

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 09, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 092 ~ 1 of 53

“The mind, once stretched  
by a new idea, never  
regains its original  
dimensions.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes



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

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Jay Johnson, Broker

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### Service Notice: Larry Pigors

Memorial services for Larry J. Pigors, 73, of Aberdeen will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 10th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Samuel Bobby will officiate. Inurnment with military honors will follow in St. Paul's Cemetery, Ferney under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held two hours prior.

Larry passed away October 6, 2018 in Canton, South Dakota.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials are preferred.

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### Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Northwestern Middle School Music Festival at Mellette

Oral Interp at Milbank High School

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

### Wednesday, October 10, 2018

PSAT Testing for Sophomores and Juniors at GHS.

### Thursday, October 11, 2018

All-State Chorus Day at South Dakota State University

1:30pm- 8:30pm: Parent/Teacher Conferences

GHS Gymnasium, Groton Area Elementary School  
3:30pm: Cross Country: Varsity Regional at Webster

6:45pm: Senior Scholarship Info Night at GHS Groton Area High School

### Friday, October 12, 2018

Marching Festival in Groton

7:00pm: Football hosts Redfield/Doland at Doney Field, Groton

### Saturday, October 13, 2018

Oral Interp at Florence High School

Soccer: Boys Varsity Championships at Rapid City

9:00am: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Tournament at Redfield.

## WHAT DOES YOUR CAR KNOW ABOUT YOU?

### The Dangers of Syncing Your Phone to your Vehicle

October 9, 2018 — Syncing your phone to your vehicle's infotainment system is a wonderful convenience that allows you to make hands-free calls and texts, stream music, and even browse the web. But in order to do this, the infotainment system may store personal information kept on your phone.

Ask yourself:

Would you leave your Social Security card on a park bench and just walk away?

Would you leave your unlocked smartphone in a crowded airport terminal while you went to a vending machine?

If the answer is no, you should think about your vehicle in the same terms. Your personal information is too valuable to leave it out in the open.

"Drivers need to be prudent about their personal info; this goes beyond identity theft into the realm of personal safety," said James Moore, Car Care Center Manager for AAA. "Every car system is different, and prior to syncing a device to a vehicle motorists need to be aware of the risks."

The stored information is vulnerable to theft. If you trade in your car, sync your phone to a rental car, or hand your keys to a valet, you open yourself up to having your personal information stolen. It is possible for an unauthorized person to gain access to your home address and access your garage door opener.

Currently there are no industry or government standards for vehicle infotainment systems, but here are some general guidelines:

Know the type of information that your infotainment system may be storing:

Home address, work address, and other saved or frequently used GPS locations

Your home phone number

Your call and message logs

Personal contacts

Text messages

Garage opener programming

Know what you can do to protect your information:

Check your phone's permissions to learn what information your car can access. When syncing your phone, if your infotainment system allows you to choose which types of information you share, restrict it to only what's necessary. For instance, if you're only syncing your phone to play music, the car only needs to access your music library, not your personal contacts.

Before handing your keys over to a valet, check to see if your car has a Valet Mode you can set the infotainment system to that will protect your sensitive data.

When renting a car, if you're plugging your phone in to charge it, use the cigarette lighter adapter port (if you have the cable for it) instead of the USB, because that port doesn't access your information. Use your phone's GPS without syncing up with the rental car.

Before trading in your car or returning a rental car, go to the settings menu on the car's infotainment system to find a list of synced devices. When you find your devices, follow the prompts to delete them. If you can't figure out how to do this, check the owner's manual or an online tutorial.

Your personal information is as valuable as it is vulnerable. Treat the information stored in your car—or rental car—with the same discretion you give to your checkbook, cell phone, and birth certificate. For more information on a wide variety of automotive topics visit [THE BRAKEDOWN](#).

## THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

### Look Beyond Premium Costs When Choosing a Medicare Plan

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

Making decisions about Medicare coverage has never been easy. Over the years the task has become more complicated as Congress has moved to privatize the system.

Open enrollment, the time for evaluating your coverage and making changes if you can, opens Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7 this year. This is the first of two columns that address decisions people about to become eligible for Medicare and those already on the program will have to make.

While some 57 million people are still in traditional Medicare, which remains a social insurance program, the number of beneficiaries in privatized Medicare known as Medicare Advantage has grown steadily. Today one-third of all beneficiaries have joined private plans, many of them responding to sales pitches - sometimes questionable ones - from insurance companies that now regard their Medicare Advantage business as a major profit center.

With a Medicare Advantage plan, generous payments from the federal government to private insurers allow them to provide a person's Medicare benefits along with some extras like eyeglasses, limited dental care, and gym memberships. The government payments have been so rich they've also allowed the plans to entice people to join by offering coverage with no monthly premium or a very low one.

So the first basic choice is whether to select traditional Medicare - and buy a supplement to fill in what Medicare doesn't pay - or to select a Medicare Advantage plan.

Increasingly, though, some people may not have a choice. More employers who fund part of their retirees' health insurance are automatically enrolling their workers about to retire in Medicare Advantage plans, and those workers may not understand what they are getting, said Tricia Neuman, a senior vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation: "Employers may see this as an attractive way to shift some of the risk to employees."

A few years ago, I met a retiree of a computer firm in California who had developed Parkinson's disease and was seeking help from the state's insurance counseling program to switch out of the employer's retiree Medicare Advantage plan. He was having trouble seeing the specialists he needed to treat his disease.

Counselors told him he had few options. He could easily drop his Medicare Advantage plan and return to traditional Medicare. But he was no longer eligible to buy a Medigap policy, which he sorely needed.

California, like almost every other state, says insurers offering Medigap policies may scrutinize senior applicants' health status once those seniors have passed their initial eligibility period. That period is generally the first six months after they sign up for Medicare Part B, which pays for physician services and hospital outpatient care. After that, if you have a preexisting condition, you're out of luck.

Only New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine allow seniors to buy a Medigap policy anytime. A few other states allow seniors to buy them under certain conditions - like losing retiree coverage. Seniors living outside those states, though, could be making an irrevocable decision by choosing a Medicare Advantage plan or allowing themselves to be placed in one automatically.

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Yet the allure of no monthly premium or a cheaper premium than a Medigap policy would require draws seniors to Medicare Advantage plans. A cheaper premium or no premium sounds good when you're well, but what happens when you're sick? That's when many seniors find they want to go back to traditional Medicare.

"Premiums are not a good way to choose a plan. It's important to look beyond the premium," Neuman advises.

Still, not much is known about how seniors in Medicare Advantage plans fare when they have a really serious illness. But in late September the Office of the Inspector General reported that insurers offering Medicare Advantage plans may be inappropriately denying services to seniors and called on Medicare to step up its oversight of those plans.

The Office of the Inspector General found that Medicare Advantage plans overturned 75 percent of their denials between 2014 and 2016, raising questions about why seniors were denied in the first place.

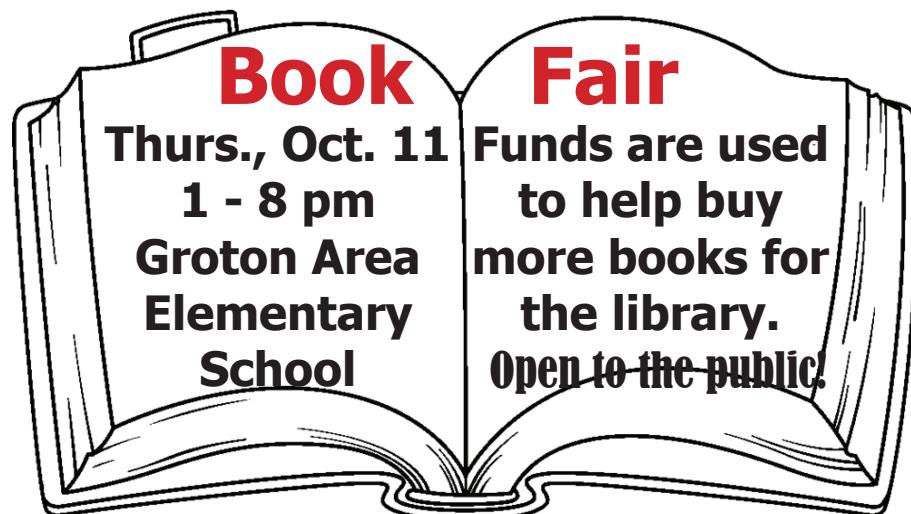
"The high number of overturned denials raises concerns that some Medicare Advantage beneficiaries and providers were initially denied services and payments that should have been provided," the report noted. "This is especially concerning because beneficiaries and providers rarely used the appeals process." Seniors may be denied services but never register any complaints.

As with all insurance, you make a trade-off. Pay less upfront and more when you get sick, or minimize your risk by paying more in premiums to have better coverage when illness strikes. That is the great-unknown seniors must consider.

Traditional Medicare plus a good Medigap can become your best friends if you have a hospitalization for a serious illness as I had when an infection came out of the blue and kept me in the hospital for four months earlier this year. For doctor, hospital, and rehabilitation charges that totaled some \$3.5 million, we paid only about \$2,500 out of pocket.

My next column will address finding a good drug benefit.

What experience have you had with Medigap policies or Medicare Advantage plans? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).



## No Falling Gas Prices This October

October 8, 2018 - The national gas price average increased three-cents on the week to \$2.91. All but seven states are paying more on the week. Today's national gas price average is six-cents more than a month ago and 41-cents more than a year ago.

"The September switch-over to winter-blend gasoline ushered in cheaper gas prices compared to the summer, but that drop was short lived," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Crude oil accounts for half of the retail pump price and crude is selling at some of the highest price points in four years. That means fall and year-end prices are going to be unseasonably expensive."

### South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.919

Yesterday Avg. \$2.925

Week Ago Avg. \$2.901

Month Ago Avg. \$2.829

Year Ago Avg. \$2.490

Crude oil has priced higher amid concerns of global crude supply and geopolitical tensions, including pending sanctions with Iran and Venezuela's unstable economy.

As a result, fall gas prices have not been this expensive since 2014. At that time, motorists were paying on average more than \$3/gal and crude oil was selling well above \$70/bbl. This year, despite stocks increasing in the U.S. by 8 million bbl on the week, crude oil is selling at a good \$25/bbl or more than last year, hitting \$75/bbl last week.

### Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.84), California (\$3.80), Washington (\$3.44), Alaska (\$3.33), Oregon (\$3.29), Nevada (\$3.27), Idaho (\$3.13), Pennsylvania (\$3.08), Washington, D.C. (\$3.05) and Connecticut (\$3.03).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Ohio (+9 cents), Kentucky (+8 cents), Louisiana (+7 cents), California (+7 cents), Indiana (+7 cents), Virginia (+6 cents), New Jersey (+6 cents), Georgia (+6 cents), Washington, D.C. (+6 cents) and Alabama (+5 cents).

### Great Lakes and Central

Gas prices are more expensive for every state in the Great Lakes and Central region except Wisconsin (\$2.89) where prices saw no change on the week. Three states land on this week's biggest changes list: Ohio (+9 cents), Kentucky (+8 cents) and Indiana (+7 cents). Regional refinery maintenance and expensive crude oil prices are two major factors contributing to the increase.

Compared to September, motorists are paying 5-13 cents more to fill-up in the region. Nebraska (+13 cents), Kentucky (+11 cents), Minnesota (+11 cents) and North Dakota (+11 cents) rank among the top 10 largest states in the country with the largest month-over-month increase.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased a penny to settle at \$74.34. Crude prices bounced between gains and losses last week due to concerns around the impact of U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iran, which will go into effect early next month and target Iran's energy sector. The volatility is also attributed to concerns about the possible collapse of Venezuela's economy.

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

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## Infant loss remembrance ceremony at Sanford Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, S.D. — The Women's Center at Sanford Aberdeen will host an infant loss remembrance ceremony and balloon release at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 15.

All who have been touched by infant loss, miscarriage, stillbirth or loss of a child are invited to attend. Parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives and friends are all welcome.

The service begins at 6 p.m. in the conference rooms at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center, with a balloon release in the courtyard to follow. For more information, call Andrea Peterson at 605-626-4556 or visit [sanfordaberdeen.org](http://sanfordaberdeen.org).

### About Sanford Aberdeen

Sanford Aberdeen Clinic serves the health care needs of Aberdeen and the surrounding area with a medical staff consisting of more than 50 providers ranging from family medicine to advanced sub-specialty practices for both children and adults.

The clinic is connected to Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center, a full-service regional hospital that includes adult and pediatric care, emergency/trauma, labor and delivery, critical care, cardiac cath lab, inpatient and outpatient surgical and procedural areas, inpatient and outpatient therapies, laboratory and imaging services.



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CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER



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**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.**

## Church Tax Battle Heads to Trial Tuesday

San Rafael, CA—Can cities tax church buildings, normally exempt from property tax, if they call it a “special tax”? That’s the question that will be argued Tuesday in Marin County Superior Court. Pacific Justice Institute (PJI), representing Valley Baptist Church in San Rafael, will take the church’s case to trial.

In 2010, San Rafael adopted the Paramedic Services Special Tax, which would allow the City to annually tax non-residential structures at a rate of up to 14 cents per square foot. A few years later, the City sent a notice to Valley Baptist to declare that the church owed back taxes of over \$13,000. The church paid the entire amount under protest. PJI seeks a refund of that money and for the Court to label this application of the tax as unconstitutional. If the Court does not grant the church relief, Valley Baptist will pay thousands more in the coming years.

Under the state’s constitution, California, like all other states, exempts churches from all property tax, not just certain types of property tax. By some estimates, clergy and religious institutions have received tax exemptions in one form or another for at least 3,500 years, going back to ancient Egypt. In American tradition, property taxes are not extended to churches and many other non-profit entities in recognition that they alleviate burdens on the government through a wide array of significant and beneficial programs for children, the poor, and many other segments of the community. The City has sought to get around this longstanding restriction by arguing that the “paramedic tax” is different from property tax.

Staff Attorney Ray Hacke has led PJI’s representation of Valley Baptist and will argue the case on Tuesday beginning at 9 a.m. “We’re asking the Court to call this violation what it is—an unconstitutional property tax,” states Hacke. “Evidence shows that the City has no intention of collecting paramedic tax money from the public schools, which are protected by the same tax exemptions as churches under the California Constitution. They are not only ignoring higher law, but picking and choosing who will and will not be subjected to an onerous tax.”

Brad Dacus, Founder and President of PJI, commented, “This case has implications far beyond San Rafael and the Bay Area. If the City succeeds at evading the state constitution, other cities would be given the green light to ignore constitutional protections of churches in the future by playing a re-labeling game.”

## We Need Hospitalists, ER Providers and Outpatient docs



**By Richard P. Holm M.D.**

For the last two years, as I have been wrestling with my own health problems, I have experienced superb care provided by emergency room (ER) docs, hospital docs, and (after I was sent home) outpatient care providers. This included my primary care internist in Brookings, my teleconferencing oncologist from Sioux Falls, and my surgeon from Rochester. I've experienced and benefited from the perspectives of several scopes of practice. There has been a great deal of change from the way we used to do it, and I think we have to embrace the change.

When moving to South Dakota in 1981, I was not surprised to learn that those of us in the "Brookings Clinic" shared call and the responsibility of the ER, took care of our own patients in the hospital and saw people in our outpatient clinic Monday through Friday. This was a lot of work, but it taught all of us to know and appreciate the constant changing face of medicine and gave physicians an "up-close-and-personal" relationship with our patients.

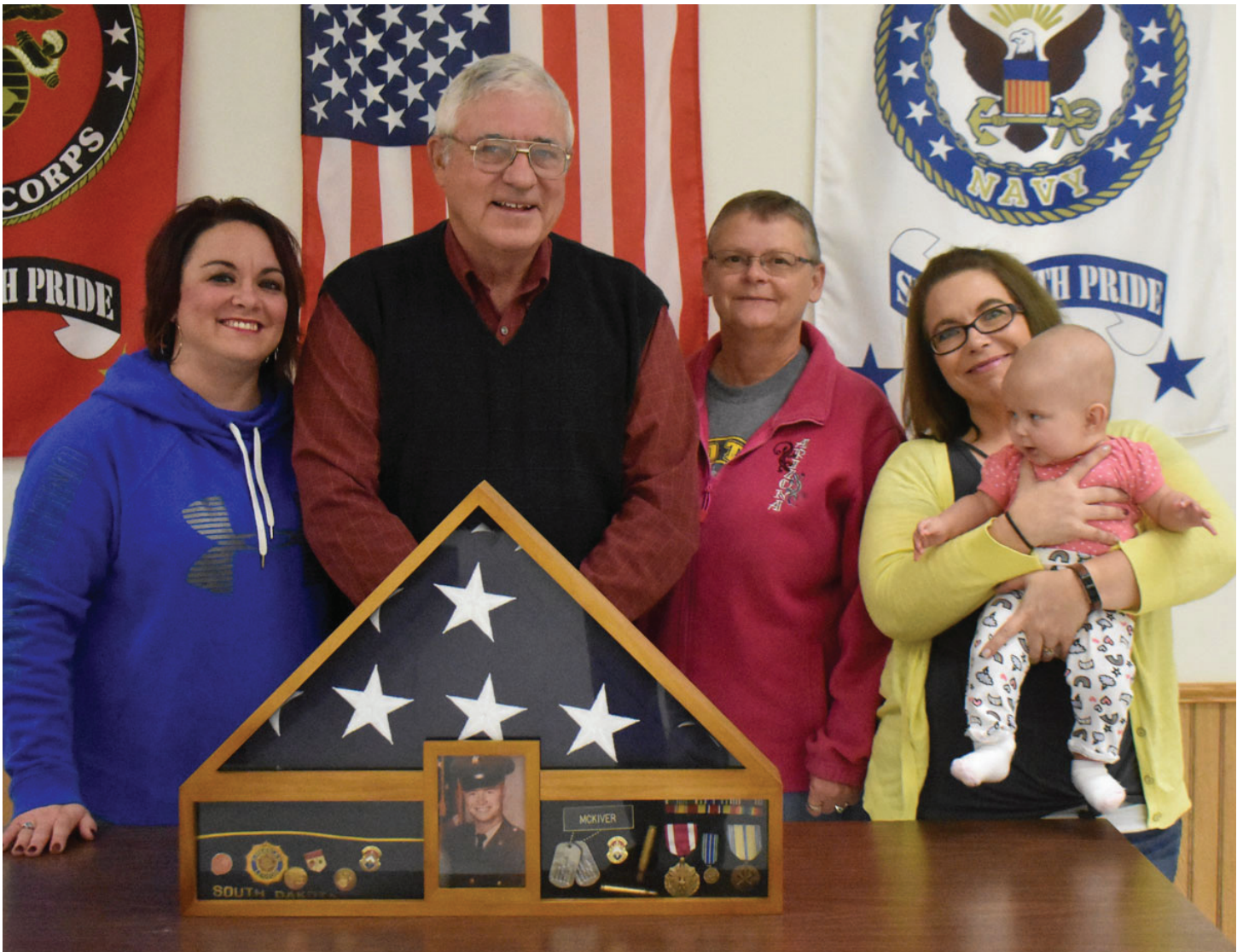
Then, over time, hospitals throughout the state started hiring docs who worked exclusively in the ER. In Brookings, that change made our home lives better, but we lost some of our ER talents in exchange. Next, maybe 15 years ago, we obtained the electronic Intensive care unit (e-ICU) which gives our ICU patients the advantage of the extra eyes of a remote ICU specialist, allowing sicker people to stay in rural hospitals. However, the biggest change in the last few years involves how those patients admitted to hospitals are now being cared for by hospital care specialists (hospitalist).

Presently, when patients go home, there is a hand-off that must occur between the care of the hospitalist and the patient's own primary care provider in the outpatient clinic. It is this hand-off which many believe could be better and is the center of an ongoing debate among doctors. I would advise patient and family to watch-dog this transition to make sure the hospitalist spoke with their outpatient care provider.

Scientific evidence-based studies have shown that the best overall care happens when it starts with an established outpatient primary care relationship. The best (and least expensive) health care would happen in this country if EVERYONE had a designated primary care provider who would hand-off and receive from the hospital team when necessary.

Change is happening, and the benefits far outweigh the risks if only each of us could find and establish a relationship with a primary care provider.





## McKiver presents Shadow Box to Groton Post #39

The Jake McKiver family presented a shadow box with the US Flag and several medals to the Groton American Legion Post #39 Monday evening. The presentation was made during the Post #39 board meeting. Pictured are Katie Kampa, Post Commander Robert Wegner, Deb McKiver and Kristi Peterson holding Jake's great-granddaughter Evalynn. Jake's son, Steven McKiver, is in Mandan and was unable to attend the presentation. Both daughter said that Steven would have loved to be there for the presentation. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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## Today in Weather History

October 9, 1964: Record cold occurred on this day in 1964 across parts of central and northeast South Dakota with temperatures falling into the mid-teens to around 20 degrees at many locations. Sisseton had a record low of 20 degrees; Watertown had a record low of 16 degrees, with Kennebec recording the lowest temperature of 13 degrees on this day in 1964. Although not a record low, Aberdeen fell to 14 degrees.

October 9, 1980: On this day in 1980, hot air streamed across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota with highs mostly in the 80s. Record highs were established at Watertown with 86 degrees and both Wheaton and Sisseton with 87 degrees. One of the warmest temperatures across the area was 89 degrees at Kennebec.

1804: The famous Snow Hurricane moved ashore near Atlantic City on this day. After briefly passing through Connecticut and into Massachusetts, cold air was entrained in the circulation with heavy snow falling between New York to southern Canada. Berkshires Massachusetts and Concord New Hampshire record two feet of snow with this hurricane. This storm produced the first observation of snow from a hurricane, but not the last. Hurricane Ginny of 1963 brought up to 18 inches (400 mm) of snow to portions of Maine.

2001: An unusually strong fall outbreak of tornadoes spawned at least 23 twisters across parts of Nebraska and Oklahoma. Hardest hit was the town of Cordell, OK, but a 22 minute lead time led to an amazingly low casualty count: only nine injuries and no fatalities.

1903 - New York City was deluged with 11.17 inches of rain 24 hours to establish a state record. Severe flooding occurred in the Passaic Valley of New Jersey where more than fifteen inches of rain was reported. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1981 - The temperature at San Juan, Puerto Rico, soared to 98 degrees to establish an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eighteen cities in the southeastern U.S. and the Middle Atlantic Coast Region reported record low temperatures for the date. Asheville NC dipped to 29 degrees, and the record low of 47 degrees at Jacksonville FL marked their fourth of the month. A second surge of cold air brought light snow to the Northern Plains, particularly the Black Hills of South Dakota. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Hartford CT with a reading of 28 degrees. Snow continued in northern New England through the morning hours. Mount Washington NH reported five inches of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Los Angeles CA reported a record high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the Upper Midwest. Thirteen cities in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana reported record low temperatures for the date, including Marquette MI with a reading of 20 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the western U.S. as the San Francisco Giants won the National League pennant. San Jose CA reported a record high of 91 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Chance Rain and Patchy Fog

High: 41 °F

Tonight



Rain and Areas Fog then Rain/Snow and Areas Fog

Low: 34 °F

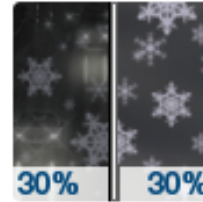
Wednesday



Rain/Snow and Breezy

High: 36 °F

Wednesday Night



Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Snow

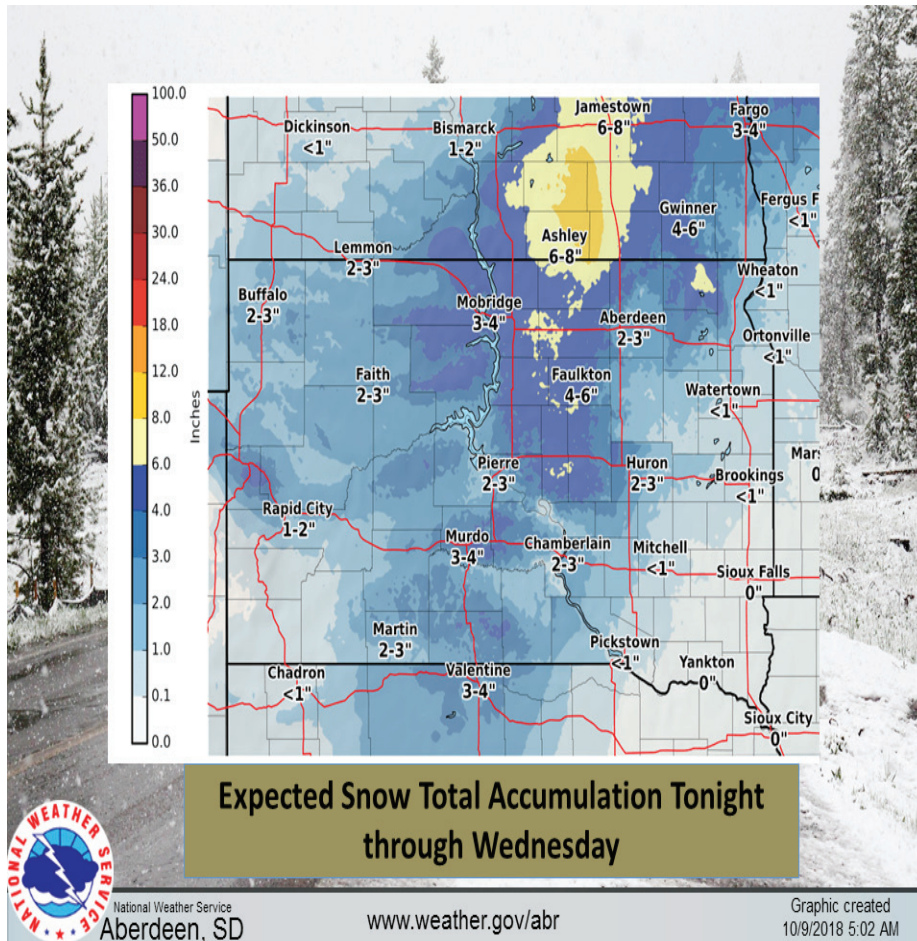
Low: 26 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 38 °F



Precipitation will change over to snow tonight. Greatest snow accumulations are expected west of the James valley tonight, but snow will spread east through the day on Wednesday. There is still some uncertainty regarding how much snow will accumulate on roads versus on grassy surfaces, especially during the daytime hours Wednesday, but expect slippery roads during the Wednesday morning commute.

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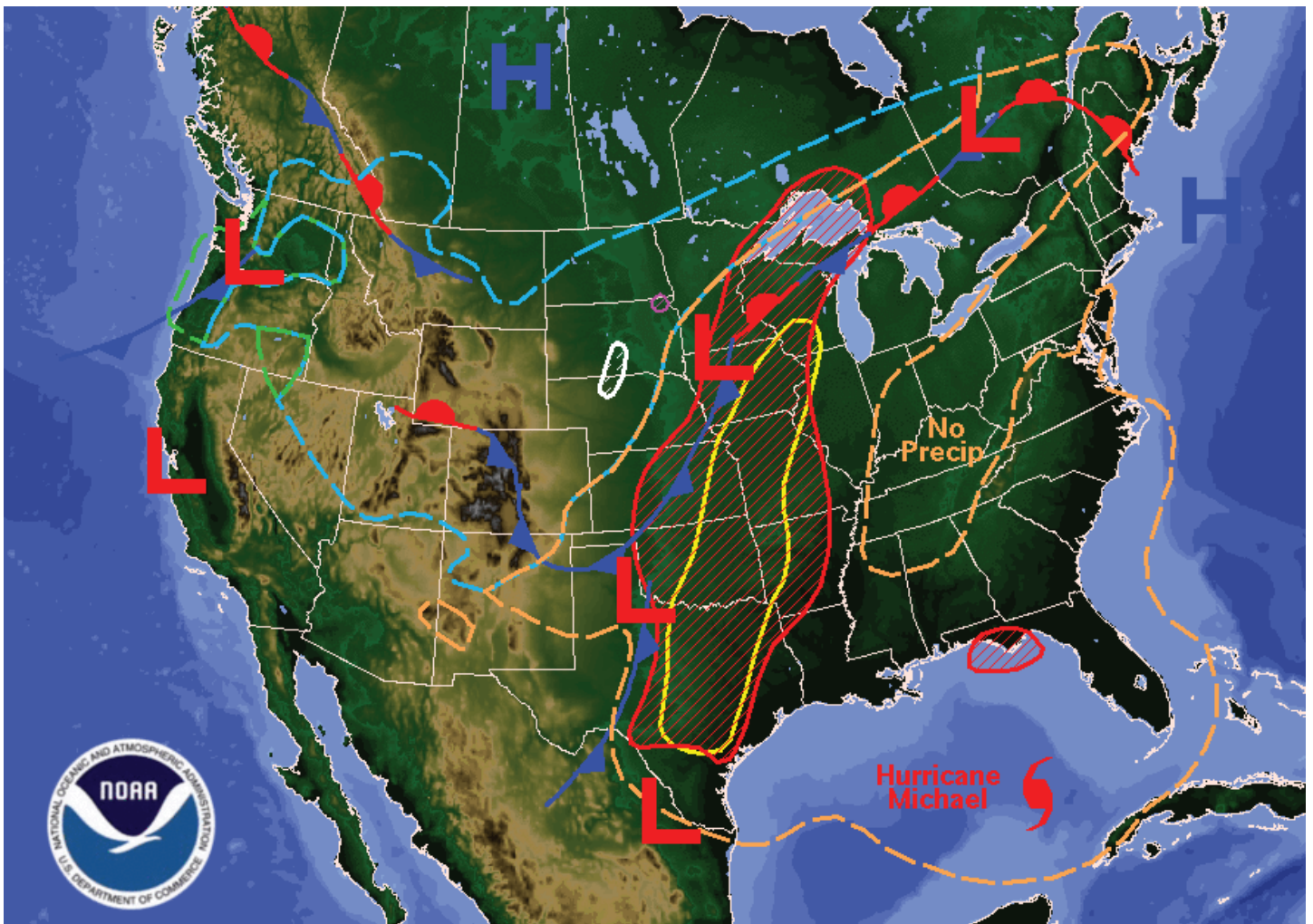
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 42 °F at 2:44 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 39 °F at 10:15 PM**  
**High Gust: 21 mph at 3:27 PM**  
**Precip: 0.62**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 85° in 1938**  
**Record Low: 14° in 1964**  
**Average High: 61°F**  
**Average Low: 36°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.60**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 1.06**  
**Average Precip to date: 19.08**  
**Precip Year to Date: 14.63**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:59 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Oct 09, 2018, issued 4:50 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

### Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### Volleyball

Canistota def. Iroquois, 25-6, 25-11, 25-4

Clark/Willow Lake def. Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-11, 25-17

Ekalaka, Mont. def. Harding County, 25-13, 25-18, 25-21

Elk Point-Jefferson def. South Sioux City, Neb., 25-20, 25-20, 17-25, 25-21

Ipswich def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-18, 25-16, 25-15

Miller def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-15, 25-13, 25-17

Parker def. Beresford, 25-23, 25-20, 25-16

Philip def. Wall, 19-25, 25-18, 25-17, 25-21

#### Triangular

Aberdeen Christian def. Edmunds Central, 25-27, 28-26, 25-18, 25-12

Aberdeen Christian def. Lower Brule, 25-21, 25-9, 25-13

Edmunds Central def. Lower Brule, 25-12, 25-16, 25-10

## Trump to allow year-round sales of high-ethanol gasoline

By **MATTHEW DALY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is moving to allow year-round sales of gasoline with higher blends of ethanol, a boon for Iowa and other farm states that have pushed for greater sales of the corn-based fuel.

President Donald Trump is expected to announce he is lifting a federal ban on summer sales of high-ethanol blends during a trip to Iowa on Tuesday.

The long-expected announcement is something of a reward to Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, who as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman led a contentious but successful fight to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. The veteran Republican lawmaker is the Senate's leading ethanol proponent and sharply criticized the Trump administration's proposed rollback in ethanol volumes earlier this year.

At that time Grassley threatened to call for the resignation of the Environmental Protection Agency's chief, Scott Pruitt, if Pruitt did not work to fulfill the federal ethanol mandate. Pruitt later stepped down amid a host of ethics investigations.

A senior administration official said Monday that the EPA will publish a rule in coming days to allow high-ethanol blends as part of a package of proposed changes to the ethanol mandate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Trump's announcement.

The change would allow year-round sales of gasoline blends with up to 15 percent ethanol. Gasoline typically contains 10 percent ethanol.

The EPA currently bans the high-ethanol blend, called E15, during the summer because of concerns that it contributes to smog on hot days, a claim ethanol industry advocates say is unfounded.

In May, Republican senators, including Grassley, announced a tentative agreement with the White House to allow year-round E15 sales, but the EPA did not propose a formal rule change.

The senior administration official said the proposed rule intends to allow E15 sales next summer. Current regulations prevent retailers in much of the country from offering E15 from June 1 to Sept. 15.

Lifting the summer ban is expected to be coupled with new restrictions on trading biofuel credits that underpin the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, commonly known as the ethanol mandate. The law sets out how much corn-based ethanol and other renewable fuels refiners must blend into gasoline each year.

The Renewable Fuel Standard was intended to address global warming, reduce dependence on foreign

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oil and bolster the rural economy by requiring a steady increase in renewable fuels over time. The mandate has not worked as intended, and production levels of renewable fuels, mostly ethanol, routinely fail to reach minimum thresholds set in law.

The oil industry opposes year-round sales of E15, warning that high-ethanol gasoline can damage car engines and fuel systems. Some car makers have warned against high-ethanol blends, although EPA has approved use of E15 in all light-duty vehicles built since 2001.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers, many from oil-producing states, sent Trump a letter last week opposing expanded sales of high-ethanol gas. The lawmakers called the approach "misguided" and said it would do nothing to protect refinery jobs and "could hurt millions of consumers whose vehicles and equipment are not compatible with higher-ethanol blended gasoline."

The letter was signed by 16 Republicans and four Democrats, including Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, and Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, a key Trump ally. New Jersey Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, whose state includes several refineries, also signed the letter.

A spokeswoman for the Renewable Fuels Association, an ethanol industry trade group, said allowing E15 to be sold year-round would give consumers greater access to clean, low-cost, higher-octane fuel while expanding market access for ethanol producers.

"The ability to sell E15 all year would also bring a significant boost to farmers across our country" and provide a significant economic boost to rural America, said spokeswoman Rachel Gantz.

## Suspect sought in Rapid City crash that killed 1-year-old

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are searching for a suspect in a crash that killed a 1-year-old girl and left two adults with life-threatening injuries.

The crash happened Friday, and authorities said Monday that the girl has since died.

A man who was an initial suspect in the crash is no longer the focus of investigators. That man had cut off his ankle monitoring unit and when he was found by police he was intoxicated, belligerent and had meth on him. Police said he also referenced his involvement in a recent crash.

But authorities determined he was not in the area of the crash.

Police Capt. John Olson says authorities are seeking the driver of a Pontiac Bonneville responsible for the crash. Detectives are pursuing leads and asking anyone who saw the crash to call authorities.

## South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press

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

### Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	(23)	7-0	120	1
2. Sioux Falls Washington	-	5-2	91	3
3. Brandon Valley	-	5-2	66	4
4. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	-	5-2	57	2
5. Watertown	-	5-2	22	5

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Central 4.

### Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Pierre	(23)	6-1	120	1
2. Yankton	-	4-3	92	2



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3. Harrisburg - 4-3 76 3  
4. Mitchell - 3-4 36 4  
5. Brookings - 3-4 31 5  
Others receiving votes: Huron 3, Spearfish 2.

## Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Dakota Valley	(23)	7-0	120	1
2. Madison -	6-1	95	3	
3. Tea Area -	6-1	72	2	
4. West Central -		3-4	27	4
5. Todd County -		6-1	17	RV

Others receiving votes: Dell Rapids 13, Hot Springs 11, St. Thomas More 3, Belle Fourche 1, Lennox 1.

## Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Canton (22)	7-0	119	1	
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan			-	6-1 88 2
3. Mount Vernon-Plankinton			(1)	7-0 72 3
4. SF Christian -		6-1	56	4
5. Winner -	5-2	20	5	

Others receiving votes: Beresford 3, Lead-Deadwood 2.

## Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(23)	8-0	120	1
2. Bon Homme -		6-1	90	2
3. Garretson -		7-0	64	4
4. Arlington-Lake Preston -		7-0	43	5
5. Gregory -	5-2	36	3	

Others receiving votes: Hamlin 6, Webster Area 1.

## Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Britton-Hecla	(20)	7-0	117	1
2. Canistota-Freeman	(3)	7-0	95	2
3. Clark-Willow Lake		-	6-1	72 3
4. Timber Lake -		7-0	38	5
5. Warner -	5-2	30	4	

Others receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson 5, Howard 3.

## Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Sully Buttes	(20)	7-0	117	1
2. Colome (3)	7-0	99	2	
3. Castlewood -		6-1	66	4
4. Wall -	7-0	35	5	
5. Colman-Egan -		6-1	32	3

Others receiving votes: Faulkton Area 8, Harding County 2, Burke 1.

## Activists want alcohol reforms in Nebraska near reservation

WHITECLAY, Neb. (AP) — Activists are calling for more reforms in a tiny Nebraska town even after a state Supreme Court decision closed the community's beer stores that sold millions of cans of beer each year despite an alcohol ban on a nearby Native American reservation.

A group of activists gathered last week to discuss more action needed in and around Whiteclay, which borders South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Despite the town having only nine residents, its four beer stores sold the equivalent of about 3.5 million cans annually.

Whiteclay has been criticized for lacking adequate law enforcement and serving for decades as a remote spot for people to panhandle, loiter, fight and pass out on sidewalks.

Meanwhile, the nearby reservation has faced a litany of alcohol-related problems, such as high rates of alcoholism and fetal-alcohol syndrome.

Winnebago activist Frank LaMere said that if alcohol is still finding its way to the reservation, "we're going to hold people's feet to the fire, and that includes the Nebraska State Patrol, the state of Nebraska, the state of South Dakota and the Oglala Sioux Tribe."

Activists are working with the Nebraska State Patrol to fight possible bootlegging in neighboring cities and to form a cold-case unit to investigate mysterious deaths. They're urging lawmakers to provide more funding to enforcement efforts to curb bootlegging, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

The activists are also planning to create a clinic for the Pine Ridge area to diagnose and treat fetal-alcohol syndrome.

Whiteclay still faces issues but has become safer than it was before the state high court's ruling, said John Maisch, a former alcohol regulator who produced a documentary on Whiteclay and fought to close the town's beer stores.

"To my knowledge, there have been no reports of any assaults or rapes or murders on the streets of Whiteclay," he said. "So, it's unequivocally better in Whiteclay now than it was when the stores were open."

But Maisch said that reform efforts aren't over just because the town's beer stores are closed.

"I think that we have a continuing obligation to address the harm that was caused by the beer stores when they were open," he said.

Information from: Lincoln Journal Star, <http://www.journalstar.com>

## Woman dies after being struck by train in northwest Iowa

ALVORD, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota woman died after being struck by a train in northwest Iowa.

Lyon County authorities say deputies and medics were sent to the accident site a little before 7:30 p.m. Friday in Alvord. The Sheriff's Office says it appeared that 32-year-old Savannah Flynn, of Marion, South Dakota, may have thought a southbound train was on the east set of parallel tracks when she tried to cross the west tracks and was struck.

Flynn died at the scene. Authorities suspect alcohol consumption played a role in her death.

## Teen dies after falling off hood of moving car near Milbank

MILBANK, S.D. (AP) — A teenager died over the weekend after falling off the hood of a moving car in Grant County.

The Highway Patrol says the 16-year-old boy was riding on the hood as the car traveled along a rural road, and his foot got caught on the front bumper and he was dragged beneath the vehicle.

It happened shortly before 10:30 a.m. Sunday, about 5 ½ miles southeast of Milbank. The boy was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he later died.

The patrol says charges are pending against the 16-year-old boy who was driving the car.

Neither boy was immediately identified.

## Judge says state agency discriminated in reservation office

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

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken in late September sided with federal Justice Department attorneys regarding the second part of a two-part lawsuit that argued the state agency violated the federal Civil Rights Act, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The agency's stated goal for an ideal candidate at Pine Ridge includes a college degree, prior case management experience, and "familiarity with the geography and culture of the Pine Ridge Reservation," where 90 percent of the population self-identifies as Native American.

Justice Department attorneys argued that 20 of 24 people hired during the time frame in question were white.

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

Viken rejected the state's argument, saying that "courts permit an examination of discrimination both company-wide, within one or more facilities or within a single department of a business."

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

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

## 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.

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

## Hurricane Michael gains strength, takes aim at north Florida

By JENNIFER KAY and GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Michael intensified over warm Gulf of Mexico waters Tuesday amid fears it would swiftly become a major hurricane before making landfall Wednesday along Florida's Panhandle. Mandatory evacuations were issued as beach dwellers rushed to board up homes just ahead of what could be a devastating hit.

A hurricane hunter plane that bounced into the swirling eye off the western tip of Cuba late Monday found wind speeds rising, supporting forecasts that the storm could reach major hurricane status Tuesday night with winds topping 111 mph (179 kph), capable of causing devastating damage.

Mandatory evacuation orders went into effect Tuesday morning for some 120,000 people in Panama City Beach and across other low-lying parts of the coast as Hurricane Michael approaches.

Parts of Florida's marshy, lightly populated Big Bend area could see up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) of storm surge, while Michael also could dump up to a foot (30 centimeters) of rain over some Panhandle communities as it moves inland, forecasters said.

"People need to start leaving now," Sheriff Tommy Ford told an emergency meeting Monday night. He said people will "not be dragged out of their homes," but anyone who stays behind will be on their own once the storm hits.

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By 5 a.m. Tuesday, Michael's top sustained winds were up to 90 mph (144 kph), centered about 390 miles (627 kilometers) south of Apalachicola and 420 miles (675 kilometers) south of Panama City. Hurricane-force winds extended outward for 35 miles (56 kilometers) from the core.

Forecasters warned that Michael, now a Category 1 hurricane, could ultimately dump a foot (30 centimeters) of rain in western Cuba, triggering flash floods and mudslides in mountain areas.

Disaster agencies in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua reported 13 deaths as roofs collapsed and residents were carried away by swollen rivers. Six people died in Honduras, four in Nicaragua and three in El Salvador. Authorities were also searching for a boy swept away by a river in Guatemala. Most of the rain was blamed on a low-pressure system off the Pacific coast, but Hurricane Michael in the Caribbean could have also contributed.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott called Michael a "monstrous hurricane" with a devastating potential from high winds, storm surge and heavy rains. He declared a state of emergency for 35 Florida counties, from the Panhandle to Tampa Bay, activated hundreds of Florida National Guard members and waived tolls to encourage evacuations.

He also warned caregivers at north Florida hospitals and nursing homes to do all possible to assure the safety of the elderly and infirm. Following Hurricane Irma last year, 14 people died when a South Florida nursing home lost power and air conditioning.

"If you're responsible for a patient, you're responsible for the patient. Take care of them," he said.

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan bluntly advised residents choosing to ride it out that first-responders won't be able to reach them while Michael smashes into the coast.

"If you decide to stay in your home and a tree falls on your house or the storm surge catches you and you're now calling for help, there's no one that can respond to help you," Morgan said at a news conference.

In the small Panhandle city of Apalachicola, Mayor Van Johnson Sr. said the 2,300 residents were frantically preparing for what could be a strike unlike any seen there in decades. Many filled sandbags and boarded up homes and lined up to buy gas and groceries before leaving town.

"We're looking at a significant storm with significant impact, possibly greater than I've seen in my 59 years of life," Johnson said of his city on the shore of Apalachicola Bay, which where about 90 percent of Florida's oysters are harvested.

There will be no shelters open in Wakulla County, the sheriff's office warned on Facebook, because they are rated safe only for hurricanes with top sustained winds below 111 mph (178 kph). With Michael's winds projected to be even stronger, residents were urged to evacuate inland.

"This storm has the potential to be a historic storm, please take heed," the sheriff's office said in the post.

Neighbors in Alabama — the entire state is under an emergency declaration — also were bracing. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said she fears widespread power outages and other problems would follow. Forecasters also warned spinoff tornadoes would also be a threat.

With the storm next entering the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, which has warm water and favorable atmospheric conditions, "there is a real possibility that Michael will strengthen to a major hurricane before landfall," Robbie Berg, a hurricane specialist at the Miami-based storm forecasting hub, wrote in an advisory.

A large mound of sand in Tallahassee was whittled down to a small pile within hours Monday as residents filled sandbags against potential flooding.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, Florida's Democratic nominee for governor, filled sandbags with residents and urged residents of the state capital city to finish up emergency preparations quickly. Local authorities fear power outages and major tree damage from Michael.

"Today it is about life and safety," Gillum said. "There's nothing between us and this storm but warm water' and I think that's what terrifies us about the potential impacts."

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Fineout reported from Tallahassee, Florida.

## Turkey to search Saudi Consulate for missing journalist

By **AYSE WIETING, SUZAN FRASER and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey said Tuesday it will search the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul as part of an investigation into the disappearance of a missing Saudi contributor to The Washington Post, a week after he vanished during a visit there.

The announcement came as the Post published a surveillance image of Jamal Khashoggi walking into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, just before he disappeared. Turkish officials have said they fear the columnist was killed inside the premises.

Saudi Arabia has called the allegations that it killed 59-year-old Khashoggi “baseless” but has offered no evidence over the past seven days to show that he ever left the building.

Tuesday’s statement from the Turkish Foreign Ministry’s spokesman, Hami Aksoy, said Saudi authorities have notified Ankara that they were “open to cooperation” and would allow the consulate building to be searched. The ministry did not say when the premises would be searched.

Officials in Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The surveillance image released by the Post bore a date and time stamp, as well as a Turkish caption bearing Khashoggi’s name and that he was arriving to the consulate. The Post said “a person close to the investigation” shared the image with them, without elaborating.

The door Khashoggi walked in through appeared to be the main entrance of the consulate in Istanbul’s 4th Levent neighborhood, a leafy, upscale district near the city’s financial hub that’s home to several other consulates. However, the consulate has other entrances and exits as well, through which Saudi officials insist he left.

It’s unclear which camera the footage came from, nor who operated it. However, a number of closed-circuit surveillance cameras surround the area. Friends of Khashoggi say Turkish police have taken possession of footage from the neighborhood as part of their investigation.

The Saudis have offered no surveillance footage or evidence to corroborate their claims, nor have Turkish authorities offered proof to show why they believe the columnist was killed there.

“If the story that was told about the murder is true, the Turks must have information and videotape and other documents to back it up,” Fred Hiatt, the Post’s editorial page editor, told The Associated Press. “If the story the Saudis are telling, that he just walked out ... after half an hour, if that’s true, they ought to have facts and documents and evidence and tapes to back that up.”

Hiatt added that the “idea of a government luring one of its own citizens onto its own diplomatic property in a foreign country to murder him for the peaceful expression of his views would be unimaginable.”

Khashoggi had gone to the consulate in Istanbul for paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. He had been living since last year in the United States, in a self-imposed exile, in part due to the rise of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the son of King Salman.

As a contributor to the Post, Khashoggi has written extensively about Saudi Arabia, including criticizing its war in Yemen, its recent diplomatic spat with Canada and its arrest of women’s rights activists after the lifting of a ban on women driving. All those issues have been viewed as being pushed by Prince Mohammed, who similarly has led roundups of activists, businessmen and others in the kingdom.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday urged the Saudis to back up their claim that Khashoggi left the consulate.

“Now when this person enters, whose duty is it to prove that he left or not? It is (the duty) of the consulate officials,” Erdogan said during a visit to Hungary. “Don’t you have cameras and other things? Why don’t you prove it, you have to prove it.”

Turkey summoned the Saudi ambassador on Sunday to request the kingdom’s “full cooperation” in the investigation, a Foreign Ministry official said. The Turkish private NTV television said Ankara asked for permission for its investigators to search the consulate building, but a Foreign Ministry official would not confirm the report. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters about the subject.

Ties between Ankara and Riyadh are at a low point over Turkey's support for Qatar in its year-long dispute with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations. Turkey sent food to Qatar and deployed troops at its military base there.

A Sunni power, Saudi Arabia is also annoyed by Ankara's rapprochement with the kingdom's Shiite archrival, Iran.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia faced increased scrutiny over Khashoggi's disappearance from officials in America, the kingdom's longtime ally. Even President Donald Trump, who took his first overseas trip as U.S. president to the kingdom and whose son-in-law Jared Kushner has close ties to Prince Mohammed, said he had concerns.

"I don't like hearing about it. And hopefully that will sort itself out," Trump said. "Right now, nobody knows anything about it, but there are some pretty bad stories going around. I do not like it."

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey, while Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Walter Ratliff in Washington contributed to this report.

## 10 minutes of terror: A quake, a tsunami and a missing son

By **TODD PITMAN, Associated Press**

PALU, Indonesia (AP) — The Muslim call to prayer had just started echoing across the Indonesian city of Palu when Musrifah's home began to shake violently.

Family photos fell from the walls. Dishes and glasses crashed to the floor. A television smashed onto the white tiles of their living room, prompting Musrifah to scoop her 2-year-old son into her arms.

Seconds later, the concrete sides of their one-story house cracked, then crumbled, filling the air inside with pale clouds of dust.

"Mommy!" the terrified boy cried, his body trembling as his hands pressed into her back.

"Don't worry," she told him. "I'm here."

It was 6:02 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28, and what followed over the next 10 minutes was a catastrophe remarkable even by the standards of disaster-prone Indonesia. The magnitude 7.5 quake triggered not just a tsunami that leveled coastal neighborhoods but also a geological phenomenon known as liquefaction in which the soil began to move like a liquid and swallowed entire neighborhoods into the earth.

The disasters would kill nearly 2,000 people. Thousands more would go missing. Among them was Musrifah's son, Bima Alfarezi.

### THE GROUND ALWAYS TREMBLES

Growing up on the island of Sulawesi, where Palu is located, Musrifah had grown used to earthquakes. Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 260 million people, is located along one of the most seismically active regions of the world, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the Ring of Fire.

Though they could be scary, quakes in Palu rarely caused severe damage.

After a 2004 tsunami killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries, more than half of them in Indonesia, the threat of deadly waves was seared into the national imagination. But Palu had not experienced one in Musrifah's lifetime, and most people believed the city was safe because it sits at the base of a long, relatively narrow bay shadowed on both sides by lush mountains.

"We thought that would protect us" from the violence of the sea, said Musrifah, a nurse who like many Indonesians uses a single name.

And few here, if any, had ever heard of liquefaction.

So when five foreshocks with magnitudes ranging from 4.8 to 6.1 shook the area over the course of several hours that Friday — the first hit at 3 p.m. — Musrifah thought little of it. She had family visiting and dinner was soon to be served.

Then the big quake struck and in the space of barely a minute, several neighborhoods in the city of 380,000 were obliterated. Buildings across town collapsed, including a hotel and a downtown shopping

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mall, where dozens of people were instantly killed and others were trapped and crying out for help. Cell-phone towers buckled, knocking out communication lines, while the control tower at the airport crumbled just as a final plane took flight.

Although much of Palu still stood, chaos was everywhere.

At Musrifah's home, close to the shore of Palu Bay, her family rushed onto an open-air terrace only to find it blocked on all sides by the rubble of collapsed homes.

Still cradling her son, she thought the worst was over.

## DEVASTATING WALLS OF WATER

The shallow quake was 200 times more powerful than the atomic bomb U.S. forces dropped on Hiroshima during World War II, according to Indonesian authorities, and it triggered a massive tsunami that was barreling straight down Palu Bay.

Cellphone video aired on local TV showed the moment the wave's long white crescent, clearly visible in the dark green water, approached the shore.

A man filming the scene from a parking garage yells to those below: "Tsunami! Tsunami! ... Run! Go!"

As people shriek and panicked drivers honk, people can be seen running and climbing over walls to get away from the beach.

When the wave crashes through the shore, it sweeps up maroon-roofed homes, spins them around and smashes them into swamped vehicles. As the houses break apart, swirling in a dark soup of debris, the man begins to weep: "Oh God! Oh God!"

Trapped on her shattered terrace, Musrifah had no idea what was happening. The sea had burst through what was left of her house, and her family was standing in water rising above their knees.

Her only thought was escape. She squeezed her son tighter as he repeated: "I'm scared, Mommy, I'm scared."

Two minutes later, Musrifah heard another roar. Instinctively, she looked up toward the sky, above the rubble that blocked her way, and glimpsed a dark wall of water, its approaching crest towering just above a palm tree.

Before she could blink, the wave smashed down on top of them and everything went dark. The crushing force of the tsunami ripped Bima away and spun Musrifah upside down in the churn.

Under the water, she grabbed hold of a concrete slab and was able to free herself from the wave. By then, she had been carried a kilometer (half a mile) away.

She was alone.

Soaked and shocked, all she could do was call out, her haunting cries piercing the darkness: "Bima! Bima! Where is my Bima?"

The earthquake and tsunami hit the coast with such power that the massive yellow spine of the city's iconic yellow Teluk Palu Bridge snapped, sending it into the river below. Along both sides of Palu Bay, the coastline was littered with smashed vehicles, jagged slabs of debris and downed electricity poles.

All that was left of Musrifah's home was its foundation. Not a single possession remained.

## WHOLE VILLAGES SWALLOWED

Two kilometers (a mile) inland, as the earthquake shook the city's Balaroa neighborhood, residents faced an entirely different calamity, what many later described as a tsunami made of soil.

As the ground cracked apart, mud and dirt moving like liquid erupted through newly carved chasms, bursting through the floors of homes. It was a swirling sea of mud and rolling waves of earth that rose up and swallowed virtually everything in sight.

Multi-story villas were knocked onto their sides with cars still in their garages. The towering golden spires of one of the area's most beautiful mosques crumpled in ruins.

As twilight gave way to blackness, numerous fires broke out and would burn into the night.

The phenomenon known as liquefaction occurs when loose water-filled soil near the surface loses its

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strength and collapses. In places in Palu, parts of entire neighborhoods were carried dozens of meters (yards) to the east.

Balaroa resident Asran had been feeding his goats when the quake hit and he looked out in astonishment to see a chunk of his own neighborhood literally breaking away. When the ground stopped moving after a few minutes, his home — severely cracked but largely intact — sat on the rim of a fresh crater that dropped nearly two stories.

"The mud came from underneath, lifted all the buildings, then sucked them down," said the 56-year-old, who uses a single name. "It seemed as though the ground was on a roller-coaster."

Half an hour drive to the east, in the even harder-hit neighborhood of Petobo, 32-year-old Erli Yati, tried to flee on a motorcycle but only made it a short way because "left, right and back, the soil was raised above me."

"People were screaming, 'Help! Help!' but it was impossible to help them," she said. "They were being dragged away by the mud."

Video circulating on social media that appears to have been shot in Petobo shows a red-roofed home sliding past a bank of palm trees as if it is sailing down a fast-flowing river. In the distance, two palm trees are rapidly sucked straight down into the earth, one after the other, before the house the man filming the scene is straddled upon begins swaying like a boat on the ocean.

After several terrifying minutes, it all finally stopped.

All that is left of much of Petobo now is a jagged plain of mud and soft dirt that, like Balaroa, sits in a newly created crater. Along the edge, a once-flat rice field now zig-zags up the hillside as if was taken apart and replanted on multi-story terraces.

The government says more than 5,000 people may be missing from these two neighborhoods, where more than 3,000 homes were either destroyed or disappeared.

Extracting the bodies is so difficult authorities are debating whether to simply turn the devastated areas into mass graves.

## A GRUELING SEARCH

Back along the shore, Musrifah followed droves of other traumatized survivors along darkened streets to a nearby mosque that quickly turned into a relief camp.

It was there, just after midnight, when Musrifah was reunited with her husband Hakim and their 5-year-old daughter who had been out together before the earthquake.

The couple held each other tight and wept.

Then Hakim asked the question Musrifah didn't want to hear: "Where is our son?"

"I couldn't hold onto him," she said. "I'm so sorry. I couldn't protect him from this."

The next morning, the couple combed the area around their former home, now a flattened field of intertwined lumber, concrete, sheet metal and other rubble.

For five days, they walked through wreckage, calling Bima's name as emergency crews pulled bodies from the debris.

They visited every hospital in the city, asking officials to unzip bag after bag containing the corpses of young children. There were too many, it seemed, to count.

None of them was Bima.

Then, at midday Thursday, something inside Musrifah told her to look in a mangled pile of debris about 200 meters (yards) from where their house once stood.

Almost immediately, she saw a little body pinned face down between a gas canister and a shredded pile of wooden beams. The boy was wearing a dark gray shirt and turquoise pants, just like Bima was the day the tsunami snatched him from her arms.

His bloated body had decomposed so much, though, it was not possible to recognize his face. But when she saw the blue Ultraman sandals on his feet, she was sure. It was him.

An hour later, an emergency crew placed him in a black body bag and zipped it shut. And then Musrifah did something she had dreamed of, and dreaded, for almost a week.



She put her arms around her son, and hugged tight.

Associated Press journalists Niniek Karmini and Andi Jatmiko contributed to this report.

## US foster parents sought custody after mom was deported

By **GARANACE BURKE** and **MARTHA MENDOZA**, Associated Press

As the deportees were led off the plane onto the steamy San Salvador tarmac, an anguished Araceli Ramos Bonilla burst into tears, her face contorted with pain: "They want to steal my daughter!"

It had been 10 weeks since Ramos had last held her 2-year-old, Alexa. Ten weeks since she was arrested crossing the border into Texas and U.S. immigration authorities seized her daughter and told her she would never see the girl again.

What followed — one foster family's initially successful attempt to win full custody of Alexa — reveals what could happen to some of the infants, children and teens taken from their families at the border under a Trump administration policy earlier this year. The "zero-tolerance" crackdown ended in June, but hundreds of children remain in detention, shelters or foster care and U.S. officials say more than 200 are not eligible for reunification or release.

Federal officials insist they are reuniting families and will continue to do so. But an Associated Press investigation drawing on hundreds of court documents, immigration records and interviews in the U.S. and Central America identified holes in the system that allow state court judges to grant custody of migrant children to American families — without notifying their parents.

And today, with hundreds of those mothers and fathers deported thousands of miles away, the risk has grown exponentially.

States usually seal child custody cases, and the federal agencies overseeing the migrant children don't track how often state court judges allow these kids to be given up for adoption. But by providing a child's name and birthdate to the specific district, probate or circuit court involved, the AP found that it's sometimes possible to track these children.

Alexa's case began in November 2015 under the Obama administration, years before Trump's family-separation policy rolled out. Her 15-month separation from her mother exposes the fragile legal standing of children under the care of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and a flawed, piecemeal system that can change the course of a child's life

It took 28 minutes for a judge in a rural courthouse near Lake Michigan to grant Alexa's foster parents, Sherri and Kory Barr, temporary guardianship. Alexa's mother and the little girl's immigration attorney were not even notified about the proceedings.

Based on their experiences with Alexa, the Barrs had become convinced that Alexa's mom was a bad mother and that the little girl would be abused if she were reunited with her.

"My wife and I are sick over this," Kory Barr told the judge, who wished him good luck as he granted the foster parents' request two days after Christmas.

The federal system that had custody of Alexa says the state courts never should have allowed foster parents to get that far, no matter how good their intentions. But each state court system, from New York to California, runs wardship and adoption proceedings differently — and sometimes there are even variations between counties.

In Missouri, an American couple managed to permanently adopt a baby whose Guatemalan mother had been picked up in an immigration raid. That seven-year legal battle terminating the mother's parental rights ended in 2014. In Nebraska, another Guatemalan mother prevailed and got her kids back, but it took five years and over \$1 million in donated legal work.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement and Bethany Christian Services, the agency that placed Alexa in foster care, would not comment on her case. But Bethany said foster parents are informed they're not allowed to adopt migrant children.

Since the 1980s, however, Bethany acknowledged that nine of the 500 migrant children assigned to its

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foster program have been adopted by American families. The children, ages 3 to 18, were adopted after it was determined it wouldn't be safe or possible for them to go back to their families; at least one asked to be adopted by his foster parents, and another was a trafficking victim, Bethany said.

"We never want families to be separated," Bethany CEO Chris Palusky said. "That's what we're about, is bringing families together."

John Sandweg, who headed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Obama administration, said he worries that many more migrant children recently taken from their families may never see them again.

"We have the kids in the U.S. and the parents down in Central America, and now they'll bring all these child welfare agencies into play," Sandweg said. "It's just a recipe for disaster."

In Ramos' darkest days, she would lay on her bed, stare at the ceiling and sob, her hand on her stomach. "This girl, she was here, in my womb," she said. "We are meant to be together. Always."

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Alexa's mother was born in the middle of a bloody civil war in El Salvador that gave way to violent street crime. She was pregnant at 13; that daughter was raised by grandparents.

Starting at age 19, Ramos had four sons with another man over the course of a decade, followed by the arrival of Alexa in 2013. She and her daughter looked alike — both bright-eyed, with dark hair framing their smooth skin.

It was after the children's father found another woman that the abuse began, Ramos said.

"The worst time was when he kicked me so hard it left a bruise and it never went away," she later told an asylum officer. Without makeup, a dent in the center of her forehead is apparent.

Ramos went to a shelter, but said she became increasingly convinced that her former partner would track her down and kill her. She applied for a U.S. visa, she said, but got nowhere.

During a custody battle in their home city of San Miguel, Ramos said her children's father filed false police reports, including one alleging that she encouraged a 17-year-old girl to have sex with an adult. With the help of his own mother, who told authorities her son had made up the accusations, she successfully cleared her name and the cases were dropped.

Yet it was that information — later deemed "outdated and unsubstantiated" by the U.S. Justice Department — that was used in a Michigan court as support for the argument that Alexa should be permanently separated from her mother.

Ramos scraped together \$6,000 to pay a smuggler who could help her escape from the man she said warned her she'd "never be at peace." On the month-long, 1,500-mile pilgrimage, she carried Alexa, a change of clothes, diapers, cookies, juice and water.

The toddler was exhausted by the journey. She slumped for days in a backpack carrier when they walked, and dozed and fidgeted when they traveled by car. When she was sleepy and agitated, she insisted on being cradled in her mother's arms.

After crossing the Rio Grande near Roma, Texas, Ramos and her 2-year-old were arrested by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Their ordeal appeared nearly over, since domestic violence was then considered grounds for asylum.

In El Salvador, Ramos might earn \$5 a day selling clothes or waitressing. In the U.S., she could earn more than that in an hour. Ramos yearned for a new beginning.

It took less than an hour for her hopes to shatter. The border agent screening her records spotted a red flag: She was a criminal, he said, charged in El Salvador. Alexa, crying, was pulled from her mother's arms.

"They told me I would never see her again," Ramos recalled, her eyes filling at the memory.

She said she begged agents to send Alexa to friends in Texas, but said they gave up when two calls went unanswered.

Three days after their separation, court records show, the U.S. government labeled Alexa an "unaccompanied minor," which meant she entered the bureaucracy for migrant youth, typically teens, who arrive in the U.S. alone. The toddler was issued a notice to appear on "a date to be set, at a time to be set, to show why you should not be removed from the United States."

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At 28 months, Alexa was intelligent and engaging, but her vocabulary was limited to Spanish words for colors, some numbers and her favorite foods.

She initially was placed with a Spanish-speaking foster family in San Antonio, Texas, who would call Ramos in the detention center and put Alexa on the phone. "Each time they called, I could not stop crying," Ramos said. "Crying and crying, because I wanted to be with her."

More than two weeks after their separation, ICE agents moved Ramos seven hours away to a rural Louisiana facility surrounded by high fences topped with coiled razor wire. While Alexa and her foster family decorated a Christmas tree, Ramos slept in a pod of bunkbeds.

Two months after her arrival there, Ramos used a translator to speak on the phone with an asylum officer who asked about her family, why she left El Salvador and what her children's father might do if she went back. Alexa was safe, Ramos told the officer, but "I think he will kill me."

The next day, Ramos got word that she had "demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture," according to the asylum supervisor at the Department of Homeland Security.

Her case was assigned to Oakdale Immigration Court in Louisiana, where the three judges had denied 95 percent of all asylum requests that year, compared to the national average of about 50 percent. She said she called the list of pro bono lawyers she was provided, to no avail.

Without a lawyer, her chance at asylum slipped away. Like everyone else around her, she was being deported.

The federal government offers all deported parents the chance to take their children with them, but Ramos said she was ordered to sign a waiver to leave Alexa behind. "The agent put his hand on mine, he held my hand, he forced me to sign," she said.

Immigration agents then handcuffed Ramos and put her on a plane south, soaring over the volcanos and jungles of Central America.

At the time, it was unusual for parents to be deported while their children remained behind in federal foster care, but that occurred again and again this summer. More than 300 parents were deported to Central America without their children this summer, many of whom allege they were coerced into signing paperwork they didn't understand, affecting their rights to reunify with their children. Some parents also contended that U.S. officials told them their children would be given up for adoption.

"And the reality is that for every parent who is not located, there will be a permanent orphaned child, and that is 100 percent the responsibility of the administration," U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw said in August while overseeing a lawsuit to stop family separations.

The AP asked the State Department, as well as embassy officials in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, whether they were working with deported parents to find their children in the U.S.

The State Department deferred to the Department of Homeland Security, which said in a statement: "DHS is not aware of anyone contacting embassy or consulate in a foreign country to be reunified with a child. This is unsurprising given the fact that these parents made a knowing decision to leave their child in a foreign country."

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By April 2016, Alexa was transferred to the care of Bethany Christian Services, one of the nation's largest adoption agencies. As thousands more Central American children crossed the border alone during President Barack Obama's second term, the nonprofit agency's work providing temporary and long-term foster care to unaccompanied children had begun to grow.

Over the years, the Michigan-based agency has received support from local donors that include Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and her family members, who have contributed more than \$3.1 million. One DeVos relative worked for Bethany, and another served on its board.

As the agency started receiving more Central American children, several former Bethany social workers said they were encouraged to recruit new foster families at the agency's traditional base, the Christian Reformed Church, and other local churches.

"All of a sudden when we had these younger kids to place, everyone was really excited about that," said

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Sarah Zuidema, a former Bethany supervisor who grew up within the denomination. "They just felt that if these kids could know Jesus, everything would be OK."

Among the families who stepped up to help were the Barrs — Kory, a physical therapist at a nearby rehabilitation hospital, and his wife, Sherri, who ran a home-organization business. The Barrs had three daughters who were raised in a devout home and already had fostered two Salvadoran sisters in 2013.

Bethany's outreach to local families was part of a rising Christian movement to mobilize support to address what Bethany has called the "global refugee crisis." The movement emphasizes that fostering is aligned with spiritual beliefs, and urges families to approach the role with open hearts.

When Bethany placed Alexa in the Barrs' home, the couple signed a form promising they would not try to seek custody because the Office of Refugee Resettlement was legally responsible for the child. But eight months later, fearing for the girl's safety, that is exactly what they did.

On June 5, 2016, Alexa celebrated her third birthday 3,000 miles away from her mother. The next month, a social worker sent Ramos Facebook photos showing Alexa wearing an American flag tank dress, drawing outside in the Michigan sunlight. In another shot, the girl appears at the Barrs' front door clad in a hot pink ensemble, next to a little red wagon and the family dog.

Around this time, Alexa began meeting with a play therapist and, based on their observations of the girl, the Barrs became deeply suspicious that she had been exposed to abuse before she reached their home. Ramos said they then began limiting her phone contact with her daughter.

The foster program notified the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which opened an investigation but decided the complaint lacked sufficient evidence.

Ramos had cried when social workers approached her about the abuse allegations and insisted that Alexa had always been safe in her care. Because Alexa had spent nearly a third of her life away from her mother, she then grew distressed at the thought that her daughter might have been harmed during their separation.

In August, the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, which has a federal contract to advocate for the best interests of immigrant children navigating the legal system, began investigating whether Alexa could safely be returned to her mother. An evaluator repeatedly visited Ramos and interviewed her family, neighbors and employer.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran diplomatic officials began making periodic visits to Grand Rapids to check on Alexa and advocate for her release.

"The foster family started putting up barrier after barrier to delay her departure," said Patricia Maza-Pittsford, El Salvador's consul general in Chicago.

Finally, the girl's immigration attorney, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. immigration courts all reached agreement: It was past time for Alexa to be back with her mother.

Just days before Christmas 2016, a federal immigration judge ordered her deported. The Barrs were told to pack up Alexa's things and have her ready to go at a moment's notice.

Alexa had learned to speak English, bonded with her foster sisters and captured their hearts. The Barrs were certain she had been abused and remain so to this day. So they hired a lawyer and went to court.

"The Office of Refugee Resettlement is planning to put Alexa on a plane back to her abuser," the couple said in a handwritten application seeking guardianship. Alexa's mother, they wrote, "has not owned her crimes, not been rehabilitated."

During an emergency hearing, Kory Barr pounded on the judge's bench as he begged him to help them keep the girl in Michigan and insisted that child-welfare experts needed more time to investigate.

"Every day they are telling us this could happen very fast," he said. "We have her bags packed."

Judge Mark Feyen confessed he wasn't familiar with the federal agencies involved, saying, "This is kind of hard to pin down exactly who the interested parties are."

Responding to their concerns that Alexa's life could be in danger, Feyen granted the Barrs temporary custody after their attorney, Joshua Mikrut, asserted he had a "loose understanding" that a prior order had been issued suspending Ramos' parental rights, though he didn't know where. The judge asked him to return with proof, and also scheduled a full guardianship hearing for a few weeks later.

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"Every time I get one of these, I learn a little more," the judge said.

Within days, a federal immigration judge granted an emergency motion to stay Alexa's departure.

When state courts gain control of a child being detained by the federal government, that child can become invisible in the system. Alexa and her mother were held in federal custody. But states — not the federal government — typically run child-welfare systems.

Alexa's mom didn't know where to turn, and she didn't have the money to hire an attorney. But she did have Facebook.

In El Salvador, in the days surrounding the Michigan guardianship hearing, she posted a series of increasingly desperate videos — which went viral in Central America and in one case attracted 2.5 million views — speaking directly to the Barrs, to her daughter, to anyone who might help her get Alexa back.

"I'm the girl's mother. You aren't anything to her — you just met her because I traveled with her," she sobbed in one video, her voice breaking as she addressed the Barrs. "Look inside your hearts. . I had her in my belly for nine months. I'm the mother and I'm waiting for her."

In another video, she cried as she displayed dolls modeled on the Disney movie "Frozen" that she bought to give Alexa for Christmas.

Outraged and sympathetic comments poured in and word reached Salvadoran government officials in El Salvador and the Chicago consul's office. Pressure mounted.

A month after the Barrs were granted guardianship of Alexa, the Justice Department weighed in sharply.

"The Barrs obtained their temporary guardianship order in violation of federal law," U.S. prosecutors argued. The Barrs' attorney and the Michigan judge also violated federal law by seeking and granting guardianship, and failed to inform Ramos or Alexa's lawyers about the proceedings, they wrote.

More than a month after they had petitioned to keep Alexa, Sherri and Kory Barr despairingly gave up. The federal government, they wrote the judge, "seems to have us painted into a corner with no way out."

While Mikrut acknowledges the Barrs sometimes were blinded by their passion, he said the federal system should allow challenges to its decisions about the welfare of children in its care.

A few days later, the Barrs sent Alexa home with a huge bag of toys and clothes and a letter from "Papa Foster," as Kory Barr called himself.

"Mi querida Alexa," he began, or "my dear Alexa." He wrote about how she loved her first snow, how they pretended to hold wrestling matches, how he cried at the thought of life without the "baby" of their family.

"I hope this is not the last time we see you, but if it is, I want you to know that I will keep you in my heart forever," he wrote.

Alexa was stunned when she landed in El Salvador in February 2017. Her mother sobbed and clung to her, but the girl barely recognized this woman who called herself Mama. When could she go home to "Mama Foster, Papa Foster" and her three blonde, blue-eyed sisters? And what was this woman saying?

Alexa had lost all her Spanish and spoke English to her mother, using words like "water" and "chicken." Ramos, who spoke almost no English herself, had to point to pictures or call friends to translate.

The Ramos' small brick home, shared with two of Alexa's brothers, is on a quiet dirt street a few blocks from the main drag, a colorful and chaotic mix of shops and services.

Alexa pined for her house in suburban Grand Rapids, its green lawn, her pink room. She rarely giggled and didn't want to play or eat.

Children traumatically separated from their parents are more likely to suffer from emotional problems throughout their lives, according to decades of scientific research. And some more recent studies have found that separation can damage a child's memory.

Ramos showed Alexa baby pictures to help her relearn their relationship.

"I am your mother. I love you so very much," she told her in Spanish, over and over.

Slowly, over time, Alexa began to smile and understand her native tongue. She bonded again with her mother and brothers. Bright and energetic, she now often winds her small arms around her mother's waist

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and neck. When she wants attention, she whispers in her mother's ear.

Ramos still struggles with the pain of the separation, and to support her family on the few dollars a day she earns at a pizzeria. She often posts Facebook photos and videos of herself with her daughter, a visual assertion of their bond.

She fears for parents who were separated from their children under the zero-tolerance policy and has taken to Facebook to urge them to fight to get their kids back.

"If they give our children up for adoption without our permission, that isn't justice," she said during a recent interview in a park. "They are our children, not theirs."

For months after she came home, Alexa asked if she could talk to the Barrs but Ramos wasn't ready. She had a change of heart when she learned Sherri Barr was ill and now lets them talk every so often.

"I do not feel resentment for them because they also love her and because the family is going through a bad time," Ramos said. "We all deserve an opportunity."

The Barrs worry about Alexa's safety in El Salvador, but say they also worry about Ramos' well-being. They now consider their relationship with mother and daughter part of God's plan.

"No one wins in this one," Sherri Barr said.

Burke reported from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mendoza reported from San Miguel, El Salvador.

## 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. AFTER A BITTER NOMINATION PROCESS, DAY 1 ON THE BENCH

Brett Kavanaugh is about to hear his first arguments as a Supreme Court justice, becoming the fifth solidly conservative jurist on the high court.

### 2. PAPER PUBLISHES POSSIBLY LAST IMAGE OF MISSING SAUDI REPORTER

The Washington Post publishes a surveillance image showing its missing Saudi contributor walking into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul a week ago, just before he disappeared.

### 3. HURRICANE MICHAEL ON COURSE FOR NORTH FLORIDA

The Category 1 storm is strengthening over warm tropical waters amid fears it will intensify into a major hurricane before striking Florida's northeast Gulf Coast by midweek.

### 4. 10 MINUTES OF TERROR

A quake, a tsunami and a family's son gone missing in a catastrophe that was shocking even by the standards of disaster-prone Indonesia.

### 5. RED FLAGS SEEN IN DEADLY LIMO CRASH

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo says the driver didn't have the necessary commercial license, and the vehicle failed a state inspection that examined such things as the chassis, suspension and brakes.

### 6. TRUMP BORDER POLICY'S UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE

An AP investigation finds that gaps in the U.S. child welfare system can lead to deported parents losing their kids to adoption.

### 7. WHERE MISSILE FRAGMENTS BECOME DAGGERS

Yemeni artisans take the remnants of weapons fired by the Saudi-led coalition to make their ornamental knives.

### 8. GOOGLE READY TO SHOWCASE NEW PRODUCTS

The tech giant is expected to introduce two new Pixel phones along with other devices designed to increase usage of its advertising-driven services.

### 9. EAGLES ICON FETED

Joe Walsh and his wife were honored by Facing Addiction with NCADD for their support of the recovery movement and their efforts to raise awareness about drug and alcohol abuse.

### 10. WHO'S THE UNDISPUTED PASSING YARDS KING

Saints quarterback Drew Brees eclipses Peyton Manning's previous career mark of 71,940 yards as New Orleans thumped Washington 43-19.

## Kavanaugh to hear first arguments as Supreme Court justice

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Supreme Court with a new conservative majority takes the bench as Brett Kavanaugh, narrowly confirmed after a bitter Senate battle, joins his new colleagues to hear his first arguments as a justice.

Kavanaugh will emerge Tuesday morning from behind the courtroom's red velvet curtains and take his seat alongside his eight colleagues. It will be a moment that conservatives have dreamed of for decades, with five solidly conservative justices on the bench.

Kavanaugh's predecessor, Justice Anthony Kennedy, who retired in June, was a more moderate conservative and sometimes sided with the court's four liberal justices. Kavanaugh, in contrast, is expected to be a more decidedly conservative vote, tilting the court right for decades and leaving Chief Justice John Roberts as the justice closest to the ideological middle.

With justices seated by seniority, President Donald Trump's two appointees will flank the Supreme Court bench, Justice Neil Gorsuch at one end and Kavanaugh at the other. Court watchers will be looking to see whether the new justice asks questions at arguments and, if so, what he asks. There will also be those looking for any lingering signs of Kavanaugh's heated, partisan confirmation fight. But the justices, who often highlight their efforts to work together as a collegial body, are likely to focus on the cases before them.

Republicans had hoped to confirm Kavanaugh in time for him to join the court on Oct. 1, the start of the new term. Instead, the former D.C. Circuit judge missed the first week of arguments as the Senate considered an allegation that he had sexually assaulted a woman in high school, an allegation he adamantly denied.

Kavanaugh was confirmed 50-48 Saturday, the closest vote to confirm a justice since 1881, and has had a busy three days since then. On Saturday evening, Kavanaugh took his oaths of office in a private ceremony at the Supreme Court while protesters chanted outside the court building.

And on Monday evening he was the guest of honor at a ceremonial swearing-in at the White House. While Trump apologized on behalf of the nation for "the terrible pain and suffering" Kavanaugh and his family had suffered and declared him "proven innocent," the new justice assured Americans that he would be fair and was taking the job with "no bitterness."

Kavanaugh has also begun moving in to his new office at the Supreme Court, taking over space previously used by Justice Samuel Alito, who moved into offices vacated by Kennedy. Kavanaugh has also hired four clerks, all women, the first time that has happened. He has also been preparing for arguments this week.

On Tuesday, the court is scheduled to hear two hours of arguments in cases involving long sentences for repeat offenders. On Wednesday, the only other day of arguments this week, the court will hear another two hours of arguments. One of the two cases the court is hearing Wednesday involves the detention of immigrants, an issue on which Kavanaugh's vote could be key.

Though he missed the court's first week, none of the six cases argued dealt with blockbuster issues. They included a case about a potential habitat for an endangered frog and another about an Alabama death row inmate whose lawyers argue he shouldn't be executed because dementia has left him unable to remember his crime. Kavanaugh won't vote in those cases, but if the court is split 4-4 it could decide to have those cases re-argued so Kavanaugh can break the tie.

As the newest member of the court Kavanaugh will take on a few special jobs. He will take notes for the justices when they meet for private conferences. He'll also be the one to answer the door at those meetings if someone knocks to deliver something such as a justice's coffee or forgotten glasses.

He'll also sit on the committee that oversees the court's cafeteria, which is open to the public. Chief Justice John Roberts has previously said that assignment is a way of bringing a new justice "back down to Earth after the excitement of confirmation and appointment."

## Hundreds attend vigil to honor 20 victims of limousine crash

By MICHAEL HILL and SABRINA CASERTA, Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. (AP) — A ceremony for the victims of the limousine crash that killed 20 people ended with participants lifting candles above their heads to signal unity and perseverance.

Over 1,000 people jammed a riverside park in Amsterdam, New York, for Monday night's vigil as victims' relatives tried to come to grips with the tragedy that happened as a group of friends and family were on their way to a 30th birthday party.

The supersized limo ran a stop sign and hit a parked SUV on Saturday in Schoharie (skoh-HAYR'-ee).

Authorities have yet to say how fast the limo was going or determine why it failed to stop and sped off the road at the bottom of a long hill.

The 19-seat vehicle had at least some seat belts, but it was unclear whether anyone was wearing them, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

The crash about 170 miles north of New York City came three years after another deadly stretch-limo wreck in New York state spurred calls for Gov. Andrew Cuomo to examine such vehicles' safety. There is no evidence the state took any steps to do so.

Some relatives of the dead shed tears as local officials expressed solidarity with them.

U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, a Democrat from Amsterdam, told a crowd that spilled onto a bridge spanning the Mohawk River, "We are crushed with you, we are crushed for you."

Some relatives shed tears as a woman sang "Amazing Grace." The ceremony ended with everyone lifting their candles above their heads in unity.

The wreck killed two pedestrians and all 18 people in the limousine, including four sisters who were headed with friends and relatives to a brewery for a party for one of the sisters.

The four sisters' aunt, Barbara Douglas, said they had felt "they did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere."

"My heart is sunken. It's in a place where I've never felt this type of pain before," said Karina Halse, who lost her 26-year-old sister Amanda.

Authorities haven't released the driver's name, but friends and relatives identified him on social media as Scott Lisinicchia.

"The investigation is STILL going on and the facts are not verified," his niece, Courtney Lisinicchia, wrote on Facebook.

The state moved to shut down the owner, Prestige Limousine, as state and federal authorities investigated the cause of Saturday's wreck in Schoharie. The company said it was taking its cars off the road while conducting its own probe into the crash.

Investigators plan to examine the mangled limo's data recorders and mechanical systems as well as the road, which has a history as a danger spot. They are also looking into the driver's record and qualifications and conducting an autopsy to see if drugs or alcohol were factors.

But officials already saw some red flags, Cuomo said: The driver didn't have the necessary commercial license, and the vehicle failed a state inspection that examined such things as the chassis, suspension and brakes.

"In my opinion, the owner of this company had no business putting a failed vehicle on the road," the governor said while attending a Columbus Day Parade in New York City. "Prestige has a lot of questions to answer."

He also said the limo — built by cutting apart a heavy-duty SUV and lengthening it — had been created without federal certification, though NTSB officials said they hadn't yet determined whether the vehicle met federal standards.

Prestige Limousine issued a statement Monday expressing condolences to victims' families and saying it was conducting "a detailed internal investigation" while also meeting with state and federal authorities.

The Gansevoort, New York-based company said it pulled its cars from the road voluntarily. But state police say they seized four Prestige cars, including the one that crashed.



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Federal records show the company has undergone five inspections in the past two years and had four vehicles pulled from service.

In inspections Sept. 4, the company's limos were cited for defective brakes, lack of proper emergency exits, flat or balding tires, defective windshield wipers, and other maintenance problems.

Federal transportation records show Prestige is owned by Shahed Hussain, who worked as an informant for the FBI after the Sept. 11 attacks, infiltrating Muslim groups by posing as a terrorist sympathizer in at least three investigations. In one case, he helped convict men accused of plotting to bomb New York synagogues.

His role at the FBI was assailed by civil liberties groups, who accused him of helping the FBI entrap people. Asked Monday about Hussain, the FBI wouldn't comment.

The limousine, built from a 2001 Ford Excursion, ran a stop sign at a T-shaped intersection at the bottom of a hill and slammed into an unoccupied SUV.

Investigators have yet to determine whether the driver tried to brake. The crash left no visible skid marks, but that might be due to misty weather or anti-lock brakes, Sumwalt said.

The crash appeared to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident in the U.S. since a bus full of Texas nursing home patients fleeing 2005's Hurricane Rita caught fire, killing 23. Saturday's wreck was the nation's deadliest transportation accident of any kind since a 2009 plane crash near Buffalo, New York, killed 50 people.

Factory-built limousines must meet stringent safety regulations. But luxury cars converted to limos, like the one in Saturday's crash, often lack such safety components as side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits.

Few federal regulations govern limos modified after leaving the factory. Regulations often vary by state. "It certainly is the Wild West out there when it comes to limousines and stretch vehicles," said National Safety Council CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman.

Ford said in a statement that it has never made its own stretch version of the Excursion. It did certify outside companies to modify them to Ford specifications for up to 14 seats during the 2001 model year, but it wasn't clear who modified the SUV that crashed Saturday.

After a stretch limousine was T-boned on New York's Long Island in 2015, killing four women, a special grand jury implored Cuomo to examine the safety of such vehicles.

It appears the task force was never formed, and nearly three years after the grand jury's recommendation, it was unclear what, if anything, Cuomo's administration did in response.

"I don't know if there was a task force set up," the governor said Monday, while suggesting that Saturday's crash didn't necessarily point to a need for more regulation.

"Sometimes, people just don't follow the law" that already exists, he said. "And that may very well be what happened here."

The New York grand jury report recommended state lawmakers require stretch limousines that seat nine or more passengers to meet the stricter inspection regulations that apply to buses.

Lawmakers, including Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, asked federal officials several years ago to raise safety standards for stretch limos modified after manufacture.

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Caserta reported from New York. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Jennifer Peltz and Jim Mustian in New York; Mary Esch in Latham, N.Y.; David Klepper in Albany, N.Y.; and AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit.

## Record-breaking night brings out Brees' emotional side

By **BRETT MARTEL, AP Sports Writer**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees used one hand to hold his helmet and the other to wipe away tears. It was the first time the 39-year-old Brees had ever walked off of a football field knowing that he had thrown for more yards than any quarterback in the history of the NFL. And the Saints quarterback couldn't help but be overwhelmed by thoughts of all the work and people who helped him get to such an esteemed

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point.

"I broke down and cried a bunch of times this week, just thinking about so many things," Brees said after his latest NFL-record-setting performance in a 43-19 victory over the Washington Redskins on Monday night. "I think about all the people who have influenced my life in such a powerful way, and there were so many of those people that were here tonight, that witnessed this, so many people that I spoke to this week that are a part of this, and so many other still that I have yet to have a chance to reach out to.

"Two of the people who had biggest influence on my football career certainly and on who I am, growing up, are my mom and my grandfather and they're in heaven. They're no longer here, but I know that they would be proud," Brees added.

The 6-foot Brees was lightly recruited out of high school in Austin, Texas, considered undersized for a quarterback at the major college and pro levels. He led Purdue to the Rose Bowl and was a Heisman Trophy finalist, but no NFL team picked him in the first round of the 2001 draft. Brees' first team, the Chargers, discarded him after a shoulder injury in 2005, setting the stage for his arrival in New Orleans and his emergence as one of the most prolific quarterbacks ever.

His latest outing would have been memorable even if no records were in play. He completed 26 of 29 passes for 363 yards and three TDs. His second touchdown was a 62-yarder to rookie Tre'Quan Smith that put Brees ahead of Peyton Manning's previous all-time mark of 71,940 yards.

Moments after that touchdown, the NFL halted the game for about three minutes so the ball could be handed over to Pro Football Hall of Fame officials. Brees was able to embrace his family and coach Sean Payton on the sideline.

"It's a beautiful thing, a beautiful experience for all of us," said Saint left tackle Terron Armstead, the first teammate to hug Brees after the record-setting completion to Smith. "The energy in the stadium at that time, I thought he was going to cry, really. He's a tough dude, he probably didn't want to show that side. But it was an amazing experience."

Some other things to know about the Saints' victory over Washington:

## RISING ROOKIE

Smith is a third-round draft choice out of Central Florida who, in his fifth NFL game, became immortalized for his role in Brees' record-breaking night.

"Now I get to go down in history with somebody famous in (future) Hall of Famer Drew Brees," Smith said. "I'm glad it happened to me."

And Brees is glad to see Smith emerging into the player he showed signs of becoming in training camp. Smith finished with three catches for 111 yards and two touchdowns.

"This kid could really help us, could really be a big part of our offense," Brees said.

## NON-STAR TREATMENT

Cornerback Josh Norman is supposed to be the centerpiece for a Redskins defense that had allowed the fewest passing yards in the NFL entering the game against the Saints, but he struggled just as much as the rest of the secondary as Drew Brees threw for 250 yards in the first half.

Coach Jay Gruden even benched Norman for the first series of the second half, but the move backfired when his replacement, Greg Stroman, was beaten for an easy touchdown by Smith. Norman returned on the next series.

## INGRAM'S BACK

Mark Ingram wasted little time putting his imprint on his first game back from a four-game suspension for use of a banned substance. He scored two of the Saints first three touchdowns on short runs and finished with 53 yards rushing and 20 receiving.

"Just an exciting moment just being back with my teammates," Ingram said. "Just a lot of pent-up emotion, being away from my guys, being able to come back out here. I don't take anything about this game for granted."

## PETERING OUT

Veteran running back Adrian Peterson was looking resurgent coming into a game against the team that

traded him away early last season.

He left the Superdome with a shoulder strain and was scheduled for an MRI.

Before his injury, Peterson gained 36 yards on two catches out of the backfield, but had only 6 yards rushing on four carries.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Carbon tax gets renewed attention but still faces resistance

By DAVID KOENIG, Associated Press

Advocates of taxing fossil fuels believe their position is stronger now because of an alarming new report on climate change and a Nobel Prize awarded to by two American economists, but neither development is likely to break down political resistance to a carbon tax.

Previous alarms about global warming met with resistance from Congress and the White House. President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris agreement on climate change last year.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a panel of scientists brought together by the United Nations, warned in a report Monday that droughts, wildfires, coral reef destruction and other climate and environmental disasters could grow worse as soon as 2040, even with a smaller increase in temperatures than used to set the Paris targets.

A few hours later, the Nobel Prize in economics went to two Americans, including William Nordhaus of Yale University, who argues that carbon taxes would be the best way to address problems created by greenhouse-gas emissions.

A carbon tax is a charge imposed on the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas, which produce carbon dioxide. The tax is designed to make users of those fuels pay for the environmental damage they cause. The ultimate goal of some tax backers is to price fossil fuels out of the market and replace them with sources of energy that produce little or no heat-trapping emissions.

Coal and oil and gas companies could pass the tax cost along to consumers, which would presumably give a price advantage to energy that is not taxed. That, advocates say, would help renewables such as solar and wind grow more quickly from their current single-digit share of the U.S. electricity market.

There is, of course, stark disagreement over the economic effect of a carbon tax.

Researchers at Columbia University estimate that a tax of \$50 per ton of carbon dioxide emissions would increase average U.S. consumer electricity bills 22 percent by 2030, with amounts varying by region. A Tufts University authority estimates that it would add 45 cents a gallon to the price of gasoline. Both think the impact can be mitigated by distributing the money raised through taxes to households, and that many low- and medium-income families would come out ahead.

Opponents argue that a carbon tax would kill manufacturing jobs and hurt family income.

A 2014 report by the Heritage Foundation said that a tax of \$37 a ton would cut economic output more than \$2.5 trillion, or \$21,000 per family, by 2030. This year, two dozen conservative groups endorsed an estimate that a carbon tax would cost more than 500,000 manufacturing jobs by 2030.

Noah Kaufman, an energy-policy researcher at Columbia and a proponent of carbon taxes, said the terrifying prognosis in Monday's report should highlight the central role of a carbon tax in addressing climate change. But, he acknowledged, such warnings are not new, and political opposition to a tax remains strong.

"There are really high political barriers that continue to stand in our way," he said. "By far the biggest obstacle in the United States right now is the leadership of the Republican party, which is dead-set against any strong climate-change policy."

In July, the GOP-controlled House voted for a resolution rejecting carbon taxes as detrimental to the U.S. economy. Almost all Republicans, joined by a few Democrats, voted for the symbolic measure.

Prominent opponents of the carbon tax also believe that urgency over addressing climate change is exaggerated. They point out that U.S. carbon emissions have fallen in recent years as abundant natural gas has risen to rival coal in electric generation. Meanwhile, China's emissions grow rapidly, making it the

world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

The scientists who prepared the UN-backed report "are trying to convince us all that there is an imminent crisis when in fact there is a potential long-term problem," said Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who worked on the Trump transition. Carbon taxes, he added, "are political poison once people figure out how much their energy bills are going to go up."

There are signs that the political ground could shift.

— A group of former Republican officials and big corporations plan to lobby for a tax of \$40 per ton of carbon dioxide produced and to give the money to U.S. taxpayers. Oil giants Exxon Mobil, BP and Royal Dutch Shell support the plan, which also would protect them from lawsuits blaming them for climate change.

— A Republican congressman, Carlos Curbelo of Florida, bucked party leadership this summer by proposing a carbon tax.

— Voters in Washington state will decide next month whether to adopt a carbon fee.

"I am optimistic that the (UN-backed) report will make a difference, but I just think we're going to have to get a little distance from where we are right now in the politics," said Gilbert Metcalf, an economist at Tufts University and author of an upcoming book advocating a carbon tax. "It's going to take a longer time, a few years."

Nordhaus, the freshly minted Nobel winner, was also looking beyond the current political leadership in Washington, D.C. He said that outside the United States there is wide acceptance of the science and economics of climate change.

"This administration won't last forever," Nordhaus said at a news conference. "All I can do is hope that we will get through this without too much damage."

Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform, another group that lobbied against carbon taxes, said Nordhaus ignored science and history in advocating a carbon tax.

"He should look at the history of the last 20 years and see that the United States has been reducing carbon emissions without a carbon tax," Norquist said.

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Susan Haigh in New Haven, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

## Venezuelan opposition denies jailed politician took own life

By **SCOTT SMITH** and **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The disputed jailhouse death of an opposition councilman arrested on allegations of plotting to kill President Nicolas Maduro has triggered alarm among many Venezuelans and swift condemnation from several foreign dignitaries.

Venezuela's government said on Monday that Fernando Alban took his own life by leaping from the 10th floor of the state intelligence agency's headquarters. But opposition leaders denied the official version and a few dozen of Alban's supporters gathered outside the building yelling "Maduro killer!" contending that he had been murdered.

"There's no doubt this was an assassination," opposition leader Julio Borges said in a video from exile in neighboring Colombia, without providing evidence of his claim. "The only thing left for this government is torture, violence and destruction."

Alban, 56, was taken into custody Friday at Caracas' international airport upon arriving from New York, according to his lawyer. He was in the U.S. accompanying other members of his First Justice party for meetings with foreign dignitaries attending the United Nations General Assembly.

While Venezuelans last year watched as dozens of youths were killed in violent street battles with security forces, the death of activists or government opponents while in state custody is a fate more associated with the far deadlier, right-wing dictatorships that dominated much of South America in the 1970s.

The opposition claims that more than 100 Venezuelans opposed to Maduro are being held as "political prisoners," some for more than four years, with little access to the outside world and their legal rights routinely trampled on. The government denies they are political prisoners.

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Some compared the incident with Alban to another suspicious death from Venezuela's own dark past: the passing in prison in 1976 of socialist militant Jorge Rodriguez, the father of current Vice President Delcy Rodriguez and her brother, also named Jorge Rodriguez, a top aide to Maduro. Also considered a suicide in its day, Rodriguez is now deemed to have died from injuries suffered from torture.

Borges, who led the delegation to the U.N., said Alban's wife told him that her husband had been under intense pressure to testify against him in the ongoing probe into the alleged plot in early August to kill Maduro using two drones loaded with explosives.

More than two dozen people have been jailed on suspicion of involvement in the plot, which Maduro claims was orchestrated by Borges with the support of Colombia and the U.S.

Chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab ordered an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Alban's death, which he classified as a suicide.

In brief comments on state TV he said Alban was in the waiting room of the Caracas headquarters of Venezuela's intelligence police waiting to be transferred to a courthouse when he asked to use the bathroom. He then threw himself from the 10th floor of the building,

Republican Sen. Bob Corker, the outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is in Venezuela for meetings with Maduro and his opponents, called Alban's death while in the government's custody "disturbing."

"The government has a responsibility to ensure all understand how that could have happened," he said in a message posted on Twitter.

Also expressing concern was Venezuela's Catholic bishops' conference and Luis Almagro, the head of the Organization of American States and a sharp critic of Venezuela's socialist government, who called Alban's death "the direct responsibility of a torturing and homicidal regime."

"This criminal dictatorship should leave Venezuela now," he tweeted.

As night fell on Caracas, and rumors swelled on social media that the government was planning to cremate the body to hide any signs of torture, family members gathered outside the morgue to demand Alban's body be handed over.

Borges, who said Alban was a personal friend, said the councilman who represented a district in the Caracas area was a family man and devout Catholic who would never kill himself.

"Alban is a very Christian person, with deep spiritual convictions that go contrary to a decision to take one's life," said lawyer Joel Garcia, who has represented Alban.

He said he met with Alban the night before in the tribunal and his client had seemed calm. Garcia said authorities cannot determine that a death is a suicide without an investigation and he would ask to be present at the autopsy.

## Push to toughen foreign lobbying law stalls amid opposition

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A push to give the Justice Department more enforcement authority over the lucrative and at times shadowy world of foreign lobbying is stalled amid opposition from pro-business groups, nonprofits and privacy advocates.

Organizations that range from the influential U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers have raised objections to legislation that would sharpen the teeth of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The law, enacted 80 years ago to expose Nazi propaganda, requires people to disclose when they lobby in the U.S. on behalf of foreign governments or political entities.

While there's bipartisan support for cracking down on unregistered foreign agents, several of the changes proposed in congressional bills could backfire by sweeping in a host of unintended targets, according to critics. That pushback has effectively kept the legislation from advancing as lobbying groups press for revisions.

One of the most contentious provisions would eliminate a popular loophole that permits lobbyists representing foreign commercial interests to be exempt from the law, known as FARA. That shift, one busi-

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ness group has warned, could extend the rigorous disclosure requirements to U.S. subsidiaries of global companies, stigmatizing them as foreign agents even though they employ thousands of Americans.

Congressional interest in fortifying the law comes in the aftermath of Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and a special counsel investigation that's drawn greater attention to the inner workings of international influence peddling.

Most recently, Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign chairman, admitted in a plea deal that he'd failed to register as a foreign agent when he directed a lobbying operation for Ukrainian interests. Prosecutors said he concealed millions of dollars in income for the work from the IRS.

Earlier this year, federal prosecutors unveiled an indictment against a Russian troll farm accused of interfering in the 2016 election through bogus Facebook posts that revealed how foreign parties can weaponize social media to influence public opinion.

Yet criminal cases under FARA have been rare, with fewer than a dozen since 1966 as the Justice Department generally emphasized voluntary compliance over prosecution. Lawmakers supporting the bills say a 2016 inspector general's report found that the department lacked the tools it needed to properly enforce FARA. A violation of the law is punishable by a fine or up to five years in prison.

But the defense lawyers association and the Center for Democracy and Technology, a civil-liberties group, have declared that Fourth Amendment privacy protections would be undermined by a section of the bill that would expand the Justice Department's power to investigate possible violations of the law.

And an alliance of more than 40 nongovernmental organizations called InterAction has urged lawmakers to repair vague and outdated provisions in the current law before passing a new one that strengthens the government's hand. These groups fear that the law, if not repaired, could leave nonprofits open "to possible politicized enforcement actions and attack," according to an open letter they wrote earlier this year.

The House version of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., seemed to be on the fast track to passage in the GOP-led House after a committee approved it in January by a comfortable margin. Yet eight months later, it hasn't moved any further.

Johnson described the objections as "overblown" and said he's hopeful the full House will vote on his bill before the end of the year. The House is in recess and won't return until after the Nov. 6 elections.

"People in Washington are resistant to change," Johnson said. "The longer we wait to enact these reforms the more critical they become."

An identical Senate bill, by Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, is bottled up in the Foreign Relations Committee. Grassley charged last year that there has been "rampant disregard" of the law by foreign agents and "lackluster enforcement by federal authorities."

President Donald Trump invoked the law in a Sept. 13 tweet that attacked former Secretary of State John Kerry for meeting with Iran's foreign minister, who was his main interlocutor during the Iran nuclear deal negotiations. Trump called the meetings illegal and questioned whether Kerry, now a private citizen, had registered as a foreign agent.

But Trump's broadside appeared to be off base. Meetings between a private U.S. citizen and foreign official are not against the law and not necessarily inappropriate or a violation of federal regulations. Further, FARA provisions don't extend to activities conducted entirely overseas.

"What we are currently seeing is a lot of confusion over the vagueness of FARA and concern that the breadth of the law can lead to its politicized use," said Nick Robinson, legal adviser at the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law.

Lobbyists that register under FARA must report specific meetings, phone calls and other details of contacts with members of Congress or federal officials to the Justice Department, which then posts the material online .

The loophole targeted for elimination permits lobbyists representing foreign commercial interests to get an exemption provided that they register under the less-demanding Lobbying Disclosure Act. The quarterly reports filed with the House and Senate under the 1995 Lobbying Disclosure Act also are made public but require much less information.

U.S.-based subsidiaries of international companies say the change may lead officials to avoid meeting

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with companies bound by FARA, putting them at a disadvantage with their domestic competitors.

The legislation is supposed to target foreign governments or political parties but may "catch these companies in the crosshairs," said Nancy McLernon, president of the Organization for International Investment, a lobbying group that represents the U.S. operations of global businesses including BP America, Honda North America, Nestle USA and Samsung.

"No one wants to be labeled a foreign agent," she said. "It sounds like a spy for a foreign government."

The legislation also would allow the Justice Department to demand that individuals and businesses turn over material relevant to federal investigations into alleged violations of FARA. Backers of the bill say the department's FARA registration unit has long sought the use of administrative subpoenas to better enforce the law. The bill, they added, includes safeguards to ensure this authority isn't abused.

But the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, in a sharply worded letter to the leaders of the House Judiciary Committee, said the investigative procedures proposed in the bill amount to an "expansion of unchecked law-enforcement authority." The department would be able "to compel the production of documents and force the testimony of the targets of criminal investigations, without any prior showing of probable cause or court approval," the association's letter said.

The letter was written in January. Spokesman Ivan Dominguez said the association's position has not changed.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## Sanders barnstorming country ahead of midterm elections

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bernie Sanders is embarking on a nine-state battleground tour on behalf of Democratic candidates competing in the November elections, returning to the campaign trail ahead of a decision on another White House bid.

The packed October schedule marks the Vermont independent's most extensive stretch of campaigning since the 2016 presidential race. It will include stops in Iowa and South Carolina, home to crucial early contests on the 2020 primary calendar.

Sanders is expected to make a decision on whether to launch another campaign in the coming months and the tour could inform his decision. It will allow him to test the durability of the left-leaning coalition he assembled in 2016 and build relationships with elected officials who could serve as allies should he run again.

"He wanted to go where he thinks he can be helpful in energizing the base and bringing in young people and independent voters and working-class voters who supported him," said Jeff Weaver, Sanders' 2016 campaign manager and longtime political adviser.

Weaver said Sanders had "no timeline or deadline" for making a decision on 2020 but much of his consideration was focused on who is best able to defeat President Donald Trump. "His message has reached across the Democratic base and positions him well were he to decide to run in the primary but also in the general election as the candidate who can best beat Trump," he said.

Sanders' challenge to Hillary Clinton made him the main alternative in the 2016 Democratic primaries, but the next presidential campaign is expected to be a wide-open contest that could include several senators such as Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California, plus former Vice President Joe Biden, other members of Congress, governors and mayors.

Sanders has been at the center of a debate over the party's future and whether his agenda of free college tuition, a \$15 hourly minimum wage and a "Medicare for all" health care can win over general-election voters. The senator is coming off a victory after Amazon announced last week it would raise its wages for its workers to \$15 per hour starting next month, and will raise pay for employees who make more than that, responding in part to pressure from Sanders.

The tour kicks off on Oct. 19 in Bloomington, Indiana, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, with rallies and events

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on behalf of Liz Watson, who is challenging Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, R-Ind., and Gretchen Whitmer, who is running for Michigan governor.

Sanders will hold rallies and other events in South Carolina and Iowa on Oct. 20-21, including stops in Iowa in Sioux City, Fort Dodge and Ames on behalf of J.D. Scholten, who is challenging Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. His Iowa visit, his first since February, will come amid a boost of political activity in the caucus state, including Booker, who addressed Democratic activists last weekend, and Trump, who will hold a rally in Council Bluffs on Tuesday night.

The itinerary will also include rallies in Wisconsin, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and California, spanning a number of competitive races key to Democrats' electoral success. He will be campaigning alongside Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin; David Garcia, who faces Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey; Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo.; and Jacky Rosen, who is aiming to unseat Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev. Sanders' California swing will help Rep. Barbara Lee and two California congressional hopefuls, Ammar Campa-Najjar and Mike Levin.

Through early October, Sanders has traveled to 17 states in support of Democratic candidates and an array of policy issues. An online fundraising powerhouse in 2016, Sanders has maintained a list of millions of his supporters that he can use to help endorsed candidates.

Sanders is heavily favored to win re-election next month to a third term as Vermont's senator, allowing him to travel the nation in the weeks before the election. Sanders has called Trump a "pathological liar" who has bitterly divided the nation on social policies while overseeing an economic agenda that has further aggravated income and wealth inequality.

"We are clearly in an unprecedented moment in American history, a very, very dangerous moment. We have an unstable president who is a liar, who has very strong authoritarian tendencies," Sanders said during a campaign event in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, last month.

But he said there has been a "waking up among the American people, a desire to move this country in a very different direction, a disgust with the movement of this country toward oligarchy."

Follow Ken Thomas on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump distorts Democrats' health care ideas

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forget "Obamacare." President Donald Trump has found a new target when it comes to ideas from the Democrats for the nation's health care system.

In rallies for the November midterm elections, Trump is going after "Medicare for All," the rallying cry of Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats. Trump is trying out attack lines echoed by other Republicans that a government-run system would wreck the existing and enormously popular Medicare program for seniors and disabled people.

There definitely are serious questions about "Medicare for All," including the massive tax increases that would be needed to pay for it and longstanding differences in society about the proper function of government. But Trump omits any mention of improved benefits for seniors that Sanders and other Democrats promise. And he implies that Democrats are all lined up behind the idea, when they are not. A few recent examples:

TRUMP: "You know what they're doing with Medicare? They'll destroy it. The majority of House Democrats have co-sponsored a socialist takeover of health care that would obliterate Medicare. Their plan is called Medicare for All, except they have no money. But it's really Medicare for none. Their plan would rob American seniors of the benefits they have paid — and they've paid these benefits and they've paid so much money for their entire lives and you take it away." — Minnesota rally Thursday.

TRUMP: "Robbing our seniors of the benefits they paid into for their entire lives, giving it to people that don't deserve it. Giving it, by the way, to illegal aliens who come in to our country. OK?" — West Virginia rally on Sept. 29.

THE FACTS: "Medicare for All" means different things to different Democrats. For Sanders, it's a "single-



payer" system in which the government substitutes for private insurers and employers, paying for almost all medical care with tax money instead of premiums.

But for others, "Medicare for All" means allowing people to buy into a new government plan modeled on Medicare, while leaving private insurance in place.

It's way too early to tell where Democrats are going to end up. Defining "Medicare for All" is expected to be one of the epic battles of the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries.

Trump is also wrong to say that Democrats would "obliterate" Medicare.

The options that allow younger people to buy into a Medicare-like plan don't involve overhauling the current program.

The Sanders plan would expand Medicare to cover almost everyone in the country, which is a fundamental change. But current Medicare recipients would get improved benefits. Sanders would eliminate Medicare deductibles, limit copays, and provide coverage for dental and vision care, as well as hearing aids. A House single-payer bill calls for covering long-term care.

The issue is whether the U.S. can afford to convert to a new government-run health care system, not that older Americans would be left uncovered.

Trump is also stretching the facts when he implies that seniors' taxes from their working years have paid for their Medicare benefits. While inpatient care is financed with dedicated payroll taxes, about 75 percent of the cost of outpatient (Medicare Part B) and prescription drug coverage (Medicare Part D) is paid for by general tax revenues.

Finally, it's unclear where Trump gets his assertion that Democrats would give Medicare to "illegal aliens."

The single-payer bills in Congress call for covering all U.S. "residents." However, what qualifies as residency is not defined in the text but left to be worked out in regulations.

Sanders' legislation calls for "inhibiting travel and immigration to the United States for the sole purpose of obtaining health care services." The House bill calls for reimbursement arrangements with other countries or self-pay for foreigners scheduling surgeries at U.S. hospitals.

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## Trump apologizes to Kavanaugh during swearing-in ceremony

By MARK SHERMAN and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in — again, for the cameras, this time — Monday night at a White House ceremony, but not before President Donald Trump slammed Kavanaugh's opponents for a "campaign of personal destruction."

In a ceremony that could have been a unifying moment for the nation, Trump instead delivered remarks that even he acknowledged began "differently than perhaps any other event of such magnitude."

"On behalf of our nation, I want to apologize to Brett and the entire Kavanaugh family for the terrible pain and suffering you have been forced to endure," Trump said, addressing the bitter partisan fight over Kavanaugh's nomination that became a firestorm after the emergence of sexual misconduct allegations, which Kavanaugh emphatically denied.

With all the sitting justices in attendance, along with Kavanaugh's family and top administration officials, Trump said Kavanaugh had been the victim of a "campaign of political and personal destruction based on lies and deception."

But, he told the new justice, "You, sir, under historic scrutiny, were proven innocent." Critics have argued the investigation was not thorough enough to merit that conclusion.

Kavanaugh officially became a member of the high court Saturday and has already been at work preparing for his first day on the bench Tuesday.

In his own remarks, Kavanaugh, who has faced criticism that he appeared too politicized in his Senate testimony, tried to assure the American public that he would approach the job fairly. He said the high court

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"is not a partisan or political institution" and assured he took the job with "no bitterness."

"The Senate confirmation process was contentious and emotional. That process is over. My focus now is to be the best justice I can be," he said.

It was the end of a deeply contentious nomination process that sparked mass protests, an FBI investigation and a national reckoning over power, gender, sexual assault and the line between violence and adolescent transgression. And it comes less than a month before pivotal midterm elections that will determine which party controls Congress.

Ceremonial swearing-ins are unusual for new justices. Only Samuel Alito and Stephen Breyer participated in White House events after they had been sworn in and begun work as justices, according to the court's records on the current crop of justices.

Kavanaugh and his law clerks already have been at the Supreme Court preparing for his first day on the bench Tuesday, when the justices will hear arguments in two cases about longer prison terms for repeat offenders. The new justice's four clerks all are women, the first time that has happened.

The clerks are Kim Jackson, who previously worked for Kavanaugh on the federal appeals court in Washington, Shannon Grammel, Megan Lacy and Sara Nommensen. The latter three all worked for other Republican-nominated judges. Lacy had been working at the White House in support of Kavanaugh's nomination.

In his Senate testimony last month, in which he denied allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman in high school and accused Democrats of orchestrating a partisan campaign against him, Kavanaugh promised: "I'll be the first justice in the history of the Supreme Court to have a group of all-women law clerks. That is who I am."

Trump's ceremony speech hammered a theme he has been hitting on all week: hoping to energize Republicans by attacking Democrats for opposing Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh was "caught up in a hoax that was set up by the Democrats," Trump said as he left the White House earlier in the day for a trip to Florida.

"It was all made up, it was fabricated and it's a disgrace," he said.

Later, in Orlando, he called Kavanaugh "a flawless person" and said "evil" people had tried to derail him with "false charges" and "false accusations. Horrible statements that were totally untrue that he knew nothing about."

"It was a disgraceful situation brought about by people that are evil. And he toughed it out," Trump said at the International Association of Chiefs of Police meeting.

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.

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 this month.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who was welcomed at the White House with a standing ovation, on Sunday praised his party's senators, whom he said re-established the "presumption of innocence" in confirmation hearings. "We stood up to the mob," he said.

McConnell signaled he's willing to take up another high court nomination in the 2020 presidential election season should another vacancy arise.

He 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.

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 said different rules might apply if the same party controls the Senate and White House.

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

Follow Sherman and Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/shermancourt> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## **Cuomo says limo shouldn't have been on road; victims mourned**

**By MICHAEL HILL and SABRINA CASERTA, Associated Press**

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. (AP) — The supersized limousine that crashed and killed 20 people outside a country store failed a safety inspection last month and shouldn't have been on the road, and the driver wasn't properly licensed, New York's governor said Monday.

The state moved to shut down the owner, Prestige Limousine, as state and federal authorities investigated the cause of Saturday's wreck in Schoharie. The company said it was taking its cars off the road while conducting its own probe into the crash.

The crash about 170 miles north of New York City came three years after another deadly stretch-limo wreck in New York state spurred calls for Gov. Andrew Cuomo to examine such vehicles' safety. There is no evidence the state took any steps to do so.

As victims' relatives tried to come to grips with the tragedy that happened as a group of friends and family were on their way to a 30th birthday party, authorities had yet to say how fast the limo was going or determine why it failed to stop and sped off the road at the bottom of a long hill.

The 19-seater vehicle had at least some seat belts, but it was unclear whether anyone was wearing them, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

Investigators plan to examine the mangled limo's data recorders and mechanical systems as well as the road, which has a history as a danger spot. They are also looking into the driver's record and qualifications and conducting an autopsy to see if drugs or alcohol were factors.

But officials already saw some red flags, Cuomo said: The driver didn't have the necessary commercial license, and the vehicle failed a state inspection that examined such things as the chassis, suspension and brakes.

"In my opinion, the owner of this company had no business putting a failed vehicle on the road," the governor said while attending a Columbus Day Parade in New York City. "Prestige has a lot of questions to answer."

He also said the limo — built by cutting apart a heavy-duty SUV and lengthening it — had been created without federal certification, though NTSB officials said they hadn't yet determined whether the vehicle met federal standards.

Prestige Limousine issued a statement Monday expressing condolences to victims' families and saying it was conducting "a detailed internal investigation" while also meeting with state and federal authorities.

The Gansevoort, New York-based company said it pulled its cars from the road voluntarily. But state police say they seized four Prestige cars, including the one that crashed.

Federal records show the company has undergone five inspections in the past two years and had four vehicles pulled from service.

In inspections Sept. 4, the company's limos were cited for defective brakes, lack of proper emergency exits, flat or balding tires, defective windshield wipers, and other maintenance problems.

Federal transportation records show Prestige is owned by Shahed Hussain, who worked as an informant for the FBI after the Sept. 11 attacks, infiltrating Muslim groups by posing as a terrorist sympathizer in at least three investigations. In one case, he helped convict men accused of plotting to bomb New York

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synagogues.

His role at the FBI was assailed by civil liberties groups, who accused him of helping the FBI entrap people. Asked Monday about Hussain, the FBI wouldn't comment.

The limousine, built from a 2001 Ford Excursion, ran a stop sign at a T-shaped intersection at the bottom of a hill and slammed into an unoccupied SUV.

Investigators have yet to determine whether the driver tried to brake. The crash left no visible skid marks, but that might be due to misty weather or anti-lock brakes, Sumwalt said.

Authorities haven't released the driver's name, but friends and relatives identified him on social media as Scott Lisinicchia.

"The investigation is STILL going on and the facts are not verified," his niece, Courtney Lisinicchia, wrote on Facebook.

The wreck killed two pedestrians and all 18 people in the limousine, including four sisters who were headed with friends and relatives to a brewery for a party for one of the sisters.

The four sisters' aunt, Barbara Douglas, said they had felt "they did the responsible thing getting a limo so they wouldn't have to drive anywhere."

"My heart is sunken. It's in a place where I've never felt this type of pain before," said Karina Halse, who lost her 26-year-old sister Amanda.

More than 1,000 people jammed into a park in Amsterdam to honor the victims and their families Monday night.

"We are crushed with you. We are crushed for you," U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko told a crowd that spilled onto a bridge spanning the Mohawk River. Some relatives shed tears as a woman sang "Amazing Grace." The ceremony ended with everyone lifting their candles above their heads in unity.

The crash appeared to be the deadliest land-vehicle accident in the U.S. since a bus full of Texas nursing home patients fleeing 2005's Hurricane Rita caught fire, killing 23. Saturday's wreck was the nation's deadliest transportation accident of any kind since a 2009 plane crash near Buffalo, New York, killed 50 people.

Factory-built limousines must meet stringent safety regulations. But luxury cars converted to limos, like the one in Saturday's crash, often lack such safety components as side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits.

Few federal regulations govern limos modified after leaving the factory. Regulations often vary by state.

"It certainly is the Wild West out there when it comes to limousines and stretch vehicles," said National Safety Council CEO Deborah A.P. Hersman.

Ford said in a statement that it has never made its own stretch version of the Excursion. It did certify outside companies to modify them to Ford specifications for up to 14 seats during the 2001 model year, but it wasn't clear who modified the SUV that crashed Saturday.

After a stretch limousine was T-boned on New York's Long Island in 2015, killing four women, a special grand jury implored Cuomo to examine the safety of such vehicles.

It appears the task force was never formed, and nearly three years after the grand jury's recommendation, it was unclear what, if anything, Cuomo's administration did in response.

"I don't know if there was a task force set up," the governor said Monday, while suggesting that Saturday's crash didn't necessarily point to a need for more regulation.

"Sometimes, people just don't follow the law" that already exists, he said. "And that may very well be what happened here."

The New York grand jury report recommended state lawmakers require stretch limousines that seat nine or more passengers to meet the stricter inspection regulations that apply to buses.

Lawmakers, including Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, asked federal officials several years ago to raise safety standards for stretch limos modified after manufacture.

\_\_\_ Caserta reported from New York. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Jennifer Peltz and Jim Mustian in New York; Mary Esch in Latham, N.Y.; David Klepper in Albany, N.Y.; and AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher in Detroit.

## Brazil leans toward unsparing vision of far-right Bolsonaro

By PETER PRENGAMAN and SARAH DILORENZO, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The far-right former army captain who looks likely to become Brazil's next president promised nothing short of a complete overhaul of Latin America's largest nation, vowing Monday to combat the evils of corruption by gutting government ministries and privatizing state companies. He also pledged to promote traditional values that would roll back the rights of gays and other minorities.

With his pledge of "Brazil above all," Jair Bolsonaro has catapulted from the fringes of Congress, where he served as a member of marginal parties for 27 years, to a stone's throw from the presidency. A rabble rouser who has reminisced fondly about dictatorship and promised an all-out war on drugs and crime, he just missed outright victory in Sunday's vote and will face former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad of the leftist Workers' Party in an Oct. 28 runoff.

Bolsonaro only needs a few more points to secure victory, and Haddad's supporters vowed Monday to launch a tough fight to make up ground after their candidate finished a distant second.

The election was a seismic shift for this nation of more than 200 million people, where the left has won the past four elections but deep divisions have opened in the wake of a massive corruption scandal and the 2016 impeachment of then-President Dilma Rousseff. Brazil's move fits into a global trend among voters — in the United States and Europe, among other places — who are choosing anti-establishment and often far-right or populist candidates who target minorities and promise a return to "traditional values."

"The evils and damages of corruption hurt the people in many ways. It's they who don't have a bed in the hospital, who don't have security in the streets or money in their pockets," Bolsonaro tweeted Monday. "A corrupt government encourages crime in all spheres."

His solution?

"Reduce the number of ministries, get rid of and privatize state companies, fight fraud in (a popular social welfare program for low-income families) ... decentralize power giving more economic force to the states and municipalities," he said on Twitter, one of his favorite forms of communicating.

Bolsonaro's Social and Liberal Party was a tiny, fringe group until the candidate began surging in the polls through his use of social media and carefully orchestrated rallies. Bolsonaro has often praised Donald Trump, and his campaign took many pages from the U.S. president's playbook, from his echoing of Trump's "America First" slogan, to bashing the mainstream media to using the candidate's adult children as proxies.

Bolsonaro's party took a whopping 52 seats in the lower house of Congress — up from just one in the last election — giving it 10 percent of that house and making it the second-largest party after the Workers' Party, with 56.

If elected, Bolsonaro has promised a total overhaul of Brazil's government. The proposals that have attracted the most attention — and criticism — focus on how he would slash rising crime rates. Brazil has long been the world leader in homicides, with a record 63,880 people slain last year, according the Brazilian Public Security Forum, an independent think tank.

To this thorny problem, Bolsonaro has proposed simple solutions: Give police more freedom to shoot first and give ordinary people freer access to guns. Critics have expressed concern that police violence, already a major contributor to the high homicide rate, will only worsen if police are given carte blanche.

"Bolsonaro is very good at picking a one-sentence summary of the issue and a one-sentence solution to the issue and then one name to resolve it," said Matthew Taylor, an associate professor of Latin American politics at American University.

While Brazilians say that deteriorating security is one of their major concerns, crime — and efforts to crack down on it — have become almost a metaphor in Bolsonaro's campaign. He has painted a Brazil not only at war with criminals but, in many ways, with itself.

Bolsonaro often uses crime as a lens through which to sketch out a broad indictment of the left: What he calls its coddling policies toward the poor, marginalized and criminal and its push to protect the rights of minorities at what he says is the expense of the majority.

He has vowed to end the designation of indigenous lands, saying such reserves impede development

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and give special privilege to native peoples that others don't get. His education policy calls for removing "premature sexualization" from schools, a nod to criticism from the right that "leftist ideas" like sex education have taken hold in the curriculum and morality is absent.

In an interview Monday with a friendly radio station, Bolsonaro indicated he would not change his hard-line views on issues like gay marriage. The constitution "recognizes the stable union between a man and a woman," he said, adding: "We can't think that gays can have super powers" to influence laws.

Many are concerned that his veneration of the armed forces, including his praise of the country's 1964-1985 dictatorship, signal that he will erode democratic values and rule with an authoritarian hand. He has said he will surround himself with former military officers, like his running mate who is a retired general.

In an interview late Monday with Brazil's most watched TV news program, Bolsonaro pledged to be "a slave of the constitution."

"My administration will have authority, not authoritarianism," he said.

While Bolsonaro was expected to come out in front Sunday, he far outperformed predictions, blazing past competitors who had more financing, the institutional backing of traditional parties and much more free air time on television. His first-place finish with 46 percent of the vote — just short of the 50 percent-plus needed for an outright win — came after an unpredictable campaign in which the front-runner, former President Luiz Inacio da Silva, was barred from running after being jailed on a corruption conviction.

Bolsonaro himself was stabbed and forced to campaign from a hospital bed for several weeks. But the attack allowed him to pick and choose his media appearances and largely speak to his supporters through social media. He will likely face much tougher scrutiny and questioning by reporters over the next three weeks.

Supporters of Haddad, who got 29 percent of the vote, promised a tough fight Monday that included forcing Bolsonaro to engage in policy debates.

Brazilians have a lot to be angry about. Since 2014, they've watched slack-jawed as prosecutors detailed how many in government manipulated public contracts and promised favors in exchange for billions of dollars in kickbacks and bribes. Much of that focused on the Workers' Party, and many voters cited a desire to root out corruption in their choice of Bolsonaro.

Brazil has also just emerged from a protracted recession, unemployment is high and crime is rising.

Haddad has leaned on a narrative of returning to better times: He promises to bring back the boom times Brazil experienced under his mentor, da Silva, and has portrayed an unequal society hijacked by an elite that can't bear to see the lives of poor people improve. He has promised to fight those inequalities, invest more in education and improve state services.

"Public security is a public service, to give guns to the population is to exempt the state from protecting citizens," Haddad told reporters Monday after he visited da Silva in jail.

DiLorenzo reported from Sao Paulo. Associated Press writer Mauricio Savarese in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

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## Sprint to Nov. 6: The race to frame the Kavanaugh story

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court fired the starting pistol for the final sprint to Election Day in the United States, with control of the House and Senate at stake.

The nation's reckoning with power and who to believe about sexual misconduct has generated a new anger factor among the electorate and made the Nov. 6 balloting a referendum on more than President Donald Trump.

What to watch over the final four weeks:

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## KAVANAUGH, TO THE COURT

Trump swore in Kavanaugh Saturday as the nation's 114th member of the Supreme Court after a savage battle that splintered the Senate and riveted the country. Kavanaugh took his oath of office to his lifetime seat just hours after the climactic 50-48 roll call. It was the narrowest Senate vote to confirm a justice since 1881.

It was a fitting result for a 100-member chamber that represents a nation deeply split over an array of issues, from health care to who should be considered an American. A yawning divide has opened in the last year over whether allegations of sexual misconduct should be enough to topple accused men from the pinnacle of their professions.

Enter Kavanaugh, the appellate court judge accused by Christine Blasey Ford in emotional sworn testimony of sexually assaulting her in the 1980s, while the two were in high school. Accusations from other women followed, none corroborated.

Kavanaugh denies that he ever sexually assaulted anyone. In a frequently-shouted sworn statement of his own, he decried the Senate for putting his nomination in jeopardy.

Hosting a ceremonial swearing-in for Kavanaugh Monday evening in the White House East Room, Trump declared Kavanaugh had been the victim of a "campaign of political and personal destruction based on lies and deception" and added, "You, sir, under historic scrutiny, were proven innocent."

## THE KAVANAUGH EFFECT

The Kavanaugh confirmation has blown open the midterm elections from being a national referendum on Trump's stewardship to a raw emotional discussion over the lack of women in power and how to handle sexual misconduct allegations.

With Kavanaugh's ascension to the high court, Republicans, long dispirited by Trump's string of scandals and the prospect of losing their congressional majorities, are whooping it up.

"It's turned our base on fire," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said. He added Monday that the fight over Kavanaugh, particularly that his nomination was stymied by unproven allegations, injected the GOP with an "adrenaline shot that we had not been able to figure out how to achieve in any other way."

What's unclear is whether GOP unity is enough to preserve the GOP power in Congress.

The same question faces the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct after the White House successfully argued that the Kavanaugh allegations should not be conflated with the rest of the movement.

Even before the confirmation, Kavanaugh's opponents had a comeback line, printed on the back of jackets they wore to the Capitol:

"November is coming."

## NORTH DAKOTA

Almost immediately after the Senate vote, Democrats felt the chill from faraway North Dakota. That's the state Trump won by 36 percentage points against Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016. And even before the Kavanaugh controversy, the Senate race there was among a handful of close contests that could decide whether Republicans keep control of the Senate, where they have a 51-49 majority.

Then on Saturday, Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp defied her state's support for Trump and voted against Kavanaugh's confirmation. Heitkamp said she was concerned about Kavanaugh's temperament after his emotional performance before the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Without hesitation," Heitkamp told reporters, she believed Ford.

Polls have put her Republican opponent, Rep. Kevin Cramer, comfortably ahead.

He told The New York Times that #MeToo was a "movement toward victimization" that had caused a backlash. "The world got to see close up how ugly it can be when you go too far," he's quoted as saying.

## FRAMING THE STORY

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Now it's a four-week race to tell the story.

Trump has a busy campaign schedule to spread the word that the allegations against Kavanaugh were a "hoax that was set up by the Democrats" at what he's called a dangerous time for men who can be falsely accused. "I think you're going to see a lot of things happen on Nov. 6 that would not have happened before," Trump said Monday as he departed for an event in Florida.

This week alone, he's expected to hold rallies in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky.

McConnell has cast Kavanaugh's opponents, many of whom protested in the halls of the Senate and yelled at lawmakers, as "the mob."

Democrats are pointing to the Republicans' handling of the Kavanaugh confirmation as one more reason to oppose the president who nominated him and mocked Ford.

"Folks who feel very strongly one way or the other about the issues in front of us should get out and vote," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., on NBC's "Meet the Press."

## GOVERNORS

Look for Kavanaugh's confirmation to remain a major issue, even though governors don't have a direct say in the matter. Republican candidates in heavily Democratic states previously called for further investigation of sexual assault claims against Kavanaugh and their Democratic opponents said that wasn't enough.

Democrats are expected to take over some of the governors' offices now held by the GOP, which controls a near-record 33 offices.

Thirty-six states are electing governors this year, with competitive races in states where the Republican incumbents are stepping aside as they hit term limits, including in the swing states of Florida, Nevada and Ohio.

The Democratic candidates in Florida, Georgia and Maryland are seeking to be the first black governors there.

Republicans, meanwhile, are pushing to pick up seats in increasingly Democratic Colorado and Oregon while keeping them in most of New England as well as the South and much of the West.

## 2020 CANDIDATES

Yep, they're already running — especially two members of the Senate Judiciary Committee who had visible roles during the Kavanaugh hearings.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., made a beeline from the Senate confirmation vote on Saturday for Iowa and the Democrats' big fall fundraiser there.

"We're not defined by a president who mocks a hero, Dr. (Christine) Blasey Ford. We're not defined by a president who doesn't believe women," Booker told about 1,000 activists.

The next day, Sen. Kamala Harris turned up in politically important Ohio, where she reminded more than 1,000 of the party faithful at the Ohio Democratic Party's fall fundraising dinner that she walked out of the Kavanaugh proceedings at one point because they had become "a sham and a disgrace."

She said she doesn't believe the Kavanaugh story is over.

"Truth is like the sun: It always comes up in the morning," she said. "And on these issues that were presented during those hearings, I believe the truth will eventually reveal itself."

Associated Press writers Adam Beam in Louisville, Ky., and Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, N.J., contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>



## US bans new mining claims on public land near Yellowstone

By **MATTHEW BROWN**, Associated Press

EMIGRANT, Mont. (AP) — U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke approved a 20-year ban on new mining claims in the towering mountains north of Yellowstone National Park on Monday, after two proposed gold mines raised concerns that an area drawing tourists from the around the globe could be spoiled.

As Zinke signed the mineral ban at an outdoor ceremony in Montana's Paradise Valley, a bank of clouds behind him broke apart to reveal the snow-covered flank of Emigrant Peak. The picturesque, 10,915-foot (3,327-meter) mountain has been at the center of the debate over whether mining should be allowed.

The former Montana congressman was joined by local business owners and residents who pushed for the ban after companies began drafting plans for new mines in an area frequented by wolves, elk, bears and other wildlife.

"I'm a pro-mining guy. I love hardrock" mining, Zinke said. "But there are places to mine and places not to mine."

Zinke's order extends a temporary ban imposed in 2016 under former President Barack Obama on new claims for gold, silver and other minerals on 47 square miles (122 square kilometers) of public lands in the Paradise Valley and Gardiner Basin. Most of the land is within the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The rocky peaks and forested stream valleys covered by the ban are popular with hikers and other recreational users. Wildlife roam back and forth across the Yellowstone border, and the scars of historical mining still are visible on some hillsides.

Mining companies and industry representatives said the area includes historical mining districts that shouldn't be barred from future development. Mining claims give their holders legal rights to explore for minerals.

Monday's action does not stop mining on private land or take away pre-existing mining claims on public lands. But supporters said it would make a large-scale mine in the area much less likely because adjacent public lands would be needed to make such a project economically feasible.

John Mears, president of Lucky Minerals, said his company is not backing down. The Vancouver, Canada-based company plans to press ahead with exploration work next year on private lands around Emigrant Peak that are inside one of the areas where mining has been banned.

Mears was parked down the road from Monday's event with a large sign propped against his truck that read, "Sec. Zinke ... Why won't you meet with me?"

"It's up to the government to decide if we have valid existing rights, but in the meantime, we'll carry on," Mears said. "We won't be able to acquire any more ground, but we have enough."

Mining opponents expressed optimism that the ban would make it impossible for Lucky Minerals or any other company to develop mines.

"When you take the public lands out of the equation, it really dampens it," said Bryan Wells, who lives in the small community of Old Chico at the base of Emigrant Peak.

The administration's action was notable given President Donald Trump's outspoken advocacy for the mining industry and his criticism of government regulations said to stifle economic development.

It comes as Trump has sought to lift protections on public lands elsewhere, including his controversial decision to shrink the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah.

Zinke said the threat of mining near Yellowstone was different because residents and business owners were in agreement on the issue. The Utah monuments have been controversial since their creation.

The mining ban had bipartisan backing in Montana, where Democrats and Republicans alike have been eager to cast themselves as protectors of the natural beauty of the Yellowstone region.

Colin Davis with the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition said the group will now focus on making the ban permanent through pending measures in Congress.

"Our eye is still on permanent legislation," said Davis, owner of Chico Hot Springs Resort. "The prize is permanent legislation so we're not doing this again in 20 years."

A House committee on Sept. 26 approved permanent withdrawal legislation sponsored by Republican

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U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte. A Senate committee last week approved identical legislation from Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester that's also backed by Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/matthewbrownap](http://www.twitter.com/matthewbrownap) .

## Reprieve for Rosenstein: Trump says he's not firing official

By ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump declared a reprieve Monday for Rod Rosenstein, saying he has no plans to fire his deputy attorney general whose future has been the source of intense speculation for two weeks.

"I'm not making any changes," Trump told reporters as he returned to the White House after traveling with Rosenstein to an international police chiefs' conference in Florida. "We just had a very nice talk. We actually get along."

The flight provided an opportunity for their most extensive conversation since news reports last month that Rosenstein had discussed the possibilities in early 2017 of secretly recording Trump to expose chaos in the White House and invoking constitutional provisions to have him removed from office.

Those reports triggered an avalanche of speculation about the future of Rosenstein — and also the special counsel's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. The deputy attorney general appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller to his special counsel post and closely oversees his work.

Trump said earlier in the day that he had "a very good relationship" with Rosenstein and was eager to speak with him aboard Air Force One on the flight to Florida. They did talk, for about 45 minutes, but not alone, a White House spokesman said. The subjects: violent crime in Chicago, support for local law enforcement, border security, the conference they were flying to and "general DOJ business," spokesman Hogan Gidley said without elaboration.

"I didn't know Rod before, but I've gotten to know him," Trump said at the White House earlier.

The Justice Department issued statements meant to deny the reporting, saying Rosenstein never pursued or authorized recording the president and did not believe there was a basis for invoking the 25th Amendment of the Constitution, which would involve the Cabinet and vice president agreeing to remove him.

And the remark about secretly recording the president was meant sarcastically, according to a statement the department issued from someone who it said was in the room.

Even so, Rosenstein told White House officials that he was willing to resign and arrived at the White House a week and a half ago with the expectation that he would be fired. He met in person with White House chief of staff John Kelly and spoke by phone with Trump during a tumultuous day that ended with him still in his job.

Rosenstein and Trump had been expected to meet at the White House days later, but that meeting was put off so that the president could focus on the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Trump had previously said that he would prefer not to fire the Justice Department's No. 2 official and that Rosenstein had told him he did not say the remarks attributed to him. Advisers had also cautioned Trump against doing anything dramatic in the weeks before the midterm elections next month.

Kelly was present for Monday's conversation between Rosenstein and Trump, the White House said, as was Rosenstein's top deputy at the Justice Department, Ed O'Callaghan.

The speculation over Rosenstein's future concerned Democrats, who feared that a dismissal could lead to Trump curtailing Mueller's probe. Although Trump has at times criticized his deputy attorney general, he has reserved his sharpest verbal attacks for Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself from the Russia investigation in March 2017 because of his own earlier involvement with the Trump campaign.

Both men will likely see their futures re-evaluated after the elections, Trump advisers have said.

Besides the meeting with Trump, Rosenstein has also agreed to a private meeting with House Republi-

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cans who want to question him about his reported statements on the president.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@Jon-Lemire>

## Google poised to unveil new Pixel phones, other services

By The Associated Press, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Google is expected to introduce two new smartphones Tuesday, part of its continuing push to embed its digital services and Android software more deeply into peoples' lives.

The new Pixel-branded phones will anchor a product event Tuesday in New York. Google launched its line of high-end phones two years ago to better compete against Apple, Samsung and other device makers. That includes many that rely on free software and apps such as the free Android operating system, which powers most of the world's mobile devices, as well as Google's search engine, Google Maps and YouTube.

Google is also likely to roll out several other gadgets, including new version of its "smart" Home speaker, a rumored tablet with a detachable keyboard and an update to its Chromecast streaming device, based on media leaks.

The latest Pixel phones are likely to attract the most attention, even though the first two generations have so far barely made a dent in the market. Google has sold an estimated 7 million Pixels over the past two years, almost imperceptible next to the 3.6 billion phones shipped during that time, according to the research firm International Data Corp.

Google doesn't disclose its phone shipments, unlike Apple, which has sold about 388 million iPhones since the first Pixel came out in October 2016.

"If you have a Google tattoo on you, then these are the phones for you," IDC analyst Ramon Llamas said of the Pixel's limited appeal so far.

Google has been somewhat restrained in its distribution and marketing the Pixel phone, Llamas said, because it doesn't want to alienate Samsung and hundreds of other device makers who feature Android in their own phones. Because Android highlights Google services, it's key to Google's business of selling ads through its search engine and other mobile apps.

The iPhone also features Google's search engine, but Google may be paying Apple as much as \$9 billion annually for that privilege, based on the estimates of Goldman Sachs analyst Rod Hall.

The new Pixel phones are expected to follow the trend of expanding the phone screen nearly to the edges of the device. Apple, for instance, just released its biggest iPhone yet, the XS Max, which sells for as much as \$1,450. Google hasn't yet discussed prices for its Pixel phones.

Analysts are also expecting Google to add higher resolution and more cameras to the Pixel, whose first two generations attracted rave reviews for its high-quality pictures.

## Asian stocks mixed after IMF downgrades economic outlook

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets are mixed after the IMF downgraded its economic outlook, citing rising interest rates and mounting tensions over trade.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 1.1 percent to 23,513.20. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.3 percent to 26,289.24. The Shanghai Composite index recovered from early losses to gain 0.1 percent to 2,719.41, after tumbling 3.7 percent on Monday. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gave up 1.0 percent to 6,040.60. Stocks rose in Taiwan and Thailand but fell in Indonesia and Singapore. Markets in South Korea were closed for a national holiday.

WALL STREET: Banks advanced and technology companies sank for the third day in a row on Monday. Bond markets were closed, leading U.S. indexes to a mixed finish after a day of light trading. The S&P 500 index edged 0.1 percent lower to 2,884.43, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.2 percent to

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26,486.78. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.7 percent to 7,735.95. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks shed 0.2 percent to 1,629.51.

**IMF DOWNGRADE:** The International Monetary Fund revised its outlook for the world economy, citing rising interest rates and growing tensions over trade. It said the global economy will grow 3.7 percent this year, the same as in 2017 but down from the 3.9 percent it was forecasting for 2018 in July. The report comes on the eve of the Oct. 12-14 meetings in Bali, Indonesia, of the IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank.

**U.S.-CHINA TALKS:** U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Washington had a "fundamental disagreement" and "great concerns" about Chinese actions, before a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and another senior official in Beijing on Monday. Pompeo said that he was looking forward to discussions, but his polite, edgy tone shone a spotlight on deteriorating U.S.-China relations. The Trump administration has confronted China on its technology policies and territorial claims in the South China Sea, and the countries have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** "Renewed tension between the U.S. and China has capped risk sentiment as a range of issues from trade to diplomacy are likely to challenge China-U.S. relationship," Zhu Huani of Mizuho Bank said in a commentary.

**GOOGLE SLIPS:** On Monday, Google said it will shut its Plus social network because a flaw may have caused the leak of personal information belonging to as many as 500,000 people. Google found the problem in March. The winding down of operations will end next August, to give customers time to download and migrate their data. Alphabet, Google's parent company, fell 1 percent to \$1,155.92.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude added 31 cents to \$74.60 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 0.1 percent to settle at \$74.29 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 35 cents to \$84.26 per barrel. It dropped 0.3 percent to \$83.91 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar slipped to 113.13 yen from 113.21 yen on Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1491 from \$1.1489.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 9, the 282nd day of 2018. There are 83 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 9, 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San Francisco.

On this date:

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument.

In 1910, a coal dust explosion at the Starkville Mine in Colorado left 56 miners dead.

In 1914, the Belgian city of Antwerp fell to German forces during World War I.

In 1930, Laura Ingalls became the first woman to fly across the United States as she completed a nine-stop journey from Roosevelt Field, N.Y., to Glendale, Calif.

In 1936, the first generator at Boulder (later Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.

In 1958, Pope Pius XII died at age 82, ending a 19-year papacy. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.)

In 1967, Marxist revolutionary guerrilla leader Che Guevara, 39, was summarily executed by the Bolivian army a day after his capture.

In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) cruise liner surrendered two days after seizing the vessel in the Mediterranean. (Passenger Leon Klinghoffer was killed by the hijackers during the standoff.)

In 1995, a sabotaged section of track caused an Amtrak train, the Sunset Limited, to derail in Arizona; one person was killed and about 80 were injured (the case remains unsolved).

In 2001, in the first daylight raids since the start of U.S.-led attacks on Afghanistan, jets bombed the

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Taliban stronghold of Kandahar. Letters postmarked in Trenton, N.J., were sent to Sens. Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy; the letters later tested positive for anthrax.

In 2006, North Korea faced a barrage of condemnation and calls for retaliation after it announced that it had set off a small atomic weapon underground; President Bush said, "The international community will respond."

In 2009, President Barack Obama was named the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Ten years ago: Calm gave way to fear in financial markets, turning a relatively steady day into a rout that pushed the Dow Jones industrials below 9,000 — to 8,579.19 — for the first time in five years. Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio of France won the Nobel Prize in literature.

Five years ago: The United States announced it was cutting hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Egypt in response to the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi and the crackdown by the military-backed government on his supporters. Critic, author and editor Stanley Kauffmann, 97, died in New York.

One year ago: Declaring, "The war on coal is over," EPA chief Scott Pruitt said he would sign a new rule overriding the Clean Power Plan, an effort from the Obama administration to limit carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. ESPN suspended anchor Jemele Hill for two weeks for making political statements on social media; Hill had referred to President Donald Trump as a "white supremacist" in a series of tweets. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, at 84 the oldest current senator, announced that she would seek another term. The bodies of 100-year-old Charles Rippey and his 98-year-old wife Sara were found in the ruins of their Northern California home; they were among the victims of two deadly wildfires in the region.

Today's Birthdays: Retired MLB All-Star Joe Pepitone is 78. Former Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., is 77. C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nona Hendryx is 74. Singer Jackson Browne is 70. Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams is 68. Actor Gary Frank is 68. Actor Richard Chaves is 67. Actor Robert Wuhl is 67. Actress-TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 66. Actor Tony Shalhoub is 65. Actor Scott Bakula is 64. Musician James Fearnley (The Pogues) is 64. Actor John O'Hurley is 64. Writer-producer-director-actor Linwood Boomer is 63. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Mike Singletary is 60. Actor Michael Pare is 60. Jazz musician Kenny Garrett is 58. Rock singer-musician Kurt Neumann (The BoDeans) is 57. Country singer Gary Bennett is 54. Movie director Guillermo del Toro is 54. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron is 52. Singer P.J. Harvey is 49. Movie director Steve McQueen (Film: "12 Years a Slave") is 49. World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is 48. Actress Cocoa Brown is 46. Country singer Tommy Shane Steiner is 45. Actor Steve Burns is 45. Rock singer Sean Lennon is 43. Actor Randy Spelling is 40. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae is 39. Actor Brandon Routh is 39. Actor Zachery Ty Bryan is 37. Actress Spencer Grammer is 35. Comedian Melissa Villasenor (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 31. Actor Tyler James Williams is 26. Country singer Scotty McCreery (TV: "American Idol") is 25.

Thought for Today: "It is not good for all our wishes to be filled; through sickness we recognize the value of health; through evil, the value of good; through hunger, the value of food; through exertion, the value of rest." — Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author and essayist (1879-1958).