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

			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

Monday, October 15, 2018

JH Choral Festival at Britton-Hecla High School
6:00pm: Langford Area at Groton Area for volleyball with JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center.

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

5:00pm: Volleyball at Northwestern. 7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m. JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

MathCounts at Warner High School

Thursday, October 18, 2018

First Round of Football Playoffs
LifeTouch Pictures

Friday, October 19, 2018

6:00pm: Volleyball at Milbank. C and JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Saturday, October 20, 2018

State Cross Country at Sioux Falls.
Oral Interp at Florence
Robotics at Groton Area

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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Langford Area
Lions**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:15 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, 2018
at the Groton Area Arena

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Northwestern
Area Wildcats**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018
at Mellette

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



Groton Area Tigers

VS



Mobridge-Pollock Tigers

First Round Play-offs
Thursday, Oct. 18, 6 p.m. at Doney Field, Groton

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank
Bulldogs**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018
7:15 p.m. at Milbank High School

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What's Going On In State Government This Week Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Monday, October 15, 11 a.m. CDT, Brookings – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak and attend the ribbon cutting at the Passive House in Brookings.

Wednesday, October 17, 2 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will attend and speak at the groundbreaking for South Dakota School of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Aberdeen.

Thursday, October 18, 11:30 a.m. MDT, Billings MT – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will attend and participate in the Regional Governors Conversation at the Montana Big Sky Economic Development Annual Meeting in Billings, MT.

Friday, October 19, 9 a.m. CDT – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be a guest speaker on The Big Wild radio show with Derek Gunderson.

Wednesday, October 17, 10:45 a.m. CDT, Aberdeen – The First Lady Linda Daugaard will present a plaque to Aberdeen Christian School for winning "Best In State" in South Dakota in the 2018 Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

Monday, October 15, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The REDI (Revolving Economic Development and Initiative) Credit Committee meeting will be on Monday, October 15 at 10 a.m. CDT at 711 E Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoesser, GOED Finance Director, at 605-773-GOED (4633) for more information. <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=31>.

Monday, October 15, 2 p.m. CDT, Huron – The State Fair Commission will hold a meeting at the Huron Event Center. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=39>. For more information, please contact the council at 605-353-7348.

Wednesday, October 17, 10 a.m. CDT Pierre – The Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission will hold a meeting in the Governor's Large Room of the Capitol building located at 500 E. Capitol Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=15>. For more information contact Leah Svendsen 605-773-3688.

Wednesday, October 17, 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Railroad Board of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Template.aspx?id=88>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Thursday, October 18, 8 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls, State Penitentiary – The Board of Pardons and Paroles will meet in the Jameson Annex Visit Room. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=74>.

Thursday, October 18, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota State Plumbing Commission (SDPC) will hold its regular quarterly meeting as well as a public hearing to adopt rules in the Sharpe Conference Room, Missouri River Plaza, 123 W Missouri Ave. The rules hearing will begin at 11 a.m. Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=77>.

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Thursday, October 18, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – DENR's Board of Minerals and Environment will meet in the Floyd L. Matthew Environmental Education and Training Center in the Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave. Agenda items are available through the Boards & Commission Portal at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=67>. For more information, contact Brenda Binegar, DENR, at 605-773-4216.

Friday, October 19, 12 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Department Board of Podiatry Examiners will hold a meeting in the Sharpe Conference Room of the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. DDN sites are scheduled at the following locations:

- Spearfish, BHSU, E.Y. Berry Library, Room 011, 1200 University St.
- Rapid City, UC113, 4300 Cheyenne Blvd.
- Pierre, Capitol Building, Room B12, 500 E. Capitol
- Sioux Falls, SFUC, FADM 145, 4801 N. Career Ave.

Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=78>.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, October 15, through Thursday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include productions workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Monday, October 15, to Thursday, October 18 – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, October 15:

- 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. MDT, Clark – 200 N. Commercial St. N. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Dupree – 501 S. Main St. 605-280-4308
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Fall River) – 906 N. River St. 605-280-4307
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Vets Home) – 2500 Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Sisseton – 411 2nd Ave. E 605-360-7819

Tuesday, October 16:

- 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – 860 6th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Clear Lake – 415 3rd Ave. S. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. MDT, Eagle Butte – Tribal Office 605-280-4308
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Hayti – 300 4th St. 605-360-7819
- 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Plankinton – 401 N. Main St. 605-280-4306
- 1pm – 3 p.m. MDT, Sturgis - 1300 Sherman St. #212 605-280-4307

Wednesday, October 17:

- 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Alexandria – 725 5th St. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Herried – American Legion 605-280-4308
- 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 321 Kansas City St. Suite 100 605-280-4307
- 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – SDSM&T Surbeck Ctr. 605-280-4307
- 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – University Center 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Salem – 130 W. Essex Ave. 605-360-7819
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Wessington Springs – 205 Wallace Ave. S. 605-280-4306

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Thursday, October 18:

- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. MDT, Bison – 100 E. Main 605-280-4307
- 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Ft. Thompson – Housing Authority Bldg. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, White River – S. 1st and McKinley (Courthouse) 605-280-4308

Monday, October 15, to Friday, October 19 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx.

The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

Monday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Wall – At the Wall Community Center, 501 Main St. Lunch is provided. To register, call 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

Thursday, October 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 1315 N. Main St. Please register in advance for the class. For more information or to register, please call 605-995-8927. You may also register online at the link above.

Thursday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – At the Bell Fourche Education Connection (lower level), 2315 Dakota Ave. Lunch is provided. To register, call 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

Thursday, October 18, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Vermillion – At the Vermillion Job Service, 904 E. Cherry St. For more information or to register, please call 605-677-6912 or register online at the link above.

Tuesday, October 16, to Thursday, October 18 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Tuesday, October 16, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – At 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, October 17, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sisseton – At 10 E. Hickory St., Suite 3. For more information, call 605-698-3964 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – At 1300 North Ave. For more information, call 605-642-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At 106 SE Sheridan Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – At 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information or to register, call 605-688-4350.

Tuesday, October 16, to Thursday, October 18 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, October 16, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

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Tuesday, October 16, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 29775 Main Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, October 17, 12 – 3 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – At the Mobridge Economic Development office, 205 2nd St. E., Suite 1, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, October 18, 1 – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle or Melanie Garstenschlager at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, October 16 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Desmet, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Miller, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Wagner, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Tuesday, October 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Sanford Health will be conducting an employer information session at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions are available for environmental service technicians, food service assistants and nursing assistants. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, October 17 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, October 17, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Wednesday, October 17, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Sioux Falls School District will be conducting walk-in interviews at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions available for custodial workers. Must apply online at www.sf.k12.sd.us prior to interview. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, October 18 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

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Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT
Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, October 18, 9 – 10 a.m. CDT, Mitchell – The Mitchell Job Club is open to the public and held every Thursday at Mitchell Job Service, 1321 N. Main St. A variety of job search topics will be discussed in detail, including online job searching, workforce training options, interview skills/techniques and money management. Please call 605-995-8060 to register.

Thursday, October 18, 6 – 8 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The 2019 South Dakota Teacher of the Year will be announced at a banquet to be held in the Washington Room of the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, 3200 W. Maple St., in Sioux Falls. The official announcement will take place sometime after 7:30 p.m. CDT.

Friday, October 19, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

New Record Low Highs Set

Sunday, October 14th

**Record
Cold**

Location	Sunday's New Record Low High Temp	Old Record Low High Temp
Aberdeen	37°	39° in 2009
Pierre	34°	39° in 2009
Mobridge	35°	38° in 2009
Sisseton	36°	39° in 2009
Watertown	34°	37° in 1893

Record Lows Possible

Monday, October 15th

Location	Forecast Low Temp	Record Low Temp
Aberdeen	17°	18° in 1992
Pierre	23°	23° in 1976
Mobridge	19°	24° in 1970
Watertown	23°	19° in 1992
Kennebec	23°	20° in 1970
Wheaton	25°	20° in 1992



Supreme Court Fight Highlights Need for More Civility

The Senate recently had the opportunity to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court—the second Supreme Court Justice we’ve confirmed since President Trump was elected. He was sworn in shortly after his confirmation vote. This is a positive move for all who believe the role of the judiciary is to interpret the law rather than legislate from the bench. I believe Justice Kavanaugh will call balls and strikes in a fair, unbiased manner.

The United States Supreme Court is the nation’s highest court for all cases arising under the Constitution or the laws of the United States. Therefore, confirming fair-minded judges who will interpret the Constitution and laws as written is one of the most important duties of the Senate. The decisions made by the Supreme Court have lasting effects on the direction of our country.

After President Trump nominated then-Judge Kavanaugh in July, all senators had the opportunity to meet with him and review the 300-plus decisions he wrote during his 12 years as a circuit court judge, as well as the tens of thousands of additional pages of background material. He testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for more than 32 hours and answered nearly 1,300 written questions afterward.

I met with then-Judge Kavanaugh this summer so I could gain additional insight into his judicial philosophy. During our meeting, we spoke about issues important to South Dakotans including the role of limited government, states’ rights, privacy and cybersecurity.

Despite this extensive ‘advice and consent’ period and the compilation of six (ultimately seven) FBI background investigations, sexual assault allegations surfaced in the final hours before the Senate Judiciary Committee was scheduled to vote on his nomination. In response, on Sept. 27, 2018, then-Judge Kavanaugh and his accuser, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, testified under oath before the committee. I supported this additional hearing so both sides could be heard.

After watching the hearing, I believe that something terrible undoubtedly happened to Dr. Ford that has impacted her life. I also believe that then-Judge Kavanaugh provided compelling testimony and evidence to refute the claims against him. Ultimately, after considering the testimony and reviewing the additional FBI background investigation, it is clear there is no evidence to support the events Dr. Ford claims occurred sometime during the summer of 1982. Furthermore, the witnesses which she identified either could not confirm or outright denied her allegations, both to the Senate Judiciary Committee under penalty of felony as well as to the FBI.

The national discourse during Justice Kavanaugh’s hearings has exposed many personal, painful stories of sexual assault experiences. It goes without saying that sexual assault cannot be tolerated. Allegations of this misconduct must always be taken seriously. Everyone who reports unwanted sexual contact deserves to be treated fairly and with the utmost respect.

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South Dakota's 100th Pheasant Season

October in South Dakota is a glorious month. I love the crisp mornings, chilly evenings and weekend sounds of marching bands in homecoming parades. And I truly love the annual gathering of family and friends for pheasant season, the best fall classic of them all.

When I was a boy hunting with my dad or my school friends, the sharp cackle of a rooster pheasant flushed from fireweed along a fencerow or from a strip of un-harvested corn or milo set my heart pumping. All these years later that unmistakable sound still has that effect. The tradition of fall pheasant hunting may not be unique to South Dakota, but I'm convinced we do it better than anybody else. But, then, we should. We've been doing it for a century now.

This year marks the 100th pheasant season in South Dakota. Think of that. From a few visionaries who introduced that first hunting season in Spink County in 1919, the fall hunt has grown to an event that draws thousands upon thousands, residents and non-residents alike. I tell people the hunt is a tradition nearly as old as South Dakota itself. The 100th anniversary proves my point. It's one of many reasons our state is such a great place to live or visit, and it's a big reason so many former residents return to their roots each fall. They are drawn by a tradition instilled in them by the generations before them.

Pheasant season in South Dakota is always a great experience. This year could be especially so. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks brood survey earlier this year showed a 47 percent increase in bird numbers over last year. The survey uses a pheasants-per-mile index, and the GFP biologists tell me this year's count is 2.47 birds per mile, up from 1.68 last year. The survey also shows more birds – and therefore more hunting opportunities – are spread across a broader area of the state. That's exciting news.

The statewide season opens Oct. 20 and runs through Jan. 6. The GFP Walk-in Area program added 39,000 acres of hunting land this year, meaning about 1.1 million acres of public hunting land is available in the heart of the pheasant range. The department has a web-based interactive map of public lands and private lands leased for public hunting. It may be found at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunting-areas/>.

Whether you hunt public or private land, I encourage you to be courteous with others and respectful of the land and the wildlife. Conditions are right for a memorable hunting season. As I walk the fields, I intend to pause now and then to celebrate the tradition, enjoy the company of my hunting partners and revel in simply being outdoors in the fall in the best place in the world.

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Absentee Ballots Requested as of October 12, 2018

PIERRE, SD – Absentee voting at your county auditor’s office for the General Election began Friday, September 21, 2018. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that as of noon on Friday, October 12, 2018, there have been 24,737 Absentee Ballots requested from South Dakota voters.

In the 2016 Presidential Election there were 108,733 Absentee Ballots cast.

In the 2014 Midterm Election there were 55,292 Absentee Ballots cast.

In the 2012 Presidential Election there were 91,145 Absentee Ballots cast.

As a reminder, the voter registration deadline in South Dakota is on Monday, October 22nd, 15 days prior to the General Election. As of October 12, 2018, the following chart displays the South Dakota active voter registration totals broken down by age group.

Age Range	Total
18-24	41,406
24-34	84,862
35-44	83,327
45-54	80,519
55-64	104,171
65-74	83,038
75-84	39,278
85-94	15,280
95+	1,843
	533,724

The General Election ballot contains five ballot questions to be voted on this year. The link to the Ballot Question Information Pamphlet is <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/2018-GeneralElection-Ballot-Question-Pamphlet.aspx>.

South Dakota voters may check their voter registration, find their polling locations, track their absentee ballot application and view their sample ballot at <https://vip.sdsos.gov/VIPLogin.aspx>.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27-17 at U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday. The Vikings dominated on both sides of the ball, and the game wasn't as close as the score would indicate. They are now 3-2-1 this season and are in *** place in the NFC North.

Kirk Cousins and the Vikings offense had a good game, and it would have been even better if it weren't for two turnovers by the Vikings quarterback. Cousins completed 24 of 34 passes for 233 yards, one touchdown and one interception. One thing the Vikings will need to fix is the number of passes knocked down at the line of scrimmage, as the QB had six of them on Sunday.

The Vikings finally had a running game to complement the passing game, and strangely enough it happened on a day when Dalvin Cook sat out because of injury. Latavius Murray got the start and had 155 yards on 24 carries (6.5 yards per carry) and a touchdown. As a team, the Vikings had 195 rushing yards, which is by far the best day on the ground this season.

Adam Thielen continued his streak of consecutive games with 100-yards receiving, extending his NFL record. He had 11 catches for 123 yards and a touchdown. Diggs had a quiet day (3 catches, 33 yards), which was due in large part to the Vikings finally having a rushing game – meaning Cousins didn't need to throw a ton of passes.

On defense, the Vikings held the Cardinals offense to 10 points (the Cardinals' other touchdown was a fumble recovery by the defense). The Vikings defense had four sacks, six quarterback hits, six tackles for a loss and six passes knocked down. With Andrew Sendejo not playing because of an injury, George Iloka got the start and led the team with eight tackles. The biggest concern is the injury to ascending rookie cornerback Mike Hughes. Team sources say they fear he tore his ACL and will likely be out for the season. Hughes has played a lot so far this season and was an important depth piece who started the previous two games with Trae Waynes injured.

The player of the game on offense was Latavius Murray. Entering Sunday's game against Arizona, the Vikings were the only team in the NFL who didn't have a 100-yard rusher. In fact, the best performance by a Vikings running back this season was a 42-yard game by Murray. If the Vikings can keep this up, it will make life much easier for everybody else.



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER



Has a new
wage scale

LPN and RN

RN \$25-31

LPN \$20-26

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

605-397-2365.

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The player of the game on defense was Mackensie Alexander. Mack filled up the stat sheet with five tackles, a sack, two tackles for a loss, two passes knocked down, and a quarterback hit. Every week he seems to be playing better, and the team will likely need him to continue improving, as he will be playing a ton more snaps if Hughes is indeed out for the rest of the season.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to New York and take on the Jets next Sunday, October 21. The game will start at noon (CT) and will be shown on Fox. The game will be the third time the Vikings will face a rookie quarterback this season. The Jets have been hit or miss this season, averaging under 14 points per game in their three losses while averaging over 41 points in their three wins. ESPN gives the Vikings a 57% chance to win the game, and in my opinion the Vikings should be able to handle the Jets with ease (if they don't overlook them like they did the Bills, of course). Skol!

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



Doug Fjeldheim County Commission

**A devoted FAMILY MAN,
a FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE leader,
and a Commissioner who will make
decisions based on COMMON SENSE.**

My fellow taxpayers of Brown County:

I am seeking re-election to the Brown County Commission because I believe I can and have contributed to the greater good by spending our tax dollars wisely.

As a farmer I know how important it is to have good roads and to have a county government that works with the people of the area to protect their interests.

I would be honored to serve another 4 years as a commissioner and treat your tax dollars as my own because just like you, some of them are!

On November 6th, please cast your ballot for Doug Fjeldheim for Brown County Commission.

Doug Fjeldheim

Doug Fjeldheim County Commission

Doug Fjeldheim is seeking to be re-elected to the Brown County Commission. Having over 32 years of management experience in business, 30 years of farming experience, and as the Westport Township Clerk since 2003, Doug is familiar with the challenges each township faces.

As your County Commissioner, Doug Fjeldheim pledges to continue being prudent with how the tax dollars of Brown County are spent.

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Today in Weather History

October 15, 1880: A violent early season blizzard devastated Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton, SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Canby Minnesota reported 20 feet high snow drifts from this storm. Saint Paul, MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Piles of snow, which remained throughout the severe winter to follow, blocked railroads. The winter of 1880-81 is vividly portrayed in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Book: The Long Winter.

October 15, 1992: Snow fell throughout the day across the north central and northwest part of the state with 2 to 6 inches occurring. There was a separate report of 7 inches near Harding in northwestern South Dakota.

1608: Evangelista Torricelli, the Italian physicist, and mathematician who invented the barometer, was born on this date. In 1644, Evangelista Torricelli built the first barometer with mercury.

1954: By 11 pm on the 15th, Hurricane Hazel had reached and crossed the waters of Lake Ontario, still sporting sustained winds as high as 60 mph. Hazel took direct aim at the heart of Toronto as it roared past at 49 mph. Toronto saw heavy rainfall before Hurricane Hazel on the 14th. The previous storm, in combination with the hurricane, resulted in significant flooding.

1984: The Monday Night Football game in Denver, CO was played in a raging blizzard. 15 inches of snow fell with up to 34 inches reported in the nearby mountains. The Air Force Academy canceled classes for the first time in its' recorded history.

1880 - A violent early season blizzard raked Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Saint Paul MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Railroads were blocked by drifts of snow which remained throughout the severe winter to follow. Gales did extensive damage to ship on the Great Lakes. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Hazel struck the Carolina coastline. The hurricane demolished every pier along a 170 mile stretch from Myrtle Beach SC to Cedar Island NC, and obliterated entire lines of beach homes. Hurricane Hazel also destroyed 1500 homes as it moved inland with seventeen foot tides. Winds between Myrtle Beach SC and Cape Fear NC gusted to 150 mph. Hurricane Hazel caused 163 million dollars damage, and claimed the lives of 98 persons. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1966 - Iowa experienced its worst late season tornado of record. In just one minute a twister tore through the town of Belmond leveling 75 percent of the businesses, and 100 homes, causing more than eleven million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the eastern U.S., with thirteen cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Montgomery AL was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Lows of 32 degrees at Harrisburg PA and 34 degrees at Parkersburg WV marked their third straight morning of record cold. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - The cold high pressure system responsible for the record low temperatures in the eastern U.S. began to move out to sea, giving way to a trend toward "Indian Summer". Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced golf ball size hail at Altamont KS and hail two inches in diameter at Yates City IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Jerry made landfall at Galveston, TX, at 6 30 PM (CDT). Winds at the Galveston Airport reached 75 mph, with gusts to 100 mph. Tides along the island were six to eight feet, and rainfall totals ranged up to slightly more than six inches north of Beaumont. Three persons were killed when their vehicle was blown off the Galveston seawall into the pounding surf. Total damage along the Upper Texas Coast was estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan during the late morning. Two persons were injured when a tree fell on their camper at the Traverse City State park. While strong northerly winds ushered much colder air into the central U.S., unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. The afternoon high of 82 degrees at Bluefield WV was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today

Tonight

Tuesday

Tuesday
Night

Wednesday



Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

Partly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

High: 51 °F

Low: 34 °F

High: 53 °F

Low: 27 °F

High: 58 °F

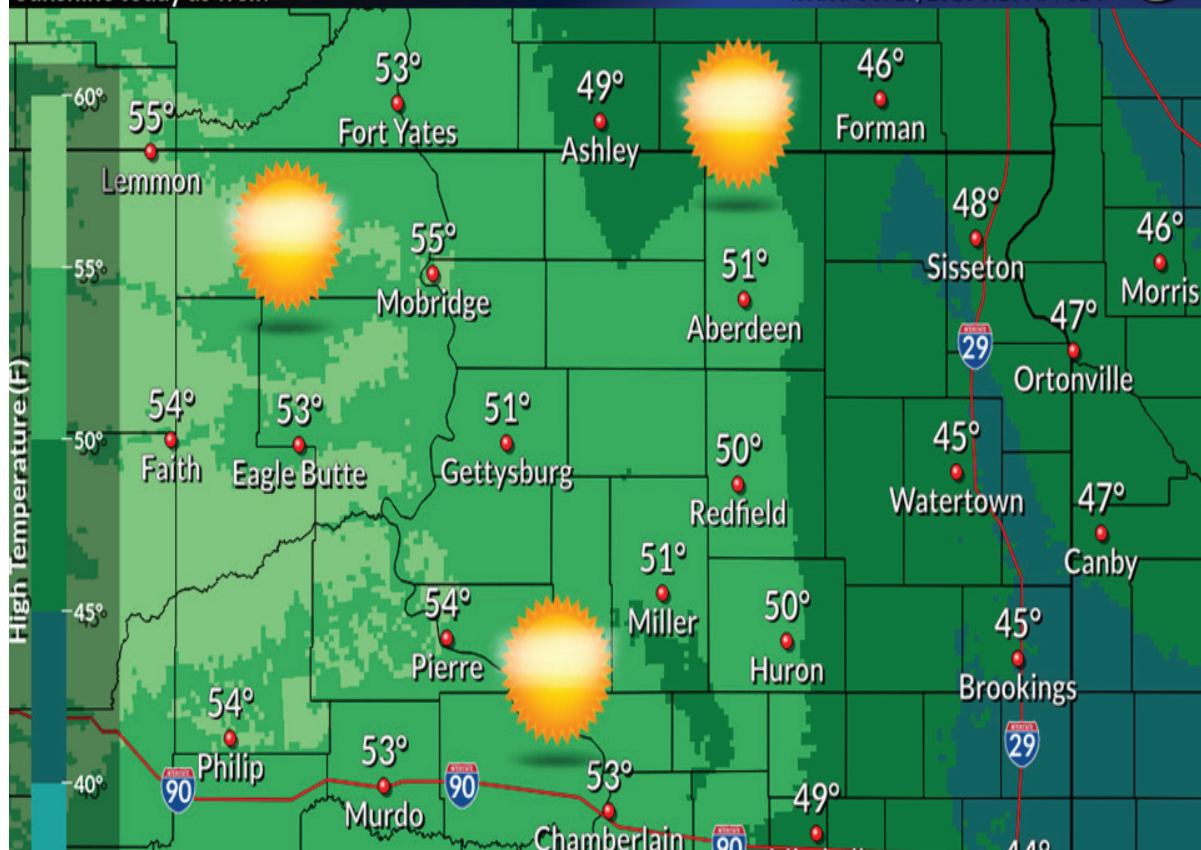
Warmer Temperatures Move In Today

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Sunshine today as well!

Issued Oct 15, 2018 5:16 AM CDT



Warmer temperatures will spread eastward across the Dakotas today, although southwest winds will become breezy by afternoon. Plenty of sunshine to start off the day, which is something we have not seen very often during the past couple weeks! Expect only some high clouds to increase throughout the day. The rest of the week will be dry and mild, with even warmer temperatures arriving by the middle of the week. Widespread 60s are expected by Wednesday and Thursday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 36 °F at 4:00 PM

Low Outside Temp: 26 °F at 1:05 AM

High Gust: 22 mph at 4:13 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 88° in 1958

Record Low: 18° in 1992

Average High: 58°F

Average Low: 33°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.01

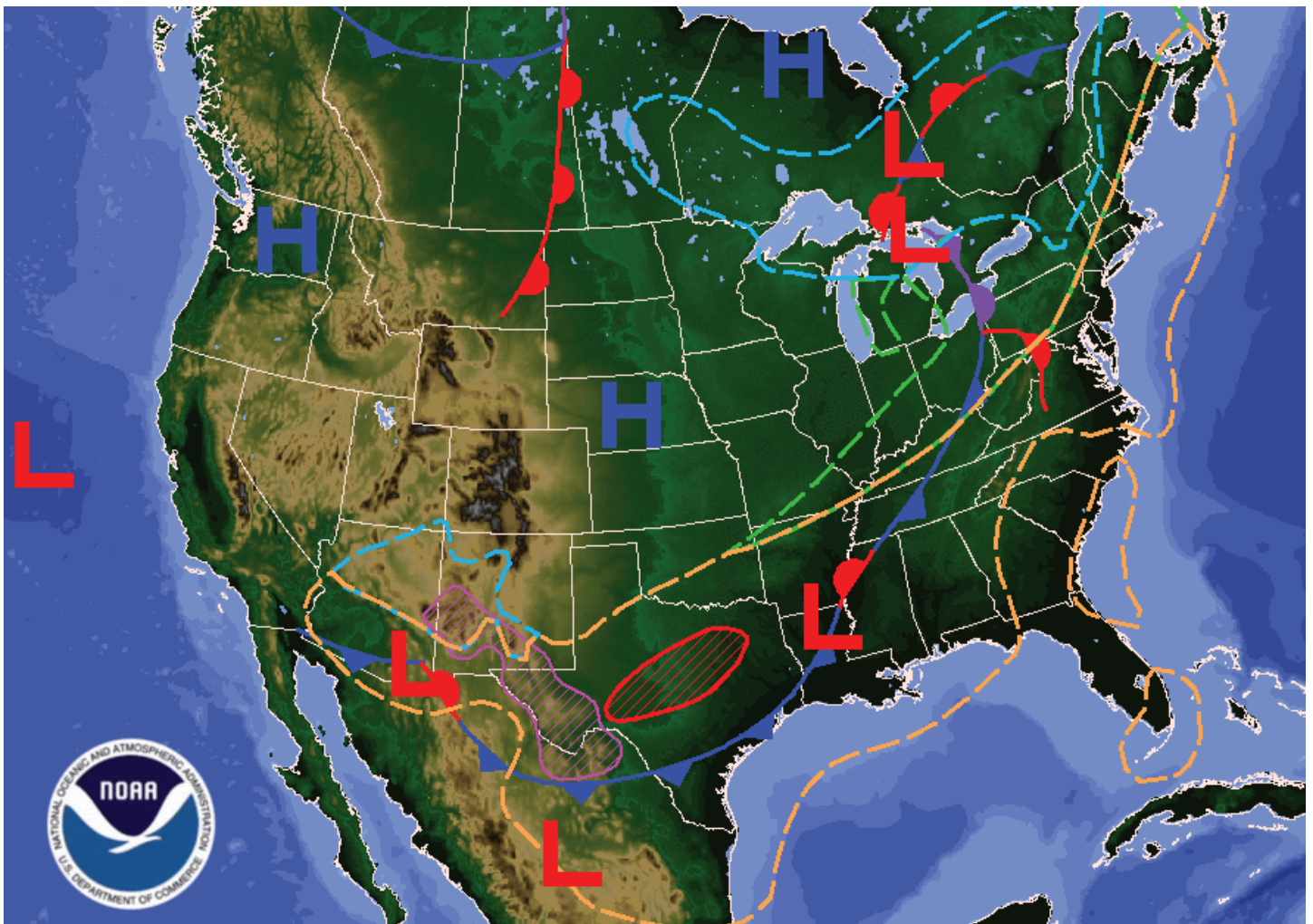
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.42

Average Precip to date: 19.49

Precip Year to Date: 15.03

Sunset Tonight: 6:48 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Oct 15, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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WHATS IN A NAME?

Names are, in fact, a commodity. They have value attached to them and can either be traded for a favor or used as a warning. A name distinguishes one person from another and gives a certain distinctiveness or uniqueness to individuals. Some pay particular attention to their name to make certain that it implies integrity and truth, honesty and hard work, power and influence.

Most of us, from time to time, have been asked by others if they could use our name as a reference or as a way of introducing themselves. They assume that our names imply a degree of significance for one reason or another.

So, they reason, if they are associated with us in one way or another, it will make a difference in what they want to achieve.

But, human names are all limited. They only have worth in certain areas and for a certain amount of time. If people do not know us or have never heard of us, we make no difference in the scheme of things.

There is an unusual statement made about a name in Psalm 148:13 - His name alone is exalted.

There is a certain exclusiveness in this statement. Of all the names of all of the people who have ever lived, only one name is to be exalted. And that is because of who He is and what He has done. All other names are flawed or contaminated for one reason or another. His name is above and beyond reproach, worthy of worship and praise because He is holy and without fault.

All of us fall short of the glory of God and need a name that we can use to save us. That name? Jesus!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the power in Your name. It assures us of forgiveness and salvation and life eternal. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 148:13b His name alone is exalted.

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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

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls tattoo shop owner remembered after fatal crash

By KATIE NELSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One of the things Jody Little loved best was riding his motorcycle, so it was no surprise when he told his wife that's what he wanted to do on a Sunday night in September.

"It was a full moon that night," Amy Little said, sitting at a table in the Sioux Falls tattoo shop her husband started. "That's how we danced. We didn't go out dancing, but we did when we rode together."

Early on the morning of Sept. 24, Amy and Jody — who was known to family and friends as J.D. — took their motorcycles out for a spin. They played a few rounds of pool before heading home on 60th Street North.

It was then that a deer darted out in front of them, causing both bikers to try to slow down. But J.D.'s handlebars caught on Amy's, causing him to go into a "death wobble" before crashing. He died at the scene of the crash, his wife at his side, the Argus Leader reported.

"It was beautiful and horrible, but I wouldn't change it for the world because I was there," Amy Little said. "And I know I did everything I could even though there wasn't anything to be done."

"At least I know I did it and I got to be with him, and he went out in the style he'd want to go out," she said. "He wouldn't want to be laying in a bed."

Born in Cherokee, Iowa, J.D. has been in the tattoo business for several decades. He opened his own shop in Sioux Falls, Outlaw Tattoos and Piercings, on Benson Road in 2003.

He spent many of his formative years in foster care and at Boys Town in Nebraska before moving back to Iowa, his wife said. His first shop was in Doon, but he moved to Sioux Falls to help his adopted father, Snake, and ran his own business after Snake passed away.

"One of the things you do when someone takes you in in the tattoo world . is you don't tattoo in that neighborhood until that person no longer (does)," Amy Little said. "It was a respectful way to do it."

Amy met J.D. more than 20 years ago through mutual connections in the biking world. Years later, they began talking on the phone and a few weeks in, J.D. told Amy he was going to marry her. Fast forward seven years, and he made good on his promise: They wed May 12 at the Motorcycle Expo in Sioux Falls. The bride wore a white dress covered with a leather jacket.

Despite her love for her husband, Amy admits J.D. was not a perfect man. She laughed as she held up a mug shot recently featured on the Minnehaha County Most Wanted list. It is of J.D., grinning from ear to ear.

"He loved this mug shot," Amy Little said. "He said, 'I am so sick of seeing mug shots of people where they look all trashed out and stuff. From now on' — because it was bound to happen (again) — 'I'm smiling.'"

Paul Martinez, who has worked as a tattooist at Outlaw for five years, said he appreciated J.D.'s honesty about his past and present failings, which included convictions for simple assault, DUI and intentional damage to property, among other charges.

"He was one of the few men that I've ever met that didn't pretend to be a saint," Martinez said. "He acknowledged that he had demons and he worked every day to be a better man than he was the day before, rather than making excuses like the rest of the world does."

In 2016, J.D. Little's efforts to clear his neighborhood of debris and bring the community together were highlighted in an Argus Leader article.

"By cleaning up the neighborhood, hopefully people feel a little better about themselves," he told a reporter at the time.

His friends and family said that his rough early years inspired him to seek better for the people around him.

"In spite of everything, J.D. was a philanthropist above and beyond anything else. He cared about people, and sometimes he had a rough way of showing it," Martinez said. "Sometimes being as blunt as he was

got him in trouble.”

J.D. did not apologize for being honest with people, Amy Little said.

“He was straight up who he was,” she said. “And he was a hardcore biker, through and through.”

Amy and the rest of J.D.’s family and friends planned to ride down to Yankton for his funeral. He will be buried next to Snake in a rather unique fashion that bears testament to the way he lived.

“He’s going in the ground ass up, tattoos showing,” Amy Little said. “He’d be proud of that.”

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

South Dakota student fundraises after Hurricane Florence

By REILLY BIEL, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — People have seen images of the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Florence last month, leaving the Carolinas in a state of emergency.

As people from across the country watched the storm unfold, Mount Marty College (MMC) freshman Adam Yalch had to fight the desire to catch the first flight home to rejoin his family as they toughed out the storm in his hometown of Boiling Springs Lake, North Carolina.

Though he opted to heed his father’s instruction to stay in South Dakota, he struggled knowing his parents and grandparents were having a hard time seeing the storm through.

“I felt like if anything happened, that was on me because I wasn’t there, and I’d always been there for them,” Yalch told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan .

Even after the storm cleared and Yalch’s family made it out alive — albeit with damaged homes — he still wanted to do something to help.

At the suggestion of MMC Campus Ministry Director Jordan Foos, Yalch created a GoFundMe page for Matthew’s Ministry, a nonprofit organization that provides food for children at 12 schools in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Living in a town known for its lakes close to the coast, Yalch has seen his share of hurricanes. Florence is easily the worst of them, he said.

A part of what made the experience so difficult on Yalch’s family was that they were unable to evacuate. His father, who works at a facility that cares for troubled teens, had to stay to work when most of the employees left, and Yalch’s mother stayed to care for her parents.

That Yalch’s grandmother has Alzheimer’s and his grandfather is blind made the already dire situation all the more intense, he said.

“With how bad the storm was, I can’t imagine what they went through,” he said.

The situation worsened when, during a break in the storm, his mother went back to their home to assess the damage. While there, the storm picked back up, causing more flooding and stranding his mother at the house.

Yalch had on-and-off contact with his mother during this time, but both were unable to reach the grandparents. Yalch reached out to one of his grandparents’ neighbors asking them to check on the elderly couple, as well as to let them know what happened to Yalch’s mother.

When the hurricane ended, part of the roof of both Yalch’s parents and grandparents homes had caved in and flying debris damaged the exterior of the houses. The flooding and winds also contributed to the loss of power and electricity for approximately two weeks.

Flooding to the surrounding area was made all the worse by the collapse of a local dam, which caused the destruction of several roads, including one close by Yalch’s home.

Yalch said the flooding and the damage it caused kept his father from returning home for two weeks.

Almost 50 people perished due to the hurricane, a number that isn’t lost on Yalch.

“That could’ve been my family,” he said.

He added that while not being there with his family during the storm was hard emotionally, it was an experience he needed.

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"It showed that I don't need to be there for them always," he said.

Several years ago, Kristie Disbrow was moved to create Matthew's Ministry after learning that many kids at her son's elementary school had little to no food at home.

She rallied her friends to collect food to give to those children. Before she knew it, 20 children had turned to 100, and 100 extended beyond that school. Today, the nonprofit serves more than 500 children in Brunswick County.

"Twenty-seven percent of our children are labeled food insecure, meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from," Disbrow explained to the Press & Dakotan.

Every Friday of the school year, the children in the program are sent home with a bag of food to get them through the weekend.

Even though school has been out of session since the hurricane struck, Disbrow and her volunteers have continued providing food to those registered in the program by setting up tents and having families come by to pick food up.

Disbrow anticipates that the organization's numbers will rise following student's return to school.

"The flooding here has been devastating," she said. "So many people have lost their homes. That will increase the poverty problem that already existed."

Surprisingly, the distribution center for Matthew's Ministry sustained no damage, which Disbrow has labeled a "miracle."

"We're feeling blessed that we were able to continue our operations," she said.

Yalch won't be going back to North Carolina until Thanksgiving. Clean-up efforts will likely be ongoing at that time, but he wanted to do something sooner to help out his hometown.

When selecting an organization to give to, he knew he wanted it to be one where he knew the funds would go directly to his hometown and the surrounding communities.

Matthew's Ministry was the first organization he thought of.

"Miss Kristie has been a big influence my whole life," he said, adding that he and her son had gone to school together. "I know the Ministry well. I've donated deer meat and fish to it and helped with its food drives. I knew that with Miss Kristie in charge, the money would go to the right place."

The online campaign is aiming to raise \$3,000, which covers one week of food distribution, Disbrow said.

"If we could raise one week's worth (of funds), it would really help," she said.

She has been witnessing the giving spirit that arises in the wake of a tragedy firsthand.

"My family and others have been helping people get their damaged belongings out of their houses," she said.

Yalch has also heard that his family is assisting their neighbors with cleanup, including his father going around with a chain saw and cutting down what's left of damaged trees.

"If somebody needed help, my family was there," he stated proudly.

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

New \$15 million aquatic center almost a reality in Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A new pool is almost a reality in Yankton, if opponents don't try to derail the project.

The City Commission recently voted unanimously to approve a 20-year opt-out of the state property tax freeze to help pay for a proposed \$15 million aquatic center to replace the aging Fantle Memorial Park pool, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

The city earlier committed \$2 million toward the project. The citizen group Dive In Yankton, which has been working to get the 71-year-old pool replaced, has raised about \$870,000 toward the cause.

"These folks have worked with youth groups, service groups, church groups, community members — the list is as long as both arms, really — to inform people about the need, to talk about the goal and to see through the vision that we've set for our community," City Manager Amy Leon said.

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Under the opt-out, a home valued at \$100,000 would see its property taxes rise about \$100 per year. Any opponents of the tax increase could still refer the commission's decision to a public vote by collecting enough petition signatures. They have another couple of weeks to do so.

If that doesn't happen, construction of the aquatic center could begin next summer and be completed within two years.

"This is an investment in our community," said Dive In Yankton President Josh Svatos.

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

Self-described youth troublemaker gives back to town

FREDERICK, S.D. (AP) — Dan Maunu says he had a "terrible reputation" growing up in Frederick in the early 1990s, and now he's trying to right some wrongs.

The 38-year-old Sioux Falls painting business owner reached out this summer to see how he could help out in the small community where he says he had a reputation for being a troublemaker as a youth.

"Whether doing cookies on the 50-yard line (of the football field), spray-painting rundown buildings, squealing my tires on Main Street, I had a terrible reputation growing up," he told the American News.

"There was only a few of us in town. I never got caught, but they probably knew," he said.

Maunu decided he wanted to set things right, more than two decades later. Krysti Mikkonen, president of Frederick Forward, told him she knew exactly what he could do.

"Painting — that's one way I knew the town of Frederick could benefit from what I do," Maunu said.

This summer he went to work sprucing up the town park's arch, playground equipment, picnic table shelter and bathrooms.

Maunu wanted not only to pay off some old debts but also set an example for his 6-, 7- and 16-year-old sons.

"I talked to a few different people. They thanked me. I wasn't looking for thanks, it was paying a debt in my eyes," he said.

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

Landowners' lawsuit over Dakota Access goes to appeals court

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota landowners who unsuccessfully sued the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline for allegedly underpaying for land easements are maintaining that not all of their claims should have been thrown out by a federal judge.

Attorneys for the 21 landowners are scheduled to take their argument before an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Thursday. They want the case sent back to federal court in North Dakota to resolve at least some of the claims.

The landowners sued in January 2017, alleging a company formed by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners and a hired land acquisition consulting business used deception to acquire private land easements for the \$3.8 billion pipeline built to move North Dakota oil to Illinois. They sought more than \$4 million in damages.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland a year ago sided with the defendants. He ruled that the landowners had failed to prove their claims, in part because fraud-based claims under federal court rules require a higher standard of proof. Hovland said the plaintiffs "clearly failed to specifically allege who made the fraudulent statements, when the statements were made, and to whom the statements were made."

The landowners in their appeal maintain that not all of their claims were based on alleged fraud.

"Proving harassment, threat, intimidation, misrepresentation, deception or any other unfair tactic allows plaintiffs to proceed with a case under a lesser pleading standard than the fraud pleading standard," landowner attorney Peter Zuger said in court documents.

Defense attorney Amy Miller disagreed in court documents.

"A plaintiff cannot convert a fraud claim into a general grievance by simply omitting any explicit reference to fraud," she said.

The landowners maintained that their compensation for allowing the pipeline to cross their land was as much as nine times lower than what other landowners got. They also alleged they were told that if they didn't agree to the offered amount, they faced losing money or getting nothing either because their land would be condemned through eminent domain or the pipeline would be moved elsewhere.

The landowners who sued represent only about 3 percent of the 800 North Dakotans who provided easements for the pipeline, according to Energy Transfer Partners.

The pipeline has been moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois since June 2017.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Recovery of Nepal climbers delayed by mountain's remoteness

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers hampered by difficult, remote terrain took two days to recover the bodies of nine climbers, including one of the world's best, who hoped to map a new route to a Himalayan peak in Nepal that hasn't been scaled in eight years.

Local police chief Bir Bahadur Budamagar said a group of villagers reached the climbers' camp site on Saturday on Gurja Himal, a less-popular but pristine mountain in the shadow of Dhaulagiri, the world's seventh-highest peak and a day's walk from the nearest village.

The climbers included Kim Chang-ho, the first South Korean to summit all 14 Himalayan peaks over 8,000 meters without using supplemental oxygen, who was leading the expedition with four other South Koreans and four Nepalese guides.

Wangchu Sherpa of the Trekking Camp Nepal agency in Kathmandu, which equipped and organized the expedition, said since achieving the feat in 2013, Kim had been concentrating on climbing routes that hadn't been tried before.

Nepal offers hundreds of mountains to climb, and mountaineers generally choose those where the routes and conditions are well known.

Only 30 climbers have ever reached the peak of the 7,193-meter (23,590-foot) Gurja Himal, government tourism director Surendra Thapa said, and Kim was not among them.

Many climbers are discouraged from the mountain at least in part because of a legal requirement to have at least three trained Nepalese guides along to receive a permit, Thapa said.

"These people like to go to mountains which are not crowded and there are no commercially organized expeditions of big groups. On the bad side, they are also far from getting help when in trouble," said Jiban Ghimire, who organizes expeditions for the Kathmandu-based company Shangrila Nepal Trek.

The damage to the climbers' bodies, including broken limbs and smashed skulls, indicated a violent wind carrying chunks of ice swept them away from their camp site, Budamagar said. The bodies were found spread in a 1.5 kilometer (1 mile) radius.

"The battered pieces and tents and other equipment were scattered even further away," Budamagar said.

The bodies of Kim and four other South Koreans who were killed will arrive in South Korea on Wednesday, according to an official from South Korea's Korean Alpine Club.

Rescuers retrieved the climbers' bodies on Sunday after the weather cleared. The body of one of the guides was taken to his village, while the eight others were flown to Kathmandu.

"It was the worst mountaineering disaster in Nepal in recent years and an unimaginable one," said Rameshwor Niraula of Nepal's Mountaineering Department, which issues climbing permits and monitors expeditions.

Niraula said officials were still gathering details of what exactly happened, but from what rescuers de-

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scribed, the climbers were blown over by the blast of the blizzard-like wind conditions.

Word of the destruction got out Saturday morning, and helicopters were sent. They were not able to land due to the continuing bad weather but spotted the bodies.

Spring and autumn are the optimal climbing seasons in Nepal between the harsh winter and summer monsoon.

One Korean member of the climbing team had become ill and was in a village far below the base camp during the storm.

The Korean Alpine Club official, who didn't want to be identified because she wasn't authorized to speak to reporters, identified the other South Korean victims as Yu Yeong-jik, Im Il-jin, Jeong Jun-mo and Lee Jae-hoon.

Yu was reportedly in charge of equipment for the team. Im was a filmmaker who specialized in documentaries of mountain climbers. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said senior CAC member Jeong wasn't part of Kim's team but was visiting them when the accident happened.

It was the deadliest climbing disaster in Nepal since 2015, when 19 people were killed at Mount Everest base camp by an avalanche triggered by an earthquake that devastated the country. The previous year, an avalanche above Everest's base camp killed 16 Nepalese Sherpa guides.

The Himalayan range includes all 14 of the world's peaks that rise above 8,000 meters, and only a few dozen climbers have made verified, successful ascents of them all. Kim achieved his feat in 2013.

Schmall reported from New Delhi. Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Overextended: Why schools rush to extend coach contracts

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Coming off a division title that included a victory against its archrival, Auburn faced the prospect of losing its coach.

Who knows whether Gus Malzahn really wanted to return to his home state and become the head football coach at Arkansas, another SEC school, but Auburn's leadership decided it did not want to chance it. Malzahn, who just the season before seemed to be in a precarious position with Auburn, received a \$49 million, seven-year contract that makes him the fifth-highest paid coach in college football this season, according to USA Today's salary database.

A few months later, Georgia gave Kirby Smart, whose team beat Auburn in the SEC title game and went on to play for the national championship, a similar deal after his second season at the school.

The willingness of schools to modify, amend or re-do the contracts of their football coaches, handing out huge raises and building in hefty severance payments, has helped drive the rapid escalation of salaries in the sport. In many cases, experts say, schools are unnecessarily aggressive in extending a coach, too quick to reward a small sampling of success, out-leveraged by agents, and driven by the fear of having to find a replacement.

"If we have a good coach or we think we do, we're probably better off extending him because if we don't, we have to let him go for whatever reason because he went to greener pastures, well, then we had the one coach that got away and it's going to be expensive for us to pay off all the assistants who otherwise didn't find a job and hire a search firm and hire a new coach and then pay market-grade for that particular coach. I think that that's mistaken," said attorney Bob Lattinville, co-chairman of the St. Louis-based Spencer Fane LLP's collegiate athletics legal team.

Lattinville and his colleague, Roger Denny, did a review of contract extensions for football coaches at Power Five schools between Dec. 1, 2011 and Nov. 31, 2016, and concluded: "College football coach contracts are often prematurely renegotiated."

Between the end of last season and the beginning of this season, 35 FBS schools — including 21 Power Five schools — made some type of amendment to their football coach's contract. In some cases, such

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as Rutgers with Chris Ash and Minnesota with P.J. Fleck, years were added with no significant change to financial terms.

In other cases, superstar coaches such as Alabama's Nick Saban and Ohio State's Urban Meyer received huge new deals that justifiably put them at the top of their profession when it comes to compensation.

Some of the new contracts were more difficult to explain.

— Pitt gave Pat Narduzzi a new seven-year deal and a raise of more than a million dollars to \$3 million in salary this year after going 21-17 over three seasons.

— North Carolina State extended Dave Doeren's contract through the 2022 and raised his salary to over \$3 million after last season, his fifth at the school and the first in which he reached nine victories.

— South Carolina re-did Will Muschamp's original five-year deal that paid him \$3.1 million last season and handed him to a six-year contract worth \$28.2 million after the Gamecocks went 9-4 in his second year at the school.

Lattinville said schools and athletic directors are often rewarding success without properly assessing why that coach was successful.

"What's important now is what happened now," Lattinville said.

"You might be really, really good because you just happened to catch everybody in your division on a down year and you've got a quarterback for the last two years that had the hot hand. Or you've been able to avoid the injury bug," Lattinville added. "There are some things that are far above talent and skill that make up wins. There's luck involved, no doubt about it, and you've got to recognize that. And if you're going to extend somebody — if you're going to exponentially increase their pay — why also exponentially increase their payout when they get let go?"

If Auburn fires Malzahn more than halfway through his new deal, the school is on the hook for \$16 million.

College football fans and boosters can be fickle, which causes schools to have little patience with their high-priced coaches. Two early season losses already had some Auburn supporters experiencing buyer's remorse about Malzahn's deal.

But he is 49-25 at Auburn overall and 26-18 in the highly competitive SEC West. He is one of the few coaches to defeat Alabama more than once during Saban's historic 12-season run. Since Malzahn took over in 2013, Auburn has played for two SEC championships and a national championship. There is no guarantee Auburn could find a better coach.

"The reason that we've gotten to this point is the lack of proven talent to be able to go into the major jobs and to be able to secure wins," said Jed Hughes, the head of global sports practice for executive search firm Korn Ferry.

The search for a football coach can put high-profile pressure on an athletic director. In an extreme example of what can go wrong, a fan uprising over the coaching search at Tennessee last year led to athletic director John Currie being replaced. Doeren was one of several coaches approached by Tennessee. He decided to stay put at North Carolina State and got that raise and extension.

Coaching searches are something ADs prefer to avoid.

"Oh, I'm sure there's some of that," Oklahoma AD Joe Castiglione said. "It's also recognizing you might be successful finding a great coach, but recruiting them to a specific campus is an entirely different endeavor altogether. Fans don't realize how difficult that is."

Gerry DiNardo, the former LSU and Indiana coach who is now an analyst for the Big Ten network, has consulted with ADs and coaches on searches.

"There's very few ADs that will wait until a coach has done it in a sustained fashion before they'll pay the millions and millions of dollars," DiNardo said.

Most coaches have agents who are skilled at creating demand — or the appearance of demand — for their client.

"For some reason, we have some large swings in the marketplace and then it seems like a number of (contracts) start to get adjusted based on a wild swing in the marketplace. Whether or not they might be justified," Castiglione said. "But there are other forces at work. I don't mean to sound like I'm com-

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menting against anyone but agents are crafty. They know how leverage works. They can manipulate the marketplace at times to the advantage of their clients. They're doing their jobs."

Army athletic director Boo Corrigan said the work required to make a coaching change extends well beyond the introductory news conference and is another reason schools are motivated to keep their coaches. It takes time to integrate a new staff into the university, from academics to student affairs.

"Every campus has something you're recruiting to and they have to learn what you're recruiting to," Corrigan said.

And now more than ever, athletic directors are tied to the football coaches they hire.

"You make the bad hire and you can end up getting fired," Lattinville said. "If I've got somebody who's good or good enough that's a whole lot better than risking your career on the next hire you make."

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP and listen at <https://www.podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

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White House, senators increase pressure over Saudi writer

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is brushing aside threats by Saudi Arabia that it may economically retaliate for any U.S. punitive action imposed over the suspected murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, pledging a "swift, open, transparent investigation" into his disappearance.

Two leading Republican senators said Congress stands ready to act, including a possible halt of military sales, if President Donald Trump doesn't.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow declined to speculate on what Trump might do after the president promised "severe punishment" in a "60 Minutes" interview, if the U.S. determines that Khashoggi was indeed killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. On Sunday, the oil-rich kingdom suggested retaliation if the U.S. were to impose strict measures.

Trump has said he does not want to halt a proposed \$110 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia because, he maintained, it would harm U.S. manufacturers.

"We will take stern action with the Saudis if necessary," Kudlow said. "The United States is the dominant energy player so we're in pretty good shape, in my opinion, with our energy boom to cover any shortfalls. We'll wait and see, but rest assured that when the president says we will take actions if we find out bad outcomes, he means it."

Kudlow also said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin would be attending a Saudi conference this week to address terrorist financing, but those plans could change as details of the investigation become available.

"The president several times said we want a prompt, swift, open, transparent investigation," Kudlow said.

Sens. Marco Rubio and Jeff Flake, members of the Foreign Relations Committee, said Congress was prepared to move quickly and firmly if Trump failed to adequately respond to the Oct. 2 disappearance of Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor who had written columns critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Rubio said U.S.-Saudi relations may need to be "completely revised" and stressed the U.S. would lose credibility on human rights if the Trump administration remained silent.

He also said Mnuchin should skip the Saudi conference.

"I don't think any of our government officials should be going and pretending it's business as usual until we know what's happened here," said Rubio, R-Fla.

Rubio declined to rule out a halt to the arms sales, stressing that the U.S. must send a message to repressive governments worldwide, from Russia to Syria and China.

"There's not enough money in the world for us to buy back our credibility on human rights if we do not move forward and take swift action," Rubio said. "Arms sales are important not because of the money but because it also provides leverage over their future behavior."

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Flake said if the Saudis did, in fact, kill Khashoggi, Congress might specifically curtail U.S. military aid to Saudi-led forces in Yemen. Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of Gulf states in a military campaign against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The U.S. provides weaponry, intelligence and logistical support for the bombing campaign.

"I do think that arms sales will be affected. Certainly our involvement in Yemen with Saudi Arabia will be affected," said Flake, R-Ariz.

More than 20 Republican and Democratic senators instructed Trump last week to order an investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance under legislation that authorizes sanctions for perpetrators of extrajudicial killings, torture or other gross human rights violations. The writer had been living in self-exile in Virginia for the past year. The lawmakers' letter was a preliminary step under the Global Magnitsky Act toward taking punitive action.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reviewed the U.S. intelligence into what happened to Khashoggi, has said, "The likelihood is he was killed on the day he walked into the consulate."

Turkish officials say that they fear Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi after he entered the consulate and that they have audio and video recordings of it. The kingdom has called the allegations "baseless" but has offered no evidence the writer left the consulate.

Trump visited the kingdom on his first overseas trip as president and has touted arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Prodded Saturday to specify what type of "severe punishment" he could impose, Trump demurred.

"Well, there are many things we can do. Would you like to speak up about that?" he said, turning to Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., who was at the White House for the arrival of American pastor Andrew Brunson, who was released from Turkey after nearly two years of confinement. "I don't want to put you on the spot, but if you guys would like to tell them some of the many things we can do. There's a big list."

Lankford responded: "Yeah, there's a big list. Obviously, we have a long-standing partnership with Saudi Arabia in a lot of areas." He added, "Let's find out what did happen first."

Rubio appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," NBC's "Meet the Press" and CBS' "Face the Nation," Flake spoke on ABC's "This Week," and Kudlow also was on ABC and "Fox News Sunday."

Children of Islamic State group live under a stigma in Iraq

By **HAMZA HENDAWI, QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and MAYA ALLERUZZO, Associated Press**

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — A family of six lost children lives quietly in a small apartment among strangers in this northern Iraqi city. The "man of the house," an 18-year-old, heads out each morning looking for day labor jobs to pay the rent. His 12-year-old sister acts as the mother, cooking meals, cleaning and caring for her young siblings.

Their home village is less than an hour's drive away, but they can't go back — Shiite militiamen burned down their house because their father belonged to the Islamic State group. And they fear retaliation by their former neighbors, so deep is the anger at the militants who once ruled this area.

So the Suleiman children are left to fend for themselves. Their father is in prison. Their mother died years ago. They are traumatized by deaths of loved ones in the war and by their own family turmoil. In their temporary home, they lie low, worried their new neighbors will learn of their family's IS connection.

"I am tired," said the 12-year-old, Dawlat, a slim girl whose face is almost unshakably solemn. "My mother visits me in my dreams. I get scared when the power is out at night. I would love my father and mother to be here next to me."

Thousands of children of Islamic State group members, many of them abandoned like Dawlat's family, are the innocent victims of the brutal rise and destructive fall of Daesh, the acronym by which IS is known. The stain they carry points to how thoroughly Iraq's social fabric was torn apart by the militants' nearly 3-year-rule over much of the country's north and west.

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When the Sunni Muslim IS took over those territories in a 2014 blitz, it massacred Shiite Muslims, Kurds, Christians, Yazidis, Sunni Muslim fighters and members of the police or military who fell into its hands. And it drove out others, often either destroying or giving away their homes.

It inflicted a radical version of Shariah law on fellow Sunnis, killing many who violated it or those who opposed their rule. Some Iraqi Sunnis joined the group, either out of conviction or because of the economic benefits membership brought. Many more were its victims. Informants turned in neighbors, leading to punishments ranging from lashings to a bullet in the head in a public square.

Now that IS has been driven out of almost all its territory, many of its victims want vengeance.

A senior police officer in the northern province of Nineveh said he knew of at least 100 homes in and around the city of Mosul that have been demolished by tribesmen angry over IS members living there. Daesh-linked families have been shot at and had grenades thrown at their homes, he said. Members of the Yazidi religious minority — whom the militants singled out for some of their worst brutalities, massacres of the men and enslavement of the women — have retaliated by destroying homes in Arab villages in their heartland in the Singar area, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with his agency's regulations.

Thousands of Iraqis are in prison over suspected IS ties and an unknown number of Daesh members were killed in the war. That leaves potentially tens of thousands of children without male heads of households and often without female ones.

The stigma against the children is powerful.

Even extended families in some cases refuse to take in abandoned children of IS members, said a relief official with an international agency that has worked to find homes for such children. The relatives may worry about being tainted themselves or come under pressure from their tribes not to accept the kids, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to talk about the agency's work.

Most children of Iraqi IS members live mingled among the hundreds of thousands still languishing in camps for those displaced by the three years of fighting that brought down IS. More than 1,000 live with incarcerated mothers in overcrowded jails or juvenile detention facilities.

A few dozen are in orphanages. One, in Baghdad, houses the children of foreign jihadis who came from abroad to join the IS and are now dead or imprisoned.

Police have set up checkpoints on all streets leading to it. There has already been at least one foiled attempt to attack the orphanage.

The children at the center of this resentment are often profoundly traumatized, whether from their lives with the Islamic State group or from the war itself.

At another orphanage, in Mosul, a 9-year-old Iraqi girl named Amwaj said her father was killed fighting for IS. Then her home was hit by shelling, killing her mother and three of her siblings. She watched her mother's body being dug from the rubble.

"Her face was covered with blood," she said, her hands spread over her cheeks to demonstrate.

The girl, whose name means "waves" in Arabic, looked haunted, her eyes wandering and often near tears, her voice barely audible. In the orphanage, she takes care of her three surviving brothers, 10-year-old Mohammed and Hashem and Tahrir, both younger than her.

She said she remembers her father giving her money to buy chips and soda. She dreams of him coming to the orphanage to take her home. She dreams of her mother brushing her hair.

Dawlat, her 18-year-old brother Saleh and their siblings — Abdullah, 16; 8-year-old Adam; a 6-year-old sister, Umaimah; and 4-year-old Dawoud — carry on their shoulders the multiple tragedies they endured from the time IS took over their hometown, outside the city of Hawija, in 2014.

They suffered at the hands of Daesh, at the hands of Daesh's enemies and at the hands of their own father.

Their father joined the group and worked repairing generators for the militants. An older brother also joined and was killed fighting for IS. An older sister was killed by a roadside bomb as she tried to flee IS territory.

Family turmoil also tore them apart: It emerged that their father abused one of his daughters. Saleh

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confronted his father and they lived for months as enemies under one roof. They came to blows several times. Saleh said he even thought of killing his father at night — “but he was awake with his gun next to him.”

In retaliation, Saleh said, the father turned him in to Daesh for selling cigarettes, which were banned under IS. The militants flogged Saleh.

The teen fled to Kurdish-held territory in March 2016, only to be held for six months by Kurdish fighters on suspicion he belonged to Daesh. Saleh said they hung him from the ceiling by his hands and beat the soles of his feet with a hose.

The abused sister was married off to an IS fighter, who was later killed; now 14, she is married again, the second wife of a policeman, and living in a displaced camp.

Meanwhile, Daesh found a new wife for their father, forcing a Shiite woman to marry him. The woman, whose own husband had been killed, brought her own four children with her.

Two months later, Iraqi forces overran Hawija. The father shaved his beard to shed signs of his IS allegiance and fled with his family, hiding among the tens of thousands of others escaping the city.

But his new wife turned him in, telling Kurdish fighters at a checkpoint that he was Daesh. The fighters beat him, then dragged him away — the last any of his family has seen him. The new wife left with her children. She was with them so briefly and wanted so little to do with the family she was forced into that Dawlat and her siblings don't even know her name.

The kids were shunted into a camp for the displaced, where they lived for nearly a year. Finally, the husband of another of their sisters arranged an apartment for them in an impoverished Kurdish neighborhood of Kirkuk.

Surrounded by neighbors belonging to a community persecuted by IS, Saleh fears being found out. At the same time, members of their extended family have warned them it's not safe to return to their home village, where other relatives might support them. The husband of another of their sisters was arrested a month ago after someone recognized him in the streets as a Daesh member.

“I'm often close to tears. I'm exhausted. I feel like I'm 30 after everything I've gone through,” Saleh said.

Dawlat's childhood has been stripped away. At their apartment in Kirkuk, she cooks three meals a day; while the younger children are at school, she cleans the house, makes the bed, washes dishes and does laundry. She boasts she can now cook lentils and potatoes and chicken, though she admits she doesn't always get the rice right.

There are moments when a smile illuminates Dawlat's face, temporarily sweeping away her perpetual haunted look. She talks of how she once loved school and still hopes to become a doctor or teacher.

More immediately, she hopes to get married. In rural Iraq, marriage of young girls is common. Once married, she said, it would be religiously permitted for her to wear make-up. “I'd like to go to a hairdresser. I have never been to a hair salon,” she said. “I like my hair long, but I would like to dye it a different color.”

But then she reverts to the little girl she is — longing to play, regretting her burdens and, despite everything, missing her father.

“He is so dear to me. ... I want him back with us,” she whispered, so Saleh could not hear.

Associated Press writer Salar Salim in Irbil, Iraq contributed to this report.

Turkey says joint 'inspection' planned at Saudi Consulate

By **FAY ABUELGASIM, SUZAN FRASER and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey and Saudi Arabia are expected to conduct a joint “inspection” on Monday of the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, nearly two weeks after the disappearance of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, Turkish authorities said.

The announcement from an official at Turkey's Foreign Ministry comes as international concern continues to grow over the writer who vanished on a visit to the consulate on Oct. 2. American lawmakers have threatened tough punitive action against the Saudis, and Germany, France and Britain jointly called for a

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"credible investigation" into Khashoggi's disappearance.

The Foreign Ministry official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations. Officials in Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Turkish officials have said they fear a Saudi hit team killed and dismembered Khashoggi, who wrote critically of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The kingdom has called such allegations "baseless" but has not offered any evidence Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

Such a search would be an extraordinary development, as embassies and consulates under the Vienna Convention are technically foreign soil and must be protected by host nations. Saudi Arabia may have agreed to the search in order to appease its Western allies and the international community.

President Donald Trump has said Saudi Arabia could face "severe punishment" if it was proven it was involved in Khashoggi's disappearance. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia warned that if it "receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom's economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy."

"The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations," said the statement, carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

The statement did not elaborate. However, a column published in English a short time later by the general manager of the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya satellite news network suggested Saudi Arabia could use its oil production as a weapon. Benchmark Brent crude is trading at around \$80 a barrel, and Trump has criticized OPEC and Saudi Arabia over rising prices.

Saudi media followed on from that statement in television broadcasts and newspaper front pages Monday.

The Arabic-language daily Okaz wrote a headline on Monday in English warning: "Don't Test Our Patience." It showed a clenched fist made of a crowd of people in the country's green color.

The Saudi Gazette trumpeted: "Enough Is Enough," while the Arab News said: "Saudi Arabia 'will not be bullied'."

The Arab News' headline was above a front-page editorial by Dubai-based real-estate tycoon Khalaf al-Habtoor, calling on Gulf Arab nations to boycott international firms now backing out of a planned economic summit in Riyadh later this month.

"Together we must prove we will not be bullied or else, mark my words, once they have finished kicking the kingdom, we will be next in line," al-Habtoor said.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert." They include the CEO of Uber, a company in which Saudi Arabia has invested billions of dollars; billionaire Richard Branson; JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Jamie Dimon; and Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford.

News that the CEO of Uber, Dara Khosrowshahi, would pull out of the conference drew angry responses across the region. The foreign minister of the neighboring island kingdom of Bahrain, Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, tweeted Sunday night that there should be a boycott of the ride-hailing app both there and in Saudi Arabia.

Late Sunday, Saudi King Salman spoke by telephone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about Khashoggi. Turkey said Erdogan "stressed the forming of a joint working group to probe the case." Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, said King Salman thanked Erdogan "for welcoming the kingdom's proposal" for forming the working group.

The king also said Turkey and Saudi Arabia enjoy close relations and "that no one will get to undermine the strength of this relationship," according to a statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency. While Turkey and the kingdom differ on political issues, Saudi investments are a crucial lifeline for Ankara amid trouble with its national currency, the Turkish lira.

Prince Mohammed, King Salman's son, has aggressively pitched the kingdom as a destination for foreign investment. But Khashoggi's disappearance has led several business leaders and media outlets to back out of the upcoming investment conference in Riyadh called the Future Investment Initiative.

The Saudi stock exchange, only months earlier viewed as a darling of frontier investors, plunged as

much as 7 percent at one point Sunday before closing down over 4 percent. On Monday, Riyadh's Tadawul exchange traded up around 2.5 percent.

Concerns appeared to spread Monday to Japan's SoftBank, which has invested tens of billions of dollars of Saudi government funds. SoftBank was down over 7 percent in trading on Tokyo's stock exchange.

Khashoggi has written extensively for the Post about Saudi Arabia, 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. Those policies are all seen as initiatives of the crown prince.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey, and Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Sears files for Chapter 11 amid plunging sales, massive debt

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Monday, buckling under its massive debt load and staggering losses.

The question now is whether a smaller version of the company that once dominated the American retail landscape can remain viable or whether the iconic brand will be forced out of business.

Sears, which started as a mail order catalog in the 1880s, has been on a slow march toward extinction as it lagged far behind its peers and incurred massive losses over the years.

"This is a company that in the 1950s stood like a colossus over the American retail landscape," said Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy. "Hopefully, a smaller new Sears will be healthier."

The company has struggled with outdated stores and complaints about customer service. That's in contrast with chains like Walmart, Target, Best Buy and Macy's, which have been enjoying stronger sales as they benefit from a robust economy and efforts to make the shopping experience more inviting by investing heavily in remodeling and de-cluttering their stores.

Sears Holdings, which operates both Sears and Kmart stores, will close 142 unprofitable stores near the end of the year, with liquidation sales expected to begin shortly. That's in addition to the closure of 46 unprofitable stores that had already been announced. Edward S. Lampert has stepped down as CEO but will remain chairman of the board. A new Office of the CEO will be responsible for managing day-to-day operations.

Sears joins a growing list of retailers that have filed for bankruptcy or liquidated in the last few years amid a fiercely competitive climate. Some, like Payless ShoeSource, successfully emerged from reorganization in bankruptcy court. But plenty of others like, Toys R Us and Bon-Ton Stores Inc., haven't. Both retailers were forced to shutter their operations this year soon after Chapter 11 filings.

Given its sheer size, Sears' bankruptcy filing will have wide ripple effects on everything from already ailing landlords to its tens of thousands of workers.

Lampert, the largest shareholder, has been loaning out his own money for years and has put together deals to prop up the company, which in turn has benefited his own ESL hedge fund.

Last year, Sears sold its famous Craftsman brand to Stanley Black & Decker Inc., following earlier moves to spin off pieces of its Sears Hometown and Outlet division and Lands' End.

In recent weeks, Lampert has been pushing for a debt restructuring and offering to buy some of Sears' key assets, like Kenmore, through his hedge fund as a \$134 million debt repayment came due on Monday. Lampert personally owns 31 percent of the company's shares, while his hedge fund has an 18.5 percent stake, according to FactSet.

"It is all well and good to undertake financial engineering, but the company is in the business of retailing and without a clear retail plan, the firm simply has no reason to exist," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, in a recent analyst note.

Sears' stock has fallen from about \$6 over the past year to below the minimum \$1 level that Nasdaq

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stocks are required to trade in order to remain on the stock index. In April 2007, shares were trading at around \$141. The company, which once had 350,000 workers, has seen its workforce shrink to fewer than 90,000 people as of earlier this year.

As of May, it had fewer than 900 stores, down from a 2012 peak of 4,000.

In a March 2017 government filing, Sears said there was "substantial doubt" it would be able to keep its doors open — but insisted its turnaround efforts would mitigate that risk.

Lampert pledged to return Sears to greatness by leveraging its best-known brands and its vast holdings of land, and more recently planned to entice customers with a loyalty program. But losses continued and the company struggled to get more people through the doors or to shop online.

Jennifer Roberts, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, was a long-time fan of Sears and has fond memories of shopping there for clothes as a child. But in recent years, she's been disappointed by the lack of customer service and outdated stores.

"My mom had always bought her appliances from Sears. That's where my dad got his tools," she said. "But they don't care about their customers anymore."

She said a refrigerator her mother bought at Sears broke after two years and still hasn't been fixed.

"If they don't value a customer, then they don't need my money," Roberts said.

Sales at the company's established locations tumbled nearly 4 percent during its fiscal second quarter. Still, that was an improvement from the same period a year ago. Total revenue dropped 30 percent in the most recent quarter, hurt by continued store closings.

"The problem in Sears' case is that it is a poor retailer," Saunders wrote in his analyst note. "Put bluntly, it has failed on every facet of retailing from assortment to service to merchandise to basic shop keeping standards. Under benign conditions, this would be problematic enough but in today's hyper-competitive retail environment it is a recipe for failure on a grand scale."

For decades, Sears was king of the American shopping landscape. Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s iconic catalog featured items from bicycles to sewing machines to houses, and could generate excitement throughout a household when it arrived. The company began opening retail locations in 1925 and expanded swiftly in suburban malls from the 1950s to 1970s. But the onset of discounters like Walmart created challenges for Sears that have only grown. Sears faced even more competition from online sellers and appliance retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot.

Store shelves have been left bare as many vendors have demanded more stringent payment terms, says Mark Cohen, a professor of retailing at Columbia University and a former Sears executive.

Meanwhile, Sears workers are nervous about what kind of severance they'll receive if their stores close.

John Germann, 46, works full-time and makes \$14 per hour as the lead worker unloading merchandise from trucks at the Chicago Ridge, Illinois, store, which has been drastically reducing its staff since he started nine years ago. Germann now has only 11 people on his team, compared with about 30 a few years ago.

"We're doing the job of two to three people. It's not safe," he said. "We're lifting treadmills and refrigerators."

Prince Harry and Meghan expecting their 1st child in spring

By ROD McGUIRK and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prince Harry and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, are expecting their first child in the spring, Kensington Palace said Monday.

The announcement came hours after Harry and the former Meghan Markle arrived in Sydney at the start of a 16-day visit to Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand. Hundreds of people gathered to catch a glimpse of the couple after they landed.

"Their royal highnesses have appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are delighted to be able to share this happy news with the public," the palace said in a statement.

After their arrival in Sydney, the prince and the former American actress held hands and walked out an

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airport rear entrance and into a car. Meghan, wearing skinny black pants and a black, burgundy trimmed coat, was smiling and clutching folders, while Harry gave a thumbs up to bystanders.

The announcement of the pregnancy confirms weeks of speculation from royal watchers about why Meghan was not joining Harry on his Sydney Harbour Bridge climb set for Friday.

Harry and Meghan — along with Prince William and his wife, Kate, the duchess of Cambridge — have stepped to the fore in the last year as Queen Elizabeth II, 92, slightly reduces her public schedule.

Monday's announcement is welcome news in Britain, where Meghan has won many hearts since her engagement to Harry was announced last December.

British Prime Minister Theresa May offered her "warmest congratulations" on the news, which provided a bit of relief from concerns about the stalled Brexit negotiations. "Wishing them all the best," May tweeted.

The royal couple started dating in July 2016 after they were introduced by friends, and Harry courted Meghan on a trip to Africa shortly afterward. They kept their relationship secret for several months but word eventually leaked to the British press.

They were married in May in a spectacular ceremony on the grounds of Windsor Castle that drew tens of thousands of people to Windsor and was watched by a global TV audience.

Harry has become immensely popular in Britain, in part because of his military service and tireless work on behalf of wounded soldiers, and he has spoken often in recent years of his desire to settle down and start a family.

When the couple got engaged, Harry was asked about plans for children.

"You know, I think one step at a time, and hopefully we'll start a family in the near future," he said.

He said in 2015, before he met Meghan, that he would "love to have kids right now."

Meghan has also talked about wanting to have children.

She said in a 2016 interview that becoming a mother was on her "bucket list." She was still acting in "Suits" at the time.

"I can't wait to start a family, but in due time," she said.

Meghan, with her American roots and successful acting career, has been seen as a modernizing influence on the sometimes stodgy royal family, and she is credited by many for bringing happiness to Harry, who has long struggled to cope with the early death of his mother, Princess Diana.

Harry has broken new ground by talking openly about his mental health issues related to the death of his mother when he was only 12, and that candidness, which is part of a royal campaign to raise awareness about mental illness and end the stigma surrounding it, has brought the royals increased public backing.

The royal couple's trip Down Under is their only international tour since they were married, apart from a two-day visit to Ireland.

Days after watching Harry's cousin Princess Eugenie tie the knot in a lavish ceremony in Windsor, the couple touched down in Sydney on an overcast morning after a regular Qantas Airways flight from London with a brief stopover in Singapore.

Sydney's weather is expected to be drizzly and cool on Tuesday, with showers forecast for most of the week.

It won't be the first time Harry has had to brave the rain in Sydney. Last year, he made a whirlwind visit to cast his eye over the Invictus Games preparations, where he charmed his fans during torrential rain.

The couple's current tour coincides with the games, which start in Sydney on Saturday. The sporting event, founded by Harry in 2014, gives sick and injured military personnel and veterans the opportunity to compete in sports such as wheelchair basketball.

Harry and Meghan will attend the games' opening and closing ceremonies. In all, they have 76 engagements scheduled over 16 days in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand.

In Australia, they will pet a koala in a Sydney zoo, visit the drought-stricken Outback town of Dubbo and meet indigenous leaders on Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, in northeastern Queensland state.

The royal couple was driven from the airport to Admiralty House, the official Sydney residence of Governor General Peter Cosgrove, who represents Australia's head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, Harry's

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grandmother. The couple had no official functions on Monday following the 17,140-kilometer (10,650-mile) flight that Qantas says takes 22 hours and 20 minutes.

Hundreds of well-wishers gathered with umbrellas outside the airport and Admiralty House in the hope of catching a glimpse of Harry and Meghan. The crowd cheered as the waving couple was driven through the gates of the harbor-side mansion.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who plans to climb with Harry to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, told Parliament on Monday that he commended the prince for coming to Sydney for the Invictus Games and welcomed the couple.

"I want to ... commend Prince Harry for his tremendous initiative in lifting the spirits of every single serviceman and woman all around the globe," Morrison said.

After the announcement that Harry and Meghan are expecting a baby, Morrison tweeted: "What fantastic news! Australia is thrilled for you both. Looking forward to sharing in the joy during your stay down under."

U.S. President Donald Trump's representative in Britain, Ambassador Woody Johnson, tweeted: "Happy news to wake up to on a Monday morning - congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex!!"

The royal couple's visit comes six months after Harry's father, Prince Charles, made his 16th official visit to Australia, primarily to open the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast city in Queensland.

Katz reported from London.

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. TURKEY, SAUDIS TO JOINTLY INSPECT CONSULATE

Turkey's government says an "inspection" of the Saudi Consulate will take place, two weeks after Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi vanished.

2. TRUMP TO VISIT HURRICANE-RAVAGED DEEP SOUTH

Trump plans to visit Florida and Georgia and see the recovery effort in the aftermath of Michael, a scene FEMA's chief described as some of the worst he's ever seen.

3. ICONIC NAME SEEKS BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

Sears files for Chapter 11, as the more than a century-old retailer buckles under its massive debt load and staggering losses.

4. HOW POOR DEALT WITHOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION

Nearly 20 percent of low-income people in states that did not expand the government benefit say they passed up medical care in the past year because they couldn't afford it.

5. FOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH, A #METOO RECKONING

The Protestant denomination laments its past role in sexual exploitation and pledges multiple steps to combat it.

6. CHILDREN OF ISLAMIC STATE GROUP LIVE UNDER STIGMA IN IRAQ

Thousands of Iraqi children of IS members are left on their own, their parents dead or imprisoned after the war that brought down the militants' rule.

7. SYRIA REOPENS 2 CROSSINGS WITH JORDAN, ISRAELI-HELD GOLAN

Syria's key border crossings with its neighbors reopen, years after traffic was halted by war, violence.

8. FOR NEWLYWED ROYALS, A SPECIAL DELIVERY

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan Markle, are expecting their first child in the spring.

9. RECOVERY OF NEPAL CLIMBERS DELAYED BY MOUNTAIN'S REMOTENESS

It took rescuers two days to recover the battered bodies of nine climbers, who died in the country's worst mountaineering disaster in recent years.

10. AND THEN THERE WAS 1

After Tom Brady and the Patriots outlasted the Chiefs 43-40, the Los Angeles Rams are the only remain-

ing unbeaten team in the NFL at 6-0.

Episcopal Church confronts past role in sexual exploitation

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With striking displays of candor, the Episcopal Church is acknowledging the potency of the #MeToo movement by officially lamenting its past role in sexual exploitation and pledging steps to combat it.

The Protestant denomination's national convention this summer included an emotional session at which first-person accounts of abuse by clergy and other church personnel were read aloud by bishops of the same gender as the victims — six men, six women. Dioceses nationwide are now seeking to gather and share similar stories from victims in their local church communities.

That process of story sharing has been particularly dramatic in the Diocese of New York, where Bishop Andrew Dietsche released a blunt pastoral letter on Sept. 11. It described the most famous of his predecessors, the late Paul Moore Jr., as a "serial predator" who engaged in "long-time patterns" of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Moore, as charismatic bishop of the diocese from 1972 to 1989, became one of the nation's foremost liberal Christian activists. He supported the ordination of women and gays while assailing racism, corporate avarice and various U.S. military policies.

It has been known for a decade that Moore, who died in 2003, was bisexual and had a long extramarital affair that began when a young man came to him for counseling. Moore's daughter, Honor Moore, revealed that in a 2008 memoir.

Shortly after the memoir's publication, then-Bishop Mark Sisk issued a pastoral letter describing Moore as "an exploiter of the vulnerable" who had been the subject of multiple complaints. But the scope of Moore's abusive sexual misconduct has become known only this year, notably at a Catskill Mountains retreat in the spring attended by clergy from the New York diocese.

At one session, participants were invited to share stories about difficulties they faced in their ministries. Among those at the event was the Rev. Alison Quin, rector of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Stone Ridge, New York.

As recounted by Quin in a May 6 sermon, one female priest arose to denounce Moore as a serial exploiter who had affairs with many young priests and lay people. Quin said a male priest in his 60s came next, saying, "I was one of Paul Moore's boys — he seduced me when I was a new priest. It nearly ruined my life."

Recalled Quin, "Many of us were in tears at the end of the morning — at the suffering we heard, at the terrible mix of good and evil in human beings, at the brokenness in the church."

Honor Moore, in an interview, said she was dismayed that her father was the only person named in Dietsche's letter and objected to the label "sexual predator."

"It doesn't seem like a fair term," she said. "He was a sexually active gay man who lived in an era of unfortunate boundaries."

Neither the retreat session nor Dietsche's letter have been previously reported. As detailed in the letter, the New York diocese is now seeking to gather first-person stories from abuse victims throughout the community, with plans for a Nov. 9 service that would resemble the national convention session in Austin, Texas, in July.

A #MeToo task force formed by the diocese has set up a Google Docs program through which victims can anonymously submit accounts of their experiences. There's also a help line through which callers can receive confidential pastoral care, and another phone number for victims who want to make an official report of sexual misconduct.

The diocese is reaching out to abusers, as well as victims, inviting them to anonymously acknowledge misconduct and repent for it.

"The season of listening has come," Dietsche wrote in his letter. "And may we find in the sharing of stories ... a renewed commitment in ourselves to create and nurture communities where no one must live

in silent pain.”

Mary Glasspool, who serves under Dietsche as an assistant bishop, has been fielding some of the calls to the help line and also tracking responses to the invitation to share stories of sexual abuse and exploitation.

“Not everyone wants their story publicly told — some want it responded to privately,” she said.

At the national level, the Episcopal response to the #MeToo movement took shape last January when the church’s top leader, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and one of his colleagues issued an open letter calling for an examination of how the church had “handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years.”

Ahead of the national convention in Austin, a #MeToo Planning Team organized the “Liturgy of Listening” that featured the first-person accounts of victims. Among those sharing their stories were a church employee subjected to lewd comments from a male rector, a woman raped by a priest from whom she was receiving spiritual guidance, and a choir boy subjected to emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Hundreds of people attended the 90-minute service. The Episcopal News Service said some were in tears when it ended; others exchanged hugs with those near them.

Before the convention adjourned, bishops adopted a covenant that commits them to seeking a more forceful response to sexual exploitation and harassment. In addition to holding “listening events” in their dioceses, bishops are being urged to eliminate pay and benefit inequities among their staff, create and enforce equitable parental leave policies, and transform their church community “into a more just, safe, caring and prophetic place for all.”

“It’s a living, flowing kind of movement that’s really about love and reconciliation and healing,” said Bishop Todd Ousley, who heads the national church’s Office of Pastoral Development. “We don’t know where it’s going to end.”

In some respects, the Episcopalians’ initiatives mirror efforts undertaken this year by the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., to combat sexual exploitation by clergy and other church personnel. In July, after a series of revelations about misconduct, the SBC announced plans to create a high-level study group to develop strategies for deterring sexual abusers and ministering to their victims.

Alison Quin says she and members of her congregation believe the Episcopal church will be stronger for addressing sexual exploitation head-on.

“Unhealthy secrets can destroy an institution,” she said.

Trump to visit Florida, Georgia; search ongoing for missing

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**, Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Upon touring the damage in several towns along Florida’s Panhandle, Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Brock Long called the destruction left by Hurricane Michael some of the worst he’s ever seen.

On Monday, President Donald Trump plans to visit Florida and Georgia and see the recovery effort for himself. Trump declared a state of emergency for Georgia late Sunday.

In hurricane-flattened Mexico Beach, crews with backhoes and other heavy equipment scooped up splintered boards, broken glass, chunks of asphalt and other debris Sunday as the mayor held out hope for the 250 or so residents who may have tried to ride out the storm.

The death toll from Michael’s destructive march from Florida to Virginia stood at 17, with just one confirmed death so far in this town of about 1,000 people that took a direct hit from the hurricane and its 155 mph (250 kph) winds last week.

Mayor Al Cathey estimated 250 residents stayed behind when the hurricane struck, and he said he remained hopeful about their fate. He said search-and-rescue teams in the beach town had already combed areas with the worst damage.

“If we lose only one life, to me that’s going to be a miracle,” Cathey said.

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He said enough food and water had been brought in for the residents who remain. Even some cellphone service had returned to the devastated community.

A framed portrait of Jesus was propped Sunday facing out of the window of Diana Hughes' home in Mexico Beach. She rode out the hurricane on the couch huddled with her dog and her ex-husband.

The storm peeled off a small section of the roof and a few inches of water got in the single-story house. But the pickup truck wouldn't start after getting swamped with water. Hughes still had her home, but no way to leave it.

"We need a generator, but we just lack transportation," Hughes said on her front porch. "We've got food and we've got water. But we've got to keep ice in the refrigerator so the food won't spoil. You can only eat so many crackers."

Four days after the storm struck, a large swath of the Panhandle was suffering, from little beach towns to the larger Panama City to rural communities miles from where the hurricane came ashore. More than 190,000 homes and businesses in Florida were without electricity, along with about 120,000 in Georgia.

"We are talking about poor people, many of them are older, miles from each other, isolated in many cases from roads, including some dirt roads that are cut off right now," Sen. Marco Rubio said on NBC's "Meet The Press." "We haven't been able to reach those people in a number of days."

In downtown Marianna, Florida, the facades of historic buildings lay in pieces on the ground across from the courthouse. Jill Braxton stopped with a pickup truck loaded with hay, saying many people in rural areas nearby had trapped animals and needed supplies for their livestock.

"We're just trying to help some other people who may not be able to get out of their driveways for a couple of days," Braxton said. "There was a girl that had trapped horses, horses that were down, and horses that really needed vet care that could not get there. There's been animals killed. People lost their cows."

Some victims stranded by the storm managed to summon relief by using logs to spell out "HELP" on the ground, officials in Bay County, which includes Mexico Beach, said in a Facebook post. Official said someone from another county was using an aerial mapping app, noticed the distress message and contacted authorities.

No details were released on who was stranded and what sort of help was needed.

Meanwhile, Sen. Bill Nelson said Tyndall Air Force Base on the Panhandle was heavily damaged, but he promised it would be rebuilt. The Florida Democrat and member of the Armed Services Committee said older buildings on the base were demolished, while newer ones will need substantial repairs.

The base is home to some of the nation's most advanced fighter jets, and Nelson said some hangars were damaged severely. But he gave no information on how many planes were on the base during the storm or how many were damaged.

In a statement Sunday night, the Air Force said that, "Not one Airman or family member was injured during Hurricane Michael." Of its aircraft the statement said that visually they all looked intact but that maintenance professionals will do a detailed assessment of the F-22 Raptors and other aircraft before they say with certainty that damaged aircraft can be repaired and sent back into the skies

For the few residents remaining in Mexico Beach, conditions were treacherous.

Steve Lonigan was outside his home, talking with neighbor Jim Ostman, when a loud cracking sound made both men jump. It was just a small wooden block shifting in the sand beneath the weight of the front end of Lonigan's camper trailer.

"All this stuff is just dangerous," Ostman said, glancing at the destruction all around. "It's so unstable."

Lonigan and his wife returned Sunday after evacuating to Georgia. Seawater surged into his home, leaving a soggy mess of mud and leaves, even though the house stands 12 feet (3.7 meters) above ground on concrete blocks.

The single-story house had broken windows, and part of its roof and front steps were missing. Lonigan used a ladder to climb inside.

"We've got a lot more left than other people," he said. "We were able to sleep in the bedroom last night."

Contributors in Florida include Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Mexico Beach, Brendan Farrington

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in Panama City, Gary Fineout in Tallahassee and AP Photographer Gerald Herbert in Panama City.

For the latest on Hurricane Michael, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

Koreas agree to break ground on inter-Korean railroad

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North and South Korea continued their push for peace Monday with high-level talks that resulted in a host of agreements, including a plan by the rivals for a groundbreaking ceremony this year on an ambitious project to connect their railways and roads.

The agreements come amid unease in Washington over the speed of inter-Korean engagement. Many outsiders believe that U.S.-led efforts to rid the North of its nuclear-tipped missiles are lagging significantly behind the Koreans' efforts to move past decades of bitter rivalry.

A series of weapons tests by North Korea last year, and an exchange of insults and threats between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, had many on the Korean Peninsula fearing war. But there has since been a surprising peace initiative, with three inter-Korean summits and a June meeting in Singapore between Trump and Kim. The U.S. and North Korea are working on plans for a second such summit.

Still, there is widespread skepticism that North Korea will disarm. And, despite the fanfare for the proposed railway and road projects, the Koreans cannot move much further along without the lifting of international sanctions against North Korea, which isn't likely to come before it takes firmer steps toward relinquishing its nuclear weapons and missiles.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles affairs with the North, said in a statement that the government will share details from Monday's meeting with the United States and other nations and will closely coordinate with them to avoid any friction over sanctions.

The ministry said the rivals agreed Monday to hold general-level military talks soon to discuss reducing border tensions and setting up a joint military committee that's meant to maintain communication and avoid crises and accidental clashes.

The Koreans also agreed to use their newly opened liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong to host talks between sports officials in late October to discuss plans to send combined teams to the 2020 Summer Olympics and to make a push to co-host the 2032 Summer Games.

And the two countries will hold Red Cross talks at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort in November to set up video-conference meetings between aging relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War and potentially expand face-to-face reunions between them.

Monday's talks at the border village of Panmunjom were aimed at finding ways to carry out peace agreements announced after a summit last month between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Kim in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said it was meaningful that the Koreans are getting faster in reaching agreements as their diplomacy gains traction. His North Korean counterpart, Ri Son Gwon, who heads an agency dealing with inter-Korean affairs, said "no group and no force will be able to prevent the path toward peace, prosperity and our nation's unification."

At the most recent summit between Moon and Kim, the two leaders committed to reviving economic cooperation when possible, voicing optimism that international sanctions could end and allow such activity.

They also announced measures to reduce conventional military threats, such as creating buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, removing 11 front-line guard posts by December, and demining sections of the Demilitarized Zone.

Moon has described inter-Korean engagement as crucial to resolving the nuclear standoff and is eager to restart joint economic projects held back by sanctions if the larger nuclear negotiations between the United States and North Korea begin yielding results.

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However, South Korea's enthusiasm for engagement with its rival appears to have created discomfort with the United States, a key ally.

Moon's government last week walked back a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea following Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha also said U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed displeasure about the Koreas' military agreements. Kang was not specific, but her comments fueled speculation that Washington wasn't fully on board before Seoul signed the agreements.

Trump has encouraged U.S. allies to maintain sanctions on North Korea until it denuclearizes to maintain a campaign of pressure against Kim's government.

Experts say updating North Korean trains, which use rails that were first laid in the early 20th century, could take decades and cost tens of billions of dollars.

In Monday's meeting, the Koreas also agreed to conduct joint inspections during late October of the North Korean portion of a railway that once connected Seoul and Sinuiju, before moving on to railways in the eastern section in early November. A groundbreaking ceremony for the project is planned for November or early December.

Originally built by Japan, the Gyeongui line between Seoul and Sinuiju was separated at the end of World War II in 1945, when the Korean Peninsula was liberated from Japanese colonial rule and divided between a U.S.-controlled southern side and a Soviet-controlled north.

The line was briefly reconnected during a previous era of rapprochement between the rivals in the 2000s. The Koreas in December 2007 began freight services between South Korea's Munsan Station in Paju and North Korea's Pongdong Station, which is near Kaesong where the Koreas once operated a joint factory park. But the line was cut again in 2008 when a new conservative government took over in Seoul.

Trump says climate change not a hoax, not sure of its source

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is backing off his claim that climate change is a hoax but says he doesn't know if it's manmade and suggests that the climate will "change back again."

In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday night, Trump said he doesn't want to put the U.S. at a disadvantage in responding to climate change.

"I think something's happening. Something's changing and it'll change back again," he said. "I don't think it's a hoax. I think there's probably a difference. But I don't know that it's manmade. I will say this: I don't want to give trillions and trillions of dollars. I don't want to lose millions and millions of jobs."

Trump called climate change a hoax in November 2012 when he sent a tweet stating, "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive." He later said he was joking about the Chinese connection, but in years since has continued to call global warming a hoax.

"I'm not denying climate change," he said in the interview. "But it could very well go back. You know, we're talking about over a ... millions of years."

As far as the climate "changing back," temperature records kept by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show that the world hasn't had a cooler-than-average year since 1976 or a cooler-than-normal month since the end of 1985.

Trump, who is scheduled on Monday to visit areas of Georgia and Florida damaged by Hurricane Michael, also expressed doubt over scientists' findings linking the changing climate to more powerful hurricanes.

"They say that we had hurricanes that were far worse than what we just had with Michael," said Trump, who identified "they" as "people" after being pressed by "60 Minutes" correspondent Leslie Stahl. She asked, "What about the scientists who say it's worse than ever?" the president replied, "You'd have to show me the scientists because they have a very big political agenda."

Trump's comments came just days after a Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a warning that global warming would increase climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. The report detailed how Earth's weather,

health and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit future human-caused warming.

Citing concerns about the pact's economic impact, Trump said in 2017 that the U.S. will leave the Paris climate accord. The agreement set voluntary greenhouse gas emission targets in an effort to lessen the impact of fossil fuels.

On a different topic, Trump told "60 Minutes" that he's been surprised by Washington being a tough, deceptive and divisive place, though some accuse the real estate mogul elected president of those same tactics.

"So I always used to say the toughest people are Manhattan real estate guys and blah, blah," he said. "Now I say they're babies."

He said the political people in Washington have changed his thinking.

"This is the most deceptive, vicious world. It is vicious, it's full of lies, deceit and deception," he said. "You make a deal with somebody and it's like making a deal with — that table."

San Francisco to vote on taxing rich businesses for homeless

By JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco has come to be known around the world as a place for aggressive panhandling, open-air drug use and sprawling tent camps, the dirt and despair all the more remarkable for the city's immense wealth.

Some streets are so filthy that officials launched a special "poop patrol," and a young tech worker created "Snapcrap" — an app to report the filth. Morning commuters walk briskly past homeless people huddled against subway walls. In the city's squalid downtown sector, the frail and sick shuffle along in wheelchairs or stumble around, sometimes half-clothed.

The situation has become so dire that a coalition of activists collected enough signatures to put a measure on the city's Nov. 6 ballot. Proposition C would tax hundreds of San Francisco's wealthiest companies to help thousands of homeless and mentally ill residents, an effort that failed earlier this year in Seattle. San Francisco's measure is expected to raise \$300 million a year, nearly doubling what the city already spends.

"This is the worst it's ever been," says Marc Benioff, founder of cloud-computing giant Salesforce and a fourth-generation San Franciscan, who is supporting the measure even though his company would pay an additional \$10 million a year if it passes. "Nobody should have to live like this. They don't need to live like this. We can get this under control."

"We have to do it. We have to try something," said Sunshine Powers, who owns a tie-dye boutique, Love on Haight, in the city's historic Haight-Ashbury neighborhood. "If my community is bad, nobody is going to want to come here."

The proposition is the latest battle between big business and social services advocates who demand that corporate America pay to solve inequities exacerbated by its success. In San Francisco, it's also become an intriguing fight between recently elected Mayor London Breed, who is siding with the city's Chamber of Commerce in urging a no vote, and philanthropist Benioff, whose company is San Francisco's largest private employer with 8,400 workers.

Breed came out hard against the measure, saying it lacked collaboration, could attract homeless people from neighboring counties, and could cost middle-class jobs in retail and service. The city has already dramatically increased spending on homelessness, she said, with no noticeable improvement.

San Francisco spent \$380 million of its \$10 billion budget last year on services related to homelessness.

"I have to make decisions with my head, not just my heart," Breed said. "I do not believe doubling what we spend on homelessness without new accountability, when we don't even spend what we have now efficiently, is good government."

Cities along the West Coast are grappling with rampant homelessness, driven in part by growing numbers of well-paying tech jobs that price lower-income residents out of tight housing markets. A family of four in San Francisco earning \$117,000 is considered low-income.

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Business prevailed in Seattle, when leaders in June repealed a per-employee tax that would have raised \$50 million a year, after Amazon and Starbucks pushed back. In July, the city council of Cupertino in Silicon Valley scuttled a similar head tax after opposition from its largest employer, Apple Inc.

Mountain View residents, however, will vote this fall on a per-employee tax expected to raise \$6 million a year, largely from Google, for transit projects.

The San Francisco measure is different in that it would levy the tax mostly by revenue rather than by number of employees — an average half-percent tax increase on companies' revenue above \$50 million each year. It was also put on the ballot by citizens, not elected officials.

Online payment processing company Stripe has voiced opposition and contributed \$120,000 to the campaign against Proposition C, but other companies have stayed quiet. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, whose board includes representatives of Microsoft, LinkedIn and Oracle, is leading the fight.

Up to 400 businesses would be affected, with internet and financial services sectors bearing nearly half the cost.

The city says confidentiality precludes revealing tax information, but some of the companies expected to pay the most are big names across major industries. Wells Fargo & Co., retailer Gap Inc. and ride-hailing platform Uber declined to comment.

Pharmaceutical distributor McKesson Corp. referred questions to a private-sector trade association, the Committee on Jobs, which called the measure flawed. Utility Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. said it has not taken a position. Twitter declined to comment, but chief executive Jack Dorsey said via tweet last week that he trusts Breed to fix the problem.

"Anyone can take a look at the status quo and understand it's not working, but more money alone is not the sole answer," says Jess Montejano, spokesman for the "No on C" campaign.

Benioff disagrees. A \$37 million two-year initiative he helped start with the city and to which he contributed more than \$11 million has housed nearly 400 families through rent subsidies, he said.

Benioff has pledged at least \$2 million from company and personal resources for the November tax campaign. He said he was ultimately swayed by a report from the city's chief economist, which found the measure would likely reduce homelessness while resulting in a net loss of 900 jobs at most, or 0.1 percent of all jobs.

"I said, 'Well, I'm the largest employer in the city, and the city is in decline from homelessness and cleanliness. We have to take action now,'" he said.

At least half of the new revenue would go toward permanent housing, and at least a quarter to services for people with severe behavioral issues. A 2017 one-night count found an estimated 7,500 people without permanent shelter in San Francisco. More than half had lived in the city for at least a decade.

Tracey Mixon and her daughter, Maliya, 8, are among the hidden homeless.

Mixon, 47, a San Francisco native, lives and works in the notoriously dangerous and drug-infested Tenderloin neighborhood. They were forced out of their rental this summer, partly because the company that managed her property lost its federal accreditation, she said on a recent afternoon while working a crossing guard shift.

One of the hardest parts was finding a place to go for the day when mother and daughter were kicked out of an overnight-only emergency shelter.

"I have to shield her from people that are using drugs," she said. "I have to shield her from people who might be fighting."

Hanging out on Haight, the street that played a central role in the "Summer of Love," Stormy Nichole Day, 22, says she would love a place to live. Currently, Day is sleeping in a doorway. She could thrive if her basic needs were met, she said.

"And that includes a house, and a place to cook food and a place to take a shower."

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Price, Red Sox bounce back, beat Astros 7-5, tie ALCS 1-1

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — David Price went home a winner in a postseason start for the first time in his career. That, he insisted, is all he ever cared about.

"This is bigger than David Price," he said on Sunday night. "This isn't about me. This is about the Boston Red Sox."

Price was good enough, the Red Sox relievers were even better, and Jackie Bradley Jr. delivered a go-ahead, three-run double off the Green Monster to lead Boston to a 7-5 victory over the Houston Astros and tie the AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

Price fell one out short of qualifying for the win, which would have been his first in 11 postseason starts. But it was the first time his team had won a playoff game he started, snapping a record run of October futility.

"It's baby steps," said Price, who entered the night 0-9 in 10 career playoff starts. "I expect myself to be great in big moments, and I haven't done that thus far in my career. But I came here to win, period. I came here to win a World Series, and to do it multiple times. And that's what I'm about."

Game 3 is Tuesday in Houston, followed by two more at Minute Maid Park and a chance for the defending World Series champions to clinch a second straight AL pennant at home. Marwin Gonzalez homered for the Astros, who had won five straight postseason games dating to Game 7 of the 2017 Series.

"We came here and won a game, and they played well tonight," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said. "It's going to be a fun series, so we're looking forward to going back home."

Price was spotted a two-run lead in the first inning and then fell behind 4-2 before Bradley clanged one off the left-field wall that Gonzalez chased helplessly as it bounced back toward the infield.

Price left leading 5-4 with two on with two out in the fifth before Matt Barnes struck out Gonzalez to end the inning and then pitched a perfect sixth to earn the victory. Ryan Brasier pitched a scoreless inning and erstwhile starter Rick Porcello set the Astros down 1-2-3 in the eighth.

Closer Craig Kimbrel gave up Jose Altuve's RBI single with two outs in the ninth before Bregman launched a high fly to left that Andrew Benintendi caught a step in front of the Monster.

"I knew I missed it," Bregman said. "If I got it, it would have been on the street behind Fenway Park."

Gerrit Cole, who was so dominant in his Division Series start against Cleveland, gave up a double to Mookie Betts — the first batter of the game — as Boston sent eight batters to the plate in the first and scored twice.

The AL West champs tied it in the second on George Springer's two-run double down the right-field line. And when Gonzalez cleared the Monster — and the seats above them — with a two-run homer in the third, it looked like Price was headed for another loss (he has won two postseason games in relief.)

But Boston, which won the AL East and a franchise-record 108 games, came back in the bottom half, starting with Xander Bogaerts' one-out single and then a double by Steve Pearce that sent Gonzalez crashing back-first into the metal scoreboard on the left-field wall. He fell to the warning track, but after the training staff and manger AJ Hinch went out to check on him he stayed in the game.

"The ball, the wall, he's back-pedaling. He's got to make a decision on whether or not to concede the wall and try to play it off the wall or try to make a catch," Hinch said. "It's a well-placed hit."

Cole walked Devers on four pitches to load the bases and struck out Ian Kinsler on three before Bradley lofted one down the left-field line and off the Monster. As the ball bounced back toward the infield, it hopped on the padding along the side wall, just out of Gonzalez's reach.

"Not really catching a break with it rolling on this awkward piece of padding all the way down was unfortunate," Cole said. "But you put yourself in that position."

Betts scored an insurance run in the seventh, walking to lead off the inning and coming around to make it 6-4 on a wild pitch and a pair of passed balls. He gave Boston a 7-4 lead with an RBI double in the eighth.

PRICE IS RIGHT

In all, Price was charged with four runs on five hits and four walks, striking out four in 4 2/3 innings

Price's teams had lost all 10 of his previous postseason starts, the longest such losing streak in baseball

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history. He allowed three runs and got just five outs in Game 2 against the Yankees, the only Red Sox loss in the series.

As Price left the field on this night, the crowd rose to applaud the pitcher they booed off the mound in the Division Series, and he tapped the brim of his cap.

"It's definitely appreciated," Price said. "It wasn't the line I dreamed up to have tonight. But our offense, our defense, everybody rallied together."

SALE OUT

The Red Sox said Game 1 starter Chris Sale was hospitalized with a stomach illness but Cora said he was still hoping the he would join the team in Houston.

"He was feeling bad and he's at the hospital," Cora said. "From what I know, it's nothing serious. But obviously whenever you have to go to the hospital you've got to be 'worried.'"

Cora said it did not affect his performance in the series opener, which Houston won 7-2 .

HOMER HAPPY

It was Houston's 14th straight postseason game with a homer, breaking the major league record that had been held by the Astros from 2001-04.

UP NEXT

Dallas Keuchel, who was 12-11 with a 3.74 ERA in the regular season, will start Game 3 for Houston. He allowed two runs in five innings in the Game 3 clincher against Cleveland.

With Porcello pitching in relief on Sunday, the Red Sox are expected to start Nathan Eovaldi on Tuesday. He was 6-7 with a 3.81 ERA in the regular season and allowed one run in five innings for the win against the Yankees in Game 3 of the ALDS — his first career postseason appearance.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Pressured over missing writer, Saudi Arabia lashes out

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia has threatened to retaliate for any sanctions imposed against it after President Donald Trump said the oil-rich kingdom deserves "severe punishment" if it is responsible for the disappearance and suspected murder of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

The warning from the world's top oil exporter came after a turbulent day on the Saudi stock exchange, which plunged as much as 7 percent at one point Sunday.

The statement was issued as international concern grew over the writer who vanished on a visit to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul over a week ago. American lawmakers threatened tough punitive action against the Saudis, and Germany, France and Britain jointly called for a "credible investigation" into Khashoggi's disappearance.

Turkish officials have said they fear a Saudi hit team killed and dismembered Khashoggi, who wrote critically of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The kingdom has called such allegations "baseless" but has not offered any evidence Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert," and the sell-off on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange showed that investors are uneasy.

The exchange dropped by over 500 points, then clawed back some of the losses, ending the day down 264 points, or more than 4 percent. Of 188 stocks traded on the exchange, 179 ended the day with a loss.

"Something this big would definitely spook investors, and Saudi just opened up for foreign direct investment, so that was big," said Issam Kassabieh, a financial analyst at Dubai-based firm Menacorp Finance. "Investors do not feel solid in Saudi yet, so it's easy for them to take back their funds."

In an interview aired Sunday, Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" that Saudi Arabia would face strong consequences if involved in Khashoggi's disappearance.

"There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we're going to have

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to see," Trump said. "We're going to get to the bottom of it, and there will be severe punishment."

But the president has also said "we would be punishing ourselves" by canceling arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The sales are a "tremendous order for our companies," and if the Saudis don't buy their weaponry from the U.S., they will get it from others, he said.

In a statement published by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, the kingdom warned that if it "receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom's economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy."

"The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations," the statement said.

The statement did not elaborate. However, a column published in English a short time later by the general manager of the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya satellite news network suggested Saudi Arabia could use its oil production as a weapon. Benchmark Brent crude is trading at around \$80 a barrel, and Trump has criticized OPEC and Saudi Arabia over rising prices.

"If the price of oil reaching \$80 angered President Trump, no one should rule out the price jumping to \$100, or \$200, or even double that figure," Turki Aldakhil wrote.

It's unclear, however, whether Saudi Arabia would be willing to unilaterally cut production.

Aldakhil added that Saudi arms purchases from the U.S. and other trade could be at risk as well. "The truth is that if Washington imposes sanctions on Riyadh, it will stab its own economy to death, even though it thinks that it is stabbing only Riyadh!" he wrote.

The Saudi Embassy in Washington tweeted Sunday night it appreciated America "for refraining from jumping to conclusions on the ongoing investigation," likely trying to walk back the rhetoric.

Meanwhile, Saudi King Salman spoke by telephone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about Khashoggi. Turkey said Erdogan "stressed forming a joint working group to probe the case." Saudi Arabia meanwhile said King Salman thanked Erdogan "for welcoming the kingdom's proposal" for forming the working group.

The king also said Turkey and Saudi Arabia enjoy close relations and "that no one will get to undermine the strength of this relationship," according to a statement on the Saudi Press Agency. While Turkey and the kingdom differ on political issues, Saudi investments are a crucial lifeline for Ankara amid trouble with its lira currency.

Prince Mohammed, King Salman's son, has aggressively pitched the kingdom as a destination for foreign investment. But Khashoggi's disappearance has led several business leaders and media outlets to back out of the upcoming investment conference in Riyadh called the Future Investment Initiative. They include the CEO of Uber, a company in which Saudi Arabia has invested billions of dollars; billionaire Richard Branson; JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Jamie Dimon; and Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford.

Khashoggi has written extensively for the Post about Saudi Arabia, 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. Those policies are all seen as initiatives of the crown prince.

Associated Press writer Malak Harb contributed to this report.

4 days after storm, large swath of Panhandle suffering

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**, Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Crews with backhoes and other heavy equipment scooped up splintered boards, broken glass, chunks of asphalt and other debris in hurricane-flattened Mexico Beach on Sunday as the mayor held out hope for the 250 or so residents who may have tried to ride out the storm.

The death toll from Michael's destructive march from Florida to Virginia stood at 17, with just one confirmed death so far in this Florida Panhandle town of about 1,000 people that took a direct hit from the hurricane and its 155 mph (250 kph) winds last week.

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Crews worked to clear building debris along with the rubble from a collapsed section of the beachfront highway.

Mayor Al Cathey estimated 250 residents stayed behind when the hurricane struck, and he said he remained hopeful about their fate. He said search-and-rescue teams in the beach town had already combed areas with the worst damage.

"If we lose only one life, to me that's going to be a miracle," Cathey said.

He said enough food and water had been brought in for the residents who remain. Even some cellphone service had returned to the devastated community.

A framed portrait of Jesus was propped Sunday facing out of the window of Diana Hughes' home in Mexico Beach. She rode out the hurricane on the couch huddled with her dog and her ex-husband.

The storm peeled off a small section of the roof and a few inches of water got in the single-story house. But the pickup truck wouldn't start after getting swamped with water. Hughes still had her home, but no way to leave it.

"We need a generator, but we just lack transportation," Hughes said on her front porch. "We've got food and we've got water. But we've got to keep ice in the refrigerator so the food won't spoil. You can only eat so many crackers."

President Donald Trump plans to visit Florida and Georgia on Monday to see the damage.

Four days after the storm struck, a large swath of the Panhandle was suffering, from little beach towns to the larger Panama City to rural communities miles from where the hurricane came ashore. More than 190,000 homes and businesses in Florida were without electricity, along with about 120,000 in Georgia.

"There are a lot of inland areas, some of these poor rural counties to the north of there. These counties took a devastating hit," Sen. Marco Rubio said on NBC's "Meet The Press."

"And we are talking about poor people, many of them are older, miles from each other, isolated in many cases from roads, including some dirt roads that are cut off right now. We haven't been able to reach those people in a number of days."

In downtown Marianna, Florida, the facades of historic buildings lay in pieces on the ground across from the courthouse. Jill Braxton stopped with a pickup truck loaded with hay, saying many people in rural areas nearby had trapped animals and needed supplies for their livestock.

"We're just trying to help some other people who may not be able to get out of their driveways for a couple of days," Braxton said. "There was a girl that had trapped horses, horses that were down, and horses that really needed vet care that could not get there. There's been animals killed. People lost their cows."

Some victims stranded by the storm managed to summon relief by using logs to spell out "HELP" on the ground, officials in Bay County, which includes Mexico Beach, said in a Facebook post. Official said someone from another county was using an aerial mapping app, noticed the distress message and contacted authorities.

No details were released on who was stranded and what sort of help was needed.

Meanwhile, Sen. Bill Nelson said Tyndall Air Force Base on the Panhandle was heavily damaged, but he promised it would be rebuilt. The Florida Democrat and member of the Armed Services Committee said older buildings on the base were demolished, while newer ones will need substantial repairs.

The base is home to some of the nation's most advanced fighter jets, and Nelson said some hangars were damaged severely. But he gave no information on how many planes were on the base during the storm or how many were damaged.

For the few residents remaining in Mexico Beach, conditions were treacherous.

Steve Lonigan was outside his home, talking with neighbor Jim Ostman, when a loud cracking sound made both men jump. It was just a small wooden block shifting in the sand beneath the weight of the front end of Lonigan's camper trailer.

"All this stuff is just dangerous," Ostman said, glancing at the destruction all around. "It's so unstable."

Lonigan and his wife returned Sunday after evacuating to Georgia. Seawater surged into his home, leaving a soggy mess of mud and leaves, even though the house stands 12 feet (3.7 meters) above ground

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on concrete blocks.

The single-story house had broken windows, and part of its roof and front steps were missing. Lonigan used a ladder to climb inside.

"We've got a lot more left than other people," he said. "We were able to sleep in the bedroom last night."

In hard-hit Panama City, pastor John Blount held Sunday services at St. Andrew United Methodist Church outdoors, in front of a wall demolished by the storm. Afterward, the church held a large cookout for the storm-weary.

More roads were becoming passable as crews cleared trees and power lines, but traffic lights remained out and there were long lines at the few open gas stations.

Florida officials evacuated nearly 3,000 inmates from two hurricane-damaged prisons — the Gulf Correctional Institution and Annex and Calhoun Correctional Institution. They had damage to the roof and the infrastructure critical for security, authorities said. No inmates or staff members were injured.

Contributors in Florida include Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Mexico Beach, Brendan Farrington in Panama City, Gary Fineout in Tallahassee and AP Photographer Gerald Herbert in Panama City.

For the latest on Hurricane Michael, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

Saudis reject threats as stocks plunge after Trump comments

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia on Sunday threatened to retaliate for any sanctions imposed against it after President Donald Trump said the oil-rich kingdom deserves "severe punishment" if it is responsible for the disappearance and suspected murder of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

The warning from the world's top oil exporter came after a turbulent day on the Saudi stock exchange, which plunged as much as 7 percent at one point.

The statement was issued as international concern grew over the writer who vanished on a visit to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul over a week ago. American lawmakers threatened tough punitive action against the Saudis, and Germany, France and Britain jointly called for a "credible investigation" into Khashoggi's disappearance.

Turkish officials have said they fear a Saudi hit team killed and dismembered Khashoggi, who wrote critically of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The kingdom has called such allegations "baseless" but has not offered any evidence Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert," and the sell-off on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange showed that investors are uneasy.

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In an interview scheduled to air Sunday, Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" that Saudi Arabia would face strong consequences if involved in Khashoggi's disappearance.

"There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we're going to have to see," Trump said. "We're going to get to the bottom of it, and there will be severe punishment."

But the president has also said "we would be punishing ourselves" by canceling arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The sales are a "tremendous order for our companies," and if the Saudis don't buy their weaponry from the U.S., they will get it from others, he said.

In a statement published by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, the kingdom warned that if it "receives

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The statement did not elaborate. However, a column published in English a short time later by the general manager of the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya satellite news network suggested Saudi Arabia could use its oil production as a weapon. Benchmark Brent crude is trading at around \$80 a barrel, and Trump has criticized OPEC and Saudi Arabia over rising prices.

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Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Counselor Ahmed Hafez, said Egypt is following with concern the repercussions of the case of Khashoggi, and stressed the importance of revealing the truth of the matter through a transparent investigation, while emphasizing the gravity of pre-empting investigations and directing groundless accusations.

Khashoggi has written extensively for the Post about Saudi Arabia, 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. Those policies are all seen as initiatives of the crown prince.

Associated Press writer Malak Harb contributed to this report.

Bavarian voters punish Merkel allies in state election

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative allies lost their absolute majority in Bavaria's state parliament by a wide margin in a regional election Sunday, a result that could cause more turbulence within the national government.

The Christian Social Union took 37.2 percent of the vote, down from 47.7 percent five years ago. It was the party's worst performance since 1950 in a state vote in Bavaria, which it has traditionally dominated.

Constant squabbling in Merkel's national government and a power struggle at home have weighed on the CSU. It is traditionally a touch more right-wing than the chancellor's party and has taken a hard-line on migration, clashing with Merkel on the issue.

There were gains for parties to its left and right. The Greens won 17.5 percent to secure second place, double their support in 2013. The far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, entered the state legislature with 10.2 percent of the vote.

Meanwhile, the center-left Social Democrats, Merkel's other national coalition partner in Berlin, finished in fifth place with a disastrous 9.7 percent, less than half what they received in 2013 and their worst in the state since World War II.

The CSU has governed Bavaria, the prosperous southeastern state that is home to some 13 million of Germany's 82 million people, for more than six decades.

Needing coalition partners to govern is itself a major setback for the party, which exists only in Bavaria

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and held an absolute majority in the state parliament for all but five of the past 56 years.

"Of course this isn't an easy day for the CSU," the state's governor, Markus Soeder, told supporters in Munich, adding that the party accepted the "painful" result "with humility."

Pointing to goings-on in Berlin, Soeder said, "It's not so easy to uncouple yourself from the national trend completely."

Still, he stressed that the CSU emerged as the state's strongest party with a mandate to form the next Bavarian government.

He said his preference was for a center-right coalition. That would see the CSU partner with the Free Voters, a local conservative rival that made modest gains to win 11.6 percent.

The Greens, traditionally bitter opponents of the CSU with a more liberal approach to migration and an emphasis on environmental issues, are another possible partner. A pro-business party, the Free Democrats, scraped into the state legislature with 5.1 percent support but won't be needed to form a coalition.

The CSU has long leveraged its strength at the state level to punch above its weight in national politics. In Berlin, the party is one of three in Merkel's federal coalition government along with its conservative sister, Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, and the Social Democrats.

That government has been notable largely for internal squabbling since it took office in March. The CSU leader, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, has often played a starring role.

Back in Bavaria, a long-running CSU power struggle saw the 69-year-old Seehofer give up his job as state governor earlier this year to Soeder, a younger and sometimes bitter rival.

Seehofer has sparred with Merkel about migration on and off since 2015, when he assailed her decision to leave Germany's borders open as refugees and others crossed the Balkans.

They argued in June over whether to turn back small numbers of asylum-seekers at the German-Austrian border, briefly threatening to bring down the national government.

The interior minister also featured prominently in a coalition crisis last month over Germany's domestic intelligence chief, who was accused of playing down recent far-right violence against migrants.

Seehofer has faced widespread speculation lately that a poor Bavarian result would cost him his job. He told ZDF television his party's election performance had causes in both Berlin and Munich.

"Of course, I as party leader bear a share of responsibility for this result," Seehofer said, adding that he was prepared to discuss consequences for Sunday's outcome, but not immediately.

It remains to be seen whether and how the Bavarian result will affect the national government's stability or Merkel's long-term future.

Any aftershocks may be delayed because another state election is coming Oct. 28 in neighboring Hesse, where conservative Volker Bouffier is defending the 19-year hold of Merkel's CDU on the governor's office. Bouffier has criticized the CSU for diminishing people's trust in Germany's conservatives.

The CDU's general secretary, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, said the party must show discipline and focus on Hesse. She acknowledged that the national government's woes have been unhelpful.

"It is totally undisputed that the way we have treated each other in the coalition, and also the way we argued with each other in the summer, was anything but inspiring for the state election in Bavaria," she said.

US lacks Latino historical sites and landmarks, scholars say

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

GLORIETA PASS, N.M. (AP) — A makeshift memorial to Hispanic Civil War Union soldiers in an isolated part northern New Mexico is a typical representation of sites linked to U.S. Latino history: It's shabby, largely unknown and at risk of disappearing.

Across the U.S., many sites historically connected to key moments in Latino civil rights lie forgotten, decaying or endanger of quietly dissolving into the past without acknowledgment. Scholars and advocates say a lack of preservation, resistance to recognition and even natural disasters make it hard for sites to gain traction among the general public, which affects how Americans see Latinos in U.S. history.

The birthplace of farmworker union leader Cesar Chavez sits abandoned in Yuma, Arizona. The Corpus

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Christi, Texas, office of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, where the Mexican-American civil rights movement was sparked, is gone. And no markers exist where pioneering educator George I. Sanchez captured images of New Mexico poverty for his 1940 groundbreaking book "Forgotten People."

"People need to see history, they need to touch it, they need to feel it, they need to experience it," said Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, a journalism professor at the University of Texas who has worked to preserve Latino historical sites. "When something is preserved, it's a daily reminder of our history."

Many states have historical markers and sites dedicated to Latino history but they usually center around the Spanish exploration era, colonial times and Old West settlement periods, scholars and advocates say. Those are "safe" sites because they downplay the racism and segregation Latinos had to overcome, said Luis Sandoval, a nonprofit consultant in Yuma who is pushing for the region to honor Chavez' legacy.

As the nation's Latino population grows, local tourism groups and the National Park Service in recent years have responded.

In 2012, the National Park Foundation's American Latino Heritage Fund launched a campaign to improve the representation of Hispanics in national parks. The National Park Service also convened an "American Latino Scholars Expert Panel" made of members like Rivas-Rodriguez and Yale history professor Stephen J. Pitti.

Before leaving office, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that four Latino national landmarks were among the 24 new National Historic Landmarks. Chicano Park — a collection of murals under a San Diego highway that became a gathering place for activists during the 1970s Chicano Movement — was among them.

But Albuquerque, New Mexico-based activist Ralph Arellanes, Sr., says much more needs to be done nationwide to save Latino sites.

The makeshift memorial in northern New Mexico dedicated to Hispanic Union soldiers during the Battle of Glorieta Pass is a good example. The memorial off Interstate 25 is 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Santa Fe and was built by retired District Attorney Alfonso Sanchez. It has wooden saints and crude signs explaining a battle that has been called "the Gettysburg of the West."

"I'm glad it's there. But it looks like just a taco stand, without any tacos" said Arellanes, whose great-great-grandparents served as trail guides for the Union

The site marks where Union soldiers beat back the advancing Confederate Army, ending the battle for the West during the Civil War. Hispanic soldiers played a key role in that fight.

Arellanes wants state lawmakers to dedicate around \$5 million to revamp the site. The Pecos National Historical Park officials give tours of the battlefield, but reservations often have to be made weeks in advance.

Arellanes also thinks New Mexico should preserve the birthplace of United Farm Worker co-founder Dolores Huerta, who was born in northern mining town Dawson. The ghost town is surrounded by a gated fence and is not open to the public.

Besides money, advocates sometimes have to fight local historical commissions that decide whether markers are erected, according to John Moran Gonzalez, director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas. That's why advocates in recent months have struggled to erect a monument commemorating the 1918 Porvenir Massacre — the killing of 15 unarmed Mexican-Americans in a border village by Texas Rangers.

"A lot of these historical county commissions are all white with older members," Gonzalez said. "Remembering these important moments can be embarrassing to them."

Still, some advocates say progress is coming.

In Austin, Texas, for example, a group of volunteers operates the Austin Tejano Trail aimed at giving visitors guided tours of important churches, homes and plazas linked to the city's Mexican-American history.

Earlier this year, a Houston building where Mexican-American civil rights leaders planned President John Kennedy's historic visit the night before his assassination has been designated as a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation after years of pressure. The LULAC Council 60 clubhouse historical

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site also received a piece of a \$450,000 grant to help with damage caused by Hurricane Harvey last year.

Sandoval said these are encouraging developments as activists try to work on commemorating Chavez in his birthplace of Yuma, Arizona, along the U.S.-Mexico border. He said Yuma's powerful agricultural business interests resist most efforts to honor the late farm worker union leader.

"But the Latino population is growing down here," Sandoval said. "They are going to be a powerful voice soon, too."

This story has been corrected to say that reservations to visit the Pecos National Historical Park battlefield have to be made weeks in advance.

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>.

Round of talks don't resolve Brexit problems ahead of summit

By **RAF CASERT, GREGORY KATZ and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — A flurry of talks between Britain and the European Union ended Sunday without a Brexit agreement, leaving the two sides three days to close a gap in their positions before a make-or-break summit.

An unscheduled, face-to-face meeting between EU negotiator Michel Barnier and British Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, and a hastily scheduled meeting of 27 EU ambassadors in Brussels, had sparked speculation that the long-awaited deal was imminent.

Barnier dashed those hopes Sunday evening, writing on Twitter: "Despite intense efforts, some key issues are still open" in the divorce talks. The key stumbling block remains the need "to avoid a hard border" between Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland after Brexit, he said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is under intense pressure from her Conservative Party and its parliamentary allies not to give any more ground in negotiations, especially on the border issue.

The British government said in a statement issued Sunday night there were still "unresolved issues" but insisted negotiators had made "real progress" toward a divorce agreement.

The lack of a breakthrough on the border increased the chances that the Brexit negotiations will fail to produce an agreement spelling out how the EU will interact with its former member and vice versa. EU officials have warned that real progress is needed at the summit starting Wednesday.

The British government said it remained committed to making progress at the summit. An EU official said no further negotiations were planned before the leaders of EU countries convene in Brussels. Both sides previously agreed that a special November meeting — to be called only if there is enough progress this week — would be the deadline for reaching an agreement since Britain is set to leave the EU on March 29.

The EU and the U.K. are seeking an elusive compromise position on the difficult Irish border question ahead of the summit. The "Irish backstop" is the main hurdle to a deal that spells out the terms of Britain's departure from the EU and future relationship with the bloc.

After Brexit, the currently invisible frontier between Northern Ireland and Ireland will be the U.K.'s only land border with an EU nation. Britain and the EU agree there must be no customs checks or other infrastructure on the border, but do not agree on how that can be accomplished.

Raab, Britain's Brexit secretary, was not expected in Brussels on Sunday, but he made a last minute trip for an in-person meeting with Barnier.

"With several big issues still to resolve, including the Northern Ireland backstop, it was jointly agreed that face-to-face talks were necessary," Raab's office said.

The EU's "backstop" solution — to keep Northern Ireland in a customs union with the bloc — has been rejected by Britain because it would require checks between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

The alternative — to keep the entire U.K. in a customs union until a permanent solution can be found — has outraged pro-Brexit members of May's divided government, who claim that approach would limit

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the country's ability to strike new trade deals around the world.

The idea is also anathema to the Democratic Unionist Party, a Northern Ireland Protestant party that props up May's minority government.

So even if May strikes a deal with Brussels, she will struggle to get it past her government and Parliament at home.

Raab's predecessor, David Davis, wrote in the Sunday Times that May's plans for continued close economic ties with the EU even after Britain leaves the bloc is "completely unacceptable" and must be stopped by her ministers.

May is struggling to build a consensus behind her Brexit plans ahead of a Cabinet meeting Tuesday that will be followed by Wednesday's EU summit. If Davis' call for a rebellion is effective, the Cabinet meeting is likely to be fractious.

Davis and former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson resigned from May's Cabinet this summer to protest her Brexit blueprint. While all three are members of the ruling Conservative Party, the two men have become vocal opponents of May's plan, saying it would betray the Brexit vote and leave Britain tied to the EU without any say over its rules.

Johnson, who regularly uses his newspaper column in the Daily Telegraph to excoriate May's Brexit plan, said the EU's border backstop amounted to "a choice between the breakup of this country or the subjugation of this country, between separation or submission."

"It must be rejected, and it must be rejected now," he wrote in Monday's edition.

May's Brexit plan has also been rejected by leaders of the main opposition Labour Party, further dimming the prime minister's hopes of winning parliamentary backing for any Brexit deal she reaches with EU officials.

Katz and Lawless reported from London.

Trump on rally blitz as he tries to stave off Dem gains

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump gazes out over his rally crowd and looses a stream of insults with a theatrical flourish and playful grin. He jabs at Cory Booker the "disaster" mayor, Elizabeth Warren the "Pocahontas" pretender and "sleepy" Joe Biden.

"I want to be careful," Trump tells the crowd, feigning a confession. He doesn't want to hit his potential challengers too badly, he says, because then the Democrats may find "somebody that's actually good to run against me. That would not be good."

The venue may be Council Bluffs, Iowa, or Erie, Pennsylvania, or Topeka, Kansas, but the formula is largely the same.

Start with a few derisive nicknames, mix in some dreamy-eyed reminiscences of Election Night 2016, spice things up with an unexpected quip or zinger out of left field and you've got Trump's recipe for a successful campaign rally.

Trump's rallies once were the cornerstone of an unconventional, star-powered presidential campaign that eschewed traditional organizing and defied every expectation. Now they're being deployed with gusto as Trump and his team work frantically to defy polls and precedent and save his Republican majority in Congress in November's midterm elections.

The rallies — more than two dozen so far to boost GOP candidates — never fail to delight Trump's supporters.

"Look at this," says Brenda McDonald, 58, of Woodbury, Minnesota, gesturing to the thousands of people standing ahead of and behind her in a line that wound around buildings and snaked through alleys for at least a mile when Trump's rally tour stopped in her state on Oct. 4.

"Have you ever seen rallies like this before?" she asked.

Trump has been aggressively campaigning across the county to try to boost vulnerable Republicans before the Nov. 6 elections, when the stakes couldn't be higher. A Democratic takeover of Congress would

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stymie his agenda and mire his administration in endless investigations, including possible impeachment proceedings. Trump's team believes his appearances fire up his loyal base, countering the wave of Democratic enthusiasm that polls suggest will lead to significant Democratic gains, especially in the House.

But after more than 350 rallies since he first began his presidential run, some things have changed.

Trump's supporters remain as enthusiastic as ever, standing for hours in hot sun or driving rain and exploding into thundering applause when he takes the stage. They wave the same signs, wear the same hats, and chant the same "Build that wall!" and "Lock her up!" refrains that they did during the early days of Trump's campaign.

But the once insurgent candidate, who told his supporters the system was rigged against them, is now president. And he's been delivering on many of his campaign promises, in spite of lackluster approval ratings.

Trump's 2016 rallies had the feel of angry, raucous, grievance sessions, as Trump's "deplorables" gathered in the face of charges they were racist, bigoted and could never win. Gone now is the darkness, the crackling energy, the fear of potential violence as supporters and protesters faced off, sometimes trading blows. The mood now is calmer, happier, more celebratory. Trump's rallies have gone mainstream, complete with a new playlist featuring Rihanna, "Macho Man" by the Village People and Prince's "Purple Rain."

Trump's campaign, which was notably stingy during his own election effort, has been investing heavily in his recent tour, covering all the costs of organizing and paying for the rallies, including footing the Air Force One bills, according to the campaign.

"Of course, President Trump's favorite way to connect with and charge up voters is with rallies hosted by the Trump Campaign," the campaign said in a statement.

And they believe the money is well spent.

Trump's events often dominate local news for days. Trump's rally in Johnson City, Tennessee, for instance, earned more than \$270,000 worth of local television coverage that night and the morning after, according to data compiled by the media tracking company TVEyes and shared by GOP officials. That's not counting front-page stories in local papers and coverage when the rally was announced.

The Republican Party has been sending cameras to the rallies, so they can quickly post footage that can be spliced into ads.

Officials say they've tracked notable polling bumps they attribute to Trump's visits.

But while the rallies are about boosting GOP candidates, they're also always about Trump, who has been using them to test-drive messaging for his 2020 campaign.

At rally after rally, Trump has cycled through a short list of buzzed-about potential rivals, labeling each with a derisive nickname, just as he did when he cleared the unwieldy Republican field in 2016.

The insults have been among Trump's biggest applause lines in recent days, along with his attacks on Democrats for their treatment of his Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, as the Senate investigated sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.

Trump's crowds seem most entertained when he veers into offensive, "politically incorrect" territory. He's bragged about how easily he could pummel Biden, the former vice president, or Booker, the New Jersey senator and former Newark mayor, or Warren, the Massachusetts senator whom Trump denigrates for her claims of Native American heritage. And he's mocked the Senate testimony of California professor Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her in high school.

Those moments add spontaneity and a tinge of sinister mischief that keep Trump's speeches interesting, even as they grow increasingly formulaic.

Indeed, the rallies, at times, take on the feel of a high school reunion, with Trump taking the role of star football jock, reliving his glory days, play by play.

In laborious detail, Trump takes his audience through Election Night 2016, re-enacting cable news anchors calling state after state in his favor, adding dramatic commentary.

"Was that the most exciting evening of our lives?" Trump asked his crowd in Erie, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday. "Was that the most exciting night? Was that the greatest?"

The risk, as he prepares for the 2020 campaign, is whether Trump's supporters will tire of the shtick.

They say it won't happen.

"I'm just totally, madly in love with him," said Peggy Saar, 64, of Rochester, Minnesota, as she attended her first Trump rally earlier this month. She said Trump was galvanizing people like her to vote in the midterms.

"I was never this active," she said. "I was never this involved."

And person after person pointed to the crowd as evidence Trump was generating enthusiasm for GOP candidates even though he's not on the ballot.

"I think the fact he's still turning out these crowds of people, two years in, it's absolutely amazing," said Richard Eichhorn, 72, of Stockholm, Wisconsin. "I think it's huge."

Colvin reported from Johnson City, Tennessee; Topeka, Kansas; and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Associated Press writers Kyle Potter in Rochester, Minnesota, Zeke Miller in Southaven, Mississippi, and Catherine Lucey in Erie, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Immigrants face hurdles to prove abuse by US agents

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT** and **CLAUDIA LAUER**, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Within hours of being booked at a Border Patrol station in far West Texas, two teenage sisters from Guatemala came forward to allege that an agent conducted an improper strip search.

The agent in question denied the allegations, including the sisters' claims that he touched their genitals. He insisted he had only fingerprinted the sisters before taking them back to their cell.

Investigating the case came down to the sisters' word versus the agent's. And as in dozens of similar cases, government investigators sided with the agent.

Advocates say the case — outlined in a report compiled by internal investigators — shows the kinds of hurdles detained immigrants face when they make claims of misconduct, even when they come forward immediately, as the sisters did.

"These women were actually, for lack of a better word, lucky that their case was investigated," said Christina Mansfield, co-founder of the advocacy group Freedom for Immigrants. "They are in the extreme minority in that regard."

The sisters, ages 17 and 19, entered the U.S. without legal permission in July 2016, several days after leaving their home village in Guatemala. They were detained by Border Patrol agents shortly after crossing the border.

The Associated Press received a redacted copy of the investigative report through the Freedom of Information Act. It shows that investigators determined that the sisters' allegations could not be substantiated due to a lack of physical evidence.

The station where the sisters were detained did not have cameras in the booking area. The room where the sisters say they were taken, later described as a supply room or a closet, wasn't processed for fingerprints because the sisters said they didn't touch anything. And the agent in question said he was alone with the sisters due to manpower shortages, the report says.

Immigration advocates say the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, which reviewed the sisters' case, rarely recommends action against officers. A study by Freedom for Immigrants found that between January 2010 and July 2016, the inspector general received 84 complaints of coerced sexual contact against U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes Border Patrol. The inspector general opened just seven investigations, none of which are known to have led to charges, according to the study, which was conducted by examining government records.

The study found a similarly low number of cases were investigated by the inspector general for detention facilities operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

CBP would not directly address the sisters' case or whether it disciplined the agent involved. The agency said it was committed to treating detainees with "professionalism and courtesy."

Immigration authorities detain and process thousands of people every month who cross the U.S. border without permission. Border Patrol chief Carla Provost said in a recent interview that her agency takes any

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allegations against any of its 19,000 agents "very, very seriously." Provost previously led CBP's internal affairs division, which also investigates allegations of employee wrongdoing and that the agency has taken steps to strengthen in recent years.

"They are very few and far between," she said, speaking generally about misconduct complaints.

The sisters were taken by agents to the Presidio Border Patrol station and booked into the same holding cell. The agents who detained them went out on another call.

According to the report, a third agent then took the elder sister out of the cell. He told investigators that he processed and fingerprinted each of them before returning them to their cell.

The elder sister told a different story. She said the agent took her into a back room that had a table filled with snacks and drinks. There, she says, the agent told her to lift her sweater and dress. The woman said that after a small photograph fell out of her bra, the agent pulled up her bra. Then, she said, he told her to remove her pants and underwear, then touched her genitals with the outer part of his hand.

The younger sister would accuse the agent of conducting a similar search.

Border Patrol guidelines prohibit male agents to strip-search female detainees "except in exigent circumstances," and only then with another agent present to observe. Under the guidelines, a vaginal cavity search must be done by a medical professional at a medical facility.

When the agent later heard one of the sisters accusing him of misconduct, the report says, he "became upset and told the girl he didn't make her do that."

According to the investigators' report, one agent said that "this is exactly the reason cameras are needed in the processing area."

The accused agent would speak to investigators three times. The last time, an investigator noted the agent "appeared to be nervous and removed," and he "had to constantly review a prepared statement" from his initial interview. But a month after the last interview, investigators took their case to a federal prosecutor, James Miller, who agreed with their conclusion that there was a "lack of evidence."

Miller declined to comment on why he didn't pursue a prosecution. The agent did not return phone messages from The Associated Press, nor did his attorney, Raymond Martinez.

The sisters were eventually released and went to live with their mother in California. One of the sisters has since sued the U.S. government. Court filings show both sides are now discussing a settlement.

Lauer reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press writer Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

GOP pins hopes for keeping Ryan's Wisconsin seat on Ryan 2.0

By TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

JANESVILLE, Wis. (AP) — Ironworker Randy Bryce spent months gearing up to try to unseat House Speaker Paul Ryan in November's election, cleverly cultivating an "Iron Stache" persona for a candidacy that was as colorful as it was unlikely.

Then Ryan decided to retire, transforming a faint upset hope into a race Democrats are dreaming of as the possible capstone in a favorable midterm election.

"It would be fantastic," Mike Tate, former chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, said of the prospect of picking up Ryan's old seat. "It would be very, very sweet for Democrats in Wisconsin. The only thing sweeter would be beating (Gov. Scott) Walker."

To avert that fate, Wisconsin Republicans are turning to Bryan Steil, a Ryan protege and political newbie hoping to maintain his mentor's legacy, keep the district in Republican hands and deny Democrats the symbolic victory of taking the speaker's congressional seat.

"Bryan Steil fits the district well," said Republican strategist Mark Graul. "It's a similar background that Paul Ryan brought to it when he first ran many years ago."

Or as Tate puts it more bluntly: "He even looks like (Ryan). It's like, God, it's his mini-me."

Indeed, from a distance it's difficult to distinguish between Ryan and Steil (pronounced like "style").

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Ryan is 48 and Steil is 37, but they're both slender and dark-haired.

Both grew up in Janesville, a blue-collar city of 50,000 about 40 miles (65 kilometers) south of Madison, and attend the same Catholic church. Both hail from prominent families. Ryan's father was a federal prosecutor; Steil's grandfather served as a University of Wisconsin System regent and as the first chairman of the state lottery board.

Steil, who announced his campaign just days after Ryan announced his retirement, spent a year as an aide in Ryan's Washington office in 2003. He's now an attorney for Milton plastics manufacturer Charter NEX Films and has served as a regent himself since 2016.

Bryce has branded him a Ryan "clone" — something Steil rejects.

"I can tell you, everybody brings their own background to the table," Steil said.

Bryce, a Racine ironworker and union supporter, has been trying to break into politics since Walker signed his signature law stripping public workers of their union rights in 2011. He's run twice for the Legislature and once for Racine's school board, losing each time.

He announced his bid for Ryan's seat in June 2017, touting himself as "Iron Stache," a play on his mustache. He became a hit with Democrats nationwide, riding an introductory video where he weeps as his mother talks about having multiple sclerosis. He generated more than \$6 million in contributions by the end of this past July, compared with \$750,000 for Steil.

"It would be fantastic to replace Paul Ryan with a working person," Bryce said. "Paul Ryan isn't going to be on the ballot, but his ideas are. He hand-picked someone to follow in his footsteps."

Bryce has baggage. He has failed to pay child support and has been arrested nine times, first for drunken driving in 1998 and more recently for protesting Republican policies. The Congressional Leadership Fund, a Republican super PAC aligned with Ryan, launched one ad calling Bryce a "deadbeat dad" and another featuring Bryce's police officer brother denouncing him as showing contempt for police.

Bryce acknowledges he's made mistakes.

"Like I try to teach my son, if you make a mistake, own up to it, learn what there is to learn and move on," he said.

The 1st District — a mix of rural hamlets and farms and urban centers, including Milwaukee's southern suburbs — is seen as leaning Republican. GOP lawmakers redrew the boundaries in 2011 to consolidate Ryan supporters, and Donald Trump carried the district by 10 points in 2016. A New York Times/Siena poll in mid-September showed Steil with a slight lead.

The Great Recession ravaged the district, most dramatically when General Motors in 2008 abandoned a Janesville assembly plant that had employed thousands. The area is finally recovering, bolstered by Foxconn Technology Group's decision to build a massive flat-screen plant in Racine County.

Asked for their top two priorities, Steil said growing high-wage jobs and lowering health care costs through price transparency and health savings accounts. Bryce responded that he wants to preserve the Affordable Care Act and other social programs such as Medicaid.

Jim Welker, an 82-year-old retired judge from Janesville who described himself as libertarian-leaning, said Bryce lacks any sort of political background while Steil studied at Ryan's knee.

"He knows something," Welker said of Steil while hanging out with his buddies at a Janesville coffee shop. "This other guy (Bryce) is kind of a know-nothing."

George Poppas, an 87-year-old former Janesville alderman, piped in from across the table that Bryce's arrests are embarrassing.

"He's a scoundrel," Poppas said.

That got Phil Blazkowski, a 75-year-old semi-retired community planning consultant who described himself as an independent, fired up.

"He's grown up since then," Blazkowski said. "You ought to forgive and forget. The House is supposed to represent common people and he's a common person."

"Very common," Welker chuckled. "We don't have very many loonies around here so maybe Bryce will get one or two votes."

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Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw>

This story has been corrected to reflect that Steil's grandfather, not father, was a University of Wisconsin System regent and the first chairman of the state lottery board.

New strategy: Democrats go all-in on health care in midterms

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — In a windowless conference room, Republican Senate candidate Martha McSally was asking executives at a small crane manufacturing company how the GOP tax cut has helped their business when one woman said: "I want to ask you a question about health care."

Marylea Evans recounted how, decades ago, her husband had been unable to get health insurance after developing cancer, forcing the couple to sell some of their Texas ranch to pay for his treatment. Now she was worried about Democratic ads saying McSally, currently a congresswoman, supported legislation removing the requirement that insurers cover people with pre-existing medical conditions.

"It's a lie," McSally said quickly, accustomed to having to interrupt a discussion of the tax cut to parry attacks on health care. But she had voted for a wide-ranging bill that would have, among other things, undermined protections for people with pre-existing conditions and drastically changed and shrunk Medicaid.

The exchange demonstrated how Democratic arguments about health care are resonating with voters in the final weeks before the midterm elections. While Democratic enthusiasm this year has largely been fueled by anger toward President Donald Trump, candidates have targeted their messaging to focus more on health care.

It's the subject of the greatest share of political ads on television now, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis, and a top issue in campaigns from Virginia to Arkansas to California — and especially in Arizona, where Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema has made it the foundation of her Senate campaign against McSally.

"Democrats believe that health care is the issue that's going to deliver them the majority," said Nathan Gonzalez, editor and publisher of the nonpartisan Inside Elections. "In 2016, Democrats learned that going all-in against Trump was not the right strategy, so they're trying to be more specific."

The Democratic furor around health care comes from Trump's push to repeal the President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. House Republicans voted for a bill that would have rolled back parts of "Obamacare." But the Senate never took up the bill, and its own attempt to reverse the health care law failed by one vote.

This year, the Trump administration supported a group of GOP attorneys general who filed a lawsuit arguing "Obamacare" is unconstitutional. The administration singled out protection for pre-existing conditions as unsustainable.

Democrats are effectively performing political judo on the GOP, who accused them over four election cycles of messing up voters' health care with "Obamacare" and vowed a hasty repeal once they were back in power. Now that the GOP tried and failed to change health care, Democrats are pouncing.

"You see in every survey, whether it's a Senate race in a red state or a House race in a purple district, health care is the No. 1 issue," said Patrick McHugh of Priorities USA, a major Democratic campaign group. "One party wants to actually expand health care coverage and reduce costs, and the other party campaigned claiming they did, but when they got into power, they did not."

In Missouri, Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill is defending her seat by highlighting that her Republican challenger, state Attorney General Josh Hawley, signed onto the lawsuit over pre-existing conditions. In Michigan, Democrat Elissa Slotkin aired an ad showing her mother dying of cancer and called incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Bishop's vote for the GOP health bill "dereliction of duty." In Arizona, Democrat Hiral Tipirneni, a physician, is running against Republican Rep. Debbie Lesko after shocking the political world

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by barely losing an April special election for the seat on a health care platform.

Glen Bolger, a Republican pollster, notes that health care is a perennial Democratic base issue but acknowledges it appears especially potent this year. However, he said, Republicans have a possible counter — pushing back against some Democrats' support for a single-payer system that would require higher taxes.

"That, as a pushback message, tests very well," Bolger said.

Republicans have used it in races where Democratic challengers have backed the policy — such as against Katie Porter, an attorney challenging Republican Rep. Mimi Walters in Southern California, or against social worker Kara Eastman, who's leaned heavily on single payer in her challenge to Rep. Don Bacon in Nebraska. The GOP has even levied the charge against Democrats who haven't supported a single-payer program, like Abigail Spanberger, who's challenging Rep. David Brat in Virginia.

Gonzalez said the GOP responses show they're fighting on Democrats' turf and keeping the GOP from cashing in politically on the growing economy.

"Democrats believe that health care is the antidote to Republican talk about the economy," he said.

The Arizona Senate contest provides a microcosm of the issue. Democrats started hitting McSally on health care with an ad barrage from a dark-money group during the GOP primary and have not let up, accusing her of trying to gut protections for pre-existing conditions and charge older people more for health insurance. Sinema mentions the issue everywhere she goes. In an interview with the Spanish-language Univision network Wednesday, she called it "the centerpiece of my campaign."

At a recent appearance to rally volunteers in Scottsdale, Sinema was introduced by Leslie Foldy, a 64-year-old court reporter. "I've had diabetes since high school. I've been taking insulin shots ... for the past 47 years," Foldy said.

Sinema picked up the theme and ran with it. "We have a chance to elect a United States senator who understands Leslie's struggles to make sure she gets access to the important medication she needs and that she's not discriminated against because of having a pre-existing health condition," she said. It was a dig at the GOP health bill that McSally supported for containing what she calls an "age tax" — a provision allowing insurance companies to charge people ages 50 to 64 who buy insurance on health exchanges rates five times higher than younger consumers. Under the ACA, the limit is three times higher.

In an interview, Sinema described her health care agenda as mainly a fight to preserve popular parts of "Obamacare." She said she didn't like everything about the bill and noted she'd sponsored bills delaying or repealing some of its funding mechanisms — taxes on medical devices and health insurance.

McSally instead focuses on the shortcomings of the law, blaming it for driving up health premiums for small businesses and other consumers and arguing Republicans are just trying to make things better. She bristles at the "age tax" attacks because she wrote an amendment adding \$90 billion in subsidies for older consumers to protect against higher insurance rates. Although the GOP health bill did contain provisions that weakened the ACA's protections of pre-existing conditions, McSally calls pre-existing conditions "a line in the sand" that she'll protect.

"We've all got people in our lives who struggle with chronic disease," McSally said. "It's personal for all of us. The Democrats are taking this line of attack because they know health care is personal."

North Dakota Democrat Heitkamp scrambles to catch Cramer

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Heidi Heitkamp squeezed dozens of hands and posed for pictures with college students at North Dakota State University recently, bubbling with characteristic exuberance that belied the Democratic senator's uncertain future.

"I want everybody to just do something for me," Heitkamp said, her voice hoarse. "Everybody stand up! I want you to reach as high as you can. Now, I want you to reach about six inches higher. That's what we've got to do to win! We've got to go higher."

An already tenuous bid for a second term has taken on new urgency for Heitkamp since she voted against Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. Heitkamp is scrambling to find her footing

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amid fears that the race against Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer is slipping away, and with it Democrats' slim hopes of a Senate majority.

"Are we facing some headwinds? Yep," Heitkamp said in an Associated Press interview. "But I've faced headwinds before, and won."

Heitkamp has been betting for months that her image as an independent collaborator — someone who could go along with President Donald Trump, but challenge him when needed — could carry her to another term in GOP-heavy North Dakota.

Trailing in polls, including her own campaign's, with three weeks until Election Day, Heitkamp plans to essentially camp out in North Dakota, especially its more politically independent eastern side.

She plans to lean harder into the same strategy, relying heavily on the economic hit her heavy agricultural and manufacturing export state has taken under the Trump administration's escalating trade war with China. She calls it the "darkest cloud on the horizon" for North Dakota.

Casting herself as a champion of farmers and export-reliant businesses and workers, she is using the issue to step up her months-long criticism of Cramer's unfaltering allegiance to Trump, arguing it comes at a cost to North Dakotans.

Heitkamp also is weighing whether to launch a direct advertising attack on Cramer for often awkward comments on sensitive subjects, especially related to Kavanaugh's confirmation. Cramer downplayed California professor Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her in high school, saying the episode fell short of a rape and didn't involve a workplace superior and subordinate.

He later referred to the #MeToo movement as "this movement toward victimization," and referred to his mother, wife and daughters as "tough people."

Cramer later told the AP, "That was just a broad statement about our whole culture. Everybody's got to be a victim now."

Attacking Cramer over his Kavanaugh comments would be a risky gambit in a state where Heitkamp lost support from independent men turned off by the continuing discussion of the allegations against Kavanaugh, but has signed on hundreds of new campaign volunteers since she voted against him.

"I guess you could say, 'Are you perpetuating the discussion?' I don't know," Heitkamp said. "When people say things that are hurtful to victims, to people who have suffered incredible victimization, I'm going to call it out and I don't care what the consequences are."

North Dakota voters "want somebody they know will acquit themselves in Washington in a way that will make them proud, are respectful and cautious in their criticisms," she said.

It's possible the critique of Cramer's comments, particularly considering Heitkamp says her mother was a teen victim of sexual assault, could spark turnout among sympathetic women, Democratic pollster Celine Lake said.

"There's potential to mobilize women, especially baby boomer women, who have the same reactions and same experiences to their own moms," Lake said.

But it could also distract voters from Heitkamp's effort to portray herself as above partisanship, said Chris Pack of the GOP's Senate Leadership Fund, the super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "Even if voters were indifferent on the Kavanaugh vote, it brings up all the tactics that were used."

As a Democrat seeking re-election in a state Trump won by 36 percentage points, Heitkamp is the most vulnerable of the 10 senators in her party seeking re-election in places the Republican candidate carried in 2016. Democrats would need to win nearly all of the 10 and pick up some Senate seats now held by Republicans to eke out a majority on Nov. 6. The GOP currently outnumbers Democrats 51-49 in the Senate.

And so, Friday, Heitkamp trekked the 90 miles (145 kilometers) from Fargo, past fields of October snow, to Gwinner, population 900, and the Bobcat Company plant where about 1,200 employees make loaders and excavators that are shipped around the world.

Near the employee entrance during the 3 p.m. shift change, Heitkamp shook hands and spoke briefly to workers as they passed, mostly men. One said to her, "I would shake your hand but I could be accused of sexual harassment and that could be enough to convict somebody. Right? Right?" Heitkamp smiled

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without answering.

She later told the AP that the response to her vote had been decidedly positive from plant workers. Heitkamp had said, including in an ad she aired explaining her vote, that she questioned Kavanaugh's truthfulness and found his testimony to be angry and political.

Heitkamp then stopped in at the Overtime Bar in Gwinner and had a beer with the 50 other patrons — almost all of them Bobcat employees — who posed for pictures with her and asked for autographs.

In the bar, Travis Bultema, who leans Democrat but crosses party lines sometimes, said he had doubts about Kavanaugh. He supported Heitkamp's decision but said, when asked, that the vote might hurt her politically.

"Unfortunately, I think it may," he said.

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press reporter James MacPherson contributed from Bismarck, North Dakota.

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Saudi crown prince's carefully managed rise hides dark side

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — In a kingdom once ruled by an ever-aging rotation of elderly monarchs, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stands out as the youthful face of a youthful nation. But behind the carefully calibrated public-relations campaign pushing images of the smiling prince meeting with the world's top leaders and business executives lurks a darker side.

Last year, at age 31, Mohammed became the kingdom's crown prince, next in line to the throne now held by his octogenarian father, King Salman. While pushing for women to drive, he has overseen the arrest of women's rights activists. While calling for foreign investment, he has imprisoned businessmen, royals and others in a crackdown on corruption that soon resembled a shakedown of the kingdom's most powerful people.

As Saudi defense minister from the age of 29, he pursued a war in Yemen against Shiite rebels that began a month after he took the helm and wears on today.

What the crown prince chooses next likely will affect the world's largest oil producer for decades to come. And as the disappearance and feared death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul may show, the young prince will brook no dissent in reshaping the kingdom in his image.

"I don't want to waste my time," he told Time Magazine in a cover story this year. "I am young."

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident who wrote several columns for The Washington Post critical of Prince Mohammed, disappeared Oct. 2 on a visit to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Turkish officials have offered no evidence, but say they fear the writer was killed and dismembered by a Saudi team of 15 men — an operation that, if carried out, would have to have been authorized by the top of the Al Saud monarchy. The kingdom describes the allegation as "baseless," but has provided no proof that Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

For decades in Saudi Arabia, succession passed down among the dozens of sons of the kingdom's founder, King Abdul-Aziz. And, over time, the sons have grown older and older upon reaching the throne.

When King Salman took power in January of 2015 and quickly appointed Prince Mohammed as defense minister, it took the kingdom by surprise, especially given the importance of the position and the prince's age.

He was little-known among the many grandchildren of Saudi Arabia's patriarch, a young man educated only in the kingdom who stuck close to his father, who previously served as the governor of Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

As defense minister, he entered office facing a crisis in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, which

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lies south of the kingdom. Shiite rebels known as Houthis had overrun the country's capital, Sanaa, unseating the deeply unpopular government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

When Hadi fled and it appeared the country's port city of Aden would fall to the rebels, Saudi Arabia launched a coalition war against the Houthis — a conflict that soon became a stalemate.

The United Nations estimates 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen's conflict, and activists say that number is likely far higher. It has exacerbated what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with hunger and cholera stalking civilians, worsened by the kingdom's blockade of ports.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition has faced widespread criticism for its airstrikes hitting clinics and marketplaces, which have killed civilians. The Houthis, as well, have indiscriminately used land mines and arrested political opponents.

The coalition says Iran has funneled weapons to the Houthis ranging from small arms to the ballistic missiles now regularly fired into the kingdom, which Iran denies.

For Prince Mohammed, the conflict remains part of what he sees as an existential struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran for the future of the Middle East. Asked about Western concerns over civilian casualties, he offers this: "Mistakes happen in all wars."

"We don't need to have a new Hezbollah in the Arabian Peninsula. This is a red line not only for Saudi Arabia but for the whole world," the prince recently told Bloomberg, referring to the Iran-allied Shiite militant group and political party dominant in Lebanon.

The prince also found himself involved in the bizarre resignation-by-television address of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who announced he would step down during a visit to the kingdom in November 2017, fueling suspicion he was coerced into doing so.

Prince Mohammed's harsh rhetoric extends to likening Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. He's also hinted Saudi Arabia would be willing to fight Iran in other ways, leading Tehran to link the kingdom to an attack on a military parade in Ahvaz last month that killed at least 24 people and wounded more than 60. Both Arab separatists and the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the assault.

"We won't wait for the battle to be in Saudi Arabia," the prince told the Saudi-owned broadcasting company MBC last year. "Instead, we will work so that the battle is for them in Iran, not in Saudi Arabia."

His aggressive posture against Iran has won the support of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration, which pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal struck by President Barack Obama, whom the kingdom deeply distrusted.

Before becoming crown prince, Prince Mohammed visited the White House and forged a close relationship with Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner. The two are believed to be working on the administration's peace plans for Israel and the Palestinians.

Trump made Riyadh his first stop overseas as president, a visit complete with Arab pageantry and opulence. Behind the scenes, many analysts believe Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates saw a greenlight to move ahead with the ongoing boycott of Qatar, a small Arabian Peninsula nation, over a political dispute.

Trump initially seemed to favor the boycott of Qatar, which is home to al-Udeid Air Base, the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

Trump's first Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, sought in vain to pressure the Saudis into resolving the spat and complained privately that the ties between the White House and Prince Mohammed were hurting the effort, officials said at the time. Tillerson's dismissal in March and the arrival of Mike Pompeo as Trump's top diplomat markedly reduced the State Department's heat on Saudi Arabia about the detentions of human rights activists, including women, and the conflict in Yemen.

Despite the mounting civilian casualties in Yemen, Pompeo certified to Congress in September that Saudi Arabia was taking steps to reduce and limit them, drawing severe condemnations from lawmakers and human rights groups.

Saudi Arabia soon embarked on the prince's ambitious proposal to allow women in the ultraconservative Wahhabi nation to drive. The resulting pictures of women in long black abayas behind the wheel repre-

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sented a public-relations coup for the image-shaping firms employed by the kingdom, as did footage of women attending soccer matches and movie theaters for the first time in decades.

But before women started their engines, a new crackdown emerged: The kingdom rounded up and imprisoned women's rights activists, including reportedly grabbing one woman who was in the neighboring United Arab Emirates.

Prince Mohammed has wowed the business world with promises of an initial public offering for the state oil behemoth Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Saudi Aramco, suggesting it would have a \$2 trillion valuation. Stocks markets around the world have pitched having the IPO on their exchanges, but it has been repeatedly delayed.

The young prince has traveled across the U.S. as part of his business pitch, meeting leaders like former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who owns The Washington Post.

Prince Mohammed also hosted a major business summit at Riyadh's Ritz Carlton, complete with a humanoid robot named Sophia being awarded Saudi citizenship.

Only weeks later, the hotel turned into a luxury prison as part of a mass arrest of businessmen, royals and others orchestrated by Prince Mohammed in a move described as targeting corruption. Those released agreed to sign over some of their assets, however, giving it the feel of a shakedown.

"If I have the power and the king has the power to take action against influential people, then you are already fundamentally strong," Prince Mohammed told CBS earlier this year.

For now, the anger over Khashoggi's disappearance appears to have galvanized international criticism of the young prince, about whom the columnist wrote critically for the Post.

Trump, already angry over rising global oil prices, has said he wants answers from Saudi Arabia and suggested Khashoggi's fiancée could visit the White House.

Prominent American lawmakers also are indignant — though U.S.-Saudi relations have survived even the 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers being from the kingdom.

The opaqueness of the Al Saud royal family makes it difficult to see what effect the controversy is having on support for Prince Mohammed at home. State television continues to air footage of him attending meetings and greeting officials as if all is normal.

And as the son of the king, analysts say he has the full protection of the throne's powers.

Once asked if anything could stop him, the prince gave a two-word reply: "Only death."

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2018. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

On this date:

In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, N.Y., wrote a letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he could improve his appearance by growing a beard.

In 1914, the Clayton Antitrust Act, which expanded on the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1917, Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari (Margaretha ZelleGeertruida MacLeod), 41, convicted by a French

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military court of spying for the Germans, was executed by a firing squad outside Paris. (Maintaining her innocence to the end, Mata Hari refused a blindfold and blew a kiss to her executioners.)

In 1928, the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin landed in Lakehurst, N.J., completing its first commercial flight across the Atlantic.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1989, South African officials released eight prominent political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu.

In 1997, British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green twice drove a jet-powered car in the Nevada desert faster than the speed of sound, officially shattering the world's land-speed record. NASA's plutonium-powered Cassini spacecraft rocketed flawlessly toward Saturn.

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

Ten years ago: Republican John McCain repeatedly assailed Democrat Barack Obama's character and campaign positions on taxes, abortion and more in a debate at Hofstra University; Obama parried each accusation, and leveled a few of his own, saying "100 percent" of McCain's campaign ads were negative. The Philadelphia Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 to win the NL championship series 4-1 for its first pennant since 1993. Pop star Madonna and movie director Guy Ritchie announced they were divorcing after nearly eight years of marriage. Actress-singer Edie Adams died in Los Angeles at age 81. Longtime game show host Jack Narz died in Los Angeles at age 85.

Five years ago: Abu Anas al-Libi, an alleged al-Qaida member who was snatched off the streets in Libya, pleaded not guilty in New York to bombing-related charges. President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to William D. Swenson, a former Army captain whose heroic actions in a deadly Afghan battle were captured on video. The Boston Red Sox took a 2-1 lead in the AL championship series as they defeated the Detroit Tigers 1-0. The St. Louis Cardinals beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 for a 3-1 lead in the NL Championship series. Hans Riegel, 90, who turned little gold bears into a global candy juggernaut — Haribo's gummi bears — over a career than spanned seven decades, died in Bonn, Germany.

One year ago: Actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke.) Police in London investigated three new allegations of sexual assault against producer Harvey Weinstein, all made by the same woman. Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick filed a grievance against the NFL, alleging that he was still unsigned because of collusion by owners resulting from his protests during the national anthem.

Today's Birthdays: Former auto executive Lee Iacocca is 94. Jazz musician Freddy Cole is 87. Singer Barry McGuire is 83. Actress Linda Lavin is 81. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 76. Actress-director Penny Marshall is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 73. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 72. Actor Victor Banerjee is 72. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 67. Singer Tito Jackson is 65. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 65. Actor Jere Burns is 64. Movie director Mira Nair is 61. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 59. Chef Emeril Lagasse is 59. Actress Tanya Roberts is 59. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 56. Singer Eric Benet is 52. Actress Vanessa Marcil is 50. Singer-actress-TV host Paige Davis is 49. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 49. Actor Dominic West is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ginuwine is 48. Actor Devon Gummersall is 40. Actor Chris Olivero is 39. Christian singer-actress Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 39. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keyshia Cole is 37. Actor Vincent Martella is 26. Actress Bailee Madison is 19.

Thought for Today: "The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking." — John Kenneth Galbraith, Canadian-born American economist (born this date in 1908, died in 2006).