

## World News Roundup

## Politics

## Bid to flip GOP seats

## Arkansas race shows Dems' hope for wins

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept 2, (AP): Running for a congressional seat in a red state that went for Donald Trump two years ago, **Clarke Tucker** talks often about his bout with cancer and the federal care health law that expanded coverage for those without insurance.

"I beat cancer here and became one of the million Arkansans with a pre-existing condition," he says in one television ad, standing in front of a cancer institute in Little Rock.

But Tucker doesn't talk much about being a Democrat, something that's a deal breaker for many voters in a state that hasn't sent one to the U.S. House in eight years. The fact that the 37-year-old state legislator is making a surprisingly competitive bid to unseat a Republican congressman is boosting his party's hopes that it can still find issues that attract voters in conservative places.

Tucker is challenging incumbent Republican French Hill in the 2nd Congressional District, which encompasses Little Rock and seven central Arkansas counties. The urban section gives Democrats a better chance than the state's other three districts, which are mostly rural. Nationally, Democrats' hopes of flipping 23 Republican seats in November and regaining control of the House may depend on winning some races in Trump country like this one.

In 2016, Trump won 52 percent of the district's vote. To prevail now, Democrats will need a heavy turnout in Little Rock and its surrounding county, which is about 37 percent black and 6 percent Hispanic. They'll also need to make inroads in the conservative suburbs and farm country around it. Hill, a 61-year-old former banker, easily won his second term in 2016 by more than 20 percentage points, but this time is on defense. He greeted Tucker to the race over the summer with a television ad portraying him as an ally of national Democrats such as Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton. A new TV ad criticizes Tucker for the times he voted "present" or didn't vote on controversial bills in the state House.

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"I'm really focused on the people I want to represent, the people out here and the issues affecting them," Tucker said as he went door-to-door in a Little Rock neighborhood.

The great-grand grandson of a late 19th and early 20th century senator and governor whose statue is on display at the US Capitol, Tucker comes from a well-known family steeped in the district's politics. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee saw Tucker as the party's best chance for winning Hill's seat.

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Tucker



Crowds walk past the wreath that Cindy McCain, wife of late US Senator John McCain, placed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall on Sept 1 in Washington, DC. (AFP)



Roberta McCain, mother of Sen John McCain, R-Ariz, watches the hearse carrying her son's casket following a memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington on Sept 1. (AP)



Sotomayor



Kobach

## America

**Sotomayor out with books:** Supreme Court Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** got some unsolicited health advice the last time she wrote a book.

The justice was diagnosed with diabetes as a child and discussed it as part of her 2013 autobiography. That prompted a grandmother to write. The woman reported she was using newer technology to manage her diabetes than Sotomayor, and she had a message for the justice: "I'm much older than you are, and if I can do it you can do it, too."

"I still remember that letter, challenging me to become more modern," Sotomayor said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press. Sotomayor said encouragement from the woman and from children pushed her to explore using the device she does now. A sensor implanted in her stomach helps her monitor her blood sugars are.

"I consider myself a life-long learner and, despite that, I was a little resistant and it helped break my resistance," she said of the woman's letter.

Sotomayor was speaking ahead of the publication of this coming week of two new autobiographical books, this time aimed at children. One is a picture book for elementary school readers. The other, aimed at middle school readers, is an abridged version of her 2013 memoir "My Beloved World." Now, when she talks about diabetes in the middle school book, she notes she uses a device called a continuous glucose monitor. (AP)

## Grand jury probe of Kobach:

A grand jury must be convened to investigate whether Republican gubernatorial candidate and Kansas Secretary of State **Kris Kobach** intentionally failed to register voters in 2016, the Kansas Supreme Court has ruled.

The court's one-page opinion was released Friday and offered no explanation for the ruling, which addressed Kobach's appeal of a lower court's order to summon the grand jury, the Lawrence Journal-World reported.

The high court's ruling stemmed from a petition first filed in 2016 by Steven Davis, a Lawrence resident who accused Kobach of intentionally choosing not to process online voter registrations and preventing qualified residents from voting in the 2016 election. The Douglas County District Court twice rejected Da-

## Obituary

## Funeral: A call for unity in a time of bitter division

## McCain ends journey with burial

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (Agencies): John McCain is being laid to rest at the US Naval Academy after a five-day procession that served as a final call to arms for a nation he warned could lose its civility and sense of shared purpose.

The private ceremony in Annapolis, Maryland, was as carefully planned as the rest of McCain's farewell tour, which began in Arizona after he died Aug 25 from brain cancer and stretched to Washington.

On Saturday, speeches by his daughter Meghan and two former presidents - Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama - remembered McCain as a patriot who could bridge painful rivalries. But even as their remarks made clear their admiration for him, they represented a repudiation of President Donald Trump's brand of tough-talking, divisive politics.

"So much of our politics, our public life, our public discourse can seem small and mean and petty, trafficking in bombast and insult and phony controversies and manufactured outrage," Obama said. "It's a politics that pretends to be brave and tough but in fact is born in fear. John called on us to be bigger than that. He called on us to be better than that."

McCain was gone, said Bush, who called his 2000 rival for the GOP presidential nomination a friend.

"John's voice will always come as a whisper over our shoulder - we are better than this, America is better than this," Bush said.

But it was Meghan McCain's emotional remarks that most bluntly rebuked Trump, who had mocked her father for getting captured in Vietnam. At the pulpit of the spectacular cathedral, with Trump's daughter Ivanka in the audience, McCain's daughter delivered a broadside against the uninvited president.

"The America of John McCain," she declared with a steely stare, "has no need to be made great again because America was always great."

The audience of Washington's military, civilian and other leaders burst into applause.

With that, McCain's family, including his 106-year-old mother, Roberta, is escorting his remains to Annapolis on Sunday.

McCain's choice of burial location was as deliberate as the other details of his procession. He picked the historic site overlooking the Severn River over the grandeur of Arlington National Cemetery, where his father and grandfather, both admirals, are buried. Larson, McCain's beloved friend from their Class of 1958, had reserved four plots at the storied cemetery - two for McCain and himself, and two for their wives, now widows. Larson died in 2014, and McCain wrote in his recent memoir that he wanted to be buried next to his friend, "near where it began."

McCain's funeral brought together former presidents and vice-presidents, past rivals and even once-bitter foes to Washington National Cathedral in an extraordinary show of unity during a time of bitter political divisions.

"In a way, it's the last great gift that John McCain gave America," said former senator Joseph Lieberman, a longtime friend who recalled McCain's desire in 2008 to ask him to be his running mate, despite their partisan differences.

vis' petition, saying there wasn't enough evidence to support the allegations against Kobach.

But the Kansas Court of Appeals ruled that the lower court was incorrect when it said Davis needed to provide specific allegations of a crime. State law requires only general allegations. The court ordered Douglas County to summon the grand jury.

Kansas is one of six states that

allow citizens to request grand juries through petitions. Citizens must gather 100 voters plus 2 percent of the number of people who voted in the county's last gubernatorial election. In Douglas County, that is 860 signatures. Davis collected 910.

Davis, 29, is currently a Democratic candidate for Kansas' 45th state House district.

Kobach is nationally known for

promoting tough immigration and voter identification laws. In April, a federal judge found Kobach in contempt in a lawsuit challenging a Kansas law requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote.

Kobach won the Republican nomination for governor after narrowly defeating incumbent Gov. Jeff Colyer during the primary. His Democratic challenger, state Sen. Laura Kelly, and independ-

ent candidate Greg Orman are trying to woo Republican voters alienated by Kobach's in-your-face conservatism and advocacy of tough immigration policies. (AP)

## Amber Alert for boys, father:

An Amber Alert was issued Saturday for two young brothers and their biological father missing since the boys' mother and a male housemate were found fatally shot in the Phoenix home where police said the victims and boys lived.

The alert said 47-year-old Dimas Coronado may have fled to Mexico with the boys, but Sgt. Armando Carbajal, a police spokesman, said investigators had no firm indication of the whereabouts of Coronado or the boys.

Police say they want to talk to Coronado about the case but he hasn't been charged.

Police say Coronado's 2009 white Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck was found unoccupied about six blocks from the home where the shooting occurred. There were no signs of him or the boys.

On Saturday night, authorities said they are now looking for an older model light green Ford pickup truck with a white camper. The truck has a Mexican plate of ZUD-71-64. It's not known from which state in Mexico the license plate was issued. (AP)

## Pentagon to scrap \$300m aid to Pak

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (AFP): The US military plans to cancel \$300 million in aid to Pakistan due to Islamabad's lack of "decisive actions" in support of American strategy in the region, the Pentagon said Saturday.

The US has been pushing Pakistan to crack down on militant safe havens in the country, and announced a freeze on aid at the beginning of the year that an official said could be worth almost \$2 billion.



The family of Shanann Watts and her daughters Bella and Celeste approach a hearse outside of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst, NC, on Sept 1. A funeral mass was held for Shanann and her daughters who were found dead in Colorado on Aug 16. Chris Watts, husband of Shanann and father of Bella and Celeste, has been charged with their murders. (AP)