

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Boys Soccer ties with JV Christian

Boys soccer played James Valley Christian Thursday in Huron. Tied 1 to 1. Isaac Smith scored goal with assist from Piet Solling.



## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 27 - Friday

10 a.m.: Boys Golf at Sisseston  
7 p.m.: Football at Redfield  
C&MA: Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.

**Breakfast:** Muffins

**Lunch:** Meatball Subs, Corn

**Senior Menu:** Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, coleslaw, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

### **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

### 28 - Saturday

Volleyball at SF Sanford Pentagon  
1 p.m.: Girls Soccer at Tea Area  
3 p.m.: Boys Soccer at Tea Area  
11 a.m.: Living History Fall Festival at the Groton Granary  
SEAS Catholic: Service, 4:30 p.m.

### 29 - Sunday

St. John's: Bible Study, 8 a.m.; Worship, 9 a.m.;  
Sunday school, 10 a.m.  
Emmanuel: worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.  
SEAS Catholic: service, 9 a.m.  
C&MA: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
UMC: Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Nursing Home, 3 p.m.  
Presbyterian: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

## Groton Area netters beat Roncalli, 3-1

Groton Area had to go extra points in the fourth game to beat Aberdeen Roncalli in volleyball action. The Tigers won the match, 3-1. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management.

The first game was tied four times at the very beginning before the Cavaliers took control. Roncalli led by as many as five five points through the rest of the game and went on to win by five, 25-20. In the first game, Nicole Marzahn had four kills and an ace serve, Indigo Rogers had two kills, Madeline Fliehs had two kills and Eliza Wanner had three kills. The Tigers earned 12 of their 20 points and gave up 13 points. Madelyn Bragg led Roncalli with four kills.

Roncalli had the early lead in the second set, 3-1. The Tigers tied the game and took the lead with the game being tied at four and five before the Tigers scored four straight points to take a 9-5 lead. The Tigers led by as many as five points, 14-9, but Roncalli would come back to the game at 17 and took a 19-18 lead. Groton Area scored three straight to reclaim the lead, 21-19. Nicole Marzahn would have the game winning kill as the Tigers won the second game, 25-22. Marzahn would lead the Tigers in the second set with five kills while Eliza Wanner had two kills and an ace serve, Indigo Rogers had two kills, Payton Colestock had two ace serves and Tadyng Glover had an ace serve. Groton Area earned 14 of its 25 points and gave up 13 points. Mariah Winegar led Roncalli with three kills and a block in the second set.

Groton Area jumped out to a 7-0 third game lead and Roncalli never threatened as the Tigers went on to win, 25-16. Wanner had the game winning kill. Eliza Wanner had two kills and three ace serves, Madeline Fliehs added three kills and a block, Nicole Marzahn had three kills, Indigo Rogers had two kills and Stella Meier had a kill. Groton Area earned 15 of its 25 points and gave up just five points. Madelyn Bragg led the Cavaliers with four kills and block.

Groton Area started off with a 5-0 lead. Roncalli would battle back to tie the fourth game at 16 and again at 22. The Cavaliers took their first lead of the game, 23-22. Groton Area would tie the game at 23 and 24 before taking a 25-24 lead. The Cavaliers would tie the game at 25, sending the game into extra points. The Tigers would get the last two points for the 27-25 win. Nicole Marzahn and Eliza Wanner teamed for five kills apiece while Indigo Rogers had two kills, Kaylin Kucker had one kill and Payton Colestock had an ace serve. Groton Area would earn 14 of their 25 points and gave up 13 points. Madelyn Bragg led the Cavaliers with five kills and a block.

Nicole Marzahn would finish the night with 17 kills, a blocks and an ace serve, Indigo Rogers had eight kills and 30 digs, Eliza Wanner had eight kills, 27 digs and four ace serves, Payton Colestock had three ace serves, Kaylin Kucker had 37 assists and a kill, and Madeline Fliehs had six kills and two blocks.

Madelyn Bragg led the Cavaliers with 15 kills and two blocks while Mariah Winegar had eight kills and three blocks and Elissa Hammerich had five kills, two blocks and an ace serve.

Groton Area is now 8-1 on the season while the Cavaliers go to 8-3.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 2-1. Game scores were 6-25, 25-23 and 15-7. Scoring for the Tigers: Alyssa Thaler 1 kill; Brooke Gengerke 2 kills, 1 ace; Jasmine Gengerke 3 kills; Megan Fliehs 2 kills, 1 ace; Grace Wambach 2 kills, 3 aces; Brooklyn Gilbert 4 kills, Gracie Traphagen 2 kills, 1 ace; and Maddy Bjerke 6 kills.

Groton Area won the C match, 26-24 and 25-18. The eighth graders won their match, 3-1, with game scores of 25-18, 17-25 and 15-13. The seventh graders lost their match, 2-1, with game scores of 25-19, 20-25 and 14-16.

The Tigers will travel to the Pentagon in Sioux Falls on Saturday. Groton Area will take on Elton-Lake Benton at 11 a.m., then face Mt. Vernon-Plankinton at noon with pool play to begin at 1:30 p.m. Those matches will be broadcast on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management and C & B Operations.

- Paul Kosel

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Redfield  
Pheasants** VS



**Groton Area Tigers**

Friday, Sept. 27, 2019  
7 p.m. at Redfield

**Broadcast Sponsored by:**  
Abeln Seed  
Aberdeen Chrysler Center  
Allied Climate Professionals  
Bahr Spray Foam  
BaseKamp Lodge  
DeHoet Trucking  
Groton Auto Works  
Hanlon Brothers  
John Sieh Agency  
Milbrandt Enterprises  
Mike-N-Jo's  
Olson Development  
Professional Management Services  
Touchdown Sponsor - Patios Plus

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Granary Rural Cultural Center

# LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL



*The Past Comes Alive!*

**Saturday**  
**Sept. 28, 2019**  
**11 am - 5 pm**

**FREE ADMISSION**

at the **GRANARY**

Physical Address: 40161 128th St - Groton, SD

**FEATURED MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT:**

*Eliza Blue*

SHOWS at  
12 pm & 3 pm

SOUTH DAKOTA FOLK MUSICIAN  
Singer, Songwriter & Multi-Instrumentalist  
As Seen on South Dakota Public Broadcasting

**Special Guest: John Timm**  
**as Governor Mellette**

*Chautauqua: South Dakota's 1st Governor*  
*Speech at 2 pm - Putney Hall Stage*  
*Courtesy of the SD Humanities Council*



**FREE Festival Trolley**

FREE Rides Between Aberdeen's Dacotah Prairie Museum & The Granary Rural Cultural Center (30 Min. Duration One Way)  
First Trolleys Leave Museum at: 10:20 & 10:35 am  
Service Between Museum & Granary Continues During  
Festival Hours Approximately Every 1/2 Hour

Trolley Courtesy of Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation  
See Museum Website for Details.



*Celebrate History... Step Back in Time*

**OPENING CEREMONY at the Flag Poles 11 a.m.**

Historical Demonstrations & Re-enacting • Food • Gift Shop

Kid's Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m. • Pioneer Life • Kid's Activities

Aberdeen Area Humane Society Dogs Meet & Greet

One Room School • Art/Quilt Exhibits • Pumpkins • Trading Post

John Graves Fiddle Music 11:30 am & 4 pm • And Much More!

**Festival Closing Ceremony, Flags & Salute 5 p.m.**

**COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME - GET A PRIZE AT THE GATE**



This Festival is a Program of Dacotah Prairie Museum & The Granary

Museum: [www.dacotahpraiiemuseum.com](http://www.dacotahpraiiemuseum.com) ♦ Granary: [granaryfinearts.org](http://granaryfinearts.org)

The GRANARY is 5 mi. N of US Hwy 12 - Between Aberdeen & Groton - Driving Directions on Website



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Today



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 61 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 37 °F

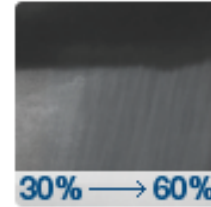
Saturday



Patchy Frost  
then Slight  
Chance  
Showers

High: 58 °F

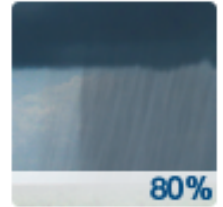
Saturday  
Night



Chance  
Showers then  
Showers  
Likely

Low: 49 °F

Sunday



Showers

High: 71 °F

## The Weekend Outlook

Today

- Showers though mid morning
- Highs in the low 60s

Saturday

- Showers in north central South Dakota, dry elsewhere
- Highs in the 50s.

Sunday

- Showers and thunderstorms
- **Severe storms possible**
- Highs 65-85°F

ISSUED: 4:50 AM - Friday, September 27, 2019, National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Published on: 09/27/2019 at 12:51AM

Light showers this morning will give way to dry, but cool conditions this afternoon. Highs today will only reach the 60s. More showers can be expected Saturday in western and north-central South Dakota, with dry conditions elsewhere. We are watching the potential for severe storms Sunday afternoon through Sunday night.

## Today in Weather History

September 27, 1983: A lightning caused grass fire burned 25,000 acres northwest of Reliance during the evening hours. At its peak, the fire was four miles wide by ten miles long.

September 27, 1985: Snow fell across south central South Dakota from the evening of the 27th until the early afternoon of the 28th. Three to five inches of snow occurred with up to 18 inches reported around Winner. Eight to 12 inches fell around Gregory and Burke.

1822: Using various documents and meteorological observations determined a hurricane moved ashore on this day in South Carolina. One account from Bull Island, South Carolina records the eye passing directly over that location.

1959: Typhoon Vera was the strongest and deadliest typhoon on record to make landfall on the islands of Japan. Damage totals from this typhoon are estimated at \$4.85 billion (USD 2015). An estimated 4,000 deaths occurred from Typhoon Vera. This Category 5 Typhoon first made landfall on September 26 near Shionomisaki on Honshu. Vera transitioned to an extratropical cyclone on September 27, which continued to affect the island for an additional two days.

1816 - A black frost over most of New England kills unripened corn in the north resulting in a year of famine. (David Ludlum)

1959 - A tornado 440 yards in width traveled twenty miles from near Hollow, OK, to western Cherokee County KS. Although a strong tornado, it was very slow moving, and gave a tremendous warning roar, and as a result no one was killed. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Afternoon highs of 103 degrees at Long Beach, CA, and 105 degrees at the Los Angeles Civic Center were the hottest since September records were established in 1963. Fierce Santa Ana winds accompanying the extreme heat resulted in destructive fires. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A record early season snowstorm struck the Central High Plains Region. The storm left up to nineteen inches of snow along the Colorado Front Range, and as much as a foot of snow in the High Plains Region. (Storm Data)

1987 - While those at the base of Mount Washington, NH, enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s, the top of the mountain was blanketed with 4.7 inches of snow, along with wind gusts to 99 mph, and a temperature of 13 degrees. Severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front in the south central U.S. A thunderstorm west of Noodle TX produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 70 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced large hail in southeastern Wyoming during the afternoon, with tennis ball size hail reported at Cheyenne. Strong winds ushering the cold air into the north central U.S. gusted to 59 mph at Lander WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Freezing temperatures were reported in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley. Houghton Lake MI reported a record low of 21 degrees. Thunderstorms in the western U.S. produced wind gusts to 50 mph at Salt Lake City UT, and gusts to 58 mph at Cody WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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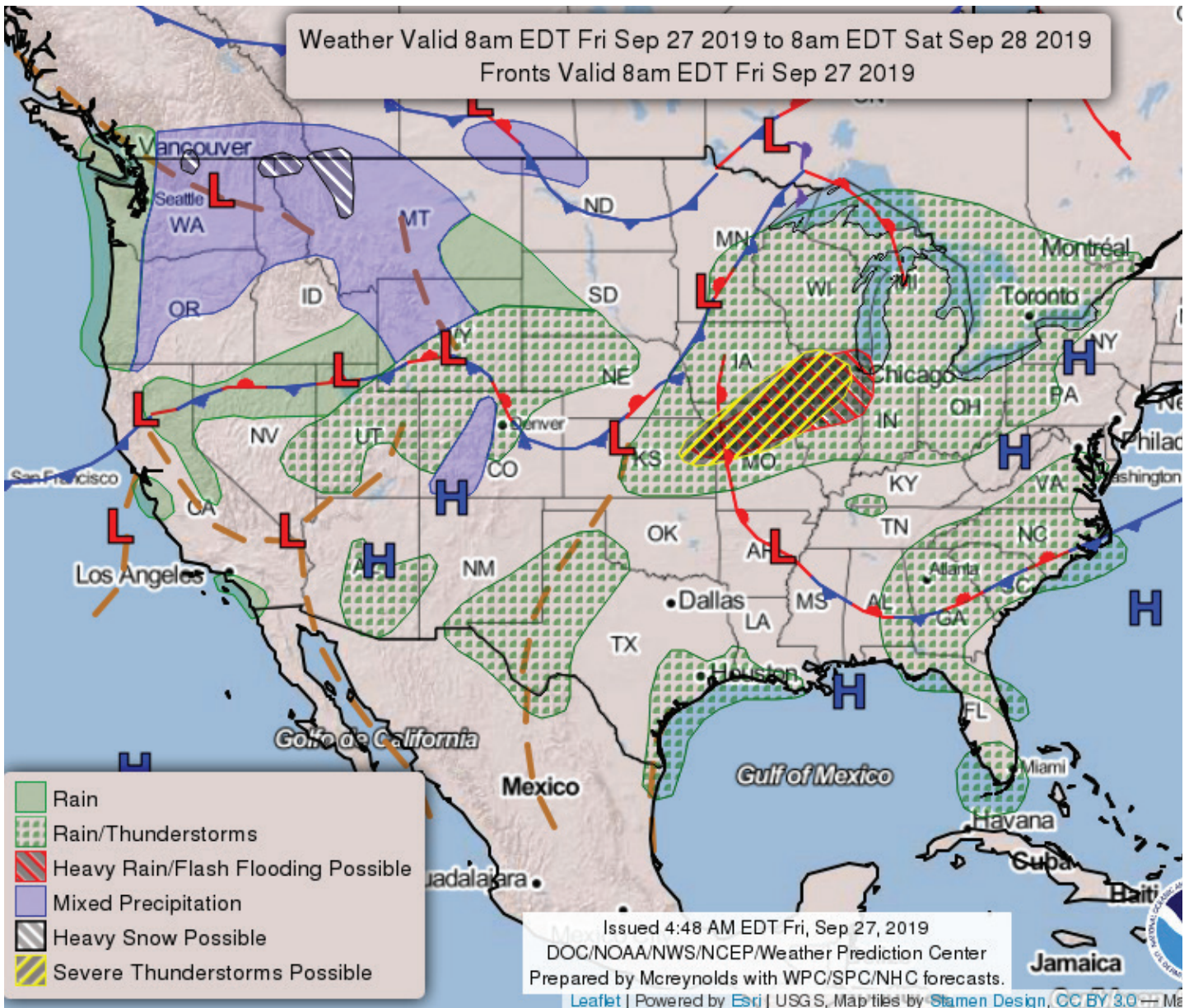
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 68 °F at 3:05 PM**  
**Low Temp: 42 °F at 7:38 AM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 3:33 PM**  
**Day Rain: 0.08**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 95° in 1952**  
**Record Low: 22° in 1900**  
**Average High: 67°F**  
**Average Low: 41°F**  
**Average Precip in Sept.: 1.90**  
**Precip to date in Sept.: 5.26**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.19**  
**Precip Year to Date: 24.98**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 a.m.**





## WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The angry husband approached the terminal gate obviously upset that the door was closed, and the plane was leaving. Turning to his wife he said, "If you hadn't taken so long to get ready, we would be on that plane."

"Yes," she answered graciously, "and if you hadn't rushed me so, we wouldn't have to wait so long for the next one."

Some people count their minutes rather than making their minutes count. However, we must always remember that time is a God-given gift, and once gone will never be returned. Though others may have more talents or more treasures, no one has more time. We are all given twenty-four hours each day, every day that we live. No more. No less.

Alan Lakein said that "Time is life. It is irreversible and irreplaceable. To waste your time is to waste your life, but to master your time is to master your life and make the most of it."

David accomplished much in his life. Author, poet, musician, politician, judge, leader of an army – the list goes on and on. No doubt the reason he was able to accomplish so much was his attitude toward life. He put everything in perspective when he said, "Remember how short my time is and what a fleeting life is mine."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to make the most of every moment, using every minute we have to honor You. We pray that we will invest our time in doing Your will. .In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 89:47 Remember how fleeting is my life. For what futility you have created all humanity!



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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

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Pierre, 25-23, 20-25, 25-18, 26-24  
Aberdeen Christian def. North Central, 10-25, 25-13, 25-23, 26-24  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-16, 25-19, 25-18  
Arlington def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 28-26, 18-25, 25-16, 25-23, 11-15  
Avon def. Colome, 25-19, 25-15, 25-21  
Belle Fourche def. Red Cloud, 25-17, 25-7, 28-26  
Bison def. Takini, 25-8, 25-18, 25-18  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Canistota, 25-14, 25-10, 25-14  
Burke def. Bon Homme, 25-18, 25-13, 25-7  
Castlewood def. DeSmet, 25-22, 25-20, 25-23  
Chester def. Garretson, 25-14, 27-25, 29-27  
Colman-Egan def. Howard, 25-21, 28-26, 25-13  
Corsica/Stickney def. Gregory, 25-23, 25-12, 24-26, 22-25, 15-12  
Custer def. Spearfish, 25-22, 25-21, 20-25, 25-11  
Dakota Valley def. Sioux Falls Christian, 17-25, 18-25, 25-22, 25-20, 15-11  
Dell Rapids def. Flandreau, 22-25, 25-19, 25-22, 25-17  
Deuel def. Britton-Hecla, 25-22, 25-13, 25-20  
Dupree def. McIntosh, 25-12, 25-20, 25-13  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-12, 25-17, 25-11  
Faith def. New Underwood, 25-17, 25-17, 25-23  
Freeman def. Menno, 25-17, 25-12, 25-17  
Gayville-Volin def. Vermillion, 19-25, 25-20, 25-21, 22-25, 16-14  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-21, 26-24, 25-19  
Groton Area def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 20-25, 25-22, 25-16, 27-25  
Hanson def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-11, 25-21, 25-22  
Hill City def. Newell, 25-7, 25-9, 25-12  
Huron def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-16, 24-26, 25-19  
Langford def. Ipswich, 26-24, 25-17, 26-24  
Lennox def. West Central, 24-26, 25-14, 28-26, 25-13  
Leola/Frederick def. Ellendale, N.D., 25-15, 24-26, 25-22, 22-25, 15-13  
Linton-HMB, N.D. def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-12, 25-22, 27-25  
Madison def. Tri-Valley, 25-17, 26-24, 18-25, 25-21  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Parkston, 25-15, 25-22, 25-18  
Miller def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-11, 25-5, 25-22  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Lemmon, 25-20, 25-20, 26-24  
Parker def. Baltic, 25-23, 25-22, 25-22  
Potter County def. Stanley County, 27-25, 25-12, 25-15  
Redfield def. Sisseton, 25-17, 25-22, 25-16  
Richland, N.D. def. Wilmot, 25-13, 25-11, 25-12  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Iroquois/Doland, 25-15, 25-21, 25-11  
St. Thomas More def. Rapid City Christian, 25-12, 25-21, 25-23  
Sturgis Brown def. Douglas, 25-16, 25-18, 25-14  
Sully Buttes def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-20, 25-11, 25-16

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Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Mitchell Christian, 26-24, 25-7, 25-22  
Viborg-Hurley def. Centerville, 25-13, 25-15, 25-17  
Wagner def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-23, 25-22, 25-18  
Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-19, 25-20, 25-14  
Waubay/Summit def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 25-23, 25-15  
Webster def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-4, 25-21, 25-7  
Wolsey-Wessington def. James Valley Christian, 25-22, 25-18, 25-17  
Alcester-Hudson Triangular  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-22, 25-15, 25-14

## Contractor pleads guilty in 2016 death of Sioux Falls worker

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A construction company accused of breaking federal law in the death of a worker during a 2016 building collapse in downtown Sioux Falls has pleaded guilty.

A representative of Hultgren Construction entered the guilty plea Thursday to a federal charge willful violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act resulting in the death of an employee.

The collapse as employees were removing a load bearing wall between the former Copper Lounge building and Skelly's Pub killed Ethan McMahon.

Hultgren Construction faces up to five years of probation and a \$500,000 fine. Company official Brian Bauer told a judge that the business does not have the ability to pay any fines.

Insurers for the company said last month they will pay more than \$4 million to settle lawsuits in the aftermath.

## Canadian company resumes gold drilling in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Canadian company said it has secured the money and land holdings it needs to resume drilling for gold in what it calls a "vastly under-explored" area in South Dakota.

Mineral Mountain Resources suspended exploratory drilling in the Black Hills last year. The Vancouver-based company notified the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Monday that it can restart drilling this week, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Last year, the company drilled nine holes to obtain core samples east of Rochford. The holes averaged about 1,000 feet (305 meters) in depth and were plugged with bentonite. The state approved 111 more holes at 10 drilling sites on private land in the Standby Mine area.

"The Rochford Project is vastly under-explored and has the potential to host several district scale gold discoveries," the company said in a news release last week.

Investors pooled about \$1.6 million to fund the drilling.

Mineral Mountain will purchase water for its drilling project from the city of Lead, according to a DENR spokesman. Water is used in the drilling process to cool and lubricate the drill.

The company paid \$500,000 to purchase nine tracts of about 67 contiguous acres (27 hectares) from G&D Gold Mining Co., a South Dakota corporation.

The Black Hills has been luring other miners, too.

The U.S. Forest Service is now reviewing an environmental assessment of Minneapolis-based F3 Gold's plan for exploratory drilling project near Silver City. Wharf Resources, which operates the only active, large-scale gold mine in the Black Hills, has a plan approved by state regulators to conduct exploratory drilling in hopes of extending the life of its existing mine near Lead.

## Democrat Ahlers to run for US Senate seat in South Dakota

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — A businessman and former Democratic state lawmaker is running for U.S. Senate in South Dakota.

Dan Ahlers, of Dell Rapids, has filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission to seek the seat.

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The 45-year-old Ahlers plans to formally announce his candidacy on Monday in Dell Rapids.

The Senate seat is currently held by former South Dakota governor, Republican Mike Rounds, who hasn't yet announced whether he'll seek re-election. State Republican Rep. Scyller Borglum, of Rapid City, is mounting a primary challenge for the post.

Ahlers says in a statement that politicians in Washington are more concerned about winning election than "getting the work of the people done."

Ahlers served in the state House of Representatives in 2007-08 and 2017-18. He was a member of the state Senate in 2009-10.

## Contractor pleads guilty to theft from tribal organization

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The owner of defunct construction company in northeastern South Dakota has pleaded guilty for taking money from an American Indian tribe for work he didn't complete.

The American News reports that Dustin Kirk pleaded guilty in federal court earlier this week to embezzlement and theft from a tribal organization. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Court documents show that received \$384,000 from the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority and the Dakota Nations Development Corp., which are agencies of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate tribe in South Dakota and North Dakota.

Kirk founded his company, Siouxland Lumber and Materials, in Sisseton in April 2016. It dissolved in May 2018.

One of Kirk's attorneys, Thomas Sannes, did not immediately return an email request seeking comment.

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

## Wisconsin weighs felony for actions against pipelines

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A bipartisan proposal making it a felony to trespass or damage oil or gas pipelines in Wisconsin is moving through the state Legislature, despite complaints Thursday from opponents that it would violate free speech rights.

The bill heard by a state Assembly committee builds upon a 2015 state law that made it a felony to intentionally trespass or cause damage to the property of an energy provider. The latest proposal expands the definition of energy provider to include oil and gas pipelines, renewable fuel, and chemical and water infrastructure.

Those found guilty could face up to \$10,000 in fines and six years in prison.

The Wisconsin measure has broad support from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers, organized labor unions, utilities, the state chamber of commerce and a variety of trade groups representing farmers, restaurants, the paper industry and others.

Supporters downplayed its intent, calling it the fix to an oversight from the earlier law.

Democratic state Rep. Jason Fields, of Milwaukee, is a co-sponsor of the bill and gave a passionate defense of the measure against critics who say it stifles free speech rights and will make it more difficult to combat climate change.

Fields, who is black, said to be effective protesters need to follow the non-violent model set by Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Ghandi and others.

"What I find appalling is somehow we've gotten to the point of making excuses for destruction of property," Fields testified. "I don't like the Ku Klux Klan but I don't have the right or option to go destroy their property. ... I don't care who you are. Destruction of property is a no-no."

Opponents said they weren't advocating for violence, but were concerned that the bill would unnecessarily escalate penalties for activities that are already crimes and possibly ensnare people who didn't realize

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they were protesting on private property.

"We already have too many people in prison in Wisconsin," said Patricia Hammel, an attorney from Madison who has represented protesters in court. "There's no need for more felonies in Wisconsin."

Rep. Mike Kuglitsch, the Republican chairman of the energy and utilities committee that held a hearing on the bill, tried to assure opponents that only intentionally illegal activity would be chargeable as a felony.

"If it's a lawful protest, no one has anything to worry about," he said.

The bill would have to pass the Senate and Assembly, both controlled by Republicans, and be signed by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers before becoming law.

Nine other states have similar laws, according to Greenpeace, which opposes the legislation.

The laws aren't about preventing violence or sabotage, they're about intimidating anti-pipeline activists in reaction to protests against the Dakota Access pipeline and the Keystone XL pipeline, said Connor Gibson with Greenpeace.

Earlier this month, a federal judge temporarily blocked enforcement of South Dakota laws that were designed to disruptive demonstrations against the Keystone XL pipeline but that opponents argued violated free speech rights.

The South Dakota law in question allowed charges to be brought against demonstrators who engage in "riot boosting," defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot. It was meant to head off Keystone XL protests like those mounted against the Dakota Access pipeline in that state that resulted in 761 arrests over a six-month span beginning in late 2016.

Unlike the South Dakota law, the Wisconsin proposal does not include provisions allowing for fines to be levied against organizations that support protesters.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

### Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Sept. 25

#### The inevitability of impeachment

America is about to formally enter the perilous territory of impeachment.

There are still no absolute guarantees, depending on inquiry findings, but the flow of events in recent days has taken us in this unfortunate direction.

The current controversy over a July 25 phone call President Donald Trump made to Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky — an event which apparently alarmed someone within the intelligence community, who had access to the situation, enough to file a whistleblower complaint regarding the episode — has snowballed rapidly. The call made by Trump was allegedly an effort to get the Ukrainian government to investigate the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the top Democratic contenders to take on Trump during the 2020 election. If this complaint bears out, it would constitute a U.S. president reaching out to a foreign government to assist him for his own political gain.

The allegation by the person filing the whistleblower complaint never made it to Congress. It was apparently blocked by someone in the intelligence community, which may violate the whistleblower law.

Meanwhile, media reports on Monday indicated that Trump had ordered the freezing of up to \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine about one week before the president made the phone call, during which he allegedly asked Zelensky up to eight times for an investigation. Again, this could be an explosive allegation with damning consequences if the two actions (the withholding of aid and the call) are connected.

Trump has admitted to making the phone call, but says it was about "corruption." (He accuses Biden's son, Hunter, of corruption in his Ukrainian dealings, although the Politifact website reports there is no evidence yet to support this.) What that corruption might be has not been specified, but given Trump's subsequent remarks about Biden (the president said Monday that if a Republican did what Biden had allegedly done, "they'd be getting the electric chair right now"), the connection appears clear.

By late Monday, there seemed little choice anymore. The tide of House Democrats supporting an im-

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peachment inquiry was rising rapidly. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who has resisted pursuing impeachment because of its politically explosive nature ahead of the 2020 election cycle, reportedly began sounding out Democratic leaders about whether this instance — with the president publicly admitting he made the phone call in question — was a “tipping point,” making an impeachment inquiry unavoidable.

On Tuesday, she finally relented.

Those House Democrats who have resisted impeachment, mostly out of fear of electoral fallout in 2020, now may feel they have no choice in the matter. Much of that resistance has been due to the fact that it’s hard to see an impeachment bid getting past the Republican Senate, which serves as a firewall of sorts for the president. Thus, impeachment has been viewed as a means to a dead end. However, things could change as new facts become available, as they did during the Watergate scandal in 1973-74.

It seems at this juncture there’s no choice anymore but to allow the process to move forward. There are too many disturbing questions on the table, and too many constitutional and legal ramifications to ignore.

The Constitution provides a means for pursuing the truth. An inquiry does not automatically mean an impeachment charge will be filed, and impeachment does not automatically mean conviction. But it does open the door for evidence to be gathered and presented to lawmakers and to the public.

And that’s what’s needed at this extraordinary hour. It’s what the situation requires. It’s what the constitutional viability of this country demands.

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## **Black Hills Pioneer, Sept. 21** **Government by the people**

Our Founding Fathers believed that citizens of this country have a responsibility to participate in government.

Whether it’s attending a meeting to gain information, discuss issues or lend support, writing letters to elected representatives, running for office, or voting, citizen involvement is a critical ingredient.

Democracy by its very definition means government by the people. A democracy’s livelihood rests on meaningful contacts between the people and their government.

If you choose not to participate, then you have little right to complain about actions of your local city council, school board, county commission, state legislature or even Congress.

The lack of public participation can lead to detrimental action.

Recently the Bureau of Reclamation held several public meetings to gather input on what a resource management plan for the Belle Fourche Reservoir should contain. The public meetings were promoted by the bureau in newsletters, emails, newspaper announcements, and more, but there was little public participation or attendance.

One proposed action on the draft management plan was to close the off-road vehicle area at the reservoir.

At a second meeting, only 29 people attended and only 20 written comments were received. Little input was given during the entire process about the ORV area.

Thus, the decision to close it was made. Once the bureau’s plan is finalized and is released to the public, citizens have a 30- to 45-day period to read the bureau’s plan and send additional written comments back directly to the bureau.

In this instance, those opposed to the closure of the ORV area took to social media and tried to gather support through an online petition. But unfortunately this does little to sway the government as it is not an officially recognized way to provide input.

Conversely, attending public meetings and providing direct comments is greatly beneficial to the decision-making process.

Earlier this month, more than 100 citizens attended a meeting at the rural Union Center school in Meade County to learn more about the possibility of the Meade School District splitting into two districts.

It was refreshing to see civil discourse at its finest. Attendees were asked to submit questions which were read and then answered by the appropriate person.

People came to the meeting wanting to learn more about what launching a new rural school district

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would entail and the left armed with probably more information that they could have imagined on which to base their opinion on the matter.

In a recent newsletter article to members of the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Executive Director Veronica Grosek talked about tuning into your local government.

She said that it is no surprise that at any given local government meeting, the attendance tends to be on the sparse side, especially attendance by youth.

"This is bad news for our communities! We are all frustrated with the state of national politics and the collective lack of understanding of current events, not to mention social, economic, and other issues. The first step to turning this problem around is to tune-in locally, attend city council meetings or check out what the county commission is all about."

Being a good citizen demands that you pay attention to the issues at hand and the decisions being made. Do this and you'll have a better community, better government, and better nation.

And how many times have we seen someone complain on Facebook about something the city council or county commission did, but neglected to call a member of that board or agency, or attend a meeting concerning a certain issue?

We are fortunate to live in a country where we are allowed to participate in our government, and that our opinion really does matter.

So be informed by subscribing to your local newspaper, get off the couch, put down your smartphone, and participate in this thing we call democracy.

## Missing teen from Missouri found in South Dakota after chase

EDMUNDSON, Mo. (AP) — Authorities have found a missing 16-year-old suburban St. Louis girl safe and apprehended a family friend whom police described as "physically violent" after a pursuit, crash and search in South Dakota.

Police in Edmundson, Missouri, said in a news release that the teen and 26-year-old Christopher Johnson were taken into custody Wednesday. No charges were immediately filed.

Police say the teen was last seen Tuesday night leaving her uncle's home with Johnson and classified the case as a "child abduction," although not a forcible one. Police said Johnson had previously escaped from custody.

After Wednesday's chase, the suspect's vehicle was spotted wrecked and unoccupied in the South Dakota town of Kadoka. The teen and Johnson were found after a search. At one point, they were believed to be near Chicago.

## Researchers find genetic link in rare reaction to pet germ

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER Associated Press

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP) — It's hard to regard Ellie as a menace.

When Greg Manteufel is frustrated or feeling down, she sits by him. At night, she sleeps under his covers. At dinner, she's there next to him, knowing he'll throw something her way. She belies the stereotype of the vicious pit bull.

"We love her like she's our daughter," he said of the dog.

And yet, Ellie may be the reason Manteufel nearly died.

Gravely ill, he lost parts of his arms and legs, as well as the skin of his nose and part of his upper lip. The cause was capnocytophaga (cap-noh-seye-TOE'-fah-gah), a germ from Ellie's mouth or from another dog he encountered.

Capnocytophaga is commonly found in the saliva of cats and dogs and almost never leads to people getting sick, unless the person has a compromised immune system. But Manteufel was perfectly healthy. In fact, he doesn't think he'd ever used his health insurance before he fell ill.

The case is extremely rare and doctors at his hospital, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, had no explanation for why he got so sick. But over the last 10 years there have been at least five other healthy people who have had severe reactions to the germ. A team of researchers connected with Harvard

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Medical School has developed a theory on why — a gene change in all the victims.

And their finding means doctors can't rule out the capnocytophaga bacteria could strike Manteufel and other victims again.

Greg Manteufel thought he was getting the flu in June of 2018. He had a fever, vomiting and diarrhea. But when he started getting confused, his family took him to the hospital.

Doctors did blood cultures and found capnocytophaga, which caused sepsis, a severe blood infection that led to his blood pressure dropping and many of his organs shutting down.

"Do what you have to," he told the doctors.

He had so much to live for — foremost, his wife of 16 years, Dawn, and 26-year-old son, Mike. He was just starting to get really good at his day job, painting houses. He cherished his Harley Davidson Electric Glide. He was in the middle of fixing up his '66 El Camino. And of course there was Ellie, the pup.

And so he persisted, through more than 20 surgeries, including amputations of his left and right arms just below the elbow, and legs through the middle of the knee.

His wife and son stayed optimistic, because he was.

"Greg said he didn't come this far to lay down and let this beat him," Dawn Manteufel said.

He was out of the in-patient rehab unit in about two weeks, learning to move from his wheelchair to the bed, toilet and car. The usual stay is three to four weeks, said Dr. David Del Toro, medical director for the inpatient rehab unit at Froedtert.

Manteufel made similar quick advances using his arm prosthetics and leg prosthetics.

"He does not seem like any other patient I've met before," Del Toro said. "He's just, you know, full speed ahead."

Meanwhile, researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, connected to Harvard Medical School, as well as Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center had been investigating cases like his.

The team has done genetic testing on five otherwise healthy people who suffered capnocytophaga infections to see if they could find anything in common. They discovered all had a gene connected to the immune system that was working differently — a genetic variant.

"It was a really thrilling moment," said Elizabeth Fieg, a genetic counselor at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "The stakes are so high with these cases and the patients have gone through so much."

They believe it makes those people more susceptible to developing severe medical problems from capnocytophaga. But they are also trying to determine if there are other risk factors.

Of the five in the study, three survived with amputations and two did not. Fieg hopes their research can determine why some did not survive.

She also hopes if their theory is confirmed, it will help diagnose cases faster, and perhaps save lives and limbs.

That's why Greg Manteufel jumped at the chance to take part when he was approached in August.

Researchers need to gather more evidence, but hope to publish their study in the next year to 18 months.

Manteufel's life now includes frequent occupational therapy appointments to perfect his use of arm prosthetics — the kind with metal moveable hooks at the end. He's using a fork regularly and he's now working on picking up the TV remote, opening doorknobs, cutting vegetables and doing the dishes.

He's using shortened leg prosthetics, called stubbies, to get his body conditioned to eventually use to full-sized ones. Those are expected to arrive any day.

Plastic surgeons plan another surgery to perfect his nose. They've already moved skin from his forehead there. It looks oversized now, but it will eventually fit in with the rest of his face.

He plans to get his car revamped so he can drive with prosthetics. He wants to get a special pole so he can go fishing again. He is even considering going back to work painting.

He's also become less quiet and a lot more outgoing. "Now everybody I see wants to hear something



or talk to me. I tell them a 15-minute story about what happened. They probably want me to leave, you know," he said, chuckling.

Ellie's often by his side.

"She loves kids. She loves puppies. Other dogs," Manteufel said.

As harmless as she seems, she may have capnocytophaga germ.

The results of Manteufel's genetic tests are expected in three to four months. Fieg said people with the gene variant are at increased risk for recurrent capnocytophaga or other infections in the future.

While Manteufel doesn't like the sound of that, he said Ellie's accidentally scratched him since he's been home and even licked his mouth. He's been fine.

And even if he does have the gene variant, he said, it changes nothing.

"We didn't even bother testing her," said Manteufel. "We weren't going to get rid of her if it was her that caused it anyway."

"We just love her to death."

## White House dusts off Mueller playbook as pressure mounts

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is dusting off its playbook from the special counsel's Russia investigation.

Caught off guard by the speed at which a whistleblower's claims have morphed into an impeachment inquiry, President Donald Trump and his team are scrambling to respond.

They're turning, at least for now, to some of the same strategies they used to counter special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

The basic tactics deployed by the short-staffed White House: Attempt to discredit government officials at the heart of the story. Dispatch Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and other allies to muddy the picture. Lean on Republicans in Congress to provide cover.

And, most of all, presidential counterattacks.

Just as the Republican president considers himself to be his own best adviser, he often acts as his own most vocal defender.

"It's a disgrace to our country. It's another witch-hunt. Here we go again," an agitated Trump said Thursday as he returned to Washington after four days at the United Nations in New York. "They're frozen — the Democrats. They're going to lose the election; they know it. That's why they're doing it. And it should never be allowed, what's happened to this president."

The velocity at which the whistleblower story enveloped Washington was remarkable.

In just a few days' time, a whistleblower's complaint that Trump encouraged the president of Ukraine to help investigate political rival Joe Biden led to congressional hearings, allegations of a White House cover-up and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announcing the start of an impeachment inquiry.

The White House was not ready.

While Trump's strategists have long believed an impeachment push could backfire against Democrats, the president has also voiced concern that impeachment could become the first line of his political obituary.

He lashed out after Pelosi announced the inquiry, firing off tweets from his New York penthouse and winding down his U.N. stay with a press conference at which he seemed aggrieved and subdued.

The next morning, at what was meant to be a salute to the workers from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Trump let loose with a threatening tone on Thursday.

"I want to know who's the person, who's the person who gave the whistleblower the information? Because that's close to a spy," Trump said, according to audio released by The Los Angeles Times. "You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart? Right? The spies and treason, we used to handle it a little differently than we do now."

At the same time, Joseph Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence, appeared before Congress and acknowledged that the complaint filed by the whistleblower alleged serious wrongdoing by the president.

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Aligning themselves with the White House, most Republican legislators at the hearing wasted few chances to try to undermine the unidentified whistleblower's credibility. They tried shifting the focus to Democrats and unproven theories, much like those the GOP used to attack Mueller when he testified about his Russia investigation over the summer.

Democratic Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut called it a "kaleidoscope of fantabulistic conspiracy theories."

With his trademark scattershot style, Giuliani played a key role in muddying the facts and trying to undermine the credibility of the Mueller investigation.

In this case, Giuliani's outreach to the new Ukraine government to investigate Joe Biden made up a major piece of the whistleblower's complaint, and the former New York City mayor went on offense again as scrutiny of his actions intensified.

"The complaint is questionable and the whistleblower is a pure partisan," Giuliani said, without supplying evidence for either assertion.

He then tried to shift the focus onto Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He claimed the Californian had been trying to "frame" Trump for years and "should be investigated for lying, enabling perjury, and trampling on constitutional rights."

A weary West Wing, after being shadowed for two years by the Mueller probe, lacks the organization required to sustain a serious impeachment fight.

During the Clinton impeachment, the White House had a muscular team of veteran lawyers and aggressive press aides to try to shape news coverage in their favor. The Trump White House has no equivalent.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham asserts that "nothing has changed" with the whistleblower's complaint. But the White House has largely ignored substantive questions about the allegations. And its strategy appears hinged on hopes that the partisan frenzy stoked both by both the progressive left and Trump himself will cloud out substantive concerns raised by the whistleblower.

The White House strategy, in close coordination with Trump's reelection campaign, is aimed at motivating the president's base supporters to stick with him in 2020.

But allies suggest there is a risk that the Trump's team is focusing too much on the campaign at the expense of the perilous Capitol Hill proceedings that lie ahead.

Lemire reported from New York.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Miller at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmiller>

## How the White House and DOJ learned about the whistleblower

By **ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and ZEKE MILLER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and the Justice Department learned about a CIA officer's concerns about President Donald Trump around the same time the individual filed a whistleblower complaint that is now at the center of an impeachment inquiry, according to a U.S. official and another person familiar with the matter.

The intelligence official initially filed a complaint about Trump's dealings with Ukraine with the CIA, which then alerted the White House and Justice. On Aug. 12, the intelligence official raised another flag, this time with the intelligence community's inspector general, a process that granted the individual more legal protections.

During that time, the inspector general's complaint, which centered on Trump's dealings with Ukraine, remained private. But information about the whistleblower was already making its way through the administration: On Aug. 14, White House counsel John Eisenberg and a CIA official alerted the head of DOJ's national security division about the original complaint to the CIA.

John Demers, who leads the national security division, went to the White House the next day to review materials associated with the call. He then alerted people within the Justice Department, but it was un-

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clear specifically who he told.

In the following weeks, Demers had discussions with other Justice Department officials about how to handle the CIA complaint, according to the person familiar with the matter. It was during that period that the Justice Department also received a notification from the intelligence community's inspector general about a whistleblower complaint.

The timeline raises questions about how the White House and the Justice Department handled the complaint. The administration initially blocked Congress from viewing the complaint, citing presidential privilege, and only released a redacted version of the report to lawmakers this week after the impeachment inquiry had begun.

The House intelligence committee released the complaint on Thursday. The nine-page letter details a July 25 phone call in which Trump presses Ukraine's leader to help investigate baseless corruption accusations against Democratic rival Joe Biden. The complaint also alleges that the White House sought to "lock down" details of the call by moving it onto a secure, classified computer system.

The complaint also details extensive interactions between Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal attorney, and Ukrainian officials.

The person familiar with the matter, as well as another person with knowledge of the case, confirmed that the whistleblower was a CIA officer.

The Associated Press is publishing information about the whistleblower's background because the person's credibility is central to the impeachment inquiry into the president. The New York Times first reported that the individual was a CIA officer.

The U.S. official and the two people familiar with the matter spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The whistleblower's attorney, Mark Zaid, said publishing details about the individual places the person in a dangerous situation, personally and professionally. The CIA referred questions to the inspector general.

## Iran releases seized UK-flagged tanker

By **NASSER KARIMI** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A British-flagged oil tanker held by Iran since July was released Friday and was heading toward the United Arab Emirates, the company that owns the vessel said.

Iran's marine and port authority said the Stena Impero left Iran Friday morning. Hours earlier, the tanker had begun transmitting its location for the first time in weeks just outside the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, where it had been held since its July 19 seizure.

The head of the Swedish shipping firm Stena Bulk that owns the tanker said it "has been a long wait" for the vessel and its crew to be released.

Company president and CEO Erik Hanell said the ship's seizure "has meant an enormous pressure for us all, especially for the crew." The ship was headed to Dubai, where the crew would disembark and undergo medical checks.

Hanell said the vessel appeared to be in good condition and "hopefully it will be on duty within a week or so," speaking by telephone with Swedish television.

The ship tracking website MarineTraffic.com showed the Stena Impero heading south from Iran at a speed of just over 14 mph (22 kph).

Iran seized the tanker on July 19 in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. The raid saw commandos rappel down onto the vessel via helicopter carrying assault rifles, dramatic images later replayed on state television.

The seizure came after British marines helped take control of an Iranian supertanker on July 4. Authorities in Gibraltar, a British overseas territory, seized the ship carrying \$130 million in crude oil on suspicion it was breaking European Union sanctions by taking the oil to Syria. Gibraltar later released the tanker, then called the Grace 1, after it said Iran promised the ship wouldn't go to Syria.

That ship, renamed the Adrian Darya 1, later sat off the Syrian coast, angering Britain. Iran hasn't said

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who purchased its 2.1 million barrels of crude oil.

On Monday, Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei had told journalists the Stena Impero could leave. But the ship remained outside Bandar Abbas until Friday.

Earlier this month, Iran released seven crew members of the Stena Impero. Sixteen stayed on board. Britain has responded to Iran's release of the tanker Friday by accusing Tehran of trying to disrupt freedom of navigation.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the ship "was unlawfully seized by Iran." He said the seizure was "part of a pattern of attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation. We are working with our international partners to protect shipping and uphold the international rule of law."

The ship seizures come after months of heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf, sparked by President Donald Trump's decision over a year ago to unilaterally pull out of a nuclear deal with Iran. The U.S. has imposed sanctions that have kept Iran from selling its oil abroad and have crippled its economy. Iran has since begun breaking terms of the deal.

Meanwhile, there have been a series of attacks across the Middle East that the U.S. blames on Iran. They reached their height on Sept. 14, with a missile and drone attack on the world's largest oil processor in Saudi Arabia and an oil field, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

Iran denies being responsible and has warned any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war."

Jon Gambrell and Elena Becatoros in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark and Jill Lawless in London contributed.

## **AP Analysis: It doesn't take a crime to impeach a president**

**By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — If House Democrats press ahead with impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump, their case will rest in large part on the claim that he sought a foreign government's help, with hundreds of millions of dollars in aid in the balance, to dig up dirt on a political opponent to boost his reelection campaign.

But, if true, would that be a crime? The answer might not matter. It doesn't take a criminal act to impeach a president.

The Constitution's standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" for impeachment is vague and open-ended to encompass abuses of power even if they aren't, strictly speaking, illegal, legal scholars say.

The controversy centers on a summertime phone call in which Trump asked the president of Ukraine to help investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden, according to a rough transcript the White House provided on Wednesday. A whistleblower's complaint released Thursday alleged a concerted White House effort to suppress the transcript of the call and described a shadow campaign of diplomacy by Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani.

The Justice Department doesn't think Trump violated any laws in his July 25 conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida said, "I think we ought to go through the process. I mean, no one has shown me what law has been broken."

But the House Intelligence Committee chairman, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., described several potential crimes that could have been committed if Trump withheld "authorized funding of Congress to use as leverage, if the president were involved in somehow extorting a foreign nation to dig up or manufactured dirt on his opponent, if there was an effort to cover up any of this conduct."

Both Schiff and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called Trump's actions a "shakedown."

The Constitution provides for the impeachment and removal of the president, and other officers of the government, for "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors." The first two offenses are

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relatively easy to understand, but “high crimes and misdemeanors” is hard to define.

“It’s meant to convey the idea that the person has badly flouted the terms of office. Even if he didn’t commit a criminal offense, did he do something that constitutes an abuse of power?” said Corey Brettschneider, a political science professor at Brown University.

In 1970, then-House Republican leader Gerald Ford, defined an impeachable offense as “whatever a majority of the House of Representatives” would vote for.

Ford’s description may have been technically accurate — it takes a majority vote in the House to impeach — but many legal scholars find what Ford said too nakedly political and not in accord with U.S. history.

On the other hand, the burden of proof in impeachment is, despite the term “high crimes,” lower than the standard in criminal cases, which is beyond a reasonable doubt.

Defenders of the president in past impeachments typically made the argument that the House shouldn’t impeach unless the president has committed a crime, said Frank Bowman III, a University of Missouri law professor and author of “A History of Impeachment for the Age of Trump.”

“The argument has a lot of resonance with people. It seems almost commonsensically right,” but it has not been the case in more than 600 years of English and American law, Bowman said.

Bowman said Trump’s actions illustrate his point. “You don’t impeach the guy because he violated a fairly technical election statute. You impeach him because he extorted a foreign country into giving him political help,” he said.

In the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, Republicans who controlled the House impeached Clinton on the charges of obstructing justice and lying to a grand jury in connection with his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. But when the Senate held a trial on those charges, 10 Republicans joined Democrats to acquit Clinton on one count and five Republicans voted to acquit on the other.

Republicans never succeeded in convincing a majority of the country that their pursuit of Clinton was not partisan or that the misconduct he was accused of, essentially lying about an affair, was serious enough to warrant his removal from office.

By contrast, in 1974, President Richard Nixon resigned after the House Judiciary Committee voted for three articles of impeachment against him for obstruction of justice, abuse of power and contempt of Congress. Congressional Republicans, who had largely supported Nixon in the early days of the Watergate investigation, made clear they would not stand by him after the release of recordings revealed his role in trying to cover up the break-in at the Democratic Party’s headquarters that sparked the scandal.

At this point, it seems far-fetched to think that the impeachment of Trump in the Democratic-controlled House would lead to his removal by a two-thirds vote of the Republican-led Senate. That would require 20 Republican senators to vote to oust him — an unlikely prospect, crime or no crime.

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Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

## Eagles pick off Rodgers’ late pass, beat Packers 34-27

By KEITH JENKINS AP Sports Wrier

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Craig James was on the practice squad at the beginning of the week.

The short-handed Philadelphia Eagles promoted the second-year undrafted cornerback to the active roster two days before the prime-time matchup in Green Bay. James responded by making the game-winning play in the 34-27 win over the Packers on Thursday night.

With 25 seconds left, James jumped a quick slant by Marquez Valdes-Scantling and tipped Aaron Rodgers’ pass into the end zone where Nigel Bradham collected it and sealed the victory.

“I’m a no-name out there, so when somebody that doesn’t get a lot of playing time gets in the game, that’s the target,” James said. “That’s the game plan. Coaches tell you, ‘Go at him. That’s the weak link.’ But as the weak link, I still have to be as prepared as the starters.”

Jordan Howard gashed Green Bay for his second career three-touchdown game and the Eagles (2-2) ended a two-game losing streak.

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Howard finished with 87 yards on 15 carries and two touchdowns rushing and one receiving, Carson Wentz went 16 for 27 for 160 yards, three scores and no turnovers, and the Eagles rebounded after losing consecutive games by a combined seven points.

"We already were confident," Howard said. "We already believed in ourselves. It probably reassured everybody else."

Rodgers started 10 for 10 and finished 34 for 53 for 422 yards, two touchdowns and a fumble that set up a short Philadelphia scoring drive.

Davante Adams had a career-high 180 yards on 10 catches for Green Bay, but he wasn't on the field for the Packers (3-1) on the last drive because of a toe injury.

"Obviously, having him out there would have been for the better, but we had a lot of chances down the stretch," Rodgers said. "We moved the ball well all day long. We just struggled in the red zone."

Adams was hurt after making a catch in the fourth quarter that gave the Packers first-and-goal at the 8. Avonte Maddox was called for pass interference on the next play while teammate Andrew Sendejo collided with him.

Maddox was carted off the field on a stretcher late in the fourth quarter, which forced coach Doug Pederson to turn to James.

Rodgers had first and goal from the 1 after the delay and threw four straight incompletions.

"Credit the defense, man, it was twice down there," Pederson said. "... Any time you can keep an Aaron Rodgers team out of the end zone, it's a positive thing."

After punting on its first two drives and falling behind 10-0, Philadelphia scored on four straight possessions against a defense that had only given up 35 points through the first three games.

Sacked six times in the previous two games, Wentz managed to stay upright. Zach Ertz had a team-high seven catches for 65 yards, and Alshon Jeffery, who missed all but six snaps over the past two weeks with a calf injury, finished with 38 yards and a touchdown on three catches.

Rodgers and Adams connected on a 58-yard completion on the opening drive. It was the longest play of the season for Green Bay, which scored a touchdown on its opening drive for the third consecutive game. Aaron Jones scored from 3 yards out two plays later to give the Packers the early lead.

Mason Crosby added a field goal in the beginning of the second quarter to make it 10-0.

The Eagles finally got a little momentum on a 67-yard return by Miles Sanders on the ensuing kickoff. The return set up a 6-yard score by Jeffery.

Green Bay added another field goal to take a 13-7 lead.

Wentz found tight end Dallas Goedert for a 3-yard touchdown strike to give the Eagles a 14-13 lead just before the two-minute warning.

Rodgers fumbled on the following drive after a strip-sack by Derek Barnett. The Eagles capitalized with a 1-yard score by Howard. Howard's touchdown made it 21-13 with 54 seconds to go.

Rodgers needed just 50 seconds to lead the Packers 70 yards. The two-time MVP found Geronimo Allison for a 19-yard touchdown to make it 21-20 at the half.

The Eagles opened the second half with a 20-yard score from Wentz to Howard. After a failed two-point conversion, Philadelphia led 27-20.

Jimmy Graham got his first catch and score since Week 1. Graham had six catches for 61 yards and a 14-yard touchdown that tied the game at 27-27 with 3:16 to go in the third.

Howard scored his third touchdown on a 2-yard run that made it 34-27 at the start of the fourth.

The Eagles picked up the victory despite committing nine penalties for 93 yards.

## INJURIES

Eagles: CB Sidney Jones suffered a hamstring injury and did not return. That leaves Philadelphia with only two healthy cornerbacks — Rasul Douglas and James — on the roster.

Packers: RB Jamaal Williams was carted off the field on the first play from scrimmage. He did not return. CB Tony Brown suffered a hamstring injury and did not return. RT Bryan Bulaga left with a shoulder injury. He also did not return. S Will Redmond was being evaluated for a concussion. CB Kevin King suffered a

groin injury. Adams suffered an injured toe.

UP NEXT

Eagles: Host New York Jets on Oct. 6

Packers: At Dallas on Oct. 6.

Follow Keith Jenkins on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MrKeithJenkins>

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## Giuliani's Ukraine gambit at core of whistleblower complaint

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to Ukraine, Rudy Giuliani became President Donald Trump's courier, attack dog, fixer and a self-described meddler in another country's affairs. His purpose was single-minded: get information "very, very helpful to my client."

To hear the intelligence-community whistleblower tell it in the complaint unwrapped Thursday, Giuliani was a one-man wrecking ball, breaking things in a complex international landscape and leaving actual diplomatic envoys to clean up his "damage."

To hear Giuliani tell it, "I will be the hero" in this episode and those who criticize him now are "morons." So he told The Atlantic magazine.

He was once called America's Mayor, the man whose moxie and grace in the death and rubble of 9/11 personified his stricken city and won him admiration around a shocked world.

Now he blends a sentiment that was familiar from that time and is familiar again in the world view of Trump himself: You're with us or against us. If you're not with me, you're the enemy — of the president, the people, the country.

Citing the accounts of mostly unidentified U.S. officials, and buttressed by Giuliani's own words from countless turns on Fox News, his tweets and newspaper interviews, the anonymous whistleblower pieces together a systematic effort by Giuliani on behalf of Trump to get Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and his businessman son, Hunter.

Trump made that appeal explicitly in a July phone call with Ukraine's new president that is at the heart of the whistleblower's complaint. "I would like for you to do us a favor," Trump said.

But the whistleblower goes well beyond the phone call to lay out Giuliani's efforts back to late last year. He or she also traces the consternation that Giuliani's machinations were causing inside the U.S. administration and even among some people in the White House itself.

"Starting in mid-May, I heard from multiple U.S. officials that they were deeply concerned by what they viewed as Mr. Giuliani's circumvention of national security decisionmaking processes to engage with Ukrainian officials and relay messages back and forth between Kyiv and the President," says the whistleblower.

"These officials also told me that State Department officials, including Ambassadors Volker and Sondland, had spoken with Mr. Giuliani in an attempt to 'contain the damage' to U.S. national security," the whistleblower continues.

Kurt Volker, official U.S. envoy for Ukraine negotiations, and Gordon Sondland, U.S. ambassador to the European Union, also met officials from the new Ukrainian administration and "sought to help Ukrainian leaders understand and respond to the differing messages they were receiving from official U.S. channels on the one hand, and from Mr. Giuliani on the other."

The complaint cites published reports of meetings Giuliani held with Ukraine's chief prosecutor in New York in January and Warsaw, Poland, in February, after a phone call he had late in 2018 with the prosecutor's predecessor. Giuliani associates later traveled to Kyiv and met the chief of the security service and another close adviser to the newly elected president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the complaint states.

This was the month Giuliani himself planned to go, and he was blunt to The New York Times about his purpose when his intended trip came to light. He intended to press for an investigation that would be

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helpful to Trump's reelection.

"We're meddling in an investigation, which we have a right to do," he said. "There's nothing illegal about it," he went on, though "somebody could say it's improper."

The next day, he canceled the trip and complained about the lack of cooperation from the new Ukrainian administration. Zelenskiy is "surrounded by enemies of the (U.S) president," he said, "and of the United States."

In this period, the whistleblower says, citing the "general understanding" of U.S. officials close to the matter, the Ukrainian leadership was led to believe that the prospects for a meeting or phone call between Trump and Zelenskiy would depend on whether the Ukrainian president "showed willingness to 'play ball.'"

In June, Giuliani tweeted his frustration about Zelenskiy's "silence" on the matters he wanted him to pursue.

Then in July, says the whistleblower, "I learned of a sudden change of policy with respect to U.S. assistance for Ukraine" — namely that Trump had personally instructed all U.S. agencies to suspend all military aid to Ukraine.

A week later, Trump and Zelenskiy had their July 25 phone call.

The complaint states that about a week after the call, Giuliani traveled to Madrid, Spain, to follow up with a Zelenskiy aide about matters arising from the phone call.

And about a week after that, Trump took a conciliatory tone, calling Zelenskiy a "very reasonable guy" and dangling the possibility of a White House visit for him. The two met this week at the United Nations. The military aid that had been held up was eventually released. There's no sign that the Bidens are under any official Ukrainian investigation for Hunter Biden's business relationships in that country when his father was vice president.

To the whistleblower, the episode shows Trump "using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election," with Giuliani "a central figure in this effort."

During the special counsel's Russia probe, Giuliani proved more useful for commanding headlines than in the courtroom. He became a staple on cable news, the face of a legal team that helped Trump emerge from the investigation with a less damaging result than many had expected.

Now Giuliani is doing some damage-control for himself, as some Republicans suggest Trump was ill-served by his interventions.

"It is impossible that the whistle-blower is a hero and I'm not," he told *The Atlantic*. "And I will be the hero! These morons — when this is over, I will be the hero."

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Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## Whistleblower accuses White House of Ukraine call cover-up

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials took extraordinary steps to "lock down" information about President Donald Trump's summertime phone call with the president of Ukraine, even moving the transcript to a secret computer system, a whistleblower alleges in a politically explosive complaint that accuses the administration of a wide-ranging cover-up.

The whistleblower, in a 9-page document released Thursday, provides substantial new details about the circumstances of the phone call in which Trump repeatedly spoke of how much the U.S. had aided Ukraine and encouraged new President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to help investigate political rival Joe Biden and his son.

Accusations of efforts to pressure the leader of a foreign nation to dig for dirt on a potential 2020 Trump rival are now at the heart of a House impeachment inquiry against the president. The whistleblower's official complaint alleges a concerted White House effort to suppress the transcript of the call, and describes a shadow campaign of foreign policy efforts by the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani that unnerved some senior administration officials who felt he was circumventing normal channels.



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"In the days following the phone call, I learned from multiple U.S. officials that senior White House officials had intervened to 'lock down' all the records of the phone call, especially the official word-for-word transcript of the call that was produced as is customary by the White House situation room," the complaint says.

The previously secret document, with its detail and clear narrative, is likely to accelerate the impeachment process and put more pressure on Trump to rebut its core contentions and on his fellow Republicans to defend him or not. It also provides a road map for Democrats to seek corroborating witnesses and evidence, which will complicate the president's efforts to characterize the findings as those of a lone partisan out to undermine him.

In response, Trump threatened "the person" who he said gave information to the whistleblower as he spoke at a private event in New York with staff from the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

"Who's the person who gave the whistleblower the information? Because that's close to a spy," Trump said in audio posted by The Los Angeles Times. "You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart? Right? The spies and treason, we used to handle it a little differently than we do now."

On his Twitter account, Trump insisted the entire controversy is political: "The Democrats are trying to destroy the Republican Party and all that it stands for. Stick together, play their game and fight hard Republicans. Our country is at stake." His tweet was in all capital letters.

Under pressure from House Democrats, the White House a day earlier released a rough transcript of the phone call between Trump and the Ukrainian president. In it, Trump prodded Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential 2020 election foe, and Biden's son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

But the complaint released Thursday offered a broader picture of what was happening in the White House and the administration at the time. In the aftermath of the call, according to the whistleblower, White House lawyers were concerned "they had witnessed the president abuse his office for personal gain," the complaint says.

The complaint has revived questions about the activities of Giuliani, who it says alarmed government officials by circumventing "national security decision making processes." Giuliani, a Trump loyalist who represented the president in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, repeatedly communicated with advisers of Ukraine's president in the days after the phone call.

The House intelligence committee released a redacted version of the whistleblower complaint Thursday ahead of testimony from Joseph Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence. Maguire acknowledged that the complaint alleged serious wrongdoing by the president but said it was not his role to judge whether the allegations were credible or not.

Maguire said he was unfamiliar with any other whistleblower complaint in American history that "touched on such complicated and sensitive issues." He praised the whistleblower as having acted honorably, said he recognized the complaint as immediately sensitive and important and insisted the White House did not direct him to withhold it from Congress.

"I believe that everything in this matter here is totally unprecedented," he said.

In the complaint, the anonymous whistleblower acknowledged not being present for Trump's Ukraine call, but said multiple White House officials shared consistent details about it.

Adding another layer of intrigue, those officials told the whistleblower that "this was 'not the first time' under this administration that a presidential transcript was placed into this codeword-level system solely for the purpose of protecting politically sensitive -- rather than national security sensitive -- information," the complaint said.

In this case, the complaint said, the officials told the whistleblower they were "directed" by White House lawyers to remove the electronic transcript from the computer system in which such transcripts are typically stored for coordination, finalization and distribution to Cabinet-level officials.

"This set of actions underscored to me that White House officials understood the gravity of what had transpired in the call," the official complaint said.

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"If this was all so innocent," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said in reaction, "why did so many officials in the White House, in the Justice Department and elsewhere make such large efforts to prevent it from being made public?"

The complaint also says multiple U.S. officials reported that Giuliani traveled to Madrid one week after the call to meet with one of Zelenskiy's advisers, and that the meeting was characterized as a follow-up to the telephone conversation between the two leaders

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who endorsed an impeachment investigation in light of the Ukraine revelations, said the content of the complaint "lifts this into whole new terrain."

The president, she said, "betrayed his oath of office, our national security and the integrity" of America's elections.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House intelligence committee, said the whistleblower "has given us a road map" for the impeachment investigation.

In the Senate, which would hold a trial if the House voted to impeach Trump, there was an undercurrent of concern among Republicans.

Many Republicans declined comment about the complaint, saying at midday they had not read the whistleblower report. But a few mounted defenses of the president and attacked the whistleblower's credibility.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., who made several trips to meet with the Ukrainian president including the inauguration mentioned in the report, brushed off critics "impugning all kinds of nefarious motives here." "This has been blown way out of proportion," Johnson said.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Lisa Mascaró, Laurie Kellman and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## **Iranian president: US should end 'maximum pressure' policy**

**By EDITH M. LEDERER and AYA BATRAWY Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani urged the United States on Thursday to "cease this policy of maximum pressure" on his nation, saying it was driving the possibility of negotiations even further away.

Rouhani stuck to his insistence that U.S. sanctions must be lifted before he would talk with U.S. President Donald Trump, although he did not explicitly rule out such a meeting if they remain in place. He spoke about discussions with the leaders of France, Japan and Pakistan about trying to promote talks, and he made clear that such contacts are continuing.

At a wide-ranging news conference a day after his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, he said the Americans are still using "more pressure aimed at reaching discussions, which is the same thing that is taking them farther and farther away from discussions and negotiations."

"Cease this policy of maximum pressure and pursue a policy of dialogue and logic and reason," Rouhani said. Moving in that direction, he said, "would be a different set of circumstances and a different atmosphere."

Iran has been accused by the U.S., Britain, France and Germany of carrying out drone and missile strikes against key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia on Sept. 14 that temporarily knocked out nearly 6% of daily global crude production and rattled oil markets.

Rouhani again denied any Iranian involvement. "As we say in Persian," he said, "we're not the top end of the onion or the bottom of it, so we have nothing to do with it."

In discussions with some European countries that made the "wrong" conclusion, Rouhani said he asked for their evidence, and they offered no documentation. Saudi Arabia has invited U.N. investigators to assess where the strikes were launched. It says Iranian weapons were used.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf told the General Assembly later Thursday that "we know very well who stood behind this aggression." He explicitly named Iran.

"Utmost pressure with every tool available should be applied to end the terrorist and aggressive conduct

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of the Iranian regime," al-Assaf said. He urged the international community to cut off Iran's sources of finance "to compel the regime to renounce its militias, prevent it from developing ballistic missiles and put an end to its destabilizing activities in the region and the world."

Iran's economy has been buckling under the weight of the sanctions. Trump added to them on Wednesday, targeting Tehran's ability to sell its oil by imposing penalties on six Chinese companies and their chief executives for continuing to transport Iranian crude.

Rouhani called for an end to the war in Yemen, noting the rebel Houthis' recent offer of a cease-fire, which he said went unmatched by the Saudi-led coalition that backs Yemen's internationally recognized government.

"If there is a cease-fire in Yemen, in my opinion, our problems with Saudi Arabia, in a more expedient fashion, can be resolved," the Iranian president said. Such a statement could be interpreted as a possible olive branch toward Riyadh.

Tensions in the Middle East have risen as the 2015 nuclear deal unraveled and Iran turned back to expanding its nuclear enrichment program, despite complying with it for up to a year after Trump's withdrawal from the accord.

Rouhani made clear Thursday that Iran could reach a new agreement with the United States that goes beyond the 2015 nuclear deal — but only after the U.S. implements all provisions of the accord.

Trump pulled Washington out of the deal last year and re-imposed sanctions. Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia remain in the accord.

In his own U.N. address Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called on the international community to support Trump's "maximum pressure policy" against Iran, its archenemy.

"They promote terror in the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, and all over the world," he told the U.N. General Assembly's annual meeting of global leaders. "And the world must stop them."

In his news conference, the Iranian leader also touched on a host of other issues.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been talking both to Washington and Tehran about a proposal to create a \$15 billion line of credit for Iran to entice it to remain in the nuclear deal. "In our opinion, that is still on the table," Rouhani said, though he said it would be a temporary measure and would probably evolve.

On the issue of prisoners, Rouhani said the Trump administration had said if at least one American was freed by Iran, then Washington would reciprocate. He cited the release in June of Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese and permanent U.S. resident detained in 2015 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on accusations of spying for the United States.

"They only thanked Iran," Rouhani said. "The ball stands in America's court."

As for the British-flagged tanker oil tanker Stena Impero seized by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz in July, Rouhani said, "the case file is going through its last stages in the court system, and I foresee that it will be freed."

The United States delayed issuing Rouhani's visa, and a Russian journalist, noting that Russians and others seeking to come to the General Assembly were denied visas, asked whether the Iranian president thought U.N. headquarters should be moved to another country.

"If we are ever asked, we will of course vote for it," Rouhani said. He said it should move to "a more secure and better country that does not have the narrow viewpoints that we have been witnessing."

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Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has covered international affairs for nearly a half century. Aya Batrawy covers the Persian Gulf for the AP and has reported from the Middle East for the past 15 years.

## Marijuana vape sales lag as lung illnesses rise in US

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Vaping products, one of the fastest-growing segments of the legal marijuana industry, have taken a hit from consumers as public health experts scramble to determine what's causing a mysterious and sometimes fatal lung disease among people who use e-cigarettes.

The ailment has sickened at least 805 people and killed 13. Some vaped nicotine, but many reported using oil containing THC, marijuana's high-inducing ingredient, and said they bought products from pop-up shops and other illegal sellers.

The only death linked to THC vapes bought at legal shops occurred in Oregon, where health officials on Thursday announced a second fatality and urged people to stop vaping.

Amid the health scare, the amount of the legal pot industry's revenue that comes from vape products has dropped by 15% nationwide, with some states seeing decreases of more than 60%.

Vaping THC is popular for those desiring a quick high without the smoke that comes from lighting up joints. Marijuana companies are trying to boost the public's confidence by promoting that their vaping products are tested by the government, demanding ingredient lists from their vendors and in some cases pulling items from shelves. Some also are scrambling to get liability insurance.

Still, many have seen notable declines in sales since the health scare emerged on a national scale last month.

"It's having an impact on how consumers are behaving," said David Alport, owner of Bridge City Collective in Portland, which in two weeks this month saw a 31% drop in sales of vape cartridges that hold the oil that vaporizes when heated. "People are concerned, and we're concerned."

Health officials in California, home to the world's largest legal marijuana marketplace, this week issued an advisory urging people to stop all vaping. Massachusetts, which like California allows so-called recreational use of marijuana by people 21 and older, went further than any other state, issuing a four-month ban on vape sales.

In the booming legal U.S. cannabis market, vaping products had been exploding in popularity. In roughly two years, they grew from a small fraction of overall sales to about one-third, with \$9.6 billion in sales between 2017 and 2019, according to New Frontier Data, an economic analysis firm that tracks the industry. About one-fifth of U.S. cannabis consumers report using them.

New Frontier found a 15% decline in the market share for vape sales nationwide during the first week of September and saw no rebound in data collected through Sept. 18. At the state level, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Nevada and Montana all saw drops of one-third or more, while California fell by 6%.

Oregon, among the earliest of the 11 states that legalized recreational marijuana, has seen a 62 percent drop in market share for vapes, said John Kagia, the firm's chief knowledge officer. The big decline occurred after the state's first death was announced and officials said the victim had used vapes purchased at legal retailers.

Yet as vape sales sink, some retailers report sales of other cannabis products going up. Bridge City Collective, for example, saw its usually lackluster edible sales increase about 40% the same week vaping sales plummeted. Consumers also are showing more interest in the dried flower used in joints.

Analysts are watching to see if vape sales erode further after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Thursday that the number of suspected vaping-related illnesses had grown by 52% in the past week.

"This is a very, very fast-moving issue, and it will likely be a couple more weeks, if not months, before we understand the impact it's really had on the retail ecosystem and on consumers' attitudes," Kagia said prior to the announcement.

Doctors have said the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury, with the lungs apparently reacting to a caustic substance. So far, no single vaping product or ingredient has been linked to the illnesses.

Health officials in New York are focusing on vitamin E acetate, a viscous solution that's sometimes added to marijuana oils. Retailers in some markets are pulling products from their shelves that contain that and

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other additives. Other companies have proactively released public statements saying their vape oils contain only pure THC.

Medicine Man, which operates five retail outlets in Colorado, announced Thursday it has stopped selling vape products with propylene glycol or vitamin E acetate.

"The decision to take this particular product off our shelves was significant, as the confidence and trust of our consumers is paramount to our core values," Medicine Man President and Chief Executive Officer Sally Vander Veer said. "Hopefully the rest of the industry will also conclude that removing these cannabis products with the chemical additives under scrutiny from the market is in the best interest of consumers and all of us as operators."

In Illinois, a message board for medical marijuana patients banned posters from sharing home vape recipes.

"I just do THC. No flavor additives. I won't even take that chance," said Lisa Haywood, a medical marijuana card holder who lives outside Chicago and follows the board for advice and support.

State regulators track the cannabis sold to consumers but don't monitor what additives are in marijuana oil vapes. That's led states to begin discussions of how to tighten restrictions on vaping products even as retailers themselves try to determine which of the products on their shelves contain so-called cutting agents.

"We haven't evolved our system that far to think about what we would test for in those products. A lot of these additives were conceptual at the time when the (marijuana legalization) law passed and the program came into place," said Steve Marks, executive director of the Oregon Liquor License Commission, which oversees the state's cannabis industry.

"Figuring that out is part of the evolution that we have to do as a consumer protection agency," he said.

Hilary Bricken, a Los Angeles-based attorney whose firm specializes in cannabis business law and regulatory issues, said the legal marijuana industry is moving so fast that many states are "literally making this up as they go," and the vaping scare has stripped away the sense of security that consumers get from buying from a licensed dispensary.

The vaping crisis will undoubtedly hasten tighter regulation at the state level and force the industry to patrol itself better to avoid crippling lawsuits, she said. The idea of more regulation unnerves some medical marijuana.

If there's a ban, "what does it do for all these people who have been seeing relief? ... It is going to really impact patients and the industry that we've fought" to create, said Melanie Rose Rodgers, a Colorado medical cannabis patient and leader of the state's chapter of Americans for Safe Access, which advocates for medical marijuana patients.

Bobby Burlison, an analyst with Toronto-based investment and financial services company Canaccord Genuity, said the initial problems for the vape segment of the cannabis industry should moderate, and the health scare may in the end help the legal marijuana industry.

The crisis "should ultimately accelerate the shift away from the black market for cannabis products in the U.S.," he said.

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Flaccus and Peltz, who reported from New York City, are members of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow the AP's complete marijuana coverage: <https://apnews.com/Marijuana> .

## Abbas slams US for 'depriving peace process of credibility'

By EDITH M. LEDERER and MARIA SANMINIATELLI Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas took to the world stage on Thursday to slam the United States for "depriving the peace process of any credibility" and undermining prospects for a two-state solution to the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In a speech before the U.N. General Assembly, Abbas also criticized the U.S. for recognizing Jerusalem

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as Israel's capital, for saying that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are legitimate and for cutting development aid to the Palestinians.

U.S. policy, he said, is "pushing large segments of the Palestinian people to lose hope in the possibility of long-awaited peace," and renewed his call for an international peace conference.

Hours later, the Israeli foreign minister called on "all countries" to follow the American example and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

"No one can separate the Jewish people from our historical homeland, and no one can separate us from Jerusalem, our eternal capital," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said.

The Trump administration has been working on a long-awaited peace plan, which the Palestinians have rejected over what they see as the administration's unfair bias toward Israel. Katz called on the Palestinians to return to direct negotiations without any pre-conditions.

The last round of direct peace negotiations broke down in 2009, shortly after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assumed office.

Abbas opened his speech with a warning:

"Our people are waiting for hope. Be careful, be careful, be careful," Abbas said. "You should not ignore this generation and deprive them of this hope. I hope you do not deprive them of this hope."

Abbas was not the only one seeking U.N. help to address conflicts with neighbors as leaders from nations struggling with war and poverty had their say before the world body.

The president of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, accused Turkey of undermining recent peace talks with its aggressive behavior. The two have been at odds since 1974, when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece, splitting the country along ethnic lines.

Inequality within the United Nations also was a theme: Abbas urged the General Assembly to give the Palestinians, who in 2012 were granted the status of a U.N. observer state, full membership in the 193-nation world body.

Separately, Sierra Leone's president, Julius Maada Bio, called for the Security Council to give Africa a permanent seat on the Security Council, which is the U.N.'s most powerful body.

It currently has 10 members elected for two-year terms and five permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

"Africa's patience has been tested," he said, noting an urgent need for the continent's representation.

For decades, there have been calls to expand the U.N.'s most powerful body, but competing national and regional interests have prevented council reform so far.

The most off-beat argument for reform came from El Salvador's new leader, who opened his speech by taking a selfie and suggesting that the global gathering is out of touch with the times.

President Nayib Bukele said the U.N. needs to embrace change and technology to stay relevant — and suggested the assembly could meet via video and engage people around the world in its work.

Later Thursday, Saudi Arabia, which blames Iran for a Sept. 14 attack on its key oil sites, called on the international community to pressure Tehran "with every tool available."

"It is necessary for the international community to realize that cutting off sources of finance is the best way to compel the regime to renounce its militias, prevent it from developing ballistic missiles and put an end to its destabilizing activities in the region and the world," Saudi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf said.

Iran has denied any involvement in the Saudi strike, which jolted global oil markets. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani repeated those denials during a news conference in New York on Thursday. Saudi Arabia insists Iranian weapons were used and has invited U.N. investigators to assess where the strikes originated. The U.S., France, Britain and Germany have said Iran was behind the attacks.

In his speech, Katz declared Iran to be "the main problem threatening stability and security in the Middle East."

Israel considers Iran to be its greatest enemy and has been a leading opponent to the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran. Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, says Tehran is trying to build a nuclear weapon — which Iran denies — and has accused the Iranians of violating provisions of the agreement.

Associated Press writer Jennifer Peltz contributed to this story.

## **Saudi FM: Financial pressure is best way to control Iran**

**By MARIA SANMINIATELLI Associated Press**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Saudi Arabia called on the world to apply “utmost pressure with every tool available” to end Iran’s aggressive conduct, saying Thursday that the most effective way to control Tehran is to cut off its financial resources.

Saudi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf again blamed Iran for the Sept. 14 missile and drone attack on Saudi oil facilities, which jolted global oil prices and temporarily knocked out nearly 6% of daily global crude production.

“We know very well who stood behind this aggression,” Al-Assaf told the U.N. General Assembly. He called the strikes a flagrant violation of international laws and a threat to international peace and security.

“We have known that regime for 40 years. It is good at nothing but masterminding explosions, destruction and assassinations, not only in our region but also throughout the world,” Al-Assaf said. “Utmost pressure with every tool available should be applied to end the terrorist and aggressive conduct of the Iranian regime.”

Saudi Arabia insists Iranian weapons were used and has invited U.N. investigators to assess where the strikes were launched. The United States, France, Britain and Germany also blame Iran, which has been under U.S. sanctions since 2018.

Iran has repeatedly and vehemently denied any involvement, and its president, Hassan Rouhani, says the Tehran government will not talk until the sanctions are lifted.

“Cease this policy of maximum pressure and pursue a policy of dialogue and logic and reason,” he stressed at a news conference on the sidelines of the General Assembly on Thursday.

U.S. President Donald Trump has deferred, at least for now, any immediate military strike on Iran. But he approved a broader effort to beef up security in Saudi Arabia and the region. He told reporters that showing restraint “shows far more strength” than launching retaliatory strikes now.

The U.S. said Thursday it was sending one Patriot missile battery and four ground-based radar systems to Saudi Arabia, in what officials describe as the first steps to help the kingdom protect itself against Iranian attacks. Two more Patriot batteries and a THAAD missile defense system will be prepared to go later if needed, and the deployment will involve about 200 troops.

Said al-Assaf: “It is necessary for the international community to realize that cutting off sources of finance is the best way to compel the regime to renounce its militias, prevent it from developing ballistic missiles and put an end to its destabilizing activities in the region and the world.”

He added: “We are dealing with a rogue and terrorist system that continues to threaten international peace and security. It also jeopardizes energy supplies and the world economy; hence, the recent attacks are a real test of the international community’s will.”

Tensions between Iran and the West have risen since Trump withdrew the U.S. from Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with several world powers, saying the agreement was woefully inadequate.

The U.S. went on to impose heavy sanctions on Iran, even as other nations that signed the nuclear accord argued for trying to salvage it. After continuing to comply with the agreement for a year, Iran has returned to expanding its nuclear enrichment program.

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Associated Press journalists Jennifer Peltz and Ted Anthony contributed to this report.

## **Military sees frustrating trend as suicides spike**

**By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military suicides surged this year to a record high among active duty troops, continuing a deadly trend that Pentagon officials say is frustrating and they are struggling to counter.

The Army, Navy and Marine Corps all saw the rate of suicides go up as well as the overall numbers, with

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only the Air Force showing a decrease, according to data released by the Pentagon Thursday. Suicides among members of the Reserves and the National Guard also grew.

The difficulties involved in identifying service members with possible problems and finding ways to prevent suicides were underscored earlier this month when the Navy reported that three crew members who served on the USS George H.W. Bush took their own lives within a week.

Asked about the deaths in the crew of the aircraft carrier, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said, "I wish I could tell you we have an answer to prevent further, future suicides in the Armed Services. We don't. We are caught up in what some call a national epidemic of suicide among our youth."

The number of suicides across the military increased from 511 in 2017 to 541 in 2018. According to the Pentagon, the most at-risk population is young enlisted men, and at least 60 percent of the time they chose a gun as their suicide method. Army suicides went from 114 to 139, while the Marines went from 43 to 58 and the Navy went from 65 to 68. The Air Force dipped from 63 to 60.

"Our numbers are not moving in the right direction," said Elizabeth Van Winkle, director of the Pentagon's office of force resiliency. She said that most of the military rates are comparable to civilians, but added, "that's hardly comforting."

Military and defense leaders expressed dismay and a resolve to do more to increase resilience in the force, train service members how to handle stress better and encourage troops to seek help when they need it. Van Winkle said the military is also looking at increasing efforts to train troops on the safe storage of firearms and medication. She said there are no consistent rules or regulations across the department and the services requiring gun locks or other controls on firearms, but that some states or bases have their own restrictions.

She and Karen Orvis, director of the suicide prevention office, said recognizing service members who may be struggling or at risk of taking their own lives is very difficult, and that sometimes suicide is a sudden, impulsive decision with little warning. They said it's difficult to identify reasons for suicide because there are so many stresses that could contribute.

They also acknowledged that service members are reluctant to come forward and seek help, because they worry that it could affect promotions or security clearances. And military leaders said they must all work harder to address those perceived roadblocks.

"Just as we talk about physical fitness, marksmanship, training and education, Marines must also be comfortable discussing life's struggles, mental wellness and suicide," said Gen. David Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps. "We must create a community where seeking help and assistance are simply normal, important decisions Marines and sailors make."

This year for the first time, the Pentagon included statistics for suicides by military spouses and dependents. Van Winkle said the most recent numbers available were for 2017, but officials are working to get better at collecting family data.

According to the report, there were 186 families that had suicides — 123 were spouses and 63 were dependents between the ages of 12 and 23.

The vast majority - nearly 70 percent - were female spouses under the age of 40, while 70 percent of the dependent suicides were males. About half of the dependents who died by suicide were at least 18 years old and, for those younger than that, most of the deaths were youth between 15 and 17.

## Ukrainian leader bristles at release of Trump transcript

By DMYTRO VLASOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president bristled at the release of his comments from a private conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump, which caused him some embarrassment at home.

The rough transcript of Trump's call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy released Wednesday shows that Trump pressed Ukraine to "look into" his Democratic political rival Joe Biden. The July 25 call is now at the center of a U.S. impeachment probe.

"I think such things, such conversations between heads of independent states, they shouldn't be pub-



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lished," Zelenskiy told reporters at the U.N. General Assembly in New York. He didn't indicate whether the White House warned him that his comments would be released.

During the conversation, Zelenskiy appears to make an effort to stay in Trump's good graces, telling him at least twice that he is "absolutely right" and assuring Trump they are "great friends."

But in speaking to reporters he said "no one can pressure me." He sought to play down the situation involving Biden and his son's activities in Ukraine, calling it just one of "many cases that I talk about with leaders of other countries."

Before the White House released the rough transcript, Trump tweeted that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had received permission from the Ukrainian government to do so. "They don't know either what the big deal is. A total Witch Hunt Scam by the Democrats," Trump tweeted Tuesday.

Ukrainian legal expert Roman Marchenko said if the Ukrainian government didn't give its approval, the release could have violated constitutional protections of privacy in correspondence and phone calls.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general's office, the office of former President Petro Poroshenko and other Ukrainian government officials wouldn't comment to The Associated Press on the transcript or Biden on Thursday.

While the transcript was a bombshell for U.S. politics, it didn't dominate the media landscape or daily conversation in Ukraine, where many are disillusioned with politics, corruption and Ukraine's struggling economy.

"I think that Trump may put pressure on Ukraine, because the U.S. gives a huge amount of money to support Ukraine," said Kyiv resident Serhiy Cheshyr.

Taras Semenyuk, political expert at the KyivStratPro consulting company, said the assumption that investigations can be ordered from on high "is a result of the weakness of our institutions."

"The situation is very unpleasant for Ukraine. Ukraine loses its reputation," he said.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on a Ukrainian gas company's board at the same time his father as vice president was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Zelenskiy told reporters that he doesn't know the details.

At their meeting on Wednesday in New York, Trump said he placed "no pressure" on the Ukrainian leader. But the rough transcript of the call shows Trump repeatedly prodded Zelenskiy to work with the U.S. attorney general and Trump's personal attorney to investigate Biden.

The call is the subject of a whistleblower complaint against Trump and the basis for Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to open an impeachment inquiry.

Zelenskiy tried to smooth over tensions with Germany and France after the transcript revealed critical comments about German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron.

"I am grateful for any assistance to Ukraine from our European leaders, from Ms. Merkel, from Mr. Macron, and from others," he said.

But he maintained his criticism of the Nord Stream 2 project for a pipeline to send Russian gas to Europe. He called it "a big threat to our energy security" and said Ukraine would lose billions of dollars.

Merkel's office refused to comment on Trump's remarks in the transcript that the German leader "talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything." Germany's Foreign Ministry provided figures disputing Trump's account, telling The Associated Press that since 2014, German direct support to Ukraine amounted to 1.18 billion euros, in addition to another 200 million euros through European Union support.

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Angela Charlton in Paris and Dave Rising in Berlin contributed.

## **GM reverses course, says strikers will keep health coverage**

**By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer**

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors now says striking workers will get company-paid health insurance, nine days after telling the union that coverage would be cut off.

The automaker said in an emailed letter to the United Auto Workers dated Wednesday that employee health and well-being are GM's top priorities.

The about-face came after workers howled and GM received withering criticism from politicians and on social media about cutting off the benefits.

"These irresponsible actions by General Motors are toying with the lives of hundreds of thousands of our UAW families," UAW Vice President Terry Dittes wrote in a letter Thursday to Scott Sandefur, GM's vice president of labor relations. Dittes wrote that public sentiment would "see these actions of GM as a shameful act!"

It wasn't clear how the rhetoric or the health care spat would affect contract talks aimed at ending the strike by 49,000 workers that has shut down manufacturing for nearly two weeks at more than 30 GM plants across the nation.

"This is an attempt to do what's right for our employees," GM spokesman Dan Flores said.

It's normal procedure in strikes for the cost of health care to shift from the company, which is largely self-insured, to the union. It says on the union website that the UAW will pick up the cost of the premiums. But the timing of when GM ends the health care and when the union takes over is at issue. The UAW said the benefits lapsed, but did not give a date.

Sandefur wrote in his letter that GM has chosen to work with health providers to keep benefits fully in place for workers "so they have no disruption to their medical care, including vision, prescription and dental coverage."

Another GM plant, this time in Mexico, has been forced to close due to parts shortages caused by the strike, the company confirmed Thursday. An engine factory in Silao, Mexico, which employs 500 people, has closed, the company said, but pickup truck assembly and transmission plants at the same site remain open. Workers can take vacation time or they'll get an unspecified portion of their pay, GM said. One plant and part of another have been closed in Canada.

Contract talks continued into Thursday night, a day after Dittes wrote a letter to members saying that committees had finished their work and the talks had moved to the main table of top bargainers, a sign of progress. Experts say the top bargainers would have to decide contentious economic issues such as wages, profit sharing, giving temporary workers a path to full-time jobs, products for plants GM wants to close and other issues that could take a lot of time.

On Detroit-area picket lines Thursday, workers said GM's restoration of health care benefits makes them think that a contract agreement is near.

"That tells you we're getting closer," said worker Lee Harris, as he walked the picket line at an engine and transmission plant in the Detroit suburb of Romulus.

## **Walmart's Sam's Club launches health care pilot to members**

**By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and TOM MURPHY AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart's Sam's Club is teaming up with several health care companies to offer discounts on routine care that customers might delay or skip because of the cost.

Starting next month, Sam's Club members in Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina will be able to buy bundles of health care services that include discounted dental care, free prescriptions for certain generic medications, and telehealth consultations.

Fees range from \$50 for individuals to \$240 for up to six family members. The pilot program could potentially expand to all states, said Lori Flees, senior vice president of Sam's Club Health and Wellness.

The move comes as health care expenses place a growing strain on the budgets of many families and individuals, even those that have insurance coverage. Sam's Club emphasized that the new initiative is

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not a health insurance plan but a discount health program designed to supplement insurance and bring down the costs patients pay out of pocket.

Annual deductibles for single coverage in employer-sponsored health plans have doubled over the past decade and now average \$1,655 among plans that have deductibles, according to the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation. These deductibles, which a patient has to pay before most coverage starts, can be much higher for families and for individual plans purchased outside an employer.

Sam's Club, where members pay an annual fee to shop, says its program is designed to cater to individuals, business owners and families who are delaying or skipping basic care because of high deductibles.

"We are lowering the barrier for people to take care of themselves," Flees said.

Each bundle offers savings on dental services with a network of providers through the health insurer Humana as well as unlimited telehealth for \$1 per visit through a Seattle-based company called 98point6. The bundles also offer discounted vision exams and optical products. The number of free generic prescriptions ranges from five to 20 of the most popular medications, depending on what the member chooses.

For example, the family bundle includes access to a preventative lab screening that measures health indicators like diabetes, up to a 30% discount on chiropractic, massage therapy and acupuncture services, and a 10% discount on hearing aids. Each bundle also offers prepaid health debit cards to be used within the health services network.

The telehealth program will introduce patients to a new form of care in which people can be diagnosed and treated without talking to or seeing the doctor. Patients who click on the 98point6 app first tell their symptoms to a chatbot or automated assistant that uses artificial intelligence. The information then gets passed along to a doctor for diagnosis and treatment, often just through secure messaging.

The more common telehealth method of using video is available if needed, and patients also will be able to speak to their doctors if they want.

Insurers and many employers like Walmart and Amazon have been touting video telemedicine as a way to give their employees or customers fast, convenient access to help. But benefits experts say people have been slow to start using the new technology. Some forget about it because they may not need it until long after they learn about it.

John Marchisin, managing director of the health care practice at global management consultancy AArete, calls the move by Sam's Club "brilliant."

"This fills the gap, making health care more affordable to customers," he said. "Sam's Club is providing the first level of preventative care."

Marchisin said the pilot program will only enable Sam's Club to deepen its relationship with its customers and give them an opportunity to sell more health care services.

## **Anxious and wary, voters buckle up for impeachment ride**

**By MARC LEVY, NICHOLAS RICCARDI and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY Associated Press**

EXTON, Pa. (AP) — Evie Burt has long thought Donald Trump deserved to be impeached, even before the allegations that the president tried to squeeze a foreign leader for damaging information about a political opponent. But that doesn't mean Burt, a 23-year-old independent in this wealthy Philadelphia suburb, is pleased with Democrats' accelerated push to accomplish that.

What about climate change and gun control, she said as she walked into a grocery store and bemoaned the "media circus" on the horizon. "The whole process of it takes away from important issues."

At considerable political risk, House Democrats are charging ahead with impeachment, bringing along millions of wary voters such as Burt for the ride. Polling has consistently shown that a majority of Americans opposed impeachment, and congressional Democrats did not wait for a fresh batch of surveys that would register the impact of revelations about Trump's effort to push Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden.

In the days since the news that has propelled the impeachment debate, The Associated Press interviewed more than 50 voters across nine states, largely in congressional districts held by freshman Democrats on

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the front line of the fight. The responses — ranging from frustration and sadness to anxiety and relief — point to the challenges Democrats face if they are to turn what they describe as a principled stand against corruption to their political advantage.

Republicans overwhelmingly opposed the step toward impeachment and say the development is a political ploy. Democrats and independents were not nearly as unified. Many expressed certainty that the president has committed impeachable offenses. But they also were deeply skeptical about the wisdom of moving ahead now, worrying it would only serve to fire up Trump supporters. The best way to unseat Trump was at the ballot box, they said. Others fretted about the distraction that impeachment would cause.

"I don't think impeachment is meaningless, but I don't think it's possible, so why try it?" said Agnes Anderson, a retired businesswoman and school teacher in suburban Chicago. With the Republican-controlled Senate unlikely to convict Trump and remove him from office if the Democratic-run House had voted to impeach, "I'm not sure we're going to change any minds. So why go there and run the chance of Trump picking up more support?"

Agnes and her husband, John Anderson, live in a district that swung to Democratic Rep. Sean Casten last year. The Andersons talk regularly with a politically diverse group of neighbors and say they haven't sensed any shift on impeachment this week. It's an issue they've thought about for months. The Andersons attended an impeachment town hall held by Casten, who came out for impeachment this summer, but came away unconvinced.

This squeamishness is one reason that impeachment has been off the table for party leaders, until now. The political future for many Democrats may depend on whether they can bring along these voters.

"There's about 15% of the American public who disapprove of the job Trump is doing as president but disapprove of impeachment," said Whit Ayres, a GOP pollster. "If people are going to change their minds about impeachment, those are the ones most likely to move."

Many Democrats in these pockets celebrated House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to initiate an impeachment inquiry, if cautiously.

Mayra Espinoza, 48, said she wants Trump out of office. She hopes impeachment can do the trick after being disappointed that the Russia investigation seemed to end in a fizzle. "Nothing happened," she complained as she shopped at a Wal-Mart in the Denver suburbs. "Hopefully they can get a new case and get to the bottom of it this time."

Others described an almost cathartic joy of seeing leading Democrats stand up to an opponent who has appeared invincible.

"We need to step it up," said Matt Muehlheim-Peterson, a 38-year-old Democrat in Burnsville, Minnesota, a spring in his step as he walked down his driveway to fetch his mail this week. He said he hopes the move will help rally Democrats next year. "We need some fire in the belly."

Among those needing to step it up, he said, was his congresswoman, Rep. Angie Craig, a Democrat who ousted a GOP incumbent in a district Trump narrowly won two years earlier. This week, Craig was among a group of freshman Democrats who announced they were moving toward backing an impeachment proceeding — news that helped push Pelosi ahead. Others included Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, Elaine Luria and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia, and Elissa Slotkin of Michigan. Those lawmakers cited national security concerns, not politics, as driving their decision.

The Democrats' peril was illustrated in interviews in Slotkin's district, a mix of comfortable suburbs and rural areas that cut through Trump territory in Michigan. The district has plenty of Trump defenders such as Republican Joe Chila, 85, of Rochester, who called the news "terrible." He said he voted for Democrat Barack Obama in 2008 but has voted Republican since.

"The Democrats lost the election in 2016 and they still can't get over it," he said, adding that Democrats should be working with Trump on gun control rather than trying to impeach him.

Some voters in the district who have favored Democrats were ambivalent. Scott Burns, 38, said he didn't vote for Trump or Hillary Clinton in 2016 but backed Slotkin last year. "There's no such thing as bad publicity for him," Burns said of Trump, warning the tactic would backfire on Democrats. "If that's your

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strategy — to make it worse — it's not going to work."

That illustrates a phenomenon that comes up in focus groups on the topic, says Kevin Mack, chief strategist of the liberal group Need to Impeach. Skeptics often oppose impeachment for tactical, rather than substantive reasons.

"If there's an actual vote that's taking place, with actual facts, we think they'll come around on it and stop acting like political prognosticators and start acting like American citizens," Mack said.

Ron Smith, a 48-year-old independent who works in IT and lives in Craig's district, will be listening. He doesn't trust either party's motives and said he didn't vote for Trump or Clinton in 2016.

The outcome of the investigation may sway his vote in 2020, he said. "I just need to know more facts. People who have their minds made up are basing that on emotion or just not appreciating the other side."

Nearby, Yon Thomand, a 47-year-old health coordinator at a nursing home, was less ambivalent. Stopping for bagels at a coffee shop, she said Trump should be impeached. "You want a president who represents America, respects people, respects the law."

In Tallahassee, Florida, Killian Doughney agreed. One of the state's 3.6 million independent voters, Doughney says he did not vote for Trump, but he does believe the president has done good things for the economy and views him more favorably now. He's withholding judgment on whether Trump's call with Ukraine's president was improper.

"Whatever impeachable offense they say he committed has to be crystal clear. It needs to be clear enough to solidify it in the minds of the public," he said. "Because with this guy nothing really sticks."

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Riccardi reported from Centennial, Colorado and Hennessey from Burnsville, Minnesota. Associated Press writers Alan Suderman in Goochland, Virginia, Benjamin Nadler in Roswell, Georgia, Bobby Caina Calvin in Tallahassee, Florida, Ed White in Rochester, Michigan, Sara Burnett in Chicago and Carrie Antlfinger in Milwaukee, Wisconsin contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that the name of the Minnesota city where Matt Muehlheim-Peterson was interviewed is Burnsville, not Burnside.

## Safety board: Boeing should reconsider pilots' response time

By **DAVID KOENIG** and **TOM KRISHER** AP Business Writers

Pilots flying the two Boeing 737 Max jets that crashed in the past year were bombarded by multiple warnings that the flights were going dangerously wrong.

Boeing has said the pilots should have been able to swiftly diagnose the problem and follow a long-standing procedure to fix it.

But a report Thursday from federal accident investigators questions whether Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration underestimated how a blizzard of visual and auditory warnings would slow the pilots' ability to respond quickly enough to avoid disaster.

The National Transportation Safety Board issued seven recommendations stemming from its role as an adviser to investigations of the crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, which together killed 346 people.

It will be up to investigators in those countries to determine what caused the accidents. Preliminary reports have pointed to an anti-stall system that kicked in based on faulty sensor readings and pushed the noses of the planes down.

The NTSB said Boeing assumed that pilots flying the Max would respond to an automated nose-down push by taking "immediate and appropriate" steps. Federal regulations allow manufacturers to make such assumptions, and Boeing even used test pilots in flight simulators to check its assumptions.

Boeing presented highly trained test pilots only with a single alert indicating a condition known as run-away stabilizer trim, which can be triggered by an anti-stall system called MCAS, safety board officials said. They said Boeing failed to consider that an underlying problem like sensor failures — which triggered MCAS in both Max crashes — would set off several alarms.

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In the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines crashes, signs of trouble showed up early and often.

Shortly after Lion Air Flight 610 took off from Jakarta on Oct. 29, stick shakers on the pilots' control columns vibrated to warn of an impending stall. Other alerts — some visual, some sound — would have gone off because altitude and speed readings were unreliable.

The crew of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 on March 10 would have gotten similar alerts, plus a loud voice recording that warned, "Don't sink" — they were flying too close to the ground — adding to the cacophony and confusion.

"That's the actual scenario that never got evaluated in the simulator," said Dana Schulze, the NTSB's director of aviation safety.

Schulze said years of research have shown that when multiple alarms compete for the attention of pilots, it can lead to a situation in which "pilots will not respond as perhaps you might have intended."

The safety board will recommend that the FAA, which certified the Max, evaluate the effect that all possible cockpit alerts might have on pilot response. The board also recommended that FAA require Boeing to include changes in cockpit design or pilot training to help pilots follow proper procedures when responding to the Max's automated control systems.

Schulze told reporters that the board wants FAA to take those steps before it lets the Max fly again, although the board did not put a timetable in its formal recommendations. She suggested that tests should include regular airline pilots, not just highly experienced test pilots.

The safety board also recommended that FAA examine whether other aircraft besides the Max might have been approved without considering how multiple alarms could distract pilots. And it said that FAA should encourage regulators in Canada, Europe and elsewhere to do the same thing.

The FAA said it will review the NTSB recommendations as it continues to evaluate changes that will be made to the Max.

Boeing issued a short statement saying it would work with FAA in reviewing the recommendations.

An independent safety expert said better testing could help account for varying skill and experience among airline pilots.

Clint Balog, an expert on human performance in aviation who teaches at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, said cascading alerts increase the load on pilots during an emergency.

"With some pilots, you can throw almost unlimited warnings and cautions at them and they remain focused and safely recover the aircraft," Balog said. "Some pilots — a few (warning) lights and they just shut down."

The Max has been grounded worldwide since March, shortly after the second crash. Boeing is nearing completion of changes that will make MCAS less powerful and tie it to a second sensor measuring the plane's pitch instead of just one sensor.

Boeing expects that airlines will be able to fly the plane later this year, although many analysts think early 2020 is more likely.

David Koenig reported from Dallas, and Tom Krisher reported from Detroit.

## Asian stocks decline as traders mull Trump inquiry

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks fell Friday as traders weighed data showing slower U.S. economic growth and also the possible impact of an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

The congressional inquiry into Trump is throwing more volatility into a market that already was nervous over U.S.-Chinese trade tension.

"The impeachment of Trump will now become a drawn-out saga that feels like annoying supermarket music," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a report.

Also Thursday, the Commerce Department reported the U.S. economy grew at a modest 2% in the second quarter, sharply lower than the past year's 3%-plus growth rates.

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The Shanghai Composite Index advanced 0.2% to 2,933.47 on the last day of trading before Chinese markets close for a weeklong holiday.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 1.4% to 21,747.82 as a long-dreaded Oct. 1 hike in Japan's sales tax to 10% from the current 8% loomed. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong shed 0.3% to 25,982.54 and Seoul's Kospi dropped 1.2% to 2,048.86.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.4% to 6,703.70. Markets in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia retreated.

Traders were encouraged by a Chinese Commerce Ministry announcement that importers had agreed to buy U.S. soybeans as the two sides make conciliatory gestures ahead of trade talks. That followed an earlier decision to list punitive tariffs on soybeans, the biggest Chinese import from the United States.

Plans to go ahead with negotiations next month have helped to ease market jitters but there has been no sign of progress toward resolving the bruising tariff war over trade and technology.

On Wall Street, the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.2% to 2,977.62 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.3% to 26,891.12. The Nasdaq dropped 0.6% to 8,030.66.

While many analysts say the Trump probe isn't likely to affect the market significantly, it does add a degree of uncertainty and could complicate the White House's efforts to resolve trade disputes with China and other nations.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 29 cents to \$56.12 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gave up 8 cents to \$56.41 on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 56 cents to \$61.18 per barrel in London. It retreated 31 cents the previous session to \$61.74.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 107.72 yen from Thursday's 107.83 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0925 from \$1.0920.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2019. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 27, 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1825, the first locomotive to haul a passenger train was operated by George Stephenson in England.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1917, French sculptor and painter Edgar Degas died in Paris at age 83.

In 1935, Judy Garland, at age 13, signed a seven-year contract with MGM.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra performed together for the last time, at the Central Theater in Passaic, New Jersey, prior to Miller's entry into the Army.

In 1956, Olympic track and field gold medalist and Hall of Fame golfer Babe Didrikson Zaharias died in Galveston, Texas, at age 45.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture. The Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked, 7-7, on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

In 1996, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, a band of former seminary students, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, captured the capital and executed former leader Najibullah.

Ten years ago: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) won a second term, along with the center-right majority that had eluded her four years earlier, nudging Europe's biggest economic power to the right. Pulitzer Prize-winning conservative columnist and former Nixon speechwriter William Safire died at age 79.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in an address to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, said a widespread mistrust of law enforcement that was exposed by the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black man in Ferguson, Missouri, existed in too many other communities and was having a corrosive effect on the nation, particularly its children. The Mount Ontake (ahn-TAH'-kay) volcano in central Japan erupted, killing 57 people. Hong Kong activists kicked off a massive civil disobedience protest to challenge Beijing over restrictions on voting reform. Actor George Clooney married human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin in Venice, Italy.

One year ago: During a day-long hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Christine Blasey Ford said she was "100 percent" certain that she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh when they were teenagers, and Kavanaugh then told senators that he was "100 percent certain" he had done no such thing; Republicans quickly scheduled a recommendation vote for the following morning. The American Bar Association urged the Senate to slow down on the vote until the FBI had time to do a full background check on the claims by Ford and other women. The government reported that the U.S. economy grew at a robust annual rate of 4.2 percent in the second quarter, the best performance in nearly four years. Marty Balin, founder of the 1960s rock group the Jefferson Airplane, died in Florida at the age of 76.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Nolan is 86. Actor Wilford Brimley is 85. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 85. Author Barbara Howar is 85. World Golf Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is 80. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 76. Rock singer Meat Loaf is 72. Actress Liz Torres is 72. Actor A Martinez is 71. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 70. Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa is 69. Actor/opera singer Anthony Laciura is 68. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 61. Comedian Marc Maron is 56. Rock singer Stephan (STEE'-fan) Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 55. Former Democratic National Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz is 53. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 51. Singer Mark Calderon is 49. Actress Amanda Detmer is 48. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow is 47. Rock singer Brad Arnold (3 Doors Down) is 41. Christian rock musician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 38. Actress Anna Camp is 37. Rapper Lil' Wayne is 37. Singer Avril Lavigne (AV'-rihl la-VEEN') is 35. Bluegrass singer/musician Sierra Hull is 28. Actor Sam Lerner is 27. Actor Ames McNamara is 12.

Thought for Today: "I have lived in this world just long enough to look carefully the second time into things that I am most certain of the first time." — "Josh Billings" (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American humorist (1818-1885).

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