincoln, 55 miles to the northeast.

1871 - Prolonged drought and desiccating winds led to the great Chicago fire, the Peshtigo horror, and the Michigan fire holocaust. Fire destroyed more than seventeen thousand buildings killing more than 200 persons in the city of Chicago, while a fire consumed the town of Peshtigo WI killing more than 1100 persons. In Wisconsin, a million acres of land were burned, and in Michigan, 2.5 million acres were burned killing 200 persons. "Tornadoes of fire" generated by intense heat caused houses to explode in fire, and burned to death scores of persons seeking refuge in open fields. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1901 - A deluge at Galveston, TX, produced nearly twelve inches of rain in about a six hour period. The rains came precisely thirteen months after the day of the famous Galveston hurricane disaster. (David Ludlum)

1982 - An unusually early snowstorm hit the northern Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. The storm produced up to 54 inches of snow, and winds as high as 70 mph. The snowfall was very much dependent upon topography. Rapid City, 20 miles away, received just a trace of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the southeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Madison WI with a reading of 22 degrees. The low of 28 degrees at Evansville IN was the coolest of record for so early in the season. Hot weather continued in the southwestern U.S. Phoenix AZ reported a record high of 104 degrees and a record tying 116 days of 100 degree weather for the year. Tucson AZ established an all-time record with 72 days of 100 degree weather for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Snow was reported across parts of northern New England. Two inches blanketed Mount Snow VT. Warm weather continued in the northwestern U.S. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Stampede Pass WA exceeded their previous record for October by seven degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning lows in the 20s were reported from the Northern Plains to the Upper Great Lakes. International Falls MN and Marquette MI reported record lows of 22 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in central California as the Oakland Athletics won the American League pennant. San Luis Obispo CA reported a high of 99 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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Columbus Day
Day



100%

Rain and Fog

High: 42 °F

Tonight



90%

Rain and Areas Fog

Low: 39 °F

Tuesday



80%

Rain

High: 42 °F

Tuesday Night



80%

90%

Rain then Rain/Snow

Low: 34 °F

Wednesday

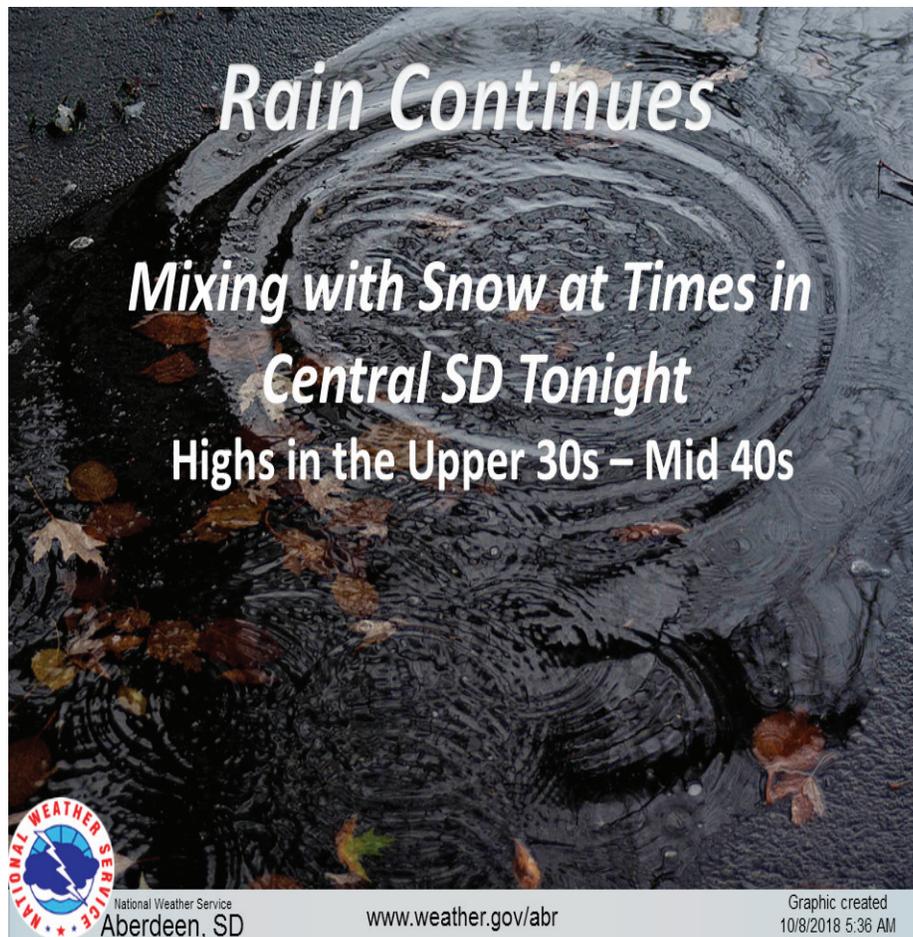


60%

60%

Rain/Snow Likely then Rain Likely and Breezy

High: 41 °F



Rain Continues

Mixing with Snow at Times in Central SD Tonight

Highs in the Upper 30s – Mid 40s

 National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic created 10/8/2018 5:38 AM

Published on: 10/08/2018 at 5:41AM

Precipitation will continue through Wednesday. Most of this will fall as rain, but some snow will mix in across central and northern SD overnight and on Wednesday. Temperatures will not move much between day and night today and Tuesday. Highs and lows will range from the lower 30s to the mid 40s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 45 °F at 2:47 PM

Low Outside Temp: 35 °F at 7:27 AM

High Gust: 13 mph at 8:11 AM

Precip: 0.23

Today's Info

Record High: 87° in 1936, 1910

Record Low: 9° in 1895

Average High: 62°F

Average Low: 36°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.54

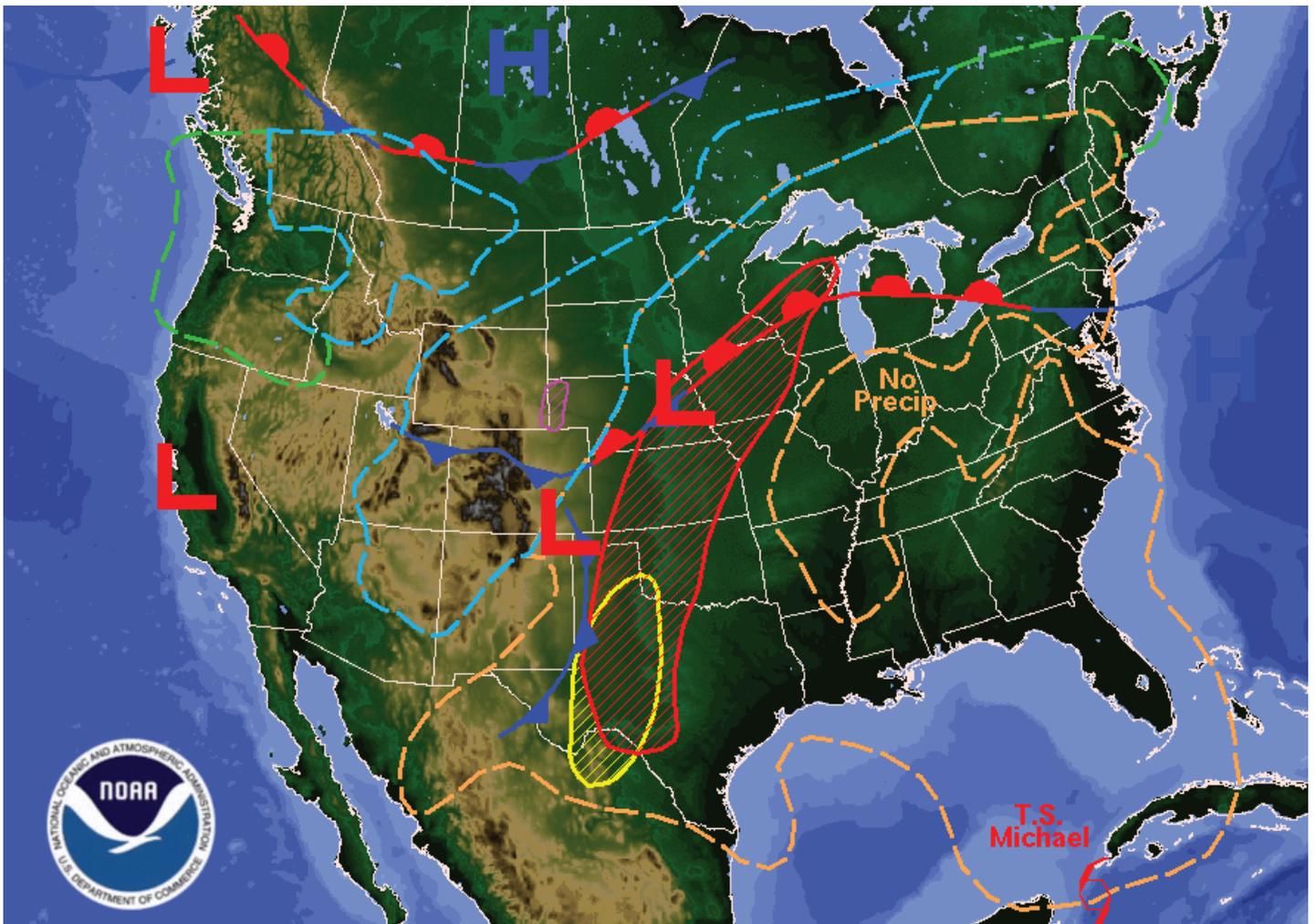
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.44

Average Precip to date: 19.02

Precip Year to Date: 14.01

Sunset Tonight: 7:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:42 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Oct 08, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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GODS NEVER-ENDING GRACE

George and Will had been best friends since they were in grade school. Unfortunately, Will was having a difficult time financially. So, he went to George and said, Im having a difficult time with my finances. Can you help me out with a loan until I get back on my feet?

Sorry, Will, I just cant do that, said George.

We have been best friends forever, said Will. How can you do this to me? We grew up together, studied for our exams together, and went camping together. And, I even rescued you when you were about to drown. Why, George?

I remember all those fun times together, Will. They were good times, and I think of them often. But heres the question: What have you done for me lately? said George.

Often we ask God the same question: What have you done for me lately? I know that You love me because You sent Your Son to be my Savior. And, I know You have answered my prayers in the past. But where are You now when I need You? Have You given up on me?

The Psalmist in his wisdom said, He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow on the hills. However, we must remember one fact: He always does what He said He would do: but in His time and on His terms.

The beloved spiritual reminds us that Hes got the whole world in His hands, and continues by making it personal, Hes got you and me, brother, in His hands.

Our God is a powerful God and a personal God. He cares for us and will never abandon us. When we dont get what we need when we want it, trust Him. Its coming.

Prayer: Father, theres no doubt that You love us and will meet our every need. Please add patience to our trust. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 147:8 He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow on the hills.

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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

Sisseton man accused of firing at anglers near his dock

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — A Sisseton man is accused of firing a rifle shot toward two anglers who were fishing near his boat dock in Marshall County.

The American News reports that 62-year-old Gerald Vrchota is charged with aggravated assault and reckless discharge of a gun in the Sept. 23 incident at Red Iron Lake. No one was hurt.

It wasn't immediately clear if Vrchota had an attorney, and a home telephone listing couldn't be found. He's free on \$5,000 bond and due in court Oct. 23.

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

Man sentenced for trafficking meth into South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for trafficking drugs between California and South Dakota.

The U.S. attorney's office says 61-year-old Patrick Okroi brought methamphetamine from California once or twice a month in 2016, and gave it to others to distribute in western South Dakota.

Two people who distributed the drug each was sentenced earlier to about 10 years in prison. Another suspect awaits trial next March.

Judge says state agency discriminated in reservation office

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that South Dakota's Department of Social Services routinely discriminated against Native American job applicants at its Pine Ridge office over a five-year period ending in 2013.

The Rapid City Journal reports that U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken recently sided with federal Justice Department attorneys on the second part of a two-part lawsuit that argued the state agency violated the federal Civil Rights Act.

Attorneys for the state had argued that no statewide policy of hiring discrimination could be proven by looking just at Pine Ridge. They noted that Social Services had 64 offices in South Dakota during the time frame the lawsuit addressed. Viken rejected the argument.

The lawsuit's first part involves specific claims by people and is headed to trial.

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

Former South Dakota quarterback adjusts to Canadian league

By MICK GARRY, Argus Leader

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Local interest in the Winnipeg Blue Bombers pretty much begins and ends with former South Dakota quarterback Chris Streveler, whose exploits in the CFL have proven to be far more compelling than whether his team wins or loses.

During a recent bye-week visit to the DakotaDome, where Streveler helped usher in the Bob Nielson era with a bang over two seasons, he got a chance to get in several workouts and catch up with his former coaches and teammates.

"Getting to start the first three games was kind of a whirlwind for me," Streveler said of his rookie CFL season. "Unfortunately I was only able to get one win out of those starts, but it was an experience that I'll be able to continue to build upon the rest of the season and my career.

"Getting in every game since then situationally with the short yardage package — something they've given

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me a great game plan for — has been a great experience, too. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to learn and hopefully get better every day."

Canada has not robbed the kid of his capacity to answer a sportswriter's question in well-organized paragraph form. He took a bunch of other traits with him that football fans in Winnipeg have been impressed by during a season that has been a struggle for the Blue Bombers.

It started with Streveler signing with Winnipeg as a free agent last May after not drawing serious interest from the NFL despite putting together an All-American season at USD, where he showed himself to be an excellent passer and an off-the-charts runner.

When starter Matt Nichols, a 31-year-old former Eastern Washington quarterback who posted some of the top numbers in the CFL in 2016 and 2017, got injured in training camp, the Blue Bombers, their fans and the league all of a sudden got real curious about the rookie free agent from USD.

In those three starts in Nichols' absence, Streveler completed 54 passes in 86 attempts for 570 yards. He also ran 22 times for 183 yards.

He has since become a much-talked-about backup, seeing spot duty over the following 10 games while his Blue Bombers struggled, the Argus Leader reported. A win last week over the floundering Montreal Alouettes broke up a four-game losing streak and put the Bombers at 6-7 with five games remaining. It quieted at least a little of the clamor about giving Streveler a start over one of the league's best quarterbacks.

"I don't think a lot of people down here understand the level of talent in the CFL," Streveler said. "There are some really, really high-quality players. I mean, it's professional football. Every team is a good team and you have to bring your 'A' game every single week if you want to have a chance to compete."

His CFL career includes one amusing quirk that drew a small amount of national attention. In a game against Hamilton on ESPN2, Streveler was mic'd up for a television audience that heard something that sounded like a profanity followed by "Bieber" as the players lined up for a touchdown conversion.

He said it several times as his team hurried into their formation for the play.

Why would the rookie quarterback be denigrating this famous singer-songwriter from Canada? What did Justin Bieber ever do to Chris Streveler to make him so angry?

In truth he was not saying "Bieber" to his teammates, he was making a call at the line using a word that sounded similar. And the rest of it he can explain.

"What they tell you is, 'Hey, we're going to put this microphone on you. Don't censor what you're going to say in the game,'" recalled Streveler. "They made it clear my job is not to figure out what I'm going to say out there."

Streveler did not want the play call going out over the air where other CFL teams could pick it up. He reasoned if he preceded it with an expletive — they had his voice on a delay — that ESPN would decide to not let the audience hear any of that portion of the call.

"That was my thinking," Streveler said. "But obviously they didn't censor it so, yep, then that's what you got on the TV."

It has been a cultural experience as well for Streveler, who took a summer internship at the Great Plains Zoo prior to his senior season because he liked animals. He also decided against a free plane ticket from USD for the Walter Payton Award ceremony in Frisco, Texas, because he wanted to road trip it in a car with senior teammates.

He's a student of the world, in other words.

"When I've gone through customs back to the United States, I'm dealing with Americans," he said. "So it's just the basic stuff. When I go back through customs to Canada, they recognize my name and they want to talk about the Blue Bombers. Winnipeg is a fun town, a little different than Vermillion. Plus it's a different country. There are different things to explore. I'm having fun with that."

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

Yankton High School students build house for class

By REILLY BIEL, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — So far, the Career & Manufacturing Technical Education Academy's (or RTEC) newest building is functioning exactly as it should.

The pre-engineered metal building located behind the facility has been used since the beginning of the year, but its main purpose of acting as space for Bret Johnson's Intro to Building Trades class at Yankton High School to construct a house began with the school year in August.

Johnson said he couldn't have been happier with how things are going.

"Another teacher told me that everything (regarding the house construction) is so much cleaner and neater, and I agree," he said. "I think it's because of the environment the kids are in. They enjoy working indoors and there's a place to throw things away."

Students previously built the house behind the high school.

The building process is different for students who previously took part in this project, mostly due to the lack of concern regarding weather conditions, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

"Before, we had to brace the walls (for wind) and now we hardly had to brace anything because there's nothing that will make the walls move," Johnson explained.

The change in setting is also affecting the building process, he added.

"When you first start building a home, you want to get it weatherized as fast as you can," he said. "We will still do that, but we don't have to put windows in right away or finish the roof completely. We can wait on those things."

Doing that will make certain homebuilding aspects, such as sheet rocking, a bit simpler, as well as putting in insulation.

"Since part of the roof will still be open, the kids will be able to see what's going on instead of having to use headlamps and be in the attic when it's dark," Johnson said. "They'll also get better ventilation and I'll be able to check their work more easily."

Last month, Enercept, a company that manufactures structural insulated panels (SIP), dropped the materials off at the facility. From 8:30-3 p.m. — not including an hour-long lunch break — 10 students put the walls up by hand. Johnson recorded a time-lapse video of the process to show how fast it went.

"The speed and convenience of these SIP panels is incredible," Johnson said. "It's a different learning style from the traditional construction process of just framing walls and insulating them."

Since putting the walls up, students have begun working on the inside of the house structure, framing doors and prepping the interior walls.

In the coming weeks, students will build a few closets and lift a shower/tub unit into the building using a crane. Johnson will instruct the students on how to handle these types of mechanics.

"I'm trying to teach these kids how to be able to go into the construction field and start working with a carpenter right outside of school," he said. "A carpenter won't have a crane like we have, but it's a piece of equipment they can get their hands on and use."

Things are going so well that the class is currently ahead of schedule. Johnson's goal is to have the house completed by May 1, which would allow him to do some in-class teaching before the school year ends.

Otherwise, the students are working in the RTEC facility for the entire school year.

"This is a hands-on learning experience," Johnson said.

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

Pedestrian killed on southeastern South Dakota highway

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 73-year-old man standing on a highway in southeastern South Dakota was struck and killed by a vehicle.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says it happened Saturday night on U.S. Highway 18 in Canton.

The patrol says the driver, a 25-year-old man, was not injured in the crash. The driver reported he was

unable to stop after seeing the victim standing in the middle of the road.
The name of the victim has not been released.

Official says graduation changes limit special ed students

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls' school board president is concerned that statewide graduation requirement changes will limit opportunities for thousands of special education students across South Dakota.

The state updated graduation requirements earlier this year for the first time in almost a decade. But the state's action came with a little-known change in federal law that could negatively affect at least 3,500 special education students in the city, according to Kent Alberty, president of the Sioux Falls School Board.

Federal law will only allow special education students to graduate if they pass final exams with 85 percent proficiency on their first try, he told the Argus Leader. The law previously allowed special education students to graduate if they made an 80 percent or higher on final exams, with two attempts permitted, according to Alberty.

"It's almost discriminating against these kids, who because of an accident of birth or because of a brain injury — because of things that were never under their control — are now being told, 'You don't deserve the same opportunity every other kid in our school district, our state and our nation deserves,'" Alberty said.

The school board will review the new graduation requirements and policy changes Oct. 8 before adopting them.

Alberty called the new policies great overall.

"But you've got three sentences in here that have a huge impact on our kids who are in the special education program," he said.

Alberty said that the state can't refuse to follow federal law, but it will try to give districts flexibility. The district will have to accept the policy changes, but that doesn't mean that there isn't a possibility of pursuing some kind of legal action, he said.

A legal challenge "would have to be a decision made with cooperation of the administration and the majority of the school board," Alberty said. "It's a significant change that, in my opinion, discriminates against the kids who are already marginalized."

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

Mitchell needs manpower to finish Corn Palace murals

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Mitchell's main tourist attraction is looking for manpower for its murals.

As winter looms, city leaders are seeking part-time help to finish the murals adorning the city's famous Corn Palace.

"We just need some manpower, more than anything else," Mayor Bob Everson said.

The attraction bills itself as the world's only palace dedicated to the commodity. It features murals made of hundreds of thousands of ears of corn and draws about 200,000 tourists each year.

Murals for next year's season will have a military theme. Most are done, but there's still work to do on some of them, Everson said.

One of the issues was that the corn was wet when it was harvested, so the drying process has taken time.

"It wasn't ready to go and our kids who were doing the decorating — primarily the college kids and the part-timers — they went back to school," City Councilman Kevin McCardle said. "So we're working through it with fewer people and we're a little bit behind."

Plans are in the works for a special dedication ceremony Oct. 26, with military members on hand, according to The Daily Republic .

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

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Group seeks \$560K renovation of Ellendale opera house

ELLENDALE, N.D. (AP) — A group is trying to raise \$560,000 to complete renovations of a century-old opera house in southern North Dakota.

The Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts, or OPERA Inc., is seeking donations from businesses and residents for the Ellendale Opera House restoration project, Aberdeen American News reported.

"The opera house has provided a great number of cultural activities for the community," said Greg Gackle, the campaign's chairman.

OPERA Inc. formed about 25 years ago and bought the opera house from the city of Ellendale to save it from being demolished, Gackle said. The group has partially restored the building since then, with about \$275,000 worth of upgrades made to the lobby, gallery, bathrooms and kitchen.

The group is proposing more renovations to restore the second and third floors, as well as the 800-seat auditorium.

OPERA Inc. first wants to complete all street-level storefronts, which would be leased to area businesses. The group has already fundraised more than \$150,000 for the storefront renovation work, according to a press release.

The opera house still hosts art exhibits, galas, book signings, classes and weddings, even though it's only partially restored, said Ken Schmeirer, who helps schedule events for the cultural center.

"It's kind of a social center of the town," he said.

McConnell says he's open to Supreme Court nomination in 2020

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's majority leader, insisting his chamber won't be irreparably damaged by the bitter fight over new Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, is signaling he's willing to take up another high court nomination in the 2020 presidential election season should another vacancy arise.

"We'll see if there is a vacancy in 2020," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Heading into pivotal midterm elections, McConnell tried to distinguish between President Donald Trump's nomination of Kavanaugh this year and his own decision not to have the GOP-run Senate consider President Barack Obama's high court nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016. McConnell called the current partisan divide a "low point," but he blamed Democrats.

"The Senate's not broken," McConnell said. "We didn't attack Merrick Garland's background and try to destroy him." He asserted that "we simply followed the tradition of America."

While McConnell said Kavanaugh's confirmation was a shining moment for the GOP, some Republicans weren't so sure. GOP Gov. John Kasich of Ohio predicted "a good year" for Democrats in the November elections and said he wonders about "the soul of our country" in the long term after the tumultuous hearings.

"It could be a short-term win," he said.

The climactic 50-48 roll call vote Saturday on Kavanaugh was the closest vote to confirm a justice since 1881. It capped a fight that seized the national conversation after claims emerged that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted women three decades ago. Kavanaugh emphatically denied the allegations.

The accusations transformed the clash from a routine struggle over judicial ideology into an angry jumble of questions about victims' rights and personal attacks on nominees.

Ultimately, every Democrat voted against Kavanaugh except for Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday evening in a private ceremony as protesters chanted outside the court building.

McConnell said the confirmation fight had energized Republican voters and he praised GOP senators, whom he said re-established the "presumption of innocence" in confirmation hearings.

"We stood up to the mob," he said. "This is an important day for the United States Senate."

Two years ago, McConnell blocked a vote on Garland, citing what he said was a tradition of not filling vacancies in a presidential election year. But when asked again Sunday about it, he sought to clarify that

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a Senate case in 1880 suggested inaction on a nominee only when the chamber was controlled by the party opposing the president.

Republicans currently hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate, with several seats up for grabs in November. The court's two oldest justices are Democratic appointees: Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 85 and Stephen Breyer is 80.

If you have a Senate of a different party than the president, "you don't fill a vacancy created in the presidential year," McConnell said.

Trump has now put his stamp on the court with his second justice in as many years. Yet Kavanaugh is joining under a cloud.

Accusations from several women remain under scrutiny, and House Democrats have pledged further investigation if they win the majority in November. Outside groups are culling an unusually long paper trail from his previous government and political work, with the National Archives and Records Administration expected to release a cache of millions of documents later this month.

Still, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he believed it would be premature for Democrats to talk about re-investigating Kavanaugh or a possible impeachment if the party takes control of the chamber in November, stressing a need to help heal the country.

"Frankly, we are just less than a month away from an election," Coons said. "Folks who feel very strongly one way or the other about the issues in front of us should get out and vote and participate."

McConnell spoke on "Fox News Sunday" and CBS' "Face the Nation," Kasich appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," and Coons was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Roads where limo crash killed 20 are a menace, store says

By **MICHAEL HILL** and **BOB SALSBERG**, Associated Press

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. (AP) — The site of a devastating accident that killed two pedestrians and 18 occupants of a limousine headed to a birthday party, including four sisters, is a known danger spot that has long worried locals, according to a manager of the store that sits at the intersection where the accident happened.

The intersection had been redone in 2008 because of a fatal accident there, said Jessica Kirby, managing director of the Apple Barrel Country Store and Cafe, which is an institution in Schoharie and among the legions of leaf-peepers who take to the roads of upstate New York each autumn.

Since the reconstruction, three tractor-trailers have run through the same stop sign authorities said the limo blew and into a field behind her business, she said. Officials worked with the state to outlaw heavy trucks, she said, but there are still accidents.

And now this.

"More accidents than I can count," she said in an email. "We have been asking for something to be done for years."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo released a statement Sunday saying he has "directed state agencies to provide every resource necessary to aid in this investigation and determine what led to this tragedy."

Autopsies were being performed, including on the driver to see if drugs or alcohol were a factor. Authorities didn't say whether the limo occupants were wearing seat belts, give the speed of the limo or speculate what caused the limo to run the stop sign and slam into a parked SUV.

Relatives said the limousine was carrying four sisters and their friends to a 30th birthday celebration for the youngest.

"They did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere," their aunt, Barbara Douglas, said Sunday. She did not want to name them publicly but added: "They were wonderful girls. They'd do anything for you and they were very close to each other and they loved their family."

Valerie Abeling, the aunt of victim Erin Vertucci, said her 34-year-old niece and her niece's new husband, 30-year-old Shane McGowan, were victims.

"She was a beautiful, sweet soul; he was, too, they were very sweet," Abeling said. "They were two very young, beautiful people" who "had everything going for them."

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The 2001 Ford Excursion limousine was traveling southwest on Route 30 in Schoharie, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) north of New York City when it failed to stop at a T-junction with state Route 30A, state police said. It went across the road and hit an unoccupied SUV parked at the Apple Barrel Country Store and two pedestrians.

The crash appeared to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident in the U.S. since a bus ferrying nursing home patients away from Hurricane Rita caught fire in Texas 2005, killing 23.

And it is the deadliest transportation accident overall since February 2009, when a plane crash near Buffalo, New York, killed 50 people, said Robert Sumwalt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The Board is investigating the crash, including whether the limo had any mechanical problems.

The Apple Barrel's Facebook page on Sunday reflected the concern around the accident in the tight-knit community.

"Yes, are open today. And could use your hugs," it read. "We are doing our best to cope and grieve. We are a big family at the Apple Barrel, and part of the bigger family of Schoharie. We cope by being together. And that is why we are open."

A vigil will be held in New Amsterdam on Monday night, where the victims lived. Grief counseling is being offered at the Amsterdam school district where victim Abby Jackson was a teacher.

There were just 12 crashes involving large limos in the five years for which the agency has released statistics, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Twelve people were killed in limo crashes in that span, 2012 through 2016. Over the same period, 171,508 people were killed in 157,451 crashes involving all types of vehicles.

There was no information Sunday on the limousine, its origin or its integrity. But safety issues on such vehicles have arisen before, notably after a wreck on Long Island in July 2015 in which four women were killed.

They were in a Lincoln Town Car that had been cut apart and rebuilt in a stretch configuration to accommodate more passengers. The limousine was trying to make a U-turn and was struck by a pickup.

A grand jury found that vehicles converted into stretch limousines often don't have safety measures including side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits. That grand jury called on New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to assemble a task force on limousine safety.

Limousines built in factories are already required to meet stringent safety regulations, but when cars are converted into limos, safety features are sometimes removed, leading to gaps in safety protocols, the grand jury wrote.

Salsberg reported from Boston. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Michael R. Sisak, Deepti Hajela and Verena Dobnik in New York; and John Kekis in Latham, New York.

Americans win economics Nobel for work on climate and growth

By JIM HEINTZ and DAVID KEYTON, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two Americans won the Nobel Prize in economics on Monday, one for studying the economics of climate change and the other for showing how to help foster the innovation needed to solve such a problem.

William Nordhaus of Yale University and Paul Romer of New York University will share the 9 million-kronor (\$1.01 million) award, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Nordhaus has called for the world to combat climate change by imposing a universal tax on carbon. The tax would make polluters pay for the costs their emissions impose on society. By using a tax rather than government edicts to slash emissions, the policy encourages companies to find innovative ways to reduce pollution.

Romer has studied the way innovation drives prosperity and has looked at ways to encourage it. He told a news conference Monday that his research had given him hope that people can solve even a problem as difficult as a warming planet.

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"Many people think that dealing with protecting the environment will be so costly and so hard that they just want to ignore the problem, they want to deny it exists, they can't deal with it," Romer said. "I hope the prize today could help everyone see that humans are capable of amazing accomplishments when we set about trying to do something."

While the two academics worked separately, their research dovetails on an issue that has become increasingly pressing. The question of climate change remains politically sensitive, especially in big oil-producing countries like the United States, which President Donald Trump has pulled out of the Paris accord to fight climate change.

"It's an ingenious pairing," said David Warsh, author of the 2007 book "Knowledge and the Wealth of Nations" about Romer. "Nordhaus has been concerned all along with repairing the damage" to the global environment. "Romer has been writing about the means at your disposal" to attack such a technological challenge.

Per Stromberg, head of the Nobel economics prize committee, said the award is "about the long-run future of the world economy."

The prize comes just a day after an international panel of scientists issued a report detailing how Earth's weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit (a half degree Celsius) from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F (1 degree C). The wide-ranging report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — which has itself won a Nobel prize — cited Nordhaus in its research.

Nordhaus has argued that climate change should be considered a "global public good," like public health and international trade, and regulated accordingly, but not through a command-and-control approach. Instead, by agreeing on a global price for burning carbon that reflects its whole cost, this primary cause of rising temperatures could be traded and taxed, putting market forces to work on the problem.

Many economists have since endorsed the concept of taxing carbon and using this financial lever to influence societal behavior. But adopting the regulatory frameworks on a global scale has been a complex challenge, and the world's political leaders are failing to meet it, the head of the United Nations said last month.

While many developed economies have adopted a carbon tax, the United States has not.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres bluntly told leaders in New York that unless current emission trends for greenhouse gases are reversed by 2020, it will be impossible to reach the goals of the Paris climate accords. The U.N. chief challenged governments to end fossil fuel subsidies, help shift toward renewable energy and back a price for carbon emissions that reflects their actual cost. He cited, for example, that climate-related disasters already cost the world \$320 billion last year, a figure likely to grow with increased warming.

Romer's work looks suggests that to achieve the innovation needed to meet the climate change goals, regulation is needed. His research found that unregulated economies will produce technological change, but insufficiently provide research and development; this can be addressed by government interventions such and R&D subsidies.

The economics prize is the last of the Nobels to be announced this year. Last year's prize went to American Richard Thaler for studying how human irrationality affects economic theory.

The peace prize was awarded Friday to Denis Mukwege of Congo and Iraqi Nadia Murad for their work to draw attention to how sexual violence is used as a weapon of war.

Heintz reported from Moscow. Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

UN report on global warming carries life-or-death warning

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Preventing an extra single degree of heat could make a life-or-death difference in the next few decades for multitudes of people and ecosystems on this fast-warming planet, an international panel of scientists reported Sunday. But they provide little hope the world will rise to the challenge.

The Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its gloomy report at a meeting in Incheon, South Korea.

In the 728-page document, the U.N. organization detailed how Earth's weather, health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming to just 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit (a half degree Celsius) from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of 1.8 degrees F (1 degree C). Among other things:

- Half as many people would suffer from lack of water.
- There would be fewer deaths and illnesses from heat, smog and infectious diseases.
- Seas would rise nearly 4 inches (0.1 meters) less.
- Half as many animals with back bones and plants would lose the majority of their habitats.
- There would be substantially fewer heat waves, downpours and droughts.
- The West Antarctic ice sheet might not kick into irreversible melting.
- And it just may be enough to save most of the world's coral reefs from dying.

"For some people this is a life-or-death situation without a doubt," said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, a lead author on the report.

Limiting warming to 0.9 degrees from now means the world can keep "a semblance" of the ecosystems we have. Adding another 0.9 degrees on top of that — the looser global goal — essentially means a different and more challenging Earth for people and species, said another of the report's lead authors, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland, Australia.

But meeting the more ambitious goal of slightly less warming would require immediate, draconian cuts in emissions of heat-trapping gases and dramatic changes in the energy field. While the U.N. panel says technically that's possible, it saw little chance of the needed adjustments happening.

In 2010, international negotiators adopted a goal of limiting warming to 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) since pre-industrial times. It's called the 2-degree goal. In 2015, when the nations of the world agreed to the historic Paris climate agreement, they set dual goals: 2 degrees C and a more demanding target of 1.5 degrees C from pre-industrial times. The 1.5 was at the urging of vulnerable countries that called 2 degrees a death sentence.

The world has already warmed 1 degree C since pre-industrial times, so the talk is really about the difference of another half-degree C or 0.9 degrees F from now.

"There is no definitive way to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 above pre-industrial levels," the U.N.-requested report said. More than 90 scientists wrote the report, which is based on more than 6,000 peer reviews.

"Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate," the report states.

Deep in the report, scientists say less than 2 percent of 529 of their calculated possible future scenarios kept warming below the 1.5 goal without the temperature going above that and somehow coming back down in the future.

The pledges nations made in the Paris agreement in 2015 are "clearly insufficient to limit warming to 1.5 in any way," one of the study's lead authors, Joerj Roeglj of the Imperial College in London, said.

"I just don't see the possibility of doing the one and a half" and even 2 degrees looks unlikely, said Appalachian State University environmental scientist Gregg Marland, who isn't part of the U.N. panel but has tracked global emissions for decades for the U.S. Energy Department. He likened the report to an academic exercise wondering what would happen if a frog had wings.

Yet report authors said they remain optimistic.

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Limiting warming to the lower goal is "not impossible but will require unprecedented changes," U.N. panel chief Hoesung Lee said in a news conference in which scientists repeatedly declined to spell out just how feasible that goal is. They said it is up to governments to decide whether those unprecedented changes are acted upon.

"We have a monumental task in front of us, but it is not impossible," Mahowald said earlier. "This is our chance to decide what the world is going to look like."

To limit warming to the lower temperature goal, the world needs "rapid and far-reaching" changes in energy systems, land use, city and industrial design, transportation and building use, the report said. Annual carbon dioxide pollution levels that are still rising now would have to drop by about half by 2030 and then be near zero by 2050. Emissions of other greenhouse gases, such as methane, also will have to drop. Switching away rapidly from fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas to do this could be more expensive than the less ambitious goal, but it would clean the air of other pollutants. And that would have the side benefit of avoiding more than 100 million premature deaths through this century, the report said.

"Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming" the report said, adding that the world's poor are more likely to get hit hardest.

Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer said extreme weather, especially heat waves, will be deadlier if the lower goal is passed.

Meeting the tougher-to-reach goal "could result in around 420 million fewer people being frequently exposed to extreme heat waves, and about 65 million fewer people being exposed to exceptional heat waves," the report said. The deadly heat waves that hit India and Pakistan in 2015 will become practically yearly events if the world reaches the hotter of the two goals, the report said.

Coral and other ecosystems are also at risk. The report said warmer water coral reefs "will largely disappear."

The outcome will determine whether "my grandchildren would get to see beautiful coral reefs," Princeton's Oppenheimer said.

For scientists there is a bit of "wishful thinking" that the report will spur governments and people to act quickly and strongly, one of the panel's leaders, German biologist Hans-Otto Portner, said. "If action is not taken it will take the planet into an unprecedented climate future."

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

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Stricter US screening splits anguished refugee families

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Death threats drove Hadi Mohammed out of Iraq and to a small apartment in Nebraska, where he and his two young sons managed to settle as refugees. But the danger hasn't been enough to allow his wife to join them.

Mohammed, who worked as a security guard for the U.S. military in Baghdad, says he was initially told his wife would be reunited with him and the boys within a month. The wait has now dragged on for more than a year as she goes through stricter screening imposed by the Trump administration.

Mohammed says it's been an agonizing wait, especially for his 9-year-old son. "Every night he cries about mom, I need mom," he said in halting English as he sat on a couch with the boy in their apartment in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Tens of thousands of people are experiencing similar anguished waits as the number of refugees entering the U.S. falls to historic lows because of tighter scrutiny that administration officials say is necessary for security. Critics say it amounts to an abandonment of the country's historic humanitarian role and

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discriminates against certain groups, particularly Muslims.

The U.S. admitted 22,491 refugees in the budget year that ended Sept. 30. That's one-quarter of the number allowed to enter two years ago and the lowest since Congress passed a law in 1980 creating the modern resettlement system.

It was less than half the maximum that the administration had said it would allow, even with millions of people seeking to escape war and famine around the world.

"It's unfortunate for the refugees who could have come this year and didn't," said Jen Smyers with Church World Service, an organization that supports refugees and immigrants. "But these low numbers also show the U.S. turning away from a global leadership role on this issue."

Last month, the cap was set even lower, at 30,000, for the new budget year. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at the time the U.S. remained "the most generous nation in the world when it comes to protection-based immigration" but that the government needed to work through a backlog of pending asylum cases and support efforts to resettle people closer to home, so they can eventually return.

Behind the reduction are more stringent security protocols for citizens of 11 countries designated by the administration as presenting the greatest potential threat. People from four of them — Iraq, Iran, Syria and Somalia — made up 41 percent of refugees allowed into the U.S. in 2016 and 2017. Now, they make up just 2 percent as people such as Mohammed's wife, whose name he does not want to publicize out of fear for her safety, face much lengthier background checks.

Mohammed, 52, provided security at American military bases in central Baghdad and just north of the Iraqi capital from 2008 to 2014. After a five-year wait, he received word that he had been approved to come to the U.S. as a refugee in June 2017 with his sons. The family was told the wife would be approved soon. In correspondence from the State Department, his wife was told that her application was undergoing "additional administrative processing" but gave little other information. "Unfortunately, we cannot predict how long this administrative review will take."

Another Iraqi, who worked as a translator for the U.S. military and now lives in Utah, said he has been waiting for two years to get his mother and brothers to join him. "If my brother is killed ... I will spend the rest of my life blaming myself for putting my family in harm's way," said the 41-year-old man, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he fears for his family's safety in Iraq.

The State Department acknowledges that the screening and vetting procedures have resulted in fewer refugee admissions in 2018.

The tighter screening of refugees reflects one of the signature issues for President Donald Trump, who imposed a travel ban on people from seven majority Muslim countries as one of his first actions upon taking office in January 2017.

The Department of Homeland Security has made it harder to enter the U.S. entirely, with more rigorous interviews and background checks. Administration officials say refugee applicants are now subject to strictest, most comprehensive background check process for any group seeking to come to the U.S.

Officials collect more data on refugee applicants and conduct higher-level security vetting. Officers have been given training on how to determine credibility. Fraud detection and national security officers now come oversees with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services teams who are processing refugees.

Officials say the security changes may lead to temporary slowdowns in admissions but it wouldn't be permanent and the U.S. continues to help the world's most vulnerable people.

Administration officials say the U.S. remains at the forefront of helping those fleeing persecution, and they note that from the 2008 budget year to 2017, the U.S. gave lawful permanent resident status to 1.7 million people for humanitarian reasons. "We will continue to assist the world's most vulnerable while never losing sight of our first duty, serving the American people," Pompeo said last month.

In his speech to the United Nations last month, Trump highlighted his administration's approach as he singled out Jordan, which has taken in at least 650,000 refugees from Syria since the war in their country started in 2011. "The most compassionate policy is to place refugees as close to their homes as possible to ease their eventual return to be part of the rebuilding process," he said.

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In choosing who can enter as a refugee, the administration is also showing a preference for people from countries that don't have a majority Muslim population.

Refugees from Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo made up more than 46 percent of refugee admissions in 2018, compared with 22 percent in 2016.

The number of Muslim refugees allowed into the U.S. also has dropped. Christians made up 63 percent of all refugee admissions in 2018, compared with 40 percent in 2017. Muslims, who had been 42 percent of all refugee admissions in 2017, were only 14 percent in 2018.

There were 140 Iraqis accepted during the just-ended budget year, down from 6,886 the year before.

Mohammed's son says his father is lost without his mother: He can't cook, he can't take care of the children very well alone and they need her. Plus, they're afraid of what will happen if she doesn't leave Baghdad. Mohammed worries she could be a target because he provided security at U.S. military bases.

"For my family to be at peace, I need to know that my wife is safe," he said. "But I would never change my decision and return to Iraq. Coming to the United States was an answer to my prayers."

Associated Press data journalists Meghan Hoyer and Michelle Minkoff contributed to this report.

Still far off, Michael a growing menace to Florida Panhandle

By JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A tropical storm off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula has rapidly strengthened and could become a dangerous hurricane before an expected midweek strike on the Gulf Coast in the Florida Panhandle, forecasters said Monday.

By Monday morning, Tropical Storm Michael's maximum sustained winds were near 70 mph (110 kph). The National Hurricane Center expected Michael to become a hurricane later in the day.

The storm was expected to move into the Gulf of Mexico, where very warm water temperatures and favorable atmospheric conditions were expected to fuel its strength, Robbie Berg, a hurricane specialist at the Miami-based storm forecasting hub, wrote in an advisory.

Since the storm will spend two to three days over the Gulf, "there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall," Berg wrote.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott issued an order for a state of emergency for 26 counties to rush preparations in the Panhandle and the Big Bend area, freeing up resources and activating 500 members of the Florida National Guard ahead of Tropical Storm Michael.

"This storm will be life-threatening and extremely dangerous," Scott said Sunday after receiving a briefing at the State Emergency Operations Center. He warned that storm surge could affect areas of Florida not in the storm's direct path.

As of 8 a.m. EDT Monday, the storm was centered about 120 miles (190 kilometers) east-northeast of Cozumel, Mexico, and moving to the north at about 7 mph (11 kph). Tropical storm winds extended out 175 miles (280 kilometers) from the storm's center.

Forecasters advised residents along the northeastern and central U.S. Gulf Coast to monitor the storm's progress.

Florida's capital city of Tallahassee, which is in the Panhandle, opened two locations Sunday where residents could get sandbags to prepare for flooding.

"While the impacts are still uncertain, our area could experience increased wind activity and heavy rainfall, which could cause localized flooding and downed trees," Tallahassee officials said in a statement.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who is the Democratic nominee for governor, had planned to campaign in South Florida Monday and Tuesday, but he said he would return to Tallahassee to help with storm preparations.

The city of Pensacola tweeted to residents, "Be sure you have your emergency plan in place."

A tropical storm warning was in effect for the Cuban provinces of Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth as well as the coast of Mexico from Tulum to Cabo Catoche. A warning indicates tropical storm conditions

are expected, in this case, within 24 hours.

The hurricane center warned that the storm could produce up to a foot (30 centimeters) of rain in western Cuba, potentially triggering flash floods and mudslides in mountainous areas.

An Air Force hurricane hunter airplane was sent into the storm to investigate, the hurricane center said. Michael is the 13th named storm of the 2018 hurricane season.

Walk on the wild side: Dutch jogger runs into lion cub

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A jogger's run through the Dutch countryside turned into a walk on the wild side when he discovered a lion cub in a field.

Police say the young cub was found Sunday in a cage dumped in a field near Tienhoven between the central cities of Utrecht and Hilversum.

Police have taken to Twitter to appeal for help in tracing the animal's owner, while the young cub, a male believed to be about five months old, is being cared for by a foundation that looks after big cats.

The foundation said on its Facebook page that the cub "is very tired from the hectic events" and is in quarantine. It adds that the cub is drinking water and already feeling at ease in its new surroundings.

Manchin scorched from both sides after Kavanaugh vote

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Danielle Walker cried on Joe Manchin's shoulder after she shared her story of sexual assault in the senator's office. She thought he listened.

The 42-year-old Morgantown woman said she was both devastated and furious when Manchin became the only Democrat in the U.S. Senate to support President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.

"I feel raped all over again," Walker told The Associated Press.

A day after Manchin broke with his party on what may be the most consequential vote of the Trump era, the vulnerable Democrat is facing a political firestorm back home. While Republicans — including one of the president's sons — are on the attack, the most passionate criticism is coming from Manchin's very own Democratic base, a small but significant portion of the electorate he needs to turn out in force to win re-election next month. A Manchin loss would put his party's hopes of regaining control of the Senate virtually out of reach.

Walker, a first-time Democratic candidate for the state legislature, said she may not vote at all in the state's high-stakes Senate election. Julia Hamilton, a 30-year-old educator who serves on the executive committee of the Monongalia County Democratic Party, vowed to sit out the Senate race as well.

"At some point you have to draw a line," Hamilton said. "I have heard from many, many people — especially women. They won't be voting for Manchin either."

Manchin defended his vote in a Sunday interview as being based on fact, not emotion. He praised the women who shared their stories of sexual trauma, Walker among them, but said he "could not find any type of link or connection" that Kavanaugh was a rapist.

The woman who testified to the Senate about Kavanaugh, Christine Blasey Ford, accused him of sexual assault but not rape when they were high school students more than 30 years ago. Two other women stepped forward late in the confirmation process to accuse the appeals court judge of sexual misconduct in high school or college. Their stories resonated with women who had suffered sexual trauma and fueled opposition to Kavanaugh's confirmation.

"They weren't going to be satisfied, or their healing process, until we convicted this person," Manchin told The Associated Press. "I couldn't do it. You talk about two wrongs trying to make a right. It just wasn't in my heart and soul to do that."

Manchin insisted over and over that his vote wasn't based on politics.

There is little doubt, however, that his vote was in line with the wishes of many West Virginia voters,

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who gave Trump a victory in 2016 by 42 percentage points. There simply aren't enough Democrats in the state to re-elect Manchin. He needs a significant chunk of Trump's base to win.

One West Virginia Trump supporter, 74-year-old Linda Ferguson, explained the politics bluntly as she watched the parade at Saturday's Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins.

"If he didn't vote for Kavanaugh he could have kissed his seat goodbye," Ferguson said.

While he may have represented the majority of his state, Manchin's political challenges are far from over.

The clash over Kavanaugh, who was confirmed by the Senate on Saturday, has injected new energy into each party's political base. While that may help Democrats in their fight for the House majority, which is largely taking place in America's suburbs, there are signs it's hurting vulnerable Democrats in rural Republican-leaning states like North Dakota, Missouri and West Virginia. Phil Bredesen, who said he would have voted for Kavanaugh, could also face new challenges in his bid to flip Tennessee's Senate seat to the Democratic column.

For much of the year, Manchin has held a significant lead in public and private polls over his Republican opponent, state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. Yet Republican operatives familiar with the race report a definite tightening over the last week.

In an interview, Morrisey called Democrats' fight against Kavanaugh a "three-ring circus" that "energized a lot of people in West Virginia."

He acknowledged that Manchin voted the right way for the state, but called the vote "irrelevant" because another swing vote, Maine Republican Sen. Susan Collins, had already given Kavanaugh the final vote he needed.

"He waited until the last possible minute after Susan Collins declared for him to take a position, effectively allowing Maine to decide how West Virginia's going to decide," Morrisey charged. "We shouldn't reward that kind of cowardice."

Echoing the attack, Donald Trump Jr., mockingly called Manchin "a real profile in courage" on Twitter.

When asked about the social media jab, the West Virginia senator slapped away the insult from the younger Trump.

Donald Trump Jr. is "entitled to his opinion, he's just not entitled to his own facts to justify what he's saying. He doesn't really know anything," Manchin told the AP.

The Democrat conceded that he followed Collins' lead out of "respect" — he didn't want to get in the way of her high-profile Friday afternoon announcement on the Senate floor.

"Nothing would have changed my vote," Manchin declared. "Susan took the lead, Susan did the due diligence. ... She's going to give her speech and I'm not going to jump in front of 3 o'clock. I'm just not going to do it."

That wasn't good enough for Tammy Means, a 57-year-old florist from Charleston, who was among thousands tailgating outside West Virginia University's football stadium in Morgantown on Saturday.

Means, a registered Democrat who voted for Trump, said she also voted for Manchin in the past.

"I'm not going to anymore. Nope," she said with a laugh as she sipped a Smirnoff Ice. She's glad Manchin voted for Kavanaugh, but said, "He's just doing it so he can get elected."

Across the parking lot, 63-year-old John Vdovjac said he was deeply disappointed by Manchin's vote. Still, the Democrat said he'd probably vote for Manchin this fall.

"I recognize the position he's in because the state's heavily Republican now," said Vdovjac, a retired educator from Wheeling, as he helped grill hotdogs and hamburgers. "But he's lost my loyalty."

Manchin knows he needs to explain his vote to his constituents, although he didn't have any public events scheduled this weekend. Before and after the AP interview, conducted at Charleston's International House of Pancakes, he told everyone who would listen — including his waitress — that his Kavanaugh vote was not based on emotion.

"I made my decision based on facts," the senator told Kevin Estep, a 57-year-old registered Democrat and Trump voter who was eating buttered pancakes with his family.

"You hang in there and vote your heart," Estep, who lives in nearby St. Albans, told the senator.

After Manchin left the building, Estep warned that the #MeToo movement "is like a dam that's about to

break open.”

Asked whether he'd support Manchin this fall, he responded, “Always.”

Confirmed deaths near 2,000, still more likely in Indonesia

By ANDI JATMIKO, Associated Press

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from the devastating earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island neared 2,000 on Monday, but thousands more are believed unaccounted for and officials said search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week.

The official toll hit 1,948, mostly in the hard-hit city of Palu, said Jamaluddin, an official from the disaster task force who uses one name. He corrected the number during a news conference in Jakarta after initially saying it was 1,944. He said a navy ship had docked in the area and opened a field hospital.

Willem Rampangilei, head of the National Board for Disaster Management, said there could be as many as 5,000 victims still buried in deep mud in Balaroa and Petobo, two of Palu's hardest-hit neighborhoods. But he added that number must be verified by his teams because it is an unofficial figure which came from village heads in the area. The Sept. 28 quake caused loose, wet soil to liquefy there. It is too soft to use heavy equipment for recovery, and decomposition of bodies is already advanced.

“It is impossible to rebuild in areas with high liquefaction risk such as Petobo and Balaroa,” he said, adding villages there will be relocated.

Talks were underway with religious authorities and surviving family members to decide whether some areas could be turned into mass graves for victims entombed there with monuments built to remember them.

Officials reiterated that the search is expected to end on Thursday. However, the deadline could be extended if needed.

Rampangilei said life is starting to return to normal in some areas affected by the disaster. Immediate food and water needs have been met, and the local government has started to function again. Many schools have been completely destroyed, but he said classes will resume where possible. However, many students are still too scared to return.

China accuses ex-Interpol chief of bribery, other crimes

By GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China is investigating the former president of Interpol for bribery and other crimes, Beijing said Monday in a notice that indicated the Chinese official may also be in trouble for political transgressions.

Meng Hongwei, China's vice minister for public security, was being investigated as a result of his “willfulness” and has only himself to blame, according to a statement posted on a government website.

The scant details provided on Monday raised further questions about the scope of the allegations made against Meng and whether they pertain in any way to his work at the international police agency. They also shone an unflattering light on secretive, extralegal detentions in China that have ensnared dissidents and allegedly corrupt or disloyal officials alike at increasing rates under the authoritarian rule of President Xi Jinping.

Monday's notice of a high-level meeting of public security officials elaborated on a terse announcement late Sunday by an anti-graft agency of the ruling Communist Party that said Meng was suspected of unspecified crimes. The Sunday announcement was issued barely an hour after Meng's wife made a bold appeal to the world for help from Lyon, France, where she is based.

Meng is the latest high-ranking official, and one with an unusually prominent international standing, to fall victim to a sweeping crackdown by the ruling Communist Party on graft and perceived disloyalty. Shortly after China's announcement about the investigation on Sunday, Interpol said Meng had resigned as the international police agency's president.

Chinese officials appeared to be scrambling to respond to an unfolding scandal. In the early hours of

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Monday, Zhao Lezhi, the minister for public security, chaired a meeting attended by senior officials of the ministry's party committee to discuss Meng's case, the statement said.

"We should deeply recognize the serious damage that Meng Hongwei's bribe-taking and suspected violations of the law have caused the party and the cause of public security and deeply learn from this lesson," Monday's announcement said.

The 64-year-old Meng's unexplained disappearance while on a trip home to China late last month prompted the French government and Interpol to make their concerns known publicly in recent days.

The revelation that China's system of shady and often-arbitrary detentions could ensnare even a senior public security official with international stature has cast a shadow over the image Beijing has sought to cultivate as a modern country with the rule of law.

The acting president of Interpol, Kim Jong Yang, said it had not been told about the investigation of its chief. "I find it regrettable that the top leader of the organization had to go out this way and that we weren't specifically notified of what was happening in advance," Kim said in a phone interview.

"We still don't have sufficient information about what's happening (with Meng) or whether it has anything to do with Chinese domestic politics," he added.

Questions about Meng's case dominated a regular briefing by China's foreign ministry on Monday. The spokesman, Lu Kang, rejected the suggestion that China's handling of the Meng probe would hurt the country's image abroad, saying instead that it demonstrated Beijing's commitment to tackling graft.

"This has shown the Chinese government's firm resolve to crack down on corruption and crime," Lu said. "It has also made very clear that this case fully demonstrates that the party is firm in fighting corruption and anybody will be punished seriously in accordance with the law if they violated the law."

However, Lu did not directly answer questions about whether Meng would be formally arrested or allowed to hire a lawyer, or receive a visit from his wife.

Grace Meng, his wife, made an impassioned plea Sunday for help in bringing her husband to safety. She said she thought he sent an image of a knife before he disappeared in China as a way to warn her he was in danger.

"From now on, I have gone from sorrow and fear to the pursuit of truth, justice and responsibility toward history," she said at a briefing. "For the husband whom I deeply love, for my young children, for the people of my motherland, for all the wives and children, so that their husbands and fathers will no longer disappear."

Monday's statement on the ministry of public security's website provided no details about the bribes Meng allegedly took or other crimes he is accused of, but suggested that he was also being investigated for political lapses.

It indicated that Meng, a member of the Communist Party, may have somehow been tainted by former security chief and ex-Politburo Standing Committee member Zhou Yongkang, who is now serving a life sentence for corruption.

"We should resolutely oppose corruption and resolutely eliminate the pernicious influence of Zhou Yongkang," it said.

Meng's various jobs likely put him in close contact with Zhou and other Chinese leaders in the security establishment, a sector long synonymous with corruption, opacity and human rights abuses.

Zhou and other senior figures prosecuted in Xi's anti-corruption crackdown were mostly convicted of corruption but officials have since also said they were accused of "conspiring openly to usurp party leadership."

At Monday's meeting, officials were told that they "must always maintain the political quality of being absolutely loyal to the party," the statement said.

Associated Press writers Tong-hyung Kim in Seoul, South Korea, and John Leicester in Lyon, France, contributed to this report.

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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. UN REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING CARRIES WARNING

Preventing an extra single degree of heat could make a life-or-death difference for mankind and Earth's ecosystems in the next few decades, scientists say.

2. WHAT MCCONNELL'S NOW OPEN TO

The Senate majority leader signals he's willing to take up another Supreme Court nomination in the 2020 presidential election season should another vacancy arise, a move in contrast with his stance in 2016 over Obama's high court nominee, Merrick Garland.

3. ROADS WHERE LIMO CRASHED CALLED TREACHEROUS

The site of a horrific accident that killed two pedestrians and 18 occupants of a limousine headed to a birthday party is a known danger spot that has long worried locals, a store manager says.

4. AMERICAN RESEARCHERS WIN NOBEL FOR ECONOMICS

Yale University's William Nordhaus and New York University's Paul Romer were recognized for their work on climate change and innovation.

5. FAR-RIGHT ADVANCES IN BRAZILIAN ELECTION

Jair Bolsonaro, a brash-speaking former army captain promising to restore "traditional values," will face the Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad in a presidential runoff vote later this month, offering the divided nation stark visions for the future.

6. 'IT'S A LONG PROCESS'

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he and Kim Jong Un discussed denuclearization, international inspections and the next summit with Trump.

7. MICHAEL STRENGTHENING OFF MEXICO

The tropical storm could become a dangerous Category 2 hurricane with an expected midweek strike on the Gulf Coast in the Florida Panhandle, forecasts say.

8. DEATH TOLL NEARS 2,000 IN INDONESIA

Thousands more are believed unaccounted for after the devastating quake and tsunami and officials say search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week.

9. WHO TAYLOR SWIFT IS BACKING IN TENNESSEE RACE

The pop star says she's voting for Democratic Senate candidate Phil Bredesen, breaking her long-standing refusal to discuss anything politics.

10. TEXANS OUTLAST COWBOYS IN OVERTIME

DeAndre Hopkins had 151 yards receiving, including a key twisting and turning catch and run in the extra session, as Houston beat Dallas 19-16.

China tells US to stop criticism, says relations suffering

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese officials appealed to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday to repair relations they said have been damaged by U.S. tariff hikes and support for Taiwan, as their governments press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Pompeo said at the start of his talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Washington has a "fundamental disagreement" and "great concerns" about Chinese actions and looked forward to discussing them. Reporters were then ushered from the room.

The polite but edgy tone underscored the plunge in U.S.-Chinese relations as the administration of President Donald Trump confronts Beijing over its technology policies and territorial claims in the South China Sea. Trump also approved a weapons sale to Taiwan, the self-ruled island the Communist mainland claims as its own territory, and sanctioned a Chinese company and its leader over an arms purchase from Russia.

Those developments came as the countries have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in a dispute over U.S. complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

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At the same time, the United States and China are cooperating on efforts to pressure North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up his country's nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs.

Pompeo met Wang and Yang Jiechi, a senior Cabinet official and former foreign minister, after talks Sunday with Kim in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang. Pompeo also visited Japan and South Korea, where he said Monday in Seoul that there had been "significant progress" toward an agreement for the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Wang appealed to Pompeo to cease actions that Beijing sees as threatening its interests in order to avoid disrupting cooperation over North Korea and other issues.

"While the U.S. side has constantly escalated trade frictions with China, it has also taken actions regarding Taiwan that harm China's core interests," Wang said.

In their later meeting, Yang expressed Chinese frustration with Washington while avoiding specifics, telling Pompeo relations are "facing challenges." Washington and Beijing "should and must make the correct choices," Yang said.

"We hope the United States and China can meet each other halfway and conscientiously fulfill the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries," Yang said.

In Seoul, Pompeo said he and Kim had agreed to soon begin working-level talks on details of denuclearization and placement of international inspectors at one of North Korea's main nuclear facilities.

Pompeo said they came close to finalizing a date and venue for the next Kim-Trump meeting.

"It's a long process," Pompeo told reporters. "We made significant progress. We'll continue to make significant progress and we are further along in making that progress than any administration in an awfully long time."

Trump, tweeting from Washington shortly after Pompeo left North Korea, cited progress Pompeo had made on agreements Trump and Kim reached at their June summit in Singapore and said, "I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim again, in the near future."

Pompeo said he and Kim had gotten "pretty close" to fixing the logistics for the summit but stressed that "sometimes that last inch is hard to close."

"Most importantly, both the leaders believe there is real progress that can be made, substantive progress that can be made at the next summit and so we are going to get it at a time that works for each of the two leaders and at a place that works for both of them," he said.

North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA, meanwhile, said Monday that Kim had "expressed his will and conviction that a great progress would surely be made in solving the issues of utmost concern of the world."

In an early Monday dispatch, KCNA called the talks "productive and wonderful" and said that "mutual stands were fully understood and opinions exchanged."

In Seoul, Pompeo said Kim is expected soon to name Deputy Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui as a counterpart for his new special envoy for North Korea, former Ford executive Stephen Biegun, who accompanied him on the trip. He and Biegun both said they expected meetings at the working level to begin soon and become quite frequent before the next summit.

"We are starting to see a first wave of actions we can take on all four pillars of the Singapore communique," said Biegun. He is to work with South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and other countries that have an interest in the talks.

In Pyongyang on Sunday, Pompeo and Kim met for about 3 1/2 hours, first in a business session and then in a 90-minute luncheon that the North Korean leader hosted at a state guesthouse.

Before visiting Pyongyang, Pompeo held talks in Tokyo with Japan's prime minister. He pledged the Trump administration would coordinate and unify its strategy for denuclearization with its allies. Japan has been wary of the initiative, but South Korea has embraced it.

Pompeo has refused to discuss details of negotiations, including a U.S. position on North Korea's demand for a formal end to the Korean War and a proposal from Seoul for such a declaration to be accompanied by a shutdown of the North's main known nuclear facility.

The United States and Japan have pushed for the North to turn over a list of its nuclear sites to be

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dismantled as a next step in the process. The North has rejected that and South Korea has suggested it may not be a necessary next step.

Pompeo, however, played down the differences.

"I've never been involved in an international discussion where there weren't differences of view, not only between governments but inside of governments," he said. "But if you look at the approach, we are in lockstep with each of those two countries in terms of how we approach achieving the results that everyone is aimed at. And so there'll be tactical places where we'll have debates and disagreements. That is a necessary component of getting to the best deliverable."

"But with respect to our relationship with the Republic of Korea and Japan on this issue, I have found that we are in lockstep on the most important issues and how to approach them," Pompeo said.

Since the denuclearization effort got underway with a secret visit to the North by then-CIA chief Pompeo in April, there has been only limited progress, even since the June 12 Trump-Kim summit that many had hoped would jump-start the effort.

North Korea so far has suspended nuclear and missile tests, freed three American prisoners and dismantled parts of a missile engine facility and tunnel entrances at a nuclear test site. It has not taken any steps to halt nuclear weapons or missile development.

The North has accused Washington of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization and has insisted that sanctions should be lifted before any progress in nuclear talks. U.S. officials have thus far said the penalties will remain in place until the North's denuclearization is fully verified.

Also on Monday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he expects Kim to travel to Russia and for Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit North Korea soon amid a global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear crisis.

Moon said a second Trump-Kim summit could be accompanied by major diplomatic developments that could contribute to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and stabilizing peace.

Moon also said there was a possibility of Kim holding a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Brazilians weigh stark visions of future in runoff election

By **PETER PRENGAMAN, SARAH DILORENZO and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilians showed their disgust with corruption and rising crime in the first round of presidential voting, nearly giving an outright victory to a brash-speaking former army captain who has promised to restore "traditional values," jail crooked politicians and give police a freer hand to shoot drug traffickers.

But with far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro getting 46 percent of the vote Sunday, short of the 50-plus percent he needed, voters also signaled they were not quite ready to make a final decision. On Oct. 28, Bolsonaro will face second-place finisher Fernando Haddad in a runoff vote. Haddad, the Workers' Party standard-bearer who was appointed by jailed ex-President Luiz Inacio da Silva, got 29 percent in the first round, and polls have predicted a close race in the runoff.

Bolsonaro was expected to come out in front on Sunday, but he far outperformed predictions, blazing past competitors with more financing, the institutional backing of traditional parties and much more free air time on television. The candidate from the tiny Social and Liberal Party made savvy use of Twitter and Facebook to spread his message that only he could end the corruption, crime and economic malaise that has seized Brazil in recent years — and bring back the good old days and traditional values.

"This is a victory for honest people who want the best for Brazil," said Bianca Santos, a 40-year-old psychologist who gathered outside a hotel where Bolsonaro was watching the returns. "I believe he is the only one with a serious plan to end crime."

For voters, Bolsonaro and Haddad represent starkly different visions for the future. Bolsonaro has promised to slash spending, privatize as much as possible in a country long heavy on state control and be a check on social movements that have gained much ground in recent years.

Meanwhile, true to the Workers' Party's leftist roots, Haddad has promised to fight long-standing inequali-

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ties, scrap a major labor reform passed last year and invest more in education.

Where Brazil's next leader takes the economy, the largest in Latin America, will have a large impact on surrounding countries that are trading partners with Brazil. The next leader will also have an influence on Venezuela, both diplomatically and practically, as thousands of Venezuelans have crossed Brazil's northern border.

Bolsonaro has promised a harder line on Venezuela and other leftist regimes and closer ties with the United States. It's not clear what Bolsonaro would do to further isolate Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, but he once suggested creating camps for the Venezuelans who have fled the country's economic collapse.

But much of his campaign focused on domestic issues. Bolsonaro has painted a nation in collapse, where drug traffickers and politicians steal with equal impunity, and moral rot has set in. He has advocated loosening gun ownership laws so individuals can fight off criminals, encouraging police to shoot more crooks and restoring "traditional" Brazilian values — though some take issue with his definition of those values in light of his approving allusions to the country's 1964-1985 dictatorship and his derisive comments about women, blacks and gay people.

Haddad, a former education minister, has also spent much time arguing that da Silva, his mentor, was unfairly jailed — a strategy aimed at attracting voters who still feel strong affection for da Silva despite a corruption conviction. Workers' Party stalwarts are still fuming about the 2016 impeachment and removal of office of President Dilma Rousseff, da Silva's predecessor.

Matthew Taylor, an associate professor of Latin American politics at American University, said that in the weeks before the runoff vote Bolsonaro will likely hit Haddad hard on the theme of corruption within the Workers' Party and da Silva, who Brazilians simply call Lula.

"Haddad has a huge albatross around his neck because of the corruption and all the rhetoric about the impeachment and Lula," said Taylor. "Bolsonaro will hit back on that."

Indeed, Bolsonaro already showed his ability to tap deep anger in Brazil with the traditional political class and "throw the bums out" rage after a massive corruption investigation revealed staggering levels of graft.

Still, he alienated nearly as many people as he attracted with his offensive comments. And polling shows Bolsonaro will face a tight race with Haddad in the second round — before Sunday's first round, polls showed a statistical dead heat in a potential second round.

Many voters, already disillusioned with their democracy, said they felt trapped by the choice between the two front-runners, a sentiment likely to deepen in the weeks to come.

"I didn't like any of the candidates and I felt obliged to choose the lesser of two evils," said Frederico Vasconcellos, a 68-year-old retired metalworker. The Workers' Party "managed to ruin the country with corruption and theft. ... So I decided to vote for Bolsonaro, who is the only one who can block the return of the Workers' Party."

Though they come from opposite sides of the political spectrum, both Bolsonaro and Haddad ran campaigns based on nostalgia for a better time. Bolsonaro frequently evoked the country's military dictatorship amid promises of a return to traditional values and safer, simpler times.

"The country is on the brink of chaos," Bolsonaro said in a Facebook live after a second round was announced. "We can't let the left advance even one more step."

For his part, Haddad called on "democrats" to unite around his candidacy. In a broadside against Bolsonaro, who frequently talks about liberalizing gun laws, Haddad said: "We don't carry guns. We carry the force of arguments to defend Brazil and its people."

Associated Press writers Marcelo Silva de Sousa and Beatrice Christofaro in Rio de Janeiro and Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

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Fairbairn's FG in OT lifts Texans over Cowboys 19-16

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — When DeAndre Hopkins had a chance to make a play in overtime on Sunday night against the Dallas Cowboys, Houston's star receiver was intent on redeeming himself after losing a rare fumble in the third quarter.

He did that with a spectacular 49-yard catch and run that got the Texans in scoring range, and Ka'imi Fairbairn kicked a 36-yard field goal to lift the Texans to a 19-16 win.

Hopkins, who finished with 151 yards receiving, grabbed a short pass from Deshaun Watson and twice spun away from would-be tacklers to stretch the play.

"I fumbled, so I knew I had to make a play," Hopkins said. "There was a lot of guys downfield but I wasn't trying to go down easy. A field goal would win the game and I knew that. I knew where I was, and I felt guys coming around me."

Coach Bill O'Brien said Hopkins approached him after the fumble and simply said: 'I'll make up for that.' Watson knew he would do that when he threw the ball his way.

"Playmakers make plays whenever we need him, and that was a situation where we needed him to make a play," Watson said. "I threw it up for him to make a play, and he did what he had to do."

The Cowboys got the ball first in OT but had to punt when Zach Cunningham stopped Ezekiel Elliott for no gain on third-and-1. Coach Jason Garrett defended his decision not to go for it.

"We just felt like at that point in the game, the way our defense was playing, the idea was to pin them down there," he said.

Houston was just 1 of 5 in the red zone on Sunday, with Fairbairn making four field goals to help the Texans to the victory.

It is Houston's first win over the Cowboys (2-3) since the team's first game on Sept. 8, 2002, ending a three-game losing streak to Dallas. The Texans (2-3) did it in front of a franchise-record crowd of 72,008, which was peppered with plenty of Cowboys fans.

Houston defensive end Jadeveon Clowney didn't realize the Texans hadn't beaten the Cowboys in 16 years, but did understand the importance of the victory.

"This is a big win, not just for us but for the city of Houston," he said. "Cowboys are America's No. 1 team. For us to go out there and win at home was very big for us. We needed that win."

Deshaun Watson threw for 375 yards with a touchdown and an interception for the Texans, who won in overtime for the second straight week.

Dak Prescott had 208 yards passing and a touchdown but threw two interceptions for the Cowboys. Elliott, who entered the game as the NFL's leading rusher, was limited to 54 yards rushing.

"We just haven't gotten it going on offense," Prescott said. "I don't know if there's one thing you can pinpoint, but we've got to figure it out."

The Texans were driving late in the fourth quarter when Xavier Woods intercepted Watson, who threw under heavy pressure, with 10 seconds left and returned it 15 yards to give Dallas the ball at its 47. Kareem Jackson nearly intercepted Prescott on the next play before his Hail Mary on the last play of regulation was knocked down in the end zone by receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who came in to play defense.

A 27-yard pass interference call by Byron Jones on a ball intended for Hopkins got Houston to the 1-yard line in the third quarter. But two failed running plays followed by an incomplete pass forced another field goal which gave the Texans a 16-13 lead with about 8 1/2 minutes remaining.

The Cowboys tied it up on a 48-yard field goal with less than six minutes left. That drive was highlighted by a 44-yard pass by Prescott to Tavon Austin that he made after escaping sacks by J.J. Watt, Brandon Dunn and Zach Cunningham.

Prescott's second interception came when Johnathan Joseph broke up a pass and rookie Justin Reid caught it just before it hit the turf in the third quarter. The Texans drove to the 3-yard line on the ensuing possession before the drive stalled and Fairbairn kicked a 21-yard field goal to tie it at 13-13.

Hopkins fumbled after a catch early in the third quarter and it was recovered by Jourdan Lewis and

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returned to the Houston 16. The Cowboys regained the lead when Prescott found Allen Hurns in the back of the end zone on a 3-yard touchdown pass that made it 13-10.

The Texans drove to the 2-yard line later in the second but Watson's pass on third down fell incomplete and they settled for a 20-yard field goal to push the lead to 10-6.

INJURIES

Houston RB Lamar Miller, who dealt with a chest injury this week, was active but did not play. ... Texans CB Kayvon Webster left the game in the first quarter with a quadriceps injury and didn't return.

COUTEE'S DANCE

The Texans took their first lead when rookie Keke Coutee, who made his debut last week, scored on a 1-yard run early in the second quarter. Coutee celebrated his first career touchdown with a dance called the Shiggy Challenge from a Drake song called "In My Feelings" which includes the line: "Kiki do you love me?"

He had previously said he didn't like that song because he was tired of everyone singing it to him but seems to be past that now.

"I just gave the people what they wanted to see," he said with a laugh.

UP NEXT

Cowboys: Host the Jacksonville Jaguars next Sunday.

Texans: Host the Buffalo Bills next Sunday.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

California wildfire victims say cleanup crews add to woes

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — One year after a devastating series of wildfires ripped through Northern California wine country, destroying thousands of homes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' first experience cleaning up after a wildfire has turned into an expensive bureaucratic mess and California's top emergency official suspects fraud played a role.

In October 2017, state and local officials lacked the resources to quickly clear still-smoldering and toxic debris from 4,500 homes destroyed by a wildfire in and near Santa Rosa. So the Army was called in.

The Army was in charge of awarding \$1.3 billion in cleanup contracts to three contractors, which hired dozens of smaller companies to haul away the debris and dispose of it in landfills. The hauling companies were paid by the ton. The more they hauled, the more they earned.

The first complaints started almost as soon as the first dump truck was loaded in November. Homeowners said workers were digging too deep and taking too much dirt from their lots. They also said perfectly fine driveways, retaining walls, sidewalks and the like were damaged or removed.

By the summer, nearly 1,000 homeowners had flooded the Army, state and local officials with complaints. After its contractors hauled away 2 million tons (1.8 million metric tons) of debris, the U.S. Army Corps declared mission accomplished and left without responding to homeowners' complaints, Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane said.

"These folks were traumatized by the fire and then traumatized again by the cleanup," said Zane, who represents Santa Rosa's hardest-hit neighborhoods. "Someone needed to help us."

In August, Zane and a contingent of Sonoma County officials trekked to the state capital in Sacramento and persuaded the California Office of Emergency Services to fix what the Army wouldn't.

Director Mark Ghilarducci said the Office of Emergency Services has spent millions repairing the damage, and more work remains. In a letter sent last month, Ghilarducci demanded that the Army reimburse the state and return to California to fix the lots still in need of repair.

Ghilarducci said it's "probable" that unscrupulous contractors committed fraud, citing "egregious oversight" by federal officials.

"Given these subcontractors were paid per ton of soil removed, it is probable this over-excavation was an intentional effort to capitalize on this tragedy by defrauding the government," Ghilarducci wrote to the

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U.S. Army Corps last month.

Corps spokesman Mike Petersen said no evidence of fraud has been reported. He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency was preparing a response to Ghilarducci's letter.

Ghilarducci also argued the U.S. Army Corps failed to properly monitor the cleanup and its subcontractors' performance.

"Due to this egregious oversight," Ghilarducci wrote, "contractors caused substantial damage to many survivors' properties resulting in revictimization of the affected wildfire survivors."

Several of them were cited by the Contractors State License Board for operating without a license.

In addition, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined Chico-based Randy Hill Construction \$11,700 after one of its workers was fatally struck by a truck while dumping debris. The agency found the truck's safety system was improperly disconnected and was the reason it accidentally started and ran over 60-year-old Ezekiel Sumner in December.

Hill Construction did not return phone calls.

Petersen said conditions varied widely at the 4,563 properties U.S. Army contractors cleared in four counties, and some sites required extensive digging to remove contaminated soil.

He said the Corps was satisfied with the work of the three main contractors, and "the great majority of subcontractors on the program operated with high professional standards." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a major Army command, composed of about 37,000 civilian and military personnel.

Petersen said it was one of the biggest cleanup jobs after a natural disaster for the Corps, which is routinely called in after hurricanes and earthquakes but lacks experience with wildfires.

"This caused issues in the debris removal process," the U.S. Government Accountability Office concluded in a report released last month.

The GAO report made no recommendations but noted the cleanup effort was California's biggest since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Most complaints about the cleanup come from Santa Rosa residents and other Sonoma County residents where the wildfire struck an urban center. But at least 100 homeowners in rural Mendocino County have lodge complaints of "over excavation."

Karen Erickson said the U.S. contractors added at least \$200,000 to the cost of rebuilding her destroyed Santa Rosa home. She said contractors needlessly removed an undamaged driveway and dug so deep on her lot that they damaged her water pipes.

Because the contractors showed up after an insurance adjuster inspected her property, Erickson said the damage done to her property by the cleanup wasn't factored into her insurance reimbursement.

"Paying those guys by the ton was stupid," she said. "Who wouldn't load their trucks with as much as they could?"

A look at the campaign proposals made by Brazil's Bolsonaro

By PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro won the first round of Brazil's presidential race Sunday, doing far better than polls predicted and coming just shy of an outright victory. In the weeks ahead of an Oct. 28 runoff against former Sao Paulo mayor Fernando Haddad, Bolsonaro's main proposals are sure to come under much scrutiny.

Here is a look at what Bolsonaro has promised to do if elected.

PRIVATIZATIONS

Bolsonaro has promised to carry out widespread privatizations in Latin America's largest economy aimed at giving a boost to recovery from one of the nation's worst recessions in decades. Bolsonaro has also said privatizations are necessary to eradicate the kind of state graft that has been rife in recent years. While the business community has largely coalesced around Bolsonaro because of these proposals, detractors have noted that as a congressman he often voted and espoused views that were the exact opposite.

SPENDING AND TAXES

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Bolsonaro has said he would sharply cut spending to confront an expected budget deficit of US\$39 billion next year. He has also promised to cut taxes and simplify the tax code, though he has not provided details. He has sent confusing signals. When economic adviser Paulo Guedes, a banker trained at the University of Chicago, recently floated bringing back a bank fee, Bolsonaro said Guedes had been quoted out of context and that there would be no new taxes.

CONFRONTING VIOLENCE

Bolsonaro, who waxes nostalgically about the country's 1964-1985 dictatorship, has said he wants to loosen gun laws to allow more people to be able to carry them in public. He has also said he would push to give police forces freer rein to shoot while on patrols. The idea of emboldening police, already responsible for high rates of shooting deaths, including Rio de Janeiro, has sent shock waves through poorer communities.

CULTURAL WARRIOR

Bolsonaro, who has a long history of offensive comments about women, blacks and gays, has repeatedly said he will return Brazil to "traditional values." While he hasn't specified what that might mean, many groups fear that he'll seek to cut racial quotas in universities and curb rights of minorities, such as transgender people, who recently gained the right to decide what gender to put on their national identification cards.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump fudges history on black vote, drug cost

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing pivotal November elections, President Donald Trump is misrepresenting the history of African-American voting and exaggerating his influence in boosting income and controlling prescription drug prices.

He laments in campaign speeches on behalf of Republican candidates that blacks' support for Democrats had become "habit," having voted for them "for 100 years," and insists his administration's policies are changing that. In fact, most African-Americans were effectively blocked from the right to vote until 1965. Much of the income gains he claims for blacks and other minorities came during the Obama administration.

On drug costs, Trump says he is "bringing them down." But few drugmakers have actually lowered prices as a result of his pressure.

And in remarks at the hot core of the debate over his new Supreme Court justice, Trump distorted the testimony of Brett Kavanaugh's accuser in a mocking turn on a rally stage before the Senate elevated the judge to the high court on the weekend.

A look at the past week's claims:

BLACK VOTE

TRUMP, on black support for Democratic candidates in recent elections: "It's only habit. It's habit, because for 100 years, African-Americans have gone with Democrats." — Kansas rally Saturday.

THE FACTS: No, black Americans did not primarily vote Democratic for 100 years, or anywhere close to it.

Most African-Americans for much of U.S. history were disenfranchised, then effectively deterred from voting via poll taxes and literacy tests until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which outlawed racial discrimination in voting.

African-Americans who could vote before then generally backed Republican candidates until the 1932 election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. His New Deal programs of economic relief won their support and helped spur a longer-term shift of black voting from Republican to Democratic.

The Voting Rights Act eliminated literacy tests, clamped down on poll taxes that the 24th Amendment had banned in federal elections a year earlier and required a number of mostly Southern states with a history of discrimination to get advance federal approval to make changes to their election laws. Before that, only an estimated 23 percent of voting-age blacks were registered nationally, says the Library of Congress, but by 1969 that had jumped to 61 percent.

MEDIAN INCOME

TRUMP: "How does your African-American, how do you vote for somebody else? I've done more for them

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in two years... And their median income is the highest. But not only for African-Americans, for Asian." — Minnesota rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong about median income now being the highest for African-Americans. He also exaggerates the economic gains he's accomplished for blacks and Asian-Americans.

The median income last year for an African-American household was \$40,258, according to the Census Bureau. That's below a 2000 peak of \$42,348 and also statistically no better than 2016, which was Democratic President Barack Obama's last year in office.

Many economists view the continued economic growth since the middle of 2009, in Obama's first term, as the primary explanation for recent hiring and income gains. More important, there are multiple signs that the racial wealth gap is now worsening and the administration appears to have done little, if anything, to address this problem specifically.

As to Asian-Americans, the median income for a typical household last year was \$81,331. That's no better than their median income of \$83,182 in 2016.

KAVANAUGH

TRUMP, as if recounting the questioning of Christine Blasey Ford at her Senate hearing: 'How did you get there?' 'I don't remember.' 'Where is the place?' 'I don't remember.' 'How many years ago was it?' 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.' 'What neighborhood was it in?' 'I don't know.' 'Where's the house?' 'I don't know.' 'Upstairs, downstairs, where was it?' 'I don't know. But I had one beer, that's the only thing I remember.' And a man's life is in tatters. A man's life is shattered. ... They want to destroy people. These are really evil people." — Mississippi rally Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong to say Kavanaugh's accuser could not recall whether the alleged sexual assault happened upstairs or downstairs or any level of detail regarding the likely location. She described in vivid detail being in a locked upstairs bedroom with Kavanaugh and his friend Mark Judge while others were downstairs at a small house party. Trump also falsely stated that she did not remember how many years ago this happened. She identified the summer of 1982, when she was 15.

It's true she could not identify the house, or remember how she got there or home, but said it was within a "20-minute drive" between her house and a country club in the Bethesda, Maryland, area.

Researchers say it is common for people who have experienced a trauma to retain a searing memory of the event but not circumstances surrounding it.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "You might have seen last month where I called up some of the drug companies. I said, 'Folks, you just raised up the drug prices. You can't do that.' And they all reduced them. Do you believe it? That's when I said, 'I've a lot of power.' Pfizer, right? You saw that. Pfizer, Novartis, they raised their drug prices and I'm bringing them down. I said, 'What are you doing with raising them?' 'I'm sorry, Mr. President, we'll reduce them immediately.' I said, 'Man, this is a powerful position.'" — Minnesota rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: His account is overstated.

His call with Pfizer was at the beginning of July, not last month. It came right after he criticized Pfizer on Twitter for raising prices of about 40 drugs on July 1. Pfizer reversed those increases, meaning prices returned to their June 30 levels, though only until Jan. 1, 2019, at the latest. Novartis was one of several drugmakers that said they wouldn't raise any prices for the rest of 2018, but they'd already done so on nearly all of their drugs earlier in the year.

Few drugmakers actually lowered prices as a result of Trump's pressure. A few drugs had price cuts for business reasons.

More broadly, an Associated Press investigation of brand-name prescription drugs found 96 price increases for every price reduction in the first seven months of this year. There were fewer price increases this year from January through July than in comparable prior year periods, but companies still raised prices far more often than they cut them.

AP analyzed 26,176 U.S. list price changes for brand-name prescription drugs from Jan. 1 through July

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31 in the years 2015 through 2018, using data supplied by health information analytics firm Elsevier.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "We just passed Choice. That was 44 years they've been trying to pass Choice, so that if you have to wait in line for 9 days, 30 days, 21 days, months, you don't do that anymore. If the line's big, and if you're unhappy with it, you go to a private doctor, they take care of you, and we paid the bill. It's better. They've been trying to pass that one for many, many decades. They couldn't do it. We got it passed." — Tennessee rally on Oct. 1.

TRUMP: "We also passed Veterans' Choice. Forty-four years they tried to do it." — Mississippi rally Tuesday.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs by incorrectly stating a private-sector health care program was never passed by Congress before him. He also falsely suggests the newly expanded program will have immediate effect.

Congress first approved the Veterans Choice program in 2014 in the wake of a scandal at the Phoenix VA medical center in which some veterans died while waiting months for appointments. The program allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility.

Trump signed legislation in June to expand the Choice program by giving veterans even wider access to private-sector doctors at government expense, subject to yet-to-be-finalized rules that will determine eligibility as well as available funding.

Contrary to what Trump suggests, the effects of the newly expanded program are not immediate. Key to its success is an overhaul of the VA's electronic medical records to allow seamless sharing of medical records not only with the Pentagon but also private physicians, a process expected to take up to 10 years. The VA also has yet to resolve long-term financing for the program due to congressional budget caps that could put funding for VA or other domestic programs at risk of shortfalls next year.

At a Senate hearing last month, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie made clear that full implementation of the expanded Choice program was "years" away.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

TRUMP: "The new platform of the Democrat Party is to abolish ICE — the brave, brave people of ICE. In other words, they want to abolish immigration enforcement entirely." — Mississippi rally Tuesday.

THE FACTS: While some Democrats in the House and Senate have raised the prospect of eliminating Immigration and Customs Enforcement, no top Democrats in the House or Senate have called for such a move. Those Democrats who have expressed openness to eliminating ICE have said they would not abandon border enforcement, which is largely carried out by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

U.S.-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE

TRUMP: "The agreement will govern nearly \$1.2 trillion in trade, which makes it the biggest trade deal in the United States' history." — remarks Oct. 1.

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

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

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

TRUMP: "This deal will also impose new standards requiring at least 75 percent of every automobile to

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be made in North America in order to qualify for the privilege of free access to our markets.” — remarks Oct. 1.

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

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

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

TRUMP, on overcoming the major hitch with Canada: “Dairy was a deal-breaker. And now for our farmers it’s, as you know, substantially opened up much more. And I know they can’t open it completely. They have farmers also. You know, they can’t be overrun. And I fully — and I tell them that. I say, ‘Look, I understand you have limits.’ But they could do much better.” — remarks Oct. 1.

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

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

TRUMP: “As one primary aspect, it will transform North America back into a manufacturing powerhouse.” — remarks Oct. 1.

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

TRUMP: “I think my biggest concession was making the deal, because we could have done it a different way. But it would have been nasty, and it wouldn’t have been nice, and I don’t want to have that.” — remarks Oct. 1.

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

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

Associated Press writers Linda Johnson in Trenton, New Jersey, and Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

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McConnell says Senate 'not broken' after Kavanaugh fight

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Picking up the pieces after a contentious nomination battle, the Senate's majority leader said Sunday that the chamber won't be irreparably damaged by the wrenching debate over sexual misconduct that has swirled around new Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

While Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Kavanaugh's confirmation was a shining moment for the GOP heading into next month's pivotal elections, GOP Gov. John Kasich of Ohio predicted "a good year" for Democrats and said he wonders about "the soul of our country" in the long term after the tumultuous hearings.

McConnell, in two news show interviews, tried to distinguish between President Donald Trump's nomination of Kavanaugh this year and his own decision not to have the GOP-run Senate consider President Barack Obama's high court nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016. McConnell called the current partisan divide a "low point," but he blamed Democrats.

"The Senate's not broken," said McConnell. "We didn't attack Merrick Garland's background and try to destroy him." He asserted that "we simply followed the tradition of America."

The climactic 50-48 roll call vote Saturday on Kavanaugh was the closest vote to confirm a justice since 1881. It capped a fight that seized the national conversation after claims emerged that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted women three decades ago. Kavanaugh emphatically denied the allegations.

The accusations transformed the clash from a routine struggle over judicial ideology into an angry jumble of questions about victims' rights and personal attacks on nominees.

Ultimately, every Democrat voted against Kavanaugh except for Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

Kavanaugh was sworn in Saturday evening in a private ceremony as protesters chanted outside the court building.

McConnell said the confirmation fight had energized Republican voters and he praised GOP senators, who he said had "stood up to the mob" in favor of the "presumption of innocence."

He signaled that a Republican-controlled Senate would act on a fresh Trump nominee to the Supreme Court in 2020 — a presidential election year — should a vacancy arise. The court's two oldest justices are Democratic appointees: Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 85 and Stephen Breyer is 80.

"We'll see if there is a vacancy in 2020," McConnell said.

Two years ago, McConnell blocked a vote on Garland, citing what he said was a tradition of not filling vacancies in a presidential election year. But when asked again Sunday about it, he sought to clarify that a Senate case in 1880 suggested inaction on a nominee only when the chamber was controlled by the party opposing the president.

Republicans currently hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate, with several seats up for grabs in November.

Trump has now put his stamp on the court with his second justice in as many years. Yet Kavanaugh is joining under a cloud.

Accusations from several women remain under scrutiny, and House Democrats have pledged further investigation if they win the majority in November. Outside groups are culling an unusually long paper trail from his previous government and political work, with the National Archives and Records Administration expected to release a cache of millions of documents later this month.

Still, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said he believed it would be premature for Democrats to talk about re-investigating Kavanaugh or a possible impeachment if the party takes control of the chamber in November, stressing a need to help heal the country.

"Frankly, we are just less than a month away from an election," Coons said. "Folks who feel very strongly one way or the other about the issues in front of us should get out and vote and participate."

McConnell spoke on "Fox News Sunday" and CBS' "Face the Nation," Kasich appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," and Coons was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Brazil's far-right candidate falls short of election stunner

By SARAH DiLORENZO, MAURICIO SAVARESE and PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A far-right former army captain who expresses nostalgia for Brazil's military dictatorship won the first round of its presidential election by a surprisingly large margin Sunday but fell just short of getting enough votes to avoid a runoff against a leftist rival.

Jair Bolsonaro, whose last-minute surge almost gave him an electoral stunner, had 46 percent compared to 29 percent for former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad, according to figures from Brazil's Superior Electoral Tribunal with 99.9 percent of the vote counted. He needed over 50 percent support to win outright.

Polls predicted Bolsonaro would come out in front on Sunday, but he far outperformed expectations, blazing past competitors with more financing, institutional backing of parties and free air time on television.

Despite the sizable victory, polls have shown the two candidates are neck-and-neck for the Oct. 28 runoff, and much could shift in the coming weeks. Two other candidates, one center-left and one center-right, said they would decide in the coming days if they would endorse anyone.

Ultimately, Bolsonaro's strong showing reflects a yearning for the past as much as a sign of the future. The candidate from the tiny Social and Liberal Party made savvy use of Twitter and Facebook to spread his message that only he could end the corruption, crime and economic malaise that has seized Brazil in recent years — and bring back the good old days and traditional values.

"This is a victory for honest people, who want the best for Brazil," said Bianca Santos, 40-year-old psychologist, who added Bolsonaro would end high crime rates.

Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America and it is a diplomatic heavyweight in the region. Bolsonaro has promised to shake up its foreign policy, including taking a harder line on Venezuela and other leftist regimes and forging closer ties with the United States. He won over many foreign investors by promising smaller government and a more open economy.

But the election largely turned on domestic matters, on which Bolsonaro has alienated nearly as many people as he has attracted. Many fear what Brazil will look like if he wins.

Barbara Aires, a transgender woman who unsuccessfully ran for Rio de Janeiro state representative, said Bolsonaro's first-round victory represented a "step backward" that could lead to "taking back rights and more violence toward the LGBT community."

The two candidates have painted starkly different visions of the country's past and future.

Bolsonaro has portrayed a nation in collapse, where drug traffickers and politicians steal with equal impunity, and moral rot has set in. He has advocated loosening gun ownership laws so individuals can fight off criminals, giving police a freer hand to use force and restoring "traditional" Brazilian values — though some take issue with his definition of those values in light of his approving allusions to the 1964-1985 dictatorship and his derisive comments about women, blacks and gay people.

He once told a fellow congresswoman that she was too ugly for him to rape and said that he would not be able to love a gay son.

While those comments have disgusted many, Bolsonaro has capitalized on Brazilians' deep anger with their traditional political class and "throw the bums out" rage after a massive corruption investigation revealed staggering levels of graft.

Beginning in 2014, prosecutors alleged that Brazil's government was run like a cartel for years, with billions of dollars in public contracts handed out in exchange for kickbacks and bribes.

Revelations of suitcases of cash, leaked recordings of incriminating exchanges between powerbrokers and the jailing of some of the of the country's most powerful people, including da Silva, unfolded like a Hollywood script — and then became one: Netflix released a (barely) fictionalized account of the probe this year.

The Workers' Party was at the center of that investigation, and many have turned to Bolsonaro as a tactic to keep the party out of office.

"I voted against thievery and corruption," said Mariana Prado, a 54-year-old human resources expert. "I know that everyone promises to end these two things, but I feel Bolsonaro is the only one can help end

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my anxieties.”

Meanwhile, the party has struggled to stage a comeback with Haddad after da Silva was barred from running. He has said that many of the allegations against Workers’ Party politicians are political persecution and portrayed a country hijacked by an elite that will protect its privileges at all costs and can’t bear to see the lives of poor and working class Brazilians improve.

Haddad has promised to roll back President Michel Temer’s economic reforms that he says eroded workers’ rights, increase investment in social programs and bring back the boom years Brazil experienced under his mentor, da Silva.

Bolsonaro’s poll numbers jumped after he was stabbed during a campaign event on Sept. 6. He was unable to campaign or participate in debates as he underwent surgeries during a three-week hospital stay, but instead brought messages directly to voters via Facebook and Twitter.

“For a front-runner, the best thing to do is commit as few errors as possible,” said Andre Portela from Getulio Vargas Foundation, a leading university and think tank. “Getting stabbed helped Bolsonaro in that. He wasn’t exposed to debate, to people questioning him.”

The campaign to run Latin America’s largest economy, which is a major trade partner for countries in the region, has been unpredictable and tense. Da Silva led initial polls by a wide margin, but was banned from running after a corruption conviction. Bolsonaro’s stabbing forced candidates, and Bolsonaro himself, to shift strategies and recalibrate.

All along, Brazilians have said their faith in leaders and their hopes for the future are waning.

This election was seen as the great hope for ending a turbulent era in which many politicians and business executives were jailed on corruption charges, a president was impeached and removed from office in controversial proceedings, and the region’s largest economy suffered a protracted recession.

Instead, the two front-runners merely reflect the rabid divisions that have opened up in Brazilian politics following former President Dilma Rousseff’s impeachment and the revelations emerging from the “Car Wash” graft probe.

Caught in the middle are Brazilians who dislike both candidates and see them as symbols of a broken system.

“I think we’re going to continue with the same polarization,” if either Haddad or Bolsonaro wins, said Victor Aversa, a 27-year-old massage therapist who voted for center-left candidate Ciro Gomes, who had been polling third. “We’ve been on this path of crazy bipolarity. Haddad and Bolsonaro will both lead populist governments.”

___Prengaman reported from Rio de Janeiro. Associated Press writers Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo and Beatrice Christofaro in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Pompeo: ‘Significant progress’ made on NKorea denuke trip

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made “significant progress” toward an agreement for the North to give up its nuclear weapons. While significant work remains to be done, he said he expected further results after an as-yet unscheduled second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump.

“It’s a long process,” Pompeo told a small group of reporters in the South Korean capital of Seoul where he traveled after meeting with Kim in Pyongyang on Sunday. “We made significant progress. We’ll continue to make significant progress and we are further along in making that progress than any administration in an awfully long time.”

He would not be specific but said he and Kim had agreed to shortly begin working-level talks on the nuts and bolts of denuclearization, on the placement of international inspectors at one of North Korea’s main nuclear facilities, and had come close to finalizing a date and venue for the next Kim-Trump summit.

Trump, tweeting from Washington shortly after Pompeo left North Korea, cited progress Pompeo had made on agreements he and Kim came to at their June meeting in Singapore and said, “I look forward

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to seeing Chairman Kim again, in the near future.'

Pompeo said he and Kim had gotten "pretty close" to fixing the logistics for the summit but stressed that "sometimes that last inch is hard to close."

"Most importantly, both the leaders believe there is real progress that can be made, substantive progress that can be made at the next summit and so we are going to get it at a time that works for each of the two leaders and at a place that works for both of them," he said. "We are not quite there yet. But we will get there."

North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA, meanwhile, said Monday that Kim had "expressed his will and conviction that a great progress would surely be made in solving the issues of utmost concern of the world and in attaining the goal set forth at the last talks with the projected second DPRK-U.S. summit talks as an occasion." DPRK is the acronym for the country's official name: Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In an early Monday dispatch, KCNA called the talks "productive and wonderful" and said that "mutual stands were fully understood and opinions exchanged."

In Seoul, before leaving for talks with Chinese officials in Beijing, Pompeo said Kim is expected soon to name deputy foreign minister Choe Son Hui as a counterpart for his new special envoy for North Korea, former Ford executive Stephen Biegun, who accompanied him on the trip. He and Biegun both said they expected meetings at the working level to begin soon and become quite frequent before the next summit.

"We are starting to see a first wave of actions we can take on all four pillars of the Singapore communique," said Biegun, who will serve as Pompeo's pointman in negotiations with the North as well as work with South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and other countries that have an interest in the talks.

In Pyongyang on Sunday, Pompeo and Kim met for about 3 1/2 hours, first in a business session and then in a 90-minute luncheon that the North Korean leader hosted at a state guesthouse, according to the pool report from the lone U.S. journalist allowed to accompany Pompeo on his Asia trip.

"It's a very nice day that promises a good future for both countries," Kim told Pompeo through an interpreter as they sat down for the meal.

"Yeah, so we had a great, great visit this morning," Pompeo replied.

Before visiting Pyongyang, Pompeo held talks in Tokyo with Japan's prime minister, and pledged that the Trump administration would coordinate and unify its strategy for denuclearization with its allies. Japan has been wary of the initiative, but South Korea has embraced it.

Pompeo has repeatedly refused to discuss details of negotiations, including a U.S. position on North Korea's demand for a declared end to the Korean War and a proposal from Seoul for such a declaration to be accompanied by a shutdown of the North's main known nuclear facility.

The U.S. and Japan have pushed for the North to compile and turn over a detailed list of its nuclear sites to be dismantled as a next step in the process. The North has rejected that and South Korea has suggested it may not be a necessary next step.

Pompeo, however, played down the differences.

"I've never been involved in an international discussion where there weren't differences of view, not only between governments but inside of governments," he said. "But if you look at the approach, we are in lockstep with each of those two countries in terms of how we approach achieving the results that everyone is aimed at. And so there'll be tactical places where we'll have debates and disagreements, that is a necessary component of getting to the best deliverable."

"But with respect to our relationship with the Republic of Korea and Japan on this issue, I have found that we are in lockstep on the most important issues and how to approach them," Pompeo said.

Since the denuclearization effort got underway with a secret visit to the North by then-CIA chief Pompeo in April, there has been only limited progress, even since the June 12 Trump-Kim summit that many had hoped would jump-start the effort.

North Korea so far has suspended nuclear and missile tests, freed three American prisoners and dismantled parts of a missile engine facility and tunnel entrances at a nuclear test site. It has not taken any

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steps to halt nuclear weapons or missile development.

The North has accused Washington of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization and has insisted that sanctions should be lifted before any progress in nuclear talks. U.S. officials have thus far said the penalties will remain in place until the North's denuclearization is fully verified.

Also on Monday, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he expects Kim to travel to Russia and for Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit North Korea soon amid a global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear crisis.

Moon said a second Trump-Kim summit could be accompanied by major diplomatic developments that could contribute to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and stabilizing peace.

Moon also said there was a possibility of Kim holding a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Strong aftershock rattles north Haiti day after deadly quake

PORT-DE-PAIX, Haiti (AP) — A magnitude 5.2 aftershock struck Haiti on Sunday, even as survivors of the previous day's temblor were sifting through the rubble of their cinderblock homes. The death toll stood at 12, with fears it could rise.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter of the aftershock was located 9.8 miles (15.8 kilometers) north-northwest of Port-de-Paix, the city hard hit by Saturday night's 5.9 magnitude earthquake. Sunday's aftershock had a depth of 10 kilometers.

"I don't feel safe even inside my house," said Gary Joseph as he put various mattresses for himself and his two sons to sleep on under a tree outside the house in Port-de-Paix.

He pointed to cracks left by the quake and aftershock in a wall and said: "I have to protect myself and my sons."

The aftershock caused panic on streets where emergency teams were providing relief to victims of Saturday's quake, which toppled cinderblock homes and rickety buildings in several cities.

Haiti's civil protection agency said at least eight people died in the coastal city of Port-de-Paix and three people died in the nearby community of Gros-Morne in Artibonite province. Another person died in Saint-Louis du Nord, Communication Minister Eddy Jackson Alexis tweeted.

Among the dead from Saturday night's quake were a 5-year-old boy crushed by his collapsing house and a man killed in a falling auditorium. Authorities said 188 people were injured.

Impoverished Haiti, where many live in tenuous circumstances, is vulnerable to earthquakes and hurricanes. A vastly larger magnitude 7.1 quake damaged much of the capital in 2010 and killed an estimated 300,000 people.

"I feel like my life is not safe here," said nun Maryse Alsaint, director of the San Gabriel National School in Gros-Morne, where several classrooms were severely damaged.

She said that about 500 students would not be able to return to school on Monday.

President Jovenel Moise urged people to donate blood and asked international aid agencies to coordinate with local agencies to avoid duplicated efforts. By Sunday evening the government didn't provide an estimate of the damages.

The USGS said Saturday's quake was centered 12 miles (19 kilometers) northwest of Port-de-Paix, which is about 136 miles (219 kilometers) from the capital of Port-au-Prince.

It was felt lightly in the capital, as well as in the neighboring Dominican Republic and in eastern Cuba, where no damage was reported.

In Haiti, officials have struggled to shore up buildings despite the two major fault lines along Hispaniola, which is the island shared with the Dominican Republic.

The damage from the temblors was visible. In Gros-Morne, one bed was covered in rubble, while the exterior walls of some homes were visibly cracked. Others tilted at precarious angles.

Pierre Jacques Baudre, a farmer and father of seven, said he was afraid to return to his home after one wall built with rocks and cement crumbled.

"The house can fall at any time," he said.

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Meanwhile, dozens of people could be seen sifting through debris before hauling away rebar to recycle and sell.

The civil protection agency issued a statement saying that houses were destroyed in Port-de-Paix, Gros-Morne, Chansolme and Turtle Island.

Damage was also reported at the Saint-Michel church in Plaisance and the police station in Port-de-Paix. Parts of a hospital and an auditorium collapsed in Gros-Morne, where parliamentarian Alcide Audne told The Associated Press that two of the deaths occurred.

Haiti President Jovenel Moise said on his Twitter account Sunday that civil protection brigades were working to clear debris. He also said the government had sent water and food.

20 dead in crash of limo headed to a birthday celebration

By MICHAEL HILL and BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. (AP) — A limousine carrying four sisters, other relatives and friends to a birthday celebration blew through a stop sign and slammed into a parked SUV outside a store in upstate New York, killing all 18 people in the limo and two pedestrians, officials and victims' relatives said Sunday.

The weekend crash was characterized by authorities as the deadliest U.S. transportation accident in nearly a decade. The crash turned a relaxed Saturday afternoon to horror at a rural spot popular with tourists viewing the region's fall foliage. Relatives said the limousine was carrying the sisters and their friends to a 30th birthday celebration for the youngest.

"They were wonderful girls," said their aunt, Barbara Douglas, speaking with reporters Sunday. "They'd do anything for you and they were very close to each other and they loved their family."

Douglas said three of the sisters were with their husbands, and she identified them as Amy and Axel Steenburg, Abigail and Adam Jackson, Mary and Rob Dyson and Allison King.

"They did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere," she said, adding the couples had several children between them who they left at home.

The 2001 Ford Excursion limousine was traveling southwest on Route 30 in Schoharie, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) north of New York City, when it failed to stop at 2 p.m. Saturday at a T-junction with state Route 30A, State Police First Deputy Superintendent Christopher Fiore said at a news conference in Latham, New York.

It went across the road and hit an unoccupied SUV parked at the Apple Barrel Country Store, killing the limousine driver, the 17 passengers, and two people outside the vehicle.

The crash "sounded like an explosion," said Linda Riley, of nearby Schenectady, who was on a shopping trip with her sisters. She had been in another car parked at the store, saw a body on the ground and heard people start screaming.

The store manager, Jessica Kirby, told The New York Times the limo was coming down a hill at "probably over 60 mph." In an email to The Associated Press, she complained that the junction where the crashed occurred is accident-prone.

"We have had 3 tractor trailer type trucks run through the stop through our driveway and into a field behind the business," Kirby wrote. "All of these occurred during business hours and could've killed someone then."

She added that the state Department of Transportation has banned heavy trucks from the intersection but there are constant smaller crashes. "More accidents than I can count."

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

"This is one of the biggest losses of life that we've seen in a long, long time," NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

It's the deadliest transportation accident since February 2009, when Colgan Air Flight 3407 crashed near Buffalo, New York, killing 50 people, Sumwalt said.

And it appears to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident since a bus ferrying nursing home patients away from Hurricane Rita caught fire in Texas 2005, killing 23.

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At the news conference, Fiore didn't comment on the limo's speed, or whether the limo occupants were wearing seat belts. Authorities didn't release the names of the victims or speculate on what caused the limo to run the stop sign. Autopsies were being conducted.

Speaking through tears on the telephone, Valerie Abeling said her 34-year-old niece Erin Vertucci was among the victims, along with Vertucci's newlywed husband, 30-year-old Shane McGowan.

"She was a beautiful, sweet soul; he was too," Abeling said.

The couple was married in June at a "beautiful wedding" in upstate New York, Abeling said. "They had everything going for them."

Vertucci, who grew up in Amsterdam, New York, was an administrative assistant at St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam, Abeling said.

The vehicle was an after-market stretch limousine, according to an official briefed on the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and thus declined further identification.

Safety issues on such vehicles have arisen before, most notably after a wreck on Long Island in July 2015 in which four women on a winery tour were killed. They were in a Lincoln Town Car that had been cut apart and rebuilt in a stretch configuration to accommodate more passengers. The limousine was trying to make a U-turn and was struck by a pickup.

A grand jury found that vehicles converted into stretch limousines often don't have safety measures including side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits. That grand jury called on New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to assemble a task force on limousine safety.

Limousines built in factories are already required to meet stringent safety regulations, but when cars are converted into limos, safety features are sometimes removed, leading to gaps in safety protocols, the grand jury wrote.

On Sunday, New York's senior U.S. Sen., Chuck Schumer, noted he asked NTSB to toughen standards after the 2015 crash. "I commend the NTSB's immediate aid on scene and am very hopeful that we will have concrete answers soon," Schumer said.

Limousine accidents remain rare, according to NHTSA data. They accounted for only one death crash out of 34,439 fatal accidents in 2016, the last year for which data is available.

Cuomo on Sunday released a statement saying, "My heart breaks for the 20 people who lost their lives in this horrific accident on Saturday in Schoharie. I commend the first responders who arrived on the scene and worked through the night to help ... I have directed state agencies to provide every resource necessary to aid in this investigation and determine what led to this tragedy."

___Salsberg reported from Boston. Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo in New York City, John Kekis in Latham, New York, and David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 8, the 281st day of 2018. There are 84 days left in the year. Today is Columbus Day in the United States and Thanksgiving in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 8, 1998, the House triggered an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Bill Clinton in a momentous 258-176 vote; 31 Democrats joined majority Republicans in opening the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings.

On this date:

In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire erupted; fires also broke out in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and in several communities in Michigan.

In 1918, U.S. Army Cpl. Alvin C. York led an attack that killed 25 German soldiers and resulted in the capture of 132 others in the Argonne Forest in France.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was indicted by a grand jury in New Jersey for murder in the death of the

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kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman told a press conference in Tiptonville, Tennessee, that the secret scientific knowledge behind the atomic bomb would be shared only with Britain and Canada.

In 1956, Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in a World Series to date as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5, 2-0.

In 1970, Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was named winner of the Nobel Prize for literature.

In 1981, at the White House, President Reagan greeted former Presidents Carter, Ford and Nixon, who were preparing to travel to Egypt for the funeral of Anwar Sadat.

In 1982, all labor organizations in Poland, including Solidarity, were banned.

In 2001, The United States pounded terrorist targets in Afghanistan from the air for a second night.

In 2002, A federal judge approved President George W. Bush's request to reopen West Coast ports, ending a 10-day labor lockout that was costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$1 to \$2 billion a day.

In 2004, thirty-four people, most of them Israelis, were killed when suicide bombers blew up the Taba Hilton Hotel in Egypt.

In 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake flattened villages on the Pakistan-India border, killing an estimated 86,000 people.

Ten years ago: After a day of bouncing higher and lower, Wall Street plunged again. The Dow Jones industrial average lost another 189 points to close at 9,258 — the sixth straight day of losses for the Dow. German farmer Karl Merk, who received the world's first complete double arm transplant, told reporters that incredulity gave way to joy when he woke from surgery to discover he had arms again. Japan's Osamu Shimomura and Americans Martin Chalfie and Roger Tsien won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Five years ago: The White House said President Barack Obama would nominate Federal Reserve vice chair Janet Yellen to succeed Ben Bernanke as chairman of the nation's central bank. Britain's Peter Higgs and Belgian colleague Francois Englert won the Nobel Prize in physics for helping to explain how matter formed after the Big Bang. Phil Chevron, 56, the guitarist for the boisterous Anglo-Irish band the Pogues, died in Dublin.

One year ago: Harvey Weinstein was fired from The Weinstein Company amid allegations that he was responsible for decades of sexual harassment against actresses and employees. Vice President Mike Pence left the 49ers-Colts game in Indianapolis after about a dozen San Francisco players took a knee during the national anthem; Pence tweeted that he wouldn't "dignify any event that disrespects our soldiers, our Flag or our National Anthem." President Donald Trump and Republican Sen. Bob Corker engaged in an intense round of back-and-forth bashing on social media.

Today's Birthdays: Entertainment reporter Rona Barrett is 82. Actor Paul Hogan is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fred Cash (The Impressions) is 78. Civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson is 77. Comedian Chevy Chase is 75. Author R.L. Stine is 75. Actor Dale Dye is 74. Country singer Susan Raye is 74. TV personality Sarah Purcell is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Airrion Love (The Stylistics) is 69. Actress Sigourney Weaver is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Robert "Kool" Bell (Kool & the Gang) is 68. Producer-director Edward Zwick is 66. Country singer-musician Ricky Lee Phelps is 65. Actor Michael Dudikoff is 64. Comedian Darrell Hammond is 63. Actress Stephanie Zimbalist is 62. Rock musician Mitch Marine is 57. Actress Kim Wayans is 57. Rock singer Steve Perry (Cherry Poppin' Daddies) is 55. Actor Ian Hart is 54. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer CeCe Winans is 54. Rock musician C.J. Ramone (The Ramones) is 53. Actress-producer Karyn Parsons is 52. Singer-producer Teddy Riley is 52. Actress Emily Procter is 50. Actor Dylan Neal is 49. Actor-screenwriter Matt Damon is 48. Actor-comedian Robert Kelly is 48. The mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is 48. Actor Martin Henderson is 44. Actress Kristanna Loken is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Byron Reeder (Mista) is 39. Rock-soul singer-musician Noelle Scaggs (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 39. Actor Nick Cannon is 38. Actor Max Crumm is 33. Singer-songwriter-producer Bruno Mars is 33. Actor Angus T. Jones is 25. Actress Molly Quinn is 25. Actress/singer Bella Thorne is 21.

Thought for Today: "Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves." — Carl Gustav Jung, Swiss psychiatrist (1875-1961).