

# Groton Daily Independent

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

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 11 - Wednesday

- 5:45 p.m.: Gospel Solutions to Social Issues: Drugs & Alcohol at United Methodist Church
- St. John's: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
- UMC: Coffee time, 9 a.m.
- Breakfast:** Breakfast Slider
- Lunch:** Pancake Bites, Tri Taters
- Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread.

### 12 - Thursday

- Postponed.:** Boys Golf in Groton
- 11 a.m.: St. John's Luncheon
- 4 p.m.: Boys soccer hosts James Valley Christian
- 6 p.m.: Volleyball hosts Hamlin (JV/C at 6:00)
- 7 p.m.: Lions Club meets at 104 N Main.
- Breakfast:** Breakfast Burrito
- Lunch:** BBQ Sandwich, Sweet Potato Fries
- Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, frosted brownie, fruit, whole wheat bread.

### 13 - Friday

- 4 p.m.: Girls Soccer hosts West Central
- 7 p.m.: Football hosts Sisseton
- C&MA: Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.
- Breakfast:** Rolls
- Lunch:** Chicken Quesadilla, Green Beans
- Senior Menu:** Turkey sub sandwich, potato salad, fruit, ice cream sundae.

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## HOMECOMING 2019 GROTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL THEME: CARTOONS



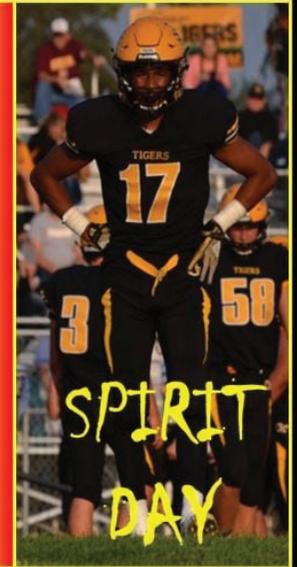
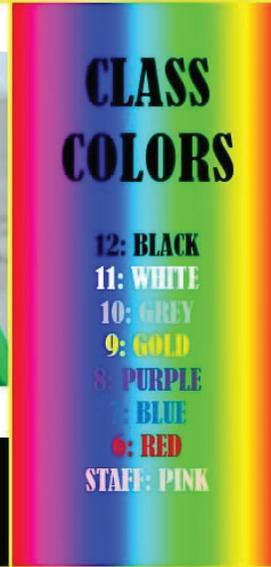
MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



## HOMECOMING 2019 GROTON AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRESS UP DAYS



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



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## Netters beat Webster Area

Groton Area's Volleyball team remains undefeated with a 3-0 win over Webster. The match was played Tuesday night in Webster and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management. The video is archived at 397news.com where GDI subscribers will have access to the videos.

In the first game, Groton had a nine-point rally to post a 25-12 win. The second game had four lead changes and the game was tied four times before Groton Area scored six straight points to cruise to a 25-18 win. Webster Area fought hard in the third game with the game being tied seven times including late in the game at 17. The lead also changed hands four times. Groton scored six straight points to the lead and to go on for the win, 25-21, with Madeline Flihs having the game winning kill.

Nicole Marzahn led the Tigers with 10 kills, three ace serves and one block. Eliza Wanner had 11 kills while Indigo Rogers had three kills and two blocks, Madeline Flihs and Kaylin Kucker each had two kills, and Tadyn Glover and Payton Colestock each had an ace serve.

Janessa Storley led the Bearcats with nine kills and a block, Cara Shoemaker had six kills, two blocks and an ace serve, Brianna Duerre had six kills and an ace serve, Abby Richie, Abby Snell and Morgan Jager each had a kill and a block, Ellie Mount had a kill and Ashley Cadwell had a block.

Groton Area is now 4-0 on the season and will host Hamlin on Thursday.



**Kaylin Kucker**



**Payton Colestock**



**Eliza Wanner**



**Nicole Marzahn**

Photos by Jeslyn Kosel

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**Groton Area's fifth grade class toured the Andover Threshing Show grounds last week.**

(Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

## Langford Front Porch Help Wanted



Immediate opening for a FT General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill, Langford SD. This person will ensure a profitable and efficiently run restaurant/bar operation through innovative menus, events, staff management and business operations. Wage DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Paula Jensen at (605) 228-5963 or email resume by September 30, 2019 to [langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net](mailto:langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net).

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## Smith wins Britton-Hecla Cross Country Meet

Isaac Smith ran to a first place finish at the Britton-Hecla Cross-Country Meet held Tuesday. He ran the 5,000m course in a time of 18:13.28. Noah Poor finished 18th with a time of 23:05.12 and Jackson Garstecki finished 21st with a time of 23:41.59.

Meanwhile in the 3,000 meter junior varsity races, placing in the boy's division were 4, Dragr Monson, 12:05.71; 6, Dilon Abeln, 12:10.87; 12, Steven Paulson, 13:16.06; 15, Kannon Coats, 13:41.18; 22, James Brooks, 18:11.52; 23, Braden Freeman, 18:28.96. Placing in the girl's division were 8, Sierra Ehsresmann, 14:53.68; 9, Riley Rosenau, 14:54.24; 16, Kiara Senlouanrat, 20:56.34.

## Groton Class of '69 50th Year Reunion

Saturday, Sept 21st  
Olive Grove Golf Course  
The public is invited to attend after  
6:30 to renew acquaintances  
with OLD friends



2019 Groton Area Elementary  
Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds  
**September 24 and 25**

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 16. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at Groton Area Elementary School.



(0911.0918)

## Roberts County Democratic Party

is hosting a

### STEAK FRY DINNER

Friday, September 20, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

Valley View Golf Course

Speaker will be Joel Heitkamp

KFGO morning show "News & Views"

TICKET PRICE: \$50

To purchase tickets call: Gary Hanson 268-0448

Jason Frerichs 605-949-2204, Dave Gleason 237-1923



*Adults and Students . . . come  
learn what social issues are  
involving our youth  
in our community.*

# GOSPEL Solutions to Social Issues

**SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES**

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

**September 11 at United Methodist Church:**

**Drugs & Alcohol**

**October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:**

**Sex Trafficking and Date Violence**

**November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:**

**Suicide and Bullying**

**Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.**

## **Guest Speakers for Sept. 11**

Levi Jensen, a State Trooper for the Highway Patrol. Levi will share his experiences seeing what drugs and alcohol do to youth and adults and paraphernalia used.

Andrea Kost who works at the Journey. Andrea does intake interviews and payee services, and works at Safe Harbor. Andrea will share her experience working with at risk foster children, her work for 8 years at a group home. Andrea also worked at North-east Mental Health.

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*Tribute to 100  
years of the  
American Legion*



*Coffee and  
Birthday  
Cake*

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919

2019

100  
*Years*

*Please help us celebrate a Century  
of the American Legion*

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Friday, Sept 20, 2019 ~ 3:30 p.m., Groton Legion Post #39

1 free drink to any Veteran

**Program to include**

**Legion history**

**Local performers singing songs from the following periods**

**WW I ~ WW II ~ Korea ~ Vietnam to present time**

**MILITARY RITES AT THE CONCLUSION IN HONOR OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES PERFORMED BY GROTON POST #39**

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Today



Cloudy then  
Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 68 °F

Tonight



T-storms and  
Breezy

Low: 58 °F

Thursday



Showers  
Likely

High: 66 °F

Thursday  
Night



Slight Chance  
Showers and  
Breezy

Low: 50 °F

Friday



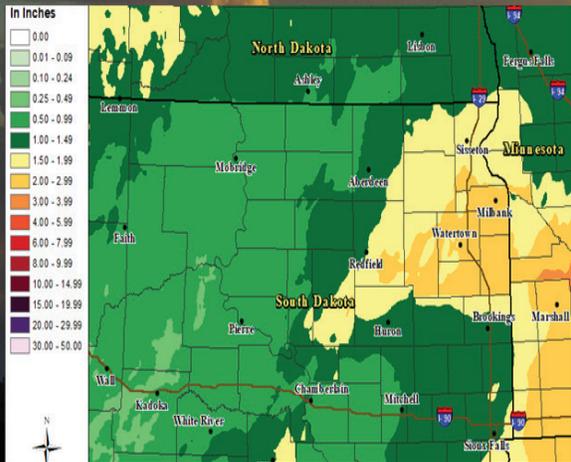
Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy

High: 66 °F

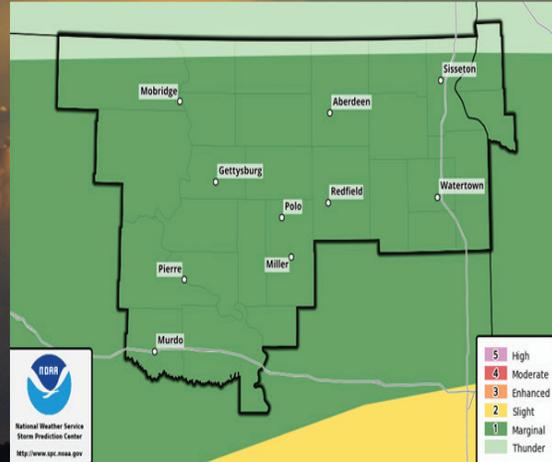
## Late This Afternoon Through Thursday Morning

There may be a few strong to severe thunderstorms tonight, but widespread severe weather is not expected. Heavy rain is also a possibility, with some areas possibly getting over 2". Stay tuned for updates, and avoid flooded roads!

### Forecast Rainfall (locally higher/lower)



### Convective Outlook



ISSUED: 4:47 AM - Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Published on: 09/11/2019 at 12:50AM

Showers and thunderstorms will track from west to east across the area late this afternoon and tonight. A few strong to severe storms are possible, but the bigger threat will be locally heavy rainfall.

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## Today in Weather History

September 11, 1978: High winds to 65 mph damaged the roofs of several barns outside of Watertown during the early evening.

1900: The remnants of the Great Galveston Hurricane were located over central Iowa on this day. Eastern Nebraska, northwest Iowa, and southern Minnesota show four-plus inches of rain from this storm.

1949 - An early snowstorm brought 7.5 inches to Helena MT. In Maine, a storm drenched New Brunswick with 8.05 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Very large and slow moving Hurricane Carla made landfall near Port Lavaca TX. Carla battered the central Texas coast with wind gusts to 175 mph, and up to 16 inches of rain, and spawned a vicious tornado which swept across Galveston Island killing eight persons. The hurricane claimed 45 lives, and caused 300 million dollars damage. The remnants of Carla produced heavy rain in the Lower Missouri Valley and southern sections of the Upper Great Lakes Region. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1976 - Up to five inches of rain brought walls of water and millions of tons of debris into Bullhead City AZ via washes from elevations above 3000 feet. Flooding caused more than three million dollars damage. Chasms up to forty feet deep were cut across some roads. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms caused flash flooding and subsequent river flooding in central Lower Michigan. Up to 14 inches of rain fell in a 72 hour period, and flooding caused 400 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, and spawned three tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph at Goodnight TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed parts of the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Central Plateau, with ten inches reported at Mount Evans in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires in the northwestern U.S. reached Pennsylvania and New York State. Hurricane Gilbert, moving westward over the Caribbean, was packing winds of 100 mph by the end of the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 23 degrees. Livingston MT and West Yellowstone MT tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms produced hail over the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with two inches reported on the ground near Donner Summit. The hail made roads very slick, resulting in a twenty car accident. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: Hurricane Iniki struck the island of Kaua'i with winds of 145 mph and a central pressure of 27.91 inches of mercury, making it a Category 4 hurricane. Iniki is the strongest hurricane to strike the Hawaii Island in recent history.

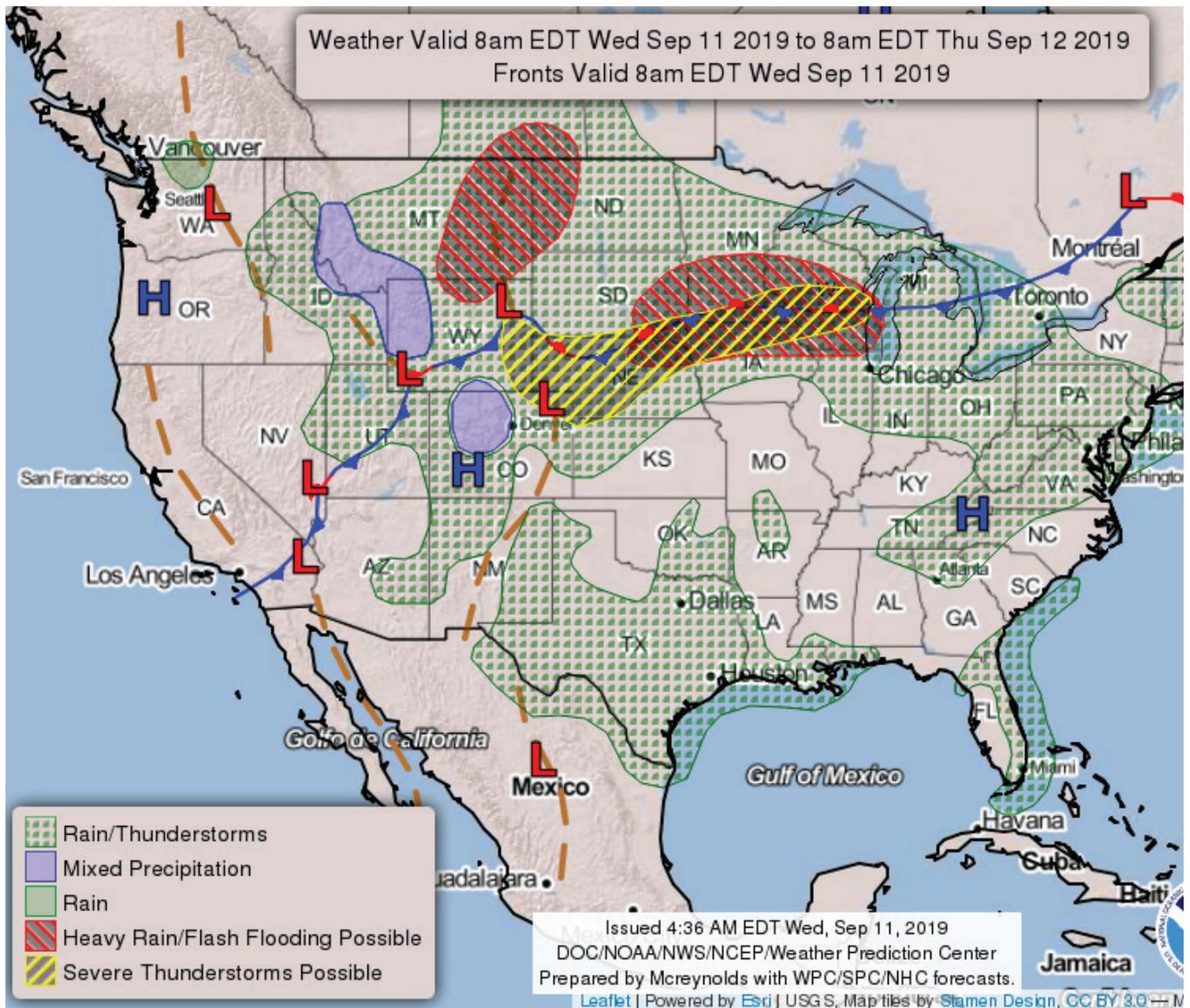
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 75 °F at 3:20 PM**  
**Low Temp: 53 °F at 7:26 AM**  
**Wind: 9 mph at 9:29 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.03**

**Record High: 100° in 1927**  
**Record Low: 28° in 1940**  
**Average High: 74°F**  
**Average Low: 48°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 3.33**  
**Average Precip to date: 17.04**  
**Precip Year to Date: 23.09**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:53 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:08 a.m.**



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## GREED

Years ago there was a pretzel stand in front of a building in New York. A generous businessman wanted to help the owner grow his business and eventually become successful. Each day he would put a quarter on the counter and walk away without taking a pretzel.

One day as he was leaving his quarter, the owner said, "Sir..."

Stopping quickly, he said, "I presume that you are going to ask me why I never take the pretzels?"

"No," she said rather haughtily. "I just wanted to tell you that the price of the pretzels is fifty cents."

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he warned them to "Put to death...evil desires and greed which leads to idolatry and most other sins." He then made an astonishing suggestion to accomplish this: "consider yourselves as though you are dead." He suggests that we make a conscious effort every day to identify and banish any greedy desire as soon as we sense it growing in our minds, extinguish it and not allow it to grow which will lead to our destruction.

Everyday our minds are stimulated by ideas, thoughts, and suggestions that imply, "If only you had this, you would be satisfied or if you achieve this goal you will be successful and therefore happy." Not so! "Things" cannot fill the empty space in our hearts because it has been reserved for God Himself. Only Christ, Who stands at the door to our hearts, gently knocking and patiently waiting to come in, can remove the loneliness we feel without His presence.

Prayer: Lord, give us a clear vision of the peace and satisfaction that can be ours with You in our hearts. Convict us of any desire to put "things" in Your "space." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)  
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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## News from the Associated Press

### Confirmed tornado hit store, hospital in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Severe weather including a tornado hit central Sioux Falls, where authorities closed streets and delayed school for two hours Wednesday as they assessed the damage.

National Weather Service Senior Forecaster Bob Oravec confirmed that a tornado touched down in the city, just before midnight Tuesday.

The twister wrecked an An Advanced Auto Parts store and caused damage at the Avera Heart Hospital, where police were letting only doctors, nurses and ambulances get in through the debris. KELO reported that an Avera spokesperson said no one was hurt at the hospital.

The Sioux Falls Police Department and Mayor Paul TenHaken are asking the public to stay at home as there is too much debris on city roads. Xcel Energy's outage map showed more than 8,000 customers without power in the area.

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

34-47-48-50-55, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: 2

(thirty-four, forty-seven, forty-eight, fifty, fifty-five; Mega Ball: twenty-four; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$154 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

### Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Waubay/Summit, 25-11, 25-13, 25-12

Bowman County, N.D. def. Harding County, 25-13, 21-25, 25-12, 25-19

Brandon Valley def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-14, 25-14

Bridgewater-Emery def. Menno, 25-11, 25-12, 25-17

Burke def. Chamberlain, 25-17, 26-24, 25-15

Canistota def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-17, 25-21, 25-12

Castlewood def. Arlington, 25-18, 25-21, 27-25

Chester def. Baltic, 25-16, 25-18, 25-13

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McLaughlin, 25-13, 15-25, 25-9, 25-17

Colman-Egan def. Lake Preston, 25-8, 25-7, 25-15

Dakota Valley def. Beresford, 25-22, 25-16, 25-15

Deubrook def. Flandreau, 18-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-17

Elk Point-Jefferson def. West Central, 25-13, 25-10, 22-25, 25-22

Elkton-Lake Benton def. DeSmet, 25-14, 25-12, 25-11

Estelline/Hendricks def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-21, 25-15, 25-16

Ethan def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 21-25, 25-18, 25-16, 25-20

Faith def. Hettinger/Scranton, N.D., 25-16, 20-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-8

Faulkton def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-19, 25-16, 25-19

Florence/Henry def. Wilmot, 25-16, 15-25, 22-25, 26-24, 15-7

Freeman def. Centerville, 25-11, 25-6, 27-25

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Gayville-Volin def. Scotland, 23-25, 23-25, 25-20, 25-22, 15-12  
Groton Area def. Webster, 25-12, 25-18, 25-21  
Hankinson, N.D. def. Sisseton, 25-27, 25-19, 18-25, 25-18, 15-6  
Hanson def. Howard, 11-25, 22-25, 25-17, 25-18, 18-16  
Highmore-Harrold def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 20-25, 24-26, 25-18, 25-10, 15-6  
Hill City def. Douglas, 25-21, 25-13, 25-12  
Ipswich def. Sully Buttes, 25-22, 25-21, 25-21  
Langford def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-14, 25-17, 16-25, 25-20  
Lead-Deadwood def. Edgemont, 25-21, 25-16, 22-25, 31-29  
Lennox def. Tea Area, 25-14, 25-17, 25-22  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Sioux Valley, 25-9, 25-11, 25-13  
Miller def. Warner, 25-19, 25-19, 22-25, 25-20  
Mitchell Christian def. Wessington Springs, 25-16, 25-19, 26-24  
Mobridge-Pollock def. North Central, 25-23, 24-26, 25-17, 25-17  
Parkston def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-12, 25-17, 25-13  
Redfield def. Leola/Frederick, 25-13, 25-13, 25-16  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-18, 18-25, 19-25, 25-20, 15-6  
Santee, Neb. def. Marty Indian, 25-18, 8-25, 14-25, 25-22, 15-9  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Madison, 25-14, 25-15, 25-13  
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 26-24, 25-22, 17-25, 22-25, 15-13  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Huron, 23-25, 23-25, 25-19, 25-12, 15-10  
Sioux Falls Washington def. Yankton, 25-18, 25-10, 25-12  
St. Thomas More def. Belle Fourche, 25-14, 25-17, 25-16  
Vermillion def. Bon Homme, 25-11, 25-12, 25-17  
Wagner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-14, 25-15, 25-14  
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-16, 25-17, 25-19

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

**Rapid City Journal, Sept. 8**

**SD needs a plan for higher education**

A future lawyer attending a University of South Dakota study group bungled his slogan: "People don't fail to plan," he opined, "they plan to fail."

The mirthful malapropism mixed up fail and plan. People don't plan to fail. They fail to plan.

Unfortunately, the student coinage sums up South Dakota's current approach to higher education. We're planning to fail. And with failure, we'll sacrifice a future of better-paying jobs, better cities and rising opportunities.

South Dakota increasingly charges its good students more money to attend state colleges. Burdened with ever-increasing student debt loads, they graduate to encounter a state economy that can't pay them well or use them well, with predictable results. Graduates flee South Dakota at rising rates, and those who remain delay home purchases or families because of heavy student debt.

This isn't what European settlers had hoped from South Dakota, and it isn't what all South Dakota parents want for their children today. It won't be easy to reverse this trend, but if we don't make plans to change, South Dakota won't prosper. Increasingly, the ability to land better incomes, those that fill state coffers, will depend on college and technical degrees.

More dismal news and reports greeted state students returning to South Dakota campuses this fall:

— The net cost of attending a South Dakota public university is the eighth-highest in the nation. Due to the lack of a needs-based scholarships and other state-funded financial aid, South Dakota's public university students pay an average of \$4,000 more per year than students elsewhere.

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— South Dakota has the third-least amount of state grant money available to its students and the fourth-least amount of grant aid available from university endowments.

— South Dakota college students routinely rank among the most indebted. Roughly 74 percent of South Dakota graduates carry college debt, with an average of more than \$30,000 owed.

— As recently as 2007, South Dakota's taxpayers covered about 55 percent of the cost of a public college education. By 2018, South Dakota public university students paid 56 percent of that cost. The parents of today's college students likely paid just 30 percent.

— South Dakota ranks third-lowest in average annual pay at under \$41,000 a year.

— The state also ranks at or near the lowest pay in the nation in several employment categories requiring college degrees, including architecture/engineering, education, life/physical/social sciences, arts/design/sports/media, computer and mathematical, legal fields, community and social services and business and financial operations.

— In every census since 1960, South Dakota has experienced a net loss of people in the top third of educational attainment. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, South Dakota had the second-highest rate of gross brain drain in the country.

It doesn't require a college degree to see the hole we've dug and continue to dig. The longtime state strategy that lowest-in-the-nation tax rates will lure manufacturers here hasn't produced results. It would be insanity to continue doing the same things and expect something different.

South Dakota must step up its game in so many ways — increased aid for low-income students, better alignment of the degrees offered with future employment needs, more support for entrepreneurs in high-paying industries, better coordination among higher-ed institutions. Some of these, only the Legislature can address.

It's harder now to reverse course because of the hole we've dug. Incremental change in the current economic environment is the best we can hope to manage. But we need a better plan for success. Otherwise, we're planning to fail.

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## **Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Sept. 9** **Shedding some light on light bulbs**

With all due respect to Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, who called this topic a distraction from larger climate issues (which, maybe, it is), let's talk for a moment about the lowly light bulb, which has turned to an unlikely political football in our climate and economic conversations.

Where would we be without these bulbs? In the dark, obviously.

Where would we be without the tremendous advances that have been made in light-bulb technology in recent years? We'd all be paying bigger electrical bills using bulbs with relatively short life spans and are also bad for the environment.

So, why did the Trump administration roll back new efficiency standards that were scheduled to take place in January?

The Department of Energy (DOE) last week announced that it was overturning new regulations, passed in the waning days of the Obama administration, that would have instituted new energy-efficiency standards for bulbs such as three-way incandescent bulbs, candle-shaped chandelier bulbs and recessed reflector bulbs. Another rule change would have imposed new efficiency standards for pear-shaped bulbs. The new standards were enacted to promote even greater energy efficiency, which would cut demand and, consequently, reduce carbon emissions that are believed to contribute to climate change.

A DOE spokesman said the new regulations would be deployed "only when economically justified," and it was claimed that the new rules would increase the price of bulbs by about 300 percent. Suspending the rules would allow consumers, not the government, to choose how to light their homes and businesses, the DOE said. That's also the claim of the light-bulb manufacturers, who oppose the new standards in part because the rules would threaten a business model based on planned obsolescence.

But critics such as the Natural Resources Defense Council noted that this action "could cost the aver-

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age U.S. household more than \$100 per year, adding \$14 billion to Americans' annual energy bills as of 2025, and require at least 25 power plants' worth of extra electricity annually." It's estimated the move will increase annual U.S. electrical use by about 80 billion kilowatt hours, as well as do nothing to remove the harmful impact the current bulbs have on the environment, since more energy would be needed to produce the additional energy the old bulbs require.

According to CNBC, "The (new) standards applied to about half of the roughly 6 billion light bulbs used in the U.S., and would have prevented millions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere."

The Obama-era rule change was an extension of energy rules passed by the George W. Bush administration — back in the days when "energy independence" was on everyone's mind — and it was part of an extraordinary evolution in light-bulb technology.

Since 2010, energy consumption in U.S. homes has dropped by 6 percent after decades of steady growth, and a huge reason for the decline has been far more efficient lighting. Bulbs now can last up to 10 years or more and produce more light with far less energy.

It's true that an LED bulb costs more — about \$4 on average for a 12-watt LED compared to \$1 for a 60-watt incandescent bulb. But, according to the Department of Energy, the LED, which uses about one-fifth the energy, has an estimated life span of 25,000 hours, compared to 1,000 for incandescent. It's also estimated that, over the course of 10 years, the running cost of the LED is about \$18, while it's about \$90 for an incandescent.

So, the new rules would have further promoted the use of longer-lasting bulbs that use less energy and produce more light at a fraction of the cost ... AND they help the environment.

And that's what we DON'T want?

Why are we changing course on a process that is clearly working on several fronts and can improve even more?

Last week's decision is not a bright idea at all.

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## Madison Daily Leader, Sept. 5

### We can do better on boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard released its 2018 Recreational Boating Statistics Report recently, revealing that there were 633 boating fatalities nationwide in 2018, a 3.8% decrease from 2017. That's good news.

Of course, 633 boating fatalities are way too many. "While these decreases are encouraging, there are still too many deaths and injuries that could be avoided through the use of life jackets and eliminating alcohol consumption while operating a boat," said Capt. Scott Johnson, chief of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Boating safety is an important issue in our area, with so many lakes and recreational crafts. Counting all watercraft (fishing boats, ski boats, canoes, sailboats, jet skis and others), we wouldn't be surprised if there are more than 1,000 boats at Lake Madison alone.

Alcohol again was the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents nationwide in 2018, accounting for 100 deaths, or 19% of total fatalities.

Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, machinery failure and excessive speed ranked as the next five primary contributing factors in accidents.

With the exception of machinery failure, all other causes appear to be preventable. And while Game Fish & Parks officers do stop boats occasionally for variety of reasons, we see a fair amount of unsafe boat operation throughout each summer, including drinking and boating.

Developing good boat safety habits should start early, and some families teach children the fundamentals. But we see far too many children under 10 years old driving jet skis at excessive speeds.

Nationally, in cases where the cause of a boating fatality was known, 77% of victims drowned, and of those, 84% were not wearing a life jacket.

We can do better than this. Just a few changes would save lives: wear a life jacket, take a boating safety

course, attach the engine cutoff switch and boat sober.

## Commission weighs South Dakota park, camping fees increase

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Commission is weighing whether to raise fees by nearly \$3 million next year.

The commission says declining revenues and the need to repair flood damage may mean visitors paying more to enter state parks and campgrounds.

Entrance fees and camping fees are the primary funding source for South Dakota's nearly \$40 million parks and recreation budget, state Director of Parks and Recreation Scott Simpson said.

"These fees go toward preventive maintenance, the services we provide, the customer experience we provide as well as taking care of other infrastructure needs," Simpson said Tuesday.

Late, wet springs have affected early season park use and damaged infrastructure, according to the commission's proposal. As of July 1, flooding made 10 percent of the system's campsites unavailable for reservation.

The commission said this year's revenues are down nearly \$2 million from 2018, and that repairing flood damage is estimated at more than \$8 million. Floodwaters inundated parking lots, campsites, roads, boat ramps, electrical pedestals and restrooms, according to the commission.

Park entrance fees were last raised in 2013 and camping fees were last increased in 2014, Simpson said. He noted that in the last decade, the annual park entrance license has increased by \$2.

The proposal calls for increasing the annual park entrance license from \$30 to \$36 and the daily fee from \$6 to \$8. For preferred campgrounds, the camping fee would rise from \$19 to \$23, and the fee at modern campgrounds would increase from \$17 to \$20.

The public has 30 days to comment on the proposal. The commission will hold a public hearing Oct. 3 as it finalizes the proposal at its next meeting in Chamberlain. The proposed fee increases would take effect before next camping season.

## South Dakota gov. threatens to veto hemp bill again in 2020

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem is promising to again veto an industrial hemp bill if it's introduced at next year's Legislature.

Noem wrote why she won't support legalizing hemp in a commentary in the Wall Street Journal Monday night.

The Republican governor, who comes from a farming and ranching family, said that she would be "happy" to introduce a new cash crop in South Dakota, but she said hemp isn't it.

Noem says she will continue to oppose legalizing industrial hemp until law enforcement can differentiate between hemp and marijuana.

Last session, Noem vetoed an industrial hemp bill. The Legislature failed to override her veto, killing the measure for this year.

The Argus Leader reports Noem reiterated her opposition as the Legislature began studying hemp ahead of the 2020 session.

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

## US seeks dismissal of tribes' lawsuit over Keystone pipeline

By **MATTHEW BROWN** Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Attorneys for the Trump administration want a U.S. judge to throw out a lawsuit from Native American tribes trying to block the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to Nebraska.

Tribes in Montana and South Dakota say President Donald Trump approved the pipeline without considering potential damage to cultural sites from spills and construction.

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The administration counters that Trump's approval applies only to a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) section of pipeline along the U.S.-Canada border and not the rest of the line.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris will preside over a Thursday hearing on the government's attempt to dismiss the case. The judge blocked the line in November, saying more environmental studies were needed. But Trump circumvented that ruling in March by issuing a new permit for the \$8 billion, 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) project.

The Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana and South Dakota's Rosebud Sioux tribe say Trump's action violated their rights under treaties from the mid-1800s.

"They're saying we can't sue the president, and the tribes' treaties essentially mean nothing. We completely disagree," said Matthew Campbell, a Native American Rights Fund attorney representing the tribes. "The treaties were agreed to by the president of the United States and ratified by the Senate, so the treaties clearly apply."

Morris is overseeing a separate lawsuit against Keystone XL from several environmental groups. He's signaled he may consolidate the two cases.

Pipeline sponsor TC Energy, formerly known as TransCanada, is also seeking dismissal of the tribes' lawsuit. The company backed the administration's contention that Trump's March permit applies only to the border crossing — "far from any land where Rosebud or its members are alleged to hold any interest."

Other federal agencies will review the rest of the pipeline before the project can proceed, according to court filings from the company and government.

The tribes argue that Trump's permit applies to the entire pipeline. They say a spill could damage a South Dakota water supply system that serves more than 51,000 people including residents of the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Lower Brule Indian reservations.

An existing TC Energy pipeline, also called Keystone, had a 2017 spill that released almost 10,000 barrels (407,000 gallons) of oil near Amherst, South Dakota.

The tribes also raised concerns about construction camps, often called "man camps," which sprung up in neighboring North Dakota during the Bakken oil boom. While most workers are not violent, the tribes' attorneys warned that "man camps in the Bakken have become centers for drugs, violence, and sex trafficking of Native women and girls."

TC Energy had planned to start construction of Keystone XL this year but was unable to overcome the pending legal challenges in time. The pipeline would carry up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily along the path from Canada to Nebraska.

Keystone XL was first proposed in 2008 and rejected under former President Barack Obama. It was revived by Trump as part of the Republican's efforts to boost fossil fuel industries.

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Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

## Police K9 bites bystander in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have offered to pay a man's medical bills after the department's dog bit the wrong person.

Officers were trying to track down a man wanted on a warrant Saturday and were using the K9 to find him. They knocked on doors in one neighborhood and told residents to stay inside since the dog was in use.

The Rapid City Journal says the dog, running off its leash, followed a scent into a backyard and bit a bystander in the leg. The man police were looking for was found in a shed over the fence from the backyard.

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

## Tractor driver could be charged in fatal I-90 crash

ALEXANDRIA, S.D. (AP) — A man who illegally drove a tractor and horse trailer on the interstate in southeastern South Dakota resulting in a fatal crash could face criminal charges.

Fifty-two-year-old Johnnie Hines, of Sioux Falls, was killed when the van he was driving crashed into the

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back of the tractor trailer on Interstate 90 near Alexandria. He died at the scene of the crash Friday. The South Dakota State Patrol says the trailer didn't have flashing lights or slow-moving signs.

A court affidavit says the 31-year-old man operating the tractor was arrested for reckless driving and second-degree manslaughter.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. BOLTON, TRUMP DIFFERED ON GLOBAL HOTSPOTS

The now former national security adviser held far more hawkish views than the "America first" president on matters like Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan.

### 2. AMERICANS COMMEMORATE 9/11

Mournful ceremonies, volunteering, appeals to "never forget" and rising attention to the terror attacks' extended toll on responders will mark the 18th anniversary.

### 3. WHY END OF TALIBAN TALKS ARE PAINFUL

Trump declares peace negotiations "dead," deeply unfortunate wording for Afghan civilians who have been killed by the tens of thousands over almost 18 years.

### 4. WHO WON A SPECIAL ELECTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

Conservative Republican Dan Bishop captures an open House seat, a narrow victory deemed a bellwether for GOP chances in 2020.

### 5. WHAT A SCOTTISH COURT RULED

That Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament was unlawful, but did not order it to be overturned. Judges say Britain's Supreme Court must make the final decision.

### 6. 'THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR US IN SYRIA'

Syrian refugees, trapped in a cycle of poverty and debt in Jordan and unwanted by the West, are afraid to return home.

### 7. THE RISE AND FALL OF 'EL POLLO'

Retired Maj. Gen. Hugo Carvajal, Hugo Chávez's spy chief, is wanted in the U.S. on drug trafficking charges — and is offering to help Venezuela's opposition, AP reports.

### 8. VETS FINDING UNLIKELY DIVERSION

A small but growing number of U.S. veterans are turning to beekeeping as a potential treatment for anxiety, PTSD and other conditions.

### 9. STREAMING TV WARS INTENSIFY

Apple (\$5 per month) and Walt Disney Co. (\$7) are finally taking on Netflix and its \$13 price tag with their own streaming businesses.

### 10. NEW PATRIOTS RECEIVER ACCUSED

A former trainer for Antonio Brown says she was raped by the star wideout, allegations he denies.

## Afghans fear Trump's Taliban move means more civilians die

By CARA ANNA and AHMAD SEIR Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The sound of the blast ripped through Kabul, in an instant wrenching the Afghan capital's attention from a nationally televised interview in which a United States envoy revealed the first details of a deal to end America's longest war.

Last week's Taliban car bomb targeted a foreign compound but instead shredded Afghan homes, with stunned and bloodied families picking up children and fleeing in darkness as their once-solid world collapsed. One family saw 30 relatives wounded — many of them women — including a son still healing from an attack the year before.

"Our only hope was peace," Hayat Khan, the family's 54-year-old patriarch, said Tuesday, "and that

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doesn't happen now."

President Donald Trump says the U.S.-Taliban talks on ending the fighting in Afghanistan are "dead," deeply unfortunate wording for the Afghan civilians who have been killed by the tens of thousands over almost 18 years. Many fear his cancellation of negotiations will bring more carnage as the U.S. and Taliban, as well as Afghan forces, step up their offensives and everyday people die in the crossfire.

As America on Wednesday mourns thousands of civilians killed in the 9/11 attacks, weary Afghans watch their own toll from the aftermath continue to rise.

"Here innocent people are killed and there is bloodshed everywhere. Families lose their sons, mothers, even their livestock, but no one cares about it," Khan said, a bandage still around his head from the blast. "Who remembers them? Are they not humans?"

The idea that Trump in a series of tweets over the weekend would call off a deal on the brink of completion, citing the Taliban's killing of a U.S. service member in another Kabul blast last week, has struck many Afghans as incomprehensible.

"There are attacks every day," said Khan's 26-year-old son, Zaki, who walked The Associated Press through the family's ruined home. A relative held up a phone to show a photo of Zaki, dusty and bleeding and clutching a child, shortly after the blast. "Why doesn't he care about the killing of hundreds of civilians here?"

This also would be Afghanistan's longest war, if the fighting in the country had ever truly ended. Instead, Afghans have been plunged into various conflicts over the past four decades, from a Soviet invasion to a warlord-led civil war to the Taliban's arrival that ushered in a harsh version of Islamic law.

The collective deaths, in the hundreds of thousands, are being remembered in Martyrs' Week that continues through Sunday. Across Afghanistan, fresh graves are dug every day. And all sides — the Taliban, U.S. and Afghan forces — are to blame.

For the first time, more Afghan civilians have been killed by international and Afghan forces than by the Taliban and other insurgents, the United Nations said of the first three months of this year, with thousands more wounded by insurgent attacks. The toll has been largely due to stepped-up airstrikes by the U.S. as it aids Afghan ground forces in their efforts to dislodge Taliban fighters and those with the local affiliate of the Islamic State group.

The CIA-trained Afghan special forces also have been criticized, including by the U.N., for heavy-handed raids on Afghan homes that often turn deadly and alienate the local population. This month the Afghan intelligence chief was forced to resign after those forces killed four brothers in a raid in the eastern city of Jalalabad. They had no known links to insurgents.

"As a responsible state we have zero tolerance for civilian casualties," Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said in announcing the resignation.

The collapse of the U.S.-Taliban peace efforts has turned quickly to talk of more war on all sides. The Taliban, while signaling they were still open to negotiations, said they would continue their fight against foreign "occupation."

The Afghan defense ministry's deputy spokesman, Fawad Aman, confirmed on Tuesday that offensives against the Taliban have increased across the country in recent days.

For the U.S., Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asserted that more than 1,000 Taliban had been killed in battle during the past 10 days — an estimate that could reflect Afghan efforts as fighting intensifies ahead of this month's presidential election and the end of the "fighting season" before winter. And Trump, on the defensive after critics accused him of upending the talks in favor of rash showmanship, asserted that "we've hit the Taliban harder in the last four days than they've been hit in over 10 years."

There has been no evidence to back up his statement. But the U.N. envoy to Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that violence had intensified.

All parties must reduce civilian casualties "to demonstrate their seriousness for peace," he said.

The talk of even fiercer fighting has anguished some in Afghanistan. "Stop breaking more hearts! The escalation in violence from all sides won't have a winner," Omaid Sharifi, the founder of an art project that now paints concrete blast walls with thousands of tulips to remember the dead, said Tuesday on Twitter.

And after an air raid was blamed in the deaths of seven family members in Maidan Wardak province this week, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission said that "such inattention and carelessness on the part of the international military forces would result in people's wrath and anger" and urged Afghan officials to investigate why such events repeatedly occur.

The family members had been returning from a memorial ceremony when they were killed, said Shari-fullah Hotak, a provincial council member. With offensives stepping up in the wake of Trump's decision, he said, "unfortunately, both sides of the battle will cause more civilian casualties."

A new report by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program shows how many have died this year alone. Just over 450 Afghan civilians were killed in the cross fire between state and insurgent forces or in attacks on government institutions in the first six months, it said. Another 100 civilians were killed in "one-sided violence" such as suicide attacks against purely civilian targets such as weddings.

Part of the tragedy in Afghanistan, some say, is that families are battered over and over.

For Khan, the blast that scattered his loved ones was the third attack in the past two years.

"Whenever I build my house," he said, "it is destroyed again."

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Associated Press writers Rahim Faiez in Kabul, Afghanistan; Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Pakistan; Robert Burns in Washington and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to say Martyrs' Week continues through Sunday.

## Trapped in Jordan, Syrian refugees see no way home

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and OMAR AKOUR Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Seven years after fleeing the civil war in his homeland, Zahir Hamshari's life is filled with questions and doubts: How to pay the rent? How to cover the electricity bill? How to afford even basic staples like bread and bottled water?

But one thing is crystal clear for him. Like many Syrian refugees, he cannot envision returning to his war-torn country.

"There is no future for us in Syria," Hamshari said. "Nothing encourages us to return back to Syria."

Nearly a year after Jordan's main border crossing was opened for refugees to go home, such sentiments are common among the more than 1 million Syrians living in the desert kingdom.

Afraid to return home, unable to earn a decent living in Jordan and unwanted by the West, refugees are trapped in a cycle of poverty and debt while straining the resources of a country that is already struggling to meet the needs of its own population.

"The Syrian crisis has negatively impacted the progress made by Jordan over the past years, increased public debt, and caused serious challenges to the path of sustainable development for the coming decade," Jordan's Planning Ministry said in a statement. "Education, health and water infrastructure have been tremendously strained in several communities."

Many Jordanian schools, for instance, now operate in double shifts to accommodate refugee children, while Jordan, one of the world's most arid countries, says water consumption has spiked over 20% due to the refugee influx.

The ministry noted that while some countries have been supportive with aid, "donor fatigue poses a major challenge." Foreign donors have covered just 6.1% of the \$2.4 billion needed for refugee services this year, according to government statistics.

Jordan, which borders southern Syria, became a popular destination for refugees after the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011. While Jordan hosts two camps near the Syrian border, most refugees have moved to cities, where they are permitted to work in menial jobs.

But the crisis has dragged on for much longer than anticipated, particularly as Western countries have slowed or halted programs to take in refugees. Jordan does not forcefully deport refugees.

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Jordan has provided refuge to an estimated 1.3 million Syrians, including some 670,000 people officially registered with the U.N. as refugees, a significant burden for a country of roughly 10 million. Turkey, with 3.6 million refugees, and Lebanon, with nearly 1 million, are also major host nations.

When Jordan's main border crossing with Syria reopened last October after four years, there were hopes that refugees would begin to return home. Since then, just 28,000 refugees have gone back, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

A report by the agency late last year found that while 78% of refugees hope to return to Syria one day, only 8% intended to do so in the coming year. The U.N. says such sentiment remains the same.

"When we do our monthly intention surveys with these refugees, we do see that the majority plan to go back to Syria one day in the future, but only a small portion of them are wanting to go back in the next 12 months," said Lilly Carlisle, the agency's spokeswoman in Jordan.

Refugees cite safety concerns, fear of conscription and a lack of jobs, housing and basic services as reasons for not going home. Reports from Syria aren't encouraging either.

"When I contact my brothers in Syria, they told me that work opportunities there are not available, the situation is not safe," said Yousef Samara, a 42-year-old refugee from Syria's Deraa province who lives in the Zaatari camp in northern Jordan. "Living conditions don't encourage us to return. I care about the future of my children; I left the war for their sake."

The UNHCR, working with the Jordanian government and aid organizations, coordinates a host of services for refugees, including cash assistance, education, health services and mental health counseling. But facing a chronic budget crunch, with donor nations providing just over a quarter of needed funds this year, it has struggled to meet demand. The U.N. estimates that some 80% of refugees live below the poverty line and nearly 90% are in debt.

Hamshari, who uprooted his family from their home in a Damascus suburb in 2012, said he feels trapped. He said there is no way he can return to Syria, but there is no way to support his wife and four young children in his current situation.

The 36-year-old said he fled Syria after he was arrested in a random sweep that followed the outbreak of anti-government protests. He said he was tortured during three months in jail and believes he will be in danger if he returns. In any case, he said his home near Damascus is destroyed.

His first stop in 2012 was Libya, where he said he earned a good living as a construction worker. But after Libya's civil war erupted, he fled to Jordan the following year. He applied to move his family to the U.S., but said the process was abruptly halted after the Trump administration tightened entry rules for Syrian refugees.

Today, he scrapes by as a worker in a pharmaceutical factory, living in a sparse, two-bedroom apartment in a working-class neighborhood in east Amman. He said he receives about \$200 in food coupons from the U.N. each month, but gets no other assistance.

Like many other refugees, he said he cannot afford basic expenses and is months behind on his rent and electricity bills.

He subsists by borrowing a few dinars from friends or relatives, but says few people have money to lend because they are in a similar predicament.

"I feel lost," he said. "I haven't achieved anything in the last six or seven years, only eating and drinking and being indebted. If I stay like this, I will die from anger."

He implored Western countries to take in refugees like himself. "Even if I work 20, 25 or 50 years here, I will not have a good future for me or for my children."

Amer Sabaileh, an independent Jordanian analyst, said the government must devise a long-term strategy and decide whether it wants to absorb refugees or help them return home.

"It seems that we need to develop a stronger way of dealing with these emergencies. Let's say we cannot keep just being receivers for what is happening in the region," he said. "Unfortunately, I don't see that we have this plan."

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Akour reported from the Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan.

## **GOP holds N Carolina House seat but shows frailty in suburbs**

**By ALAN FRAM Associated Press**

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Conservative Republican Dan Bishop won a special election for an open House seat in North Carolina, averting a demoralizing Democratic capture of a district the GOP has held for nearly six decades. But his narrow victory didn't erase questions about whether President Donald Trump and his party's congressional candidates face troubling headwinds approaching 2020.

Bishop, a state senator best known for a North Carolina law dictating which public bathrooms transgender people can use, defeated centrist Democrat Dan McCready on Tuesday. Bishop tied himself tightly to Trump, who staged an election eve rally for him in the district, and Tuesday's voting seemed no less than a referendum on the Republican president, who quickly took credit for the triumph.

"Dan Bishop was down 17 points 3 weeks ago. He then asked me for help, we changed his strategy together, and he ran a great race. Big Rally last night," Trump tweeted. No polling has emerged publicly that showed Bishop with a deficit of that magnitude. Operatives from both parties and analysts had long said the race was too close to call.

The results in the district underscored the rural-urban split between the parties, with Bishop, 55, running up substantial numbers in outlying areas and McCready eroding GOP advantages in suburban areas. McCready's moderate profile resembled that of many Democrats who won in Republican-leaning districts in the 2018 midterms and, even with the loss on Tuesday, showed the durability of that approach.

Bishop's margin was far less than the 11 percentage points by which Trump captured the district in 2016. And it was only slightly greater than when then-GOP candidate Mark Harris seemed to win the seat over McCready, 36, last year — before those results were annulled after evidence of vote tampering surfaced and a new election was ordered.

Republicans have held the seat since 1963, and its loss would have been a worrisome preface to the party's presidential and congressional campaigns next year.

"I think it means Trump is going to get a second term, and Republicans will retake the majority," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said in an interview with The Associated Press. Many analysts think a GOP takeover will be difficult.

Special elections generally attract such low turnout that their results aren't predictive of future general elections. Even so, the narrow margin in the GOP-tilted district suggested that Democrats' 2018 string of victories in suburban districts in red states including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas could persist next year.

Rep. Cheri Bustos of Illinois, who runs House Democrats' political committee, said the close race showed her party is "pushing further into Republican strongholds" and was in a "commanding position" to do well next year.

Michael Bitzer, a politics professor at Catawba College in North Carolina, said the narrow margin suggests that the country's other closely divided swing districts "could be still up for grabs."

There is almost no pathway to Republicans regaining House control next year unless they avoid losing more suburban districts and win back some they lost last year.

The district stretches from Charlotte, one of the nation's financial nerve centers, through its flourishing eastern suburbs and into less prosperous rural counties along the South Carolina line. More than half its voters were expected to come from the suburbs.

Since Trump became president, voters in such communities — particularly women and college-educated voters — have abandoned Trump in droves over his conservative social policies and vitriolic rhetoric on immigration and race.

Suburban defections would also jeopardize the reelection prospects of Trump, who's already facing slipping poll numbers. Limiting the erosion of those voters will be crucial for him to retain swing states like North Carolina, which he won by less than 4 percentage points in 2016.

But Tuesday's vote showed that Bishop benefited from the district's conservative leanings.

"Bishop, his policies follow my convictions — after hearing Bishop, knowing that he's for the Second

Amendment and he's against illegal immigration," said Susie Sisk, 73, a retiree from Mint Hill. The registered Democrat said she voted for Bishop.

Along with a GOP victory in a second vacant House district in North Carolina, Republicans pared the Democratic majority in the House to 235-199, plus one independent. That means to win control of the chamber in 2020, Republicans will need to gain 19 seats, which a slew of GOP retirements and demographic changes around the country suggests will be difficult.

In the day's other special election, Republican Greg Murphy, a doctor and state legislator, defeated Democrat Allen Thomas — as expected — to keep a House district along North Carolina's Atlantic coast.

That seat has been vacant since February, when 13-term GOP Rep. Walter Jones died, and Trump won the district handily in 2016.

The bathroom law that Bishop sponsored was repealed after it prompted a national outcry and boycotts that the AP estimated cost North Carolina \$3.7 billion.

Bishop bound himself tightly to Trump, backing his proposed border wall with Mexico and accusing Trump critics of being intent on "destroying him."

"The voters said no to radical, liberal polices pushed by today's Democratic Party," Bishop said in a victory speech.

McCready, a former Marine who started a firm that's financed solar energy projects to cast himself as a job creator and environmental champion. He also focused on containing health care costs and ran a spot featuring his trademark promise to prioritize "country over party."

In his concession speech, McCready referred to the ballot fraud investigation that led to Tuesday's special election.

"The people of North Carolina stood up and we faced down the full force of election fraud and voter suppression," he said. "When the people in power sought to silence the voices of the voters, stole their ballots, forged signatures from them, filled in vote choices for them . we fought back and we won."

At a rally Trump staged for Bishop in July, Trump said four Democratic women of color should "go back" to their home countries, though all but one was born in the U.S. The crowd began chanting "Send her back!"

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Associated Press writers Emery P. Dalesio and Gary D. Robertson contributed to this report from Raleigh, N.C.

## US to commemorate 9/11 as its aftermath extends and evolves

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are commemorating 9/11 with mournful ceremonies, volunteering, appeals to "never forget" and rising attention to the terror attacks' extended toll on responders.

A crowd of victims' relatives is expected at ground zero Wednesday, while President Donald Trump is scheduled to join an observance at the Pentagon. Vice President Mike Pence is to speak at the third attack site, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Former President George W. Bush, the commander-in-chief at the time of the 2001 attacks, is due at an afternoon wreath-laying at the Pentagon.

Eighteen years after the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil, the nation is still grappling with the aftermath at ground zero, in Congress and beyond. The attacks' aftermath is visible from airport security checkpoints to Afghanistan. A rocket exploded at the U.S. embassy as the anniversary began in Afghanistan, where a post-9/11 invasion has become America's longest war.

"People say, 'Why do you stand here, year after year?'" Chundera Epps, a sister of Sept. 11 victim Christopher Epps, said at last year's ceremony at the World Trade Center. "Because soldiers are still dying for our freedom. First responders are still dying and being ill."

"We can't forget. Life won't let us forget," she added.

The anniversary ceremonies center on remembering the nearly 3,000 people killed when hijacked planes rammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville on Sept. 11, 2001. All those

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victims' names are read aloud at the ground zero ceremony, where moments of silence and tolling bells mark the moments when the aircraft crashed and the trade center's twin towers fell.

But there has been growing awareness in recent years of the suffering of another group of people tied to the tragedy: firefighters, police and others who died or fell ill after exposure to the wreckage and the toxins unleashed in it.

While research continues into whether those illnesses are tied to 9/11 toxins, a victims compensation fund for people with potentially Sept. 11-related health problems has awarded more than \$5.5 billion so far. Over 51,000 people have applied.

After years of legislative gridlock, dwindling money in the fund and fervent activism by ailing first responders and their advocates, Congress this summer made sure the fund won't run dry. Trump, a Republican and a New Yorker who was in the city on 9/11, signed the measure in July.

The sick gained new recognition this year at the memorial plaza at ground zero, where the new 9/11 Memorial Glade was dedicated this spring.

The tribute features six large stacks of granite inlaid with salvaged trade center steel, with a dedication "to those whose actions in our time of need led to their injury, sickness, and death." No one is named specifically.

Some 9/11 memorials elsewhere already included sickened rescue, recovery and cleanup workers, and there is a remembrance wall entirely focused on them in Nesconset, on Long Island. But those who fell ill or were injured, and their families, say having a tribute at ground zero carries special significance.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon announced Monday that its 9/11 memorial will close next week for electrical and lighting work. The project, expected to take until late May, includes repairs to lighting glitches in the shallow reflecting pools under the memorial benches.

Sept. 11 is known not only as a day for remembrance and patriotism, but also as a day of service. People around the country continue to volunteer at food banks, schools, home-building projects, park cleanups and other charitable endeavors on and near the anniversary.

## Inside Bolton's exit: Mongolia, a mustache, a tweet

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and DEB RIECHMANN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Bolton was in Mongolia.

More than 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) away, President Donald Trump orchestrated an image for the world's front pages by becoming the first U.S. president to set foot in North Korea, shaking hands with Kim Jong Un on the north side of the demilitarized zone.

The distance was telling.

Bolton, a longtime critic of diplomacy with North Korea, had scheduled his foray to Mongolia weeks before Trump's impromptu invitation to meet Kim. But the national security adviser's isolation at such a high-profile moment underscored the growing disconnect between the two men.

Their repeated clashes on policy and style reached an exclamation point Tuesday when Trump ousted Bolton with a tweet.

This account of how their relationship unraveled is based on interviews with current and former administration officials and Republicans close to the White House. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

It was a marriage that was never going to last: Trump and Bolton rarely saw eye to eye on global hotspots. The national security adviser held far more hawkish views than the "America first" president on matters like Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan.

"John Bolton is absolutely a hawk," Trump told NBC in June. "If it was up to him, he'd take on the whole world at one time, OK? But that doesn't matter because I want both sides."

Trump does value disagreement and jockeying among his staff. But he came to believe that Bolton's presence spooked foreign leaders. And he eventually grew weary of the national security adviser's bureaucratic knife-fighting.

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By the spring, Bolton found himself cut out of important White House meetings and the president's perceived diplomatic triumphs, including the historic visit to North Korea.

As Trump met with Kim, Bolton was photographed shaking hands with Mongolia's secretary of state — an image that decidedly did not lead cable news.

While Trump's visit to Kim was a spectacle largely of his own making, Bolton's more modest outreach to Mongolia was similarly his own grand design, meant to check Russian and Chinese influence in central Asia. The two trips encapsulated their opposing world views.

In the hours before Bolton left Trump in Seoul to head for Ulaanbaatar, Bolton was in a meeting with the president in which Trump paid tribute to the officials with him — or at least tried to.

"And Secretary of State Pompeo is here," Trump said. "Mike Bolton — John Bolton — is here."

Reporters spotted Bolton glowering at the slight. It would not be the last.

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Trump never liked Bolton's mustache.

The president has spent a career fixed on image, prizing striking looks and frequently boasting about family members and Cabinet officials who look like they "stepped out of central casting."

Bolton's bushy mustache simply didn't fit the part.

Bolton, a former ambassador to the United Nations and then a fixture on Fox News as a national security commentator, nearly entered the 2016 presidential campaign himself to push his hard-nosed foreign policy.

His neoconservative credentials never meshed with the isolationist vibe of Trump's campaign but, during the presidential transition, there was Bolton striding through the gilded lobby of Trump Tower to meet with the president-elect.

Bolton didn't get a job just then.

Trump later told confidants that the hawk's trademark mustache would never be a fit in his administration. But Trump kept an admiring eye on Bolton's frequent cable TV appearances, during which he often defended the policies of the president even when they ran counter to what he had preached for decades.

Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned barely a month into the job and was soon charged with lying to the FBI. His second, H.R. McMaster, grated on Trump's nerves with his long-winded, detail-oriented presentations.

Bolton became the unlikely choice to be Trump's third, thanks largely to the strength of his television appearances.

But while TV helped Bolton get the job, it also helped him lose it.

As pressure mounted on the White House this summer amid signs of an economic slowdown and growing global discord, Trump has increasingly prioritized aides who are willing to defend him on television.

Bolton was tentatively booked to appear on a pair of Sunday talk shows in late August but backed out, saying he was not comfortable defending some of the administration's plans. That drew the president's ire, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Trump was heard complaining about the cancellations days later.

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The president debated firing Bolton for weeks, listening to the advice of outside allies like Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

With time, he grew increasingly agitated with the national security adviser, who had become a vocal internal critic of potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and, separately, Afghanistan's Taliban.

There were other irritants.

Bolton broke with Trump in loudly condemning Russia's global aggressions. And last year he masterminded a quiet campaign inside the administration and with allies abroad to persuade Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the remnants of the Islamic State and Iranian influence in the region.

The two men spoke on the phone Monday night and it grew heated, as it often did in the Oval Office. Arguing over Afghanistan, the president was angered by Bolton's opposition to the president's scuttled plan to host Taliban leaders at Camp David to broker a peace deal.

The two men differ over what happened next.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that he "informed John Bolton last night that his services are no longer needed at the White House."

"I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions," Trump continued, adding Bolton to a long list of aides fired via tweet.

But this time, there was return fire just a few minutes later.

"I offered to resign last night and President Trump said, 'Let's talk about it tomorrow,'" Bolton retorted via tweet.

Bolton's departure was announced barely 90 minutes before he was to hold a briefing at the White House with Secretary of State Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, both of whom had repeatedly clashed with the national security adviser. The briefing went ahead anyway.

"There were definitely places where Ambassador Bolton and I had differing views about how to proceed," Pompeo allowed.

A widely circulated photo from the briefing appeared to sum up the mood surrounding Bolton's exit: Pompeo and Mnuchin, flanking the podium, smiling broadly.

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West Wing hallways can feel surprisingly narrow, especially when crammed with reporters.

In the moments after Bolton's firing, nearly a dozen journalists were clumped together outside press secretary Stephanie Grisham's office.

A Bolton ally, who spoke to reporters on the condition of anonymity, approached the group and declared: "I'm going to say one thing, which is: Since Ambassador Bolton has been national security adviser 17 months — 17 months today, actually — there have been no bad deals — Iran, North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan, China — the list goes on. ... Add Russia. No bad deals."

Just then, Grisham arrived and eyed the crowd, sarcastically noting that the spin session was taking place "right outside my office."

Asked about the "bad deals" comment, Grisham was dismissive.

"I don't what that means," she said, then smiled and added, "Sounds like somebody just trying to protect him."

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## Iran urges US to 'put warmongers aside' after Bolton firing

By **NASSER KARIMI** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president urged the U.S. on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser. Bolton had been hawkish on Iran and other global challenges.

Rouhani's website quoted him as further urging the U.S. to "abandon warmongering and its maximum pressure policy" on Iran. He spoke at a Cabinet meeting in Tehran.

Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that Bolton's dismissal may help the U.S. have a "less biased" attitude toward Iran.

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal U.S. issue, Rabiei called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran."

Bolton was critical of any potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and persuaded Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the Iranian influence in the region.

Trump last year pulled the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal that lifted sanction on Iran in exchange for caps on Iran's nuclear program. The U.S. administration later also intensified sanctions on

Iran, slashing its sales of crude oil abroad and sending the country's economy into freefall.

In response, Iran has in recent months crept past the limits the nuclear deal imposed on uranium enrichment and its uranium stockpile. And over the weekend, Tehran announced it would use advanced centrifuges prohibited under the deal.

Meanwhile, mysterious attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, the downing of a U.S. military surveillance drone by Iran and other incidents across the wider Middle East have exacerbated the crisis in the region as Tehran tries to pressure Europe to find a way to sell crude oil abroad despite U.S. sanctions.

Rouhani has called the use of faster centrifuges Iran's "third step" away from the nuclear deal. On Wednesday, he said that "if necessary, we will take other steps in future."

## Apple takes on Netflix with a \$5-a-month streaming service

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Apple is finally taking on Netflix with its own streaming television service and, uncharacteristically for the company, offering it at a bargain price — \$5 a month beginning on Nov. 1.

Walt Disney Co. is launching its own assault on Netflix the same month, for just \$7.

It may be sheer coincidence that the cost of paying for both Apple and Disney subscriptions will still be a dollar less than Netflix's main plan, priced at \$13 a month. But the intent to disrupt Netflix's huge lead in the streaming business couldn't be clearer.

Apple delivered the news Tuesday while also unveiling three new iPhones that won't look much different than last year's models other than boasting an additional camera for taking pictures from extra-wide angles.

The aggressive pricing is unusual for Apple, which typically charges a premium for products and services to burnish its brand. Most analysts expected Apple to charge \$8 to \$10 per month for the service, which will be called Apple TV Plus.

But Apple is entering a market that Netflix practically created in 2007 — around the same time as the first iPhone came out. And Netflix has amassed more than 150 million subscribers, meaning that Apple needed to make a splash.

"You have to expect they're going to do something, considering how hyper competitive the streaming video space is," said Tim Hanlon, CEO of Vertere Group.

Apple CEO Tim Cook did not have much new to say about the TV service beyond its pricing and debut date, although he did show a trailer for a new Jason Momoa-led series called "See."

Netflix declined to comment. In the past, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has depicted the increased competition as a positive for everyone, allowing consumers to create their own entertainment bundles instead of accepting bundles put together at higher prices by cable and satellite TV services.

Like Netflix and similar services from Amazon and Hulu, Apple has been spending billions of dollars for original programs. The most anticipated so far seems to be "The Morning Show," a comedy starring Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carrell. The service will launch with nine original shows and films, with more expected each month. It will only carry Apple's original programming and will be available in 100 countries at launch.

Since it began focusing on exclusive shows and movies six years ago, Netflix has built a huge library of original programming and now spends upward of \$10 billion annually on its lineup.

Apple also announced a new videogame subscription service that will cost \$5 a month when it rolls out Sept. 19. Called Apple Arcade, the service will allow subscribers to play more than 100 games selected by Apple that are exclusive to the service.

Disney, one of the most hallowed brands in entertainment, is also muscling its way into the market with a streaming service featuring its treasured vault of films and original programming.

That means both Apple and Disney will be undercutting the industry leaders. Besides Netflix, there is Amazon at \$9 per month and Hulu at \$6 per month.

The price war is unfolding as Netflix tries to bounce back from a rough spring in which it suffered its first quarterly drop in U.S. subscribers since 2011. Apple's pricing tactics caught investors' attention. Netflix's

stock fell 2% on Tuesday.

Each new entry into the crowded video subscription market stretches the limits of just how many monthly plans viewers are willing to pay for.

The Apple streaming service will, at least for now, offer fewer viewing options than Netflix or Disney but also at a significantly lower price.

Apple's pricing shows it is serious, and the company will probably take a loss "as it plays catch-up," said Colin Gillis, director of research at Chatham Road Partners.

Hoping to propel its streaming service to a fast start while also boosting iPhone sales, Apple will give a year of free TV access to anyone who buys an iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch or Mac.

The new iPhones were accompanied by an unexpected price cut for the cheapest model, which underscored the company's efforts to counteract the deepest slump in sales for its flagship product since the phone was unveiled 12 years ago.

iPhone shipments are down 25% so far this year, according to the research firm IDC, putting pressure on Apple to generate revenue from services such as music, video streaming, games and its App Store. Revenue from services rose 14% to nearly \$23 billion during the first half of this year.

Apple is cutting the price of the iPhone 11 to \$700 from \$750, the price of last year's XR. The lower prices reverse a trend in which premium phones get more expensive as people upgrade them less often.

The new phone models resemble last year's iPhone XR, XS and XS Max. And they have the same design — with more display space, less bezel and no home button — that Apple switched to with the iPhone X in 2017.

Unlike some of the other devices coming out this year, the new iPhones won't support upcoming ultrafast cellular networks known as 5G. Apple paid billions of dollars to settle a royalty dispute with chipmaker Qualcomm in April to gain the technology it needs for 5G iPhones, but those models will not be ready until next year.

AP technology writers Mae Anderson in New York and Barbara Ortutay in San Francisco contributed to this story.

## Antonio Brown faces rape accusations by former trainer

By JAY COHEN AP Sports Writer

New England Patriots wide receiver Antonio Brown has been accused of rape by a former trainer.

Britney Taylor says Brown sexually assaulted her on three occasions, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in the Southern District of Florida.

Brown has denied the allegations. Darren Heitner, a lawyer representing Brown, told The Associated Press his client plans to countersue.

"He will pursue all legal remedies to not only clear his name, but to also protect other professional athletes against false accusations," Heitner said in a statement.

Heitner said Brown and Taylor had "a consensual personal relationship."

The New York Times first reported about the lawsuit.

The AP does not ordinarily name the alleged victims of sex assaults, but Taylor was identified in the federal lawsuit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer, David Haas.

"As a rape victim of Antonio Brown, deciding to speak out has been an incredibly difficult decision," Taylor said. "I have found strength in my faith, my family, and from the accounts of other survivors of sexual assault. Speaking out removes the shame that I have felt for the past year and places it on the person responsible for my rape."

Taylor also said in the statement she will cooperate with the NFL and any other agencies.

A spokesman for the NFL declined comment, but the Patriots said the league told the team it will launch an investigation.

"We are aware of the civil lawsuit that was filed earlier today against Antonio Brown, as well as the

response by Antonio's representatives," the Patriots said in a statement. "We take these allegations very seriously. Under no circumstance does this organization condone sexual violence or assault. The league has informed us that they will be investigating. We will have no further comment while that investigation takes place."

The 31-year-old Brown, a Miami native, was released by Oakland last week after clashing with the team throughout training camp. He agreed to a contract with New England on Saturday, but has yet to play for the Patriots.

Brown and Taylor met through a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at Central Michigan University, according to the suit.

Taylor said Brown reached out to her via Facebook in June 2017 and asked the former gymnast for help with improving his strength and flexibility.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor was sexually assaulted by Brown on separate training trips to Pittsburgh and Florida that same month. The suit includes what it says are text messages from Brown bragging about the second assault.

Taylor says in the suit she then cut off ties with Brown. But she agreed to work with him again after she says he apologized and agreed to provide hotel accommodations for each training trip.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor and Brown were in Miami in May 2018 when he raped her in a bedroom at his home. Taylor says she shouted "no" and "stop," but Brown refused.

Heitner said in his statement Taylor invited herself to join Brown and his friends on a night out on the town, and then came on to Brown before they engaged in consensual sex at his residence.

Brown was approached by Taylor in 2017, according to Heitner, about making a \$1.6 million investment in a business project. But he declined.

Heitner said Taylor reached out to Brown again last year, and she traveled to his residences on multiple occasions. Heitner said she asked for tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers game.

"Mr. Brown, whose hard work and dedication to his craft has allowed him to rise to the top of his profession, refuses to be the victim of what he believes to be a money grab," Heitner said in his statement.

Brown was originally traded from Pittsburgh to Oakland in the offseason. But a bizarre foot injury, fight with the NFL over his helmet, skipped practices, multiple fines, a run-in with general manager Mike Mayock and his social media posts ultimately led to the decision to release him.

Brown agreed to a deal with the defending Super Bowl champions hours after the Raiders let him go, granting his request.

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AP Sports Writers Bob Lentz and Kyle Hightower contributed to this report.

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

## The rise and fall of former Venezuelan spymaster 'El Pollo'

By ARITZ PARRA and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The two intelligence agents scoured the sun-kissed faces of holidaymakers at Madrid's airport until they spotted the 5½-foot bald man. Traveling under a disguised identity, Hugo Chávez's long-time spy chief and one of the U.S.'s most wanted drug fugitives had just landed in Spain that Monday morning in March.

Nicknamed "El Pollo" ("The Chicken"), retired Maj. Gen. Hugo Carvajal had traveled from the Dominican Republic after breaking ranks with Venezuela's socialist administration and supporting Juan Guaidó, the U.S.-backed opposition leader. From the Spanish capital he hoped to leverage contacts and knowledge of the Venezuelan deep state to mount a military-backed rebellion against President Nicolás Maduro.

Five months later, the former spymaster is in deep trouble.

To the frustration of many in the opposition who have secretly tried to flip senior members of Venezuela's military, Carvajal was arrested days before a failed barracks rebellion on April 30. On Thursday, judges

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in Madrid will consider whether to extradite him to the U.S. to face federal charges of cocaine trafficking.

Carvajal's fate is being closely followed by others in the Venezuelan security forces looking to defect. If somebody like the former spy, accused of collaborating with terrorist groups and smuggling several tons shipments of drugs into the U.S., could find redemption, there would be hope for others as well.

The U.S. has promised senior Venezuelan officials they will be rewarded and see sanctions lifted if they turn decisively against Maduro. The Trump administration's special envoy on Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, even suggested Spain could be a safe retirement destination for Maduro's allies.

But a major wrinkle is that U.S. prosecutors, operating independently from Washington's political calculations, have spent years building cases against some of the very same would-be turncoats.

The account of Carvajal's low-key, cordial reception in Spain was provided to The Associated Press by four officials in Spain and the U.S., as well as a half dozen relatives and associates of Carvajal. They agreed to speak only if granted anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Carvajal insists he is a victim of political persecution despite what U.S. law enforcement describes as an abundance of evidence against him.

In answers to written questions sent to him in a Spanish jail, he speculated that the "narcoterrorism" charges are payback for his proximity to Chávez, the late Venezuelan leader and prominent foe of the U.S. government. With Maduro under pressure, Carvajal says, he wants to share information on state-backed drug trafficking, corruption and terror-related activities that have allegedly proliferated in Venezuela in recent years.

"I'm not looking for any kind of amnesty from anybody, not from the U.S. nor from Venezuela," Carvajal wrote. "I'm looking for justice."

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Prosecutors in New York and Miami have a different idea of what justice would mean for Carvajal.

They accuse the former general of being a prominent member of the "Cartel of the Suns," an alleged drug-smuggling ring involving Venezuela's military. The group's name comes from the "sun" insignia that adorn generals' uniforms in Venezuela.

Carvajal, 59, who narrowly escaped extradition when he was arrested in Aruba in 2014 while serving as Maduro's consul general to the Dutch Caribbean island, could this time spend the rest of his life behind bars if he is tried and convicted in the U.S.

The case centers on a DC-9 jet from Caracas that landed in southern Mexico in 2006 with 5.6 tons of cocaine packed into 128 suitcases. Carvajal said that judicial probes in Venezuela and Mexico never linked him to the incident and that the alleged plane owner backs his alibi.

But he faces incriminating evidence from phone records, drug ledgers and the testimony of at least 10 witnesses, according to an affidavit from a Drug Enforcement Administration special agent. Those witnesses include members and associates of the "Cartel of the Suns," former high-ranking Venezuelan officials, according to the affidavit.

The DEA agent also says a former judge attended a 2005 meeting at the Miraflores presidential palace with Chávez, Carvajal and two loyalists who are now key to Maduro's political survival: socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello and former Vice President Tarek El Aissami. The meeting was meant to be the first of monthly sessions that Chávez allegedly used "to promote his policy objectives, including to combat the United States by flooding the country with cocaine," reads the affidavit accompanying Carvajal's extradition request.

In his written answers from prison, the former general scoffed at the allegation. Even if that was Chávez's intention, he said, "does anyone really think the president publicly plans his misdeeds at a meeting in Miraflores? For God's sake."

The U.S. indictment also repeats an accusation that Carvajal provided guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, with weapons and protection inside Venezuela.

The former spy chief says his contacts with the FARC — designated by the U.S. as a terrorist organization — were authorized by Chávez and limited to securing the release of a kidnapped Venezuelan businessman

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and paving the way for peace talks with the Colombian government.

He told AP that accusations against him rely on the "false testimony" of convicts.

"The only intention of the agencies that fabricated this fraud has been to obtain the information they know that I possess," he wrote.

The DEA declined to comment.

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Are there really any secrets left untold?

Carvajal declined to disclose to AP any purported intelligence on Maduro's inner circle. He said only that informants have updated him on "criminal" activity by the Maduro government after he retired from the military counter-intelligence agency in 2014.

Any such evidence could more firmly establish alleged links between Venezuelan officials and Colombian rebels as well as Hezbollah and other groups.

The former spy chief recently accused Maduro of facilitating the re-arming of a FARC faction in order to destabilize neighboring Colombia. He has disclosed little to back his claims.

"It's a serious matter that I will discuss with an officer of the appropriate rank if they give me the opportunity," he told AP.

Some are skeptical.

A Spanish official who helps shape policy toward Venezuela described Carvajal as a "total bluff" who promised more than he could deliver. The official said that while Spanish officials spoke to Carvajal, they didn't give him any protection guarantees.

A senior U.S. official said Carvajal, who released a video urging Venezuelan troops to recognize Guaidó as their commander in chief, tried to reach out to the United States with the help of some in Venezuela's opposition.

But the Trump administration's hands were tied because of the drug indictments, and Carvajal's decision to flee to Spain was his alone, the official said. The official also cast doubt on Carvajal's account of his efforts to promote democracy in Venezuela.

In May, things worked out for another Venezuelan conspirator: Gen. Manuel Cristopher Figuera, head of the SEBIN intelligence police, who U.S. officials said helped to promote a failed military uprising against Maduro. The U.S. lifted sanctions that had been imposed on Figuera for allegedly overseeing human rights violations and persecuting Venezuela's opposition. He is now in the United States.

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Before Carvajal became an international drug fugitive he was a trusted soldier. As Chávez cemented his "Bolivarian revolution" following his 1998 election victory, he promoted loyalists. They included Carvajal, who had joined an army academy when he was 13 and, at age 31, joined Chávez in a coup attempt.

Chávez tapped Carvajal to head Venezuela's Military Intelligence Directorate, where he oversaw its transformation into an agency focused on stamping out internal dissent. But he also earned the enmity of the U.S. by supporting Chavez's decision to sever ties to the DEA, accusing them of spying, and for the alleged murder of an intelligence agent who was secretly working as a double agent for the U.S. anti-drug agency.

Carvajal carried a phone with an exclusive line to the president. Sometimes, Chávez asked his driver to get out of the car so he could drive Carvajal around Caracas while the pair talked in private.

In 2013, Chávez died of cancer and Maduro became president. The new leader replaced Carvajal a few months later and appointed him as consul in Aruba, distant from the center of power in Caracas.

On the Dutch Caribbean island, Carvajal made headlines when he was arrested on a U.S. drug warrant. After much maneuvering and diplomatic pressure from Caracas, he was freed and ushered home to a national hero's welcome.

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Soon after, Carvajal started reconsidering his loyalties.

In 2017, Venezuela was engulfed in turmoil, including mass protests against Maduro as the economy deteriorated. Carvajal, by then a ruling party lawmaker, opposed Maduro's plans to create a rubber-stamp

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constitutional assembly rivaling the opposition-controlled congress.

Still, he mostly stayed silent until earlier this year, when Guaidó, head of the congress, laid claim to Venezuela's presidency and declared Maduro an illegitimate ruler. At the time, Carvajal was the most influential figure from Venezuela's military establishment to back the gambit, turning to social media to urge the armed forces into action.

Guaidó praised Carvajal, who had planned his escape from his former comrades in the Venezuelan security forces.

He traveled by sea to the Dominican Republic and flew on an Air Europa flight, arriving in Madrid on March 18 on a Venezuelan passport bearing an assumed name, José Mouriño Olsen. The welcoming intelligence officials led him to a black van. Soon, he was reunited with his wife and other relatives.

Days later, Carvajal met at a hotel near the headquarters of Spain's intelligence agency with the two agents and three other experts on Venezuela.

The meeting was preliminary and barely touched on the Venezuelan situation, someone who was present told AP. But Carvajal promised to furnish valuable information in exchange for legal arrangements allowing him to remain in Spain, said two people familiar with his movements.

Officials at the Spanish intelligence agency declined to comment on the meeting.

Carvajal did not comment on it either. He said he traveled to Spain because he wanted to bring about change in Venezuela, not to seek protection.

But one attendee said Carvajal miscalculated that he would somehow be safe from a U.S. arrest warrant.

For several weeks, he moved around relatively untroubled. Using his disguised identity, he met in another European country with former Venezuelan oil czar Rafael Ramírez, in hiding since breaking with Maduro's government. Carvajal said he went to "confirm some intelligence matters" at that encounter.

Then, on April 11, a federal prosecutor in New York issued a warrant with specifics about his location. The next day, two Spanish police officers in plainclothes stopped the former general with his wife as they were arriving from a walk to the gated compound of the family's apartment.

"Prosecutors and the DEA agents simply did what they have been trying to do for years, which is to press me in any way possible to obtain information from me," the ex-spy master said, adding that he has no intention of cooperating with U.S. authorities in exchange for a shorter sentence.

With Carvajal's extradition pending, some Maduro opponents wonder whether it is too late to reverse political damage from his arrest.

"The U.S. has really sent mixed messages," Ramírez said. "On the one hand the State Department and White House talk about amnesty for generals who switch sides, but then the DEA goes out and arrests someone who was actually working toward regime change. It's almost as if they want to give Maduro arguments to keep the military loyal."

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Associated Press writer Aritz Parra reported this story in Madrid and AP writer Joshua Goodman reported from Bogota, Colombia.

## Records: West Texas gunman has 'suicidal tendencies' in 2001

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The gunman who killed seven people in West Texas over Labor Day weekend was arrested in 2001 for trying to break into a woman's bedroom after threatening to kill her brother, and hospital staff later determined he had "suicidal tendencies," according to arrest reports obtained by The Associated Press.

A day after the attempted break-in, Seth Ator, then 18, jumped from a second-floor window to evade authorities in Waco, a city about 105 miles (169 kilometers) south of Dallas. He was eventually taken into custody and hospitalized, the documents show.

It is unclear whether the events nearly two decades ago in Lorena, a Waco suburb, have any bearing on the Aug. 31 mass shooting that stretched from Midland to Odessa, some 350 miles (563 kilometers) away.

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It also is unknown whether the hospitalization affected a federal background check that a law enforcement official said blocked Ator from buying a gun in 2014 because of a "mental health issue."

But reports from the McLennan County Sheriff's Office obtained through a public records request portray a young man who was deeply troubled 18 years before authorities say he opened fire in a rolling rampage that spanned 10 miles (16 kilometers).

Officers killed Ator, 36, outside a busy Odessa movie theater after shootings that lasted more than an hour and injured around two dozen people in addition to the dead.

Asked about Ator's 2001 arrest, the FBI declined to comment on its investigation into the shooting.

Investigators are looking into how Ator obtained the assault-style rifle he used despite failing a background check. Last week, they searched the home of a man in Lubbock, who they believe was involved in the "transfer" of the weapon, a federal law enforcement official previously told the AP. The official said federal agents are investigating whether the Lubbock man has been manufacturing firearms but that there have been no arrests.

Through high school, Ator moved between schools in the Texas Panhandle city of Amarillo and Lorena. He was set to graduate in 2001 but dropped out the preceding November to enroll in a GED program, Lorena Independent School District Superintendent Joe Kucera said in a statement.

The following summer, a family in Lorena, a community with a population of about 1,700 people, had a "series of problems" with Ator based on his "relationship" with their daughter, the sheriff's reports state. The AP is not naming the family because attempts to reach them were unsuccessful.

In July 2001, the mother of the family told a deputy that Ator threatened to kill her son. The next month, Ator tried to break into the daughter's bedroom around 3:30 a.m., removing a window screen "in an attempt to contact her," according to the reports. The daughter told Detective Mylie Hudson that she woke up and then saw Ator driving away in his father's vehicle.

The AP's attempts to reach Ator's parents were unsuccessful.

The next day, officers found Ator locked inside a bedroom at a Waco apartment where his friends lived. As the officers knocked on the door and tried to get Ator to unlock it, he opened a bedroom window and jumped to the ground two stories below, the reports state. Hudson wrote that he and other officers searched the apartment complex's grounds but could not find Ator.

The following day, the reports state, officers arrested Ator at another building for criminal trespass and a "suicide threat." He was then taken to a local emergency room.

Staff at the hospital's psychiatric and drug abuse facility evaluated Ator, and an officer at the county jail was informed of Ator's "suicidal tendencies" when he was moved to the jail that day, according to the reports. Ator's parents also told deputies their son had threatened and tried to take his own life, the reports say.

Officials at Ascension Providence hospital in Waco, where Ator was treated, did not respond to questions sent by the AP on Tuesday.

Ator eventually pleaded guilty to evading arrest and criminal trespass. Court records indicate he was ordered to attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings as part of his probation. The attorneys who represented him did not respond to the AP's requests for comment. The misdemeanors themselves would not have prevented Ator from legally purchasing firearms in Texas.

Federal law stipulates a limited number of reasons why someone would be prohibited from buying or having a gun. Among them are if the person has been convicted of a crime punishable by more than a year in prison, has a substance abuse addiction, was dishonorably discharged from the military, was convicted of domestic violence or was the subject of a restraining order, or if they have been involuntarily committed for a mental health issue.

FBI records show that in 2018 more than 26 million background checks were conducted, and fewer than 100,000 people failed. The vast majority of those denied were for a criminal conviction. Just over 6,000 were rejected for a mental health issue.

Hudson, the now-retired sheriff's deputy who investigated Ator, told the AP he remembers few specifics about dealing with the man in 2001.

"He just came across as being a nut who didn't want to take no for an answer," said Hudson, 74. "Obviously he had problems back at that time."

## Hong Kong soccer fans loudly boo Chinese national anthem

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of Hong Kong soccer fans booed loudly and turned their backs when the Chinese national anthem was played before a World Cup qualifier match against Iran on Tuesday, taking the city's months of protests into the sports realm.

The crowd broke out into "Glory to Hong Kong," a song reflecting their campaign for more democratic freedoms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

After the match started, fans chanted "Fight for freedom" and "Revolution of our Times." One person carried a blue poster that read, "Hong Kong is not China."

Hong Kong has been roiled by protests since June over an extradition bill that would have sent some residents to mainland China for trial. The government promised last week to withdraw the bill but that failed to placate the protesters, whose demands now include democratic reforms and police accountability.

Security at the Hong Kong Stadium was tight, with fans frisked to ensure they did not bring in political materials and other prohibited items. Iran, Asia's top team, had sought to move the match, citing safety concerns over the unrest, but the request was rejected by FIFA, soccer's governing body.

Stadium announcers said 14,000 spectators attended the game.

Iran beat Hong Kong 2-0.

"Hong Kong people are united. We will speak up for freedom and democracy," one of the spectators, Leo Fan, said as members of the crowd continued to chant slogans and sing protest songs as they left.

In July, Hong Kong fans chanted slogans and waved banners when English Premier League champions Manchester City played local team Kitchee at the stadium.

Many see the extradition bill as a glaring example of the city's eroding autonomy since the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997. Clashes have become increasingly violent, with police firing tear gas after protesters vandalized subway stations, set street fires and blocked traffic over the weekend.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam renewed an appeal to protesters earlier Tuesday to "say no to violence" and engage in dialogue, as the city's richest man urged the government to provide a way out for the mostly young demonstrators.

Lam said the escalation of violence, in which more than 150 people including students have been detained in clashes since Friday, will deepen rifts and prolong the road to recovery.

She said her decision to formally withdraw the extradition bill and her other initiatives reflected her sincerity to heal society by initiating a direct dialogue with various communities, including protesters.

Billionaire Li Ka Shing, in a video broadcast on local TV, described the summer of unrest as the worst catastrophe since World War II. In his first public comments, Li called youths the "masters of our future" and said the government should temper justice with mercy in resolving the crisis.

"I am very worried. We hope Hong Kong people will be able to ride out the storm. We hope the young people can consider the big picture and those at the helm can give the masters of our future a way out," Li, 91, told a religious gathering outside a Buddhist temple over the weekend.

Asked about Li's comments, Lam agreed that the government "can do more and can do better" especially in meeting young people to hear their grievances.

But she stressed the government cannot condone violence and will strictly enforce the law.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing's rule since it took over Hong Kong and is an embarrassment to its ruling Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th year in power. Beijing has slammed the protests as an effort by criminals to split the territory from China, backed by what it said were hostile foreigners.

Beijing rebuked Germany on Tuesday for allowing prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong to visit "to engage in anti-China separatist activities."

Wong met Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Berlin late Monday at an event hosted by the German newspaper Bild.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Maas' "political show" with Wong displayed disrespect to China's sovereignty and was an interference in its internal affairs. She urged Germany to avoid sending the wrong signal to "radical, separatist forces in Hong Kong" and said any efforts to solicit foreign support to split the country are "doomed to fail."

In an immediate response, Wong tweeted that Chinese's strong reaction was "baffling."

Wong, a leader of Hong Kong's 2014 pro-democracy protest movement, was charged last month with inciting people to join a protest in June. His prosecution came after his release from prison in June following a two-month sentence related to the 2014 protests.

Associated Press videojournalist Harvey Kong in Hong Kong and news assistant Liu Zheng in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Rocket blast at US Embassy in Kabul on 9/11 anniversary

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A rocket exploded at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan just minutes into Wednesday, the anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States, but officials at the compound declared all-clear about an hour later and reported no injuries.

A plume of smoke rose over central Kabul shortly after midnight and sirens could be heard. Inside the embassy, employees heard this message over the loudspeaker: "An explosion caused by a rocket has occurred on compound."

There was no immediate comment from Afghan officials. The NATO mission, which is nearby, also said no personnel had been injured.

It was the first major attack in the Afghan capital since President Donald Trump abruptly called off U.S.-Taliban talks over the weekend, on the brink of an apparent deal to end America's longest war.

Two Taliban car bombs shook Kabul last week, killing several civilians and two members of the NATO mission. Trump has cited the death of a U.S. service member in one of those blasts as the reason why he now calls the U.S.-Taliban talks "dead."

The 9/11 anniversary is a sensitive day in Afghanistan's capital and one on which attacks have occurred. A U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan shortly after the 2001 attack toppled the Taliban, who had harbored Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader and attacks mastermind.

In the nearly 18 years of fighting since then, the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan soared to 100,000 and dropped dramatically after bin Laden was killed in neighboring Pakistan in 2011.

Now about 14,000 U.S. troops remain and Trump has called it "ridiculous" that they are still in Afghanistan after so long and so many billions of dollars spent.

It is not clear whether the U.S.-Taliban talks will resume.

## Desperation mounts in Bahamas as shelters turn evacuees away

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Desperation mounted in the Bahamas on Tuesday as hurricane survivors arriving in the capital by boat and plane were turned away from overflowing shelters.

As government officials gave assurances at a news conference that more shelters would be opened as needed, Julie Green and her family gathered outside the headquarters of the island's emergency management agency, seeking help.

"We need a shelter desperately," the 35-year-old former waitress from Great Abaco said as she cradled one of her 7-month-old twins on her hip, his little face furrowed. Nearby, her husband held the other twin boy as their four other children wandered listlessly nearby. One kept crying despite receiving comforting hugs.

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Hurricane Dorian devastated the Abaco and Grand Bahama islands in the northern part of the archipelago a week ago, leaving at least 50 dead, with the toll certain to rise as the search for bodies goes on.

Nearly 5,000 people have arrived in Nassau by plane and by boat, and many were struggling to start new lives, unclear of how or where to begin. More than 2,000 of them were staying in shelters, according to government figures.

Green said that shelter officials told her they couldn't accept such young children, and that the family has slept in the home of a different person every night since arriving Friday in New Providence, the island where Nassau is situated.

"We're just exhausted," she said. "We're just walking up and down, asking people if they know where we can stay."

Erick Noel, a 37-year-old landscaper from Abaco with a wife and four children, found himself in the same situation. They will have to leave a friend's house by Wednesday and had not yet found a shelter where they could stay.

"They are full, full, full," he said. "I keep looking for a place to go."

He said he found one small home for his family in Nassau but could not afford the \$900 monthly rent. Undeterred, Noel said he would keep searching.

Meanwhile, government officials said they were helping all evacuees and considering building temporary housing, perhaps tent or container cities.

"We are dealing with a disaster," said Carl Smith, spokesman for the Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency. "It takes time to move through the chaos. We are responding to the needs."

The government has estimated that up to 10,000 people from the Abacos alone will need food, water and temporary housing.

Getting back to Abaco is the dream of Betty Edmond, a 43-year-old cook who picked at some fries with her son and husband in a restaurant at a Nassau hotel, where her nephew is paying for their stay.

They arrived in Nassau on Saturday night after a six-hour boat trip from Abaco and plan to fly to Florida on Wednesday, thanks to plane tickets bought by friends who will provide them a temporary home until they can find jobs. But the goal is to return, Edmond said.

"Home will always be home," she said. "Every day you wish you could go back."

"You try to keep your hopes up, but ...," she added, her voice trailing off as she shook her head.

The upheaval, however, was exciting to her 8-year-old son, Kayden Monestime, who said he was looking forward to going to a mall, McDonald's and Foot Locker.

Also flying to Florida was 41-year-old Shaneka Russell, who owned Smacky's Takeaway, a takeout restaurant known for its cracked conch. The restaurant, named after the noises her son made as a baby, was destroyed by Dorian.

Russell said good Samaritans had taken her and a group of people into their home over the weekend and found them a hotel room in Nassau for a couple of days.

"To know that we were going to a hotel, with electricity and air conditioning and a proper shower, I cried," she said.

The nearby island of Eleuthera also was taking in evacuees as unmet needs keep growing, said Sadye Francis, director of a nonprofit organization.

"There are still others that have nowhere to go," she said. "The true depth of the devastation in Abaco and Grand Bahama is still unfolding."

Dimple Lightbourne, a 30-year-old Abaco resident now in Nassau, said she couldn't wait to escape the disaster Dorian left behind.

"I don't want to see the Bahamas for a while. It's stressful," she said. "I want to go to America. ... This is a new chapter. I've ripped all the pages out. Just give me a new book to fill out."

**HBO produces documentary to help kids understand 9/11**

**By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer**

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NEW YORK (AP) — For students from elementary to high school, the Sept. 11 terrorist attack isn't a memory. It's history. A new HBO documentary that debuts on the event's 18th anniversary treats it that way.

The necessity of her project, "What Happened on September 11," struck filmmaker Amy Schatz when a third grade girl told her about a playdate where she and a friend Googled "Sept. 11 attacks."

"When a child does that, what he or she finds are some pretty horrific images that are not necessarily appropriate for kids," Schatz said on Tuesday. "So I felt a responsibility to try to fill that void and try to give kids something that isn't horrifying and kind of fills in the gap."

The half-hour film debuts Wednesday at 6 p.m. A companion piece, focusing on the memories of former students at a high school near Ground Zero, premieres three hours later.

Schatz has made a specialty of creating films that seek to explain the inexplicable, with "The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm" tackling the Holocaust and another on the Parkland shooting. "I'm really desperate for some more lightness very soon," she said.

In this case, she worked with the Sept. 11 remembrance museum on the story, filming two men who work there giving presentations to third graders. Stephen Kern, who worked on the 62nd floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower, talks about being evacuated. Matthew Crawford, whose father was a firefighter who died that day, discusses his experience. She also found a middle school in Secaucus, New Jersey, that teaches history through art and poetry, helping students process the emotions of what they learned.

Short history lessons are sprinkled throughout the film, about New York and the World Trade Center, the one-time tallest towers in the world. Construction began in 1968.

"One of the biggest questions the kids have is 'why?' 'Why would somebody do that? Why would there be such cruelty?'" she said. "That's a very difficult thing to grapple with and answer so that was the trickiest part of the project."

The film tells of Osama bin Laden and his activism that started with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. But it never truly answers the whys. Maybe no one can.

Schatz doesn't avoid some of the terrible images of the day: the second plane striking the World Trade Center and resultant fireball, the collapse of each tower and the giant clouds of debris that billowed through the canyons of city streets. Schatz didn't want to avoid those clips, since kids know that planes crashed into the buildings, but she opted not to spend much time on them "so that we didn't create too many lingering after-images in people's minds."

As part of her research, Schatz interviewed alumni of Stuyvesant High School near the World Trade Center site. But the memories of what they saw, heard and smelled that day — and the uncertainty of how they would get home from school — proved too raw. That's why "In the Shadow of the Towers: Stuyvesant High on 9/11" is a separate film that premieres on HBO three hours after the first one.

Schatz said a school curriculum is being developed for teaching children about the tragedy, and "What Happened on September 11" will be made available to schools for free. The film is aimed generally at children ages 7 to 12.

Throughout her work, Schatz kept returning to the memory of the youngster searching for details about Sept. 11 on the internet.

"You can't protect kids from what they're going to come across," she said. "It seemed to me there was an opportunity to put something out there that is age-appropriate and not too scary and give them the tools they need to understand the world around them."

## Weather chief thanks Alabama employees for Dorian forecast

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Struggling to keep his emotions in check, the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration both defended President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday and thanked forecasters who contradicted the president's claims about Hurricane Dorian threatening Alabama.

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Speaking to a meteorology group, acting administrator Neil Jacobs said a NOAA statement issued Friday that criticized the Birmingham-area National Weather Service office after it disagreed with Trump was meant to clarify "technical aspects" about Dorian's potential impact.

"What it did not say, however, was that we understood and fully support the good intent of the Birmingham weather forecast office, which was to calm fears in support of public safety," Jacobs said.

Jacobs, a career meteorologist, appeared near tears at times. "This is hard for me," he said, his voice choking as he addressed a hushed crowd of several hundred.

Jacobs said there was no pressure from the Trump administration or NOAA to change the way branch offices communicate forecasts to the public. "No one's job is under threat - not mine, not yours," he said.

He later added: "Weather should not be a partisan issue. I've known some of you for 25 years. I haven't changed. I'm the same Neil I was last Thursday," referring to the day before the NOAA statement was issued.

Jacobs specifically thanked Kevin Laws, science and operations officer with the weather service office in Birmingham. Laws said he appreciated the remarks by Jacobs, whom he has known for 20 years.

"Absolutely no hard feelings," Laws said.

The acting chief scientist at NOAA previously said the agency likely violated its scientific integrity rules when it publicly chastised the office in the unsigned statement, and Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire asked the inspector general to investigate.

Past NOAA administrators, a former National Weather Service chief and a former National Hurricane Center director — among others — have blasted the NOAA statement as inappropriate, saying they supported the chastised Alabama weather office.

Kathy Sullivan, who ran NOAA under former President Barack Obama, said Jacobs' words won't fix a "breach of trust" he created.

"A trust has been shattered and only actions can repair it," she said in a written statement. "Trust is like glass: shatters in an instant, with a single blow, and takes a long time to restore."

The world's largest general science society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said weather forecasters should not be "asked to change a weather forecast in reaction to any political pressure."

Retired Adm. David W. Titley, an assistant NOAA administrator during the Obama administration and former meteorology professor at Pennsylvania State University, said it seemed Jacobs was stuck between orders from the White House and Department of Commerce and a rebellion by some in the National Weather Service.

"For some reason he seems desperate to keep his job - and this results in the pathos we saw this morning," Titley said in an email to The Associated Press. "Personally, I think his situation is untenable; he should attempt to salvage what's left of his self-respect. He either stands by the Friday p.m. statement or he does not - but he can't have it both ways."

Paul Schlatter, president of the 2,100-member National Weather Association, where Jacobs spoke, said he doesn't envy Jacobs, who he described as a career "weather geek" caught in a tough position.

Weather officials said Birmingham forecasters didn't realize until reaction appeared on social media that the rumors about Dorian threatening the state started with the tweet from Trump, who apparently was relying on information several days old.

The office issued a tweet of its own saying Alabama wasn't at risk.

Laws said Birmingham forecasters working in the agency's suburban office Sept. 1 were having a quiet morning when the phones suddenly lit up.

"We got calls about people having surgery and should they cancel. We got calls about 'Should I go get my elderly parents?' There were so many concerns," he said.

Jacobs said Dorian presented forecasters with a "particularly difficult" challenge and noted that, "at one point, Alabama was in the mix, as was the rest of the Southeast."

While some forecasters had talked about walking out on Jacobs' speech or staging some sort of protest,

there was no demonstration and he received polite applause.

AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

## Judge sets new sentencing date for Michael Flynn

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lawyer for Michael Flynn accused federal prosecutors of misconduct on Tuesday as a judge scheduled a December sentencing hearing for President Donald Trump's former national security adviser.

The arguments from Flynn attorney Sidney Powell were the latest in a series of aggressive attacks on the foundations of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. They represented yet another step in Flynn's evolution from a model cooperator — he was the first and only White House official to cut a deal with prosecutors — to a defendant whose newly combative and unremorseful stance may cost him a chance at the probation sentence prosecutors had previously said he was entitled to.

Even as U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan set a Dec. 18 sentencing date, Powell made clear that she considered the case far from resolved and accused prosecutors of withholding information. Though she said she was not seeking to have Flynn's guilty plea thrown out, she contended the "entire prosecution should be dismissed because of egregious government misconduct."

"There is far more at stake here than sentencing," Powell said. She later accused the government of "being too busy working on what they wanted to accomplish in convicting Mr. Flynn" to seek truth or justice.

Prosecutor Brandon Van Grack, a member of Mueller's team, strongly denied the accusations and said the government had given Flynn's team more than 22,000 pages of documents.

He said the information Powell was seeking either had no bearing on the case, or was material that Flynn had been made aware of before pleading guilty to lying to the FBI about his interactions with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

Asked by Sullivan if the government stands by its recommendation that Flynn should be spared prison time for his cooperation, Van Grack said the government would file new documents on that question — suggesting prosecutors may reverse course and ask for him to spend at least some time behind bars.

If the Dec. 18 sentencing date holds, it will be his second sentencing hearing on that exact date in as many years.

Flynn was supposed to be sentenced last December for lying to the FBI about his December 2016 conversations with then-Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

But that sentencing hearing was abruptly cut short after Flynn, facing a sharp rebuke from Sullivan that raised the prospect that he might be sent to prison, asked that he be allowed to continue cooperating with prosecutors in hopes of earning credit toward a lighter punishment.

Flynn changed lawyers and hired a new legal team led by Powell, a conservative commentator and former federal prosecutor who has been an outspoken critic of Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

In court Tuesday, she unloaded on Mueller's investigation.

She accused Peter Strzok, one of the two FBI agents who interviewed Flynn at about his interactions with Kislyak, of being "impaired" by bias. She said that among the information she had not received were copies of Strzok's derogatory text messages about Trump, communications that led to his removal from Mueller's team and ultimately his firing from the FBI.

But Van Grack said Flynn was told before his first guilty plea in December 2017 that the communications existed and went ahead with the plea anyway.

Powell also said the government had not produced evidence that she said could demonstrate that Flynn was not an agent of the Russian government. But Van Grack noted that that allegation was never made.

"The government has not alleged in any filing in this court or before the court that the defendant is an agent of Russia," he said. "That is not part of the case."

Instead, he added, the prosecution is entirely about whether Flynn lied to the FBI during a January 2017 interview at the White House about having discussed sanctions with Kislyak.

Mueller's investigation, which produced charges against a half dozen Trump aides and associates, ended last spring with a report to the Justice Department. The report did not establish a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia but did identify multiple instances in which the president sought to influence the investigation.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Asian shares mostly higher after rise on Wall Street

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday, cheered by a rise on Wall Street amid some signs of easing tensions between the U.S. and China on trade issues.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.6% to 21,514.14 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 inched up 0.1% to 6,622.60. South Korea's Kospi added 0.6% to 2,043.72. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4% to 26,795.87, while the Shanghai Composite slid 0.4% to 3,010.32.

On Wall Street, investors continued to flock to smaller-company stocks they see as being better shielded from the fallout of the costly trade war between the U.S. and China than large multinationals.

The S&P 500 index inched up 0.96 points, or less than 0.1%, to 2,979.39. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 73.92 points, or 0.3%, to 26,909.43. The average was briefly down 118 points. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, slid 3.28 points, or less than 0.1%, to 8,084.16. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks led the gainers, adding 18.76 points, or 1.2%, to 1,542.99.

The U.S. market has been gaining ground for two weeks as investors remain confident in the strength of the economy, despite the lingering trade war between the U.S. and China.

The feud between the world's two largest economies has been injecting doses of volatility into the market as both sides escalate and then pull back. Recent plans for trade talks to resume in October raised some hope on Wall Street for a resolution.

"The U.S.-China tug of war will continue, but there is growing sense that U.S.-China sentiment may be shifting to a state of trade war neutrality," said Stephen Innes, Asia-Pacific market strategist at AxiTrader.

Meanwhile, investors continue to watch the steady flow of economic data for a clearer picture of the U.S. economy's health. Recent reports have been a mixed bag, including a Labor Department report Tuesday that showed both a slip in job openings as well as a slight increase in hiring in July.

The Labor Department will report the latest consumer price index figures on Thursday and the Commerce Department will report August retail sales data on Friday. Economists continue to expect the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates at its meeting next week to help maintain U.S. economic growth.

### ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil rose 40 cents to \$57.80. It fell 45 cents to \$57.40 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained 33 cents to \$62.71 a barrel.

### CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 107.54 Japanese yen from 107.39 yen on Tuesday. The euro edged up to \$1.1047 from \$1.1035.

AP Business Writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2019. There are 111 days left in the year.

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Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 11, 2001, America faced an unprecedented day of terror as 19 al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners, sending two of the planes smashing into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania, resulting in nearly 3,000 deaths.

On this date:

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1967, the comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1970, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Pinto, a compact that would become caught up in controversy over the safety of its gas tank. (The Pinto was discontinued in 1980.)

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) died during a violent military coup.

In 1998, Congress released Kenneth Starr's voluminous report that offered graphic details of President Clinton's alleged sexual misconduct and leveled accusations of perjury and obstruction of justice; the president's attorneys quickly issued a point-by-point rebuttal.

In 2006, in a prime-time address, President George W. Bush invoked the memory of the victims of the 9/11 attacks as he staunchly defended the war in Iraq, though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks.

In 2007, a new Osama bin Laden videotape was released on the sixth anniversary of 9/11; in it, the al-Qaida leader's voice is heard commemorating one of the suicide hijackers and calling on young Muslims to follow his example by martyring themselves in attacks.

In 2008, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims.

In 2012, a mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Ten years ago: On his first 9/11 anniversary as president, Barack Obama urged Americans to come together in service just as they united after the terrorist attacks. Anti-abortion activist James Pouillon (PUHL'-yuhn) was shot to death near a high school in Owosso, Michigan. (Harlan James Drake was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of Pouillon and the owner of a gravel pit, Mike Fuoss, and sentenced to life in prison.) Death claimed Hollywood writer Larry Gelbart at age 81 and poet and punk rocker Jim Carroll at age 60.

Five years ago: In a joint statement, 10 Arab states promised to "do their share" to fight Islamic State militants, but NATO member Turkey refused to join in.

One year ago: About 1.7 million people in three states were warned to get out of the way of Hurricane Florence, which was taking dead aim on the Carolinas. With Florence bearing down on the Southeast coast, President Donald Trump turned attention back to the federal government response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico a year earlier, deeming it "incredibly successful" despite a recent federal report finding that nearly 3,000 people died.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earl Holliman is 91. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 80. Movie director Brian De Palma is 79. Singer-actress-dancer Lola Falana is 77. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 76. Singer-guitarist Leo Kottke is 74. Actor Phillip Alford is 71. Actress Amy Madigan is 69. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 66. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 66. Actor Reed Birney is 65. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 62. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 62. Actor Scott Patterson is 61. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 61. Actress/director Roxann Dawson is 61. Actor John Hawkes

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is 60. Actress Anne Ramsay is 59. Actress Virginia Madsen is 58. Actress Kristy McNichol is 57. Musician-composer Moby is 54. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 54. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 52. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 52. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 51. Actress Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 49. Actress Laura Wright is 49. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 48. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 48. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 44. Rapper Mr. Black is 42. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 42. Rapper Ludacris is 42. Rock singer Ben Lee is 41. Actor Ryan Slattery is 41. Actress Ariana Richards is 40. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 38. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 32. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 32. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 18.

Thought for Today: "A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer." — Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet and essayist (1803-1882).

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