

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, July 2

Birthdays: Nathan Flemming, Deb Gengerke, Carrie Duncan Olson, Drew Fjeldheim
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 3

Birthdays: Janet Anderson, Sharolyn Jondahl, Wade Kluess
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran worship with communion
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, July 4

Pool Hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Independence Day
Birthdays: Seth Erickson, Michael Felkey, Joan Johnson, Alex May

Tuesday, July 5

Anniversary: Allen & Joyce Walter
Birthdays: Jasmine Schinkel, Karen Mettler, Paula Krueger, Trenton Duncan, Stephen Simon.
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Manager Wanted

Part Time Apartment Manager wanted. Responsible for showing apartments, handing out applications, overseeing maintenance and other duties as needed. Up to \$25 per hour. Previous sale experience a plus. Send email of interest to Grotnmnger@gmail.com

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN SD
200 PM CDT FRI JUL 1 2016 /100 PM MDT FRI JUL 1
2016/

...DROUGHT CONDITIONS DEVELOPING ACROSS PARTS THE REGION...

SYNOPSIS...

Dryness has persisted across much of the region over the past several weeks ... along with episodes of hot and windy conditions.

Drought conditions initially formed over western South Dakota, but have now expanded into portions of central South Dakota. Another area of dryness has expanded over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

The United States Drought Monitor has classified a portion of northeast South Dakota in severe drought /D2/ which includes Roberts County.

Moderate drought /D1/ conditions exist across western South Dakota ... as well as a portion of Northeast South Dakota. This includes the counties of Day, Marshall, northern Grant, northern Codington. Western portions of Corson, Dewey and Jones counties are also in D1 drought conditions. Across Minnesota, D1 drought includes Big Stone and Traverse counties.

Abnormally dry /D0/ conditions exist across Brown, Spink, Clark, Codington, Hamlin, Deuel, Stanley, Jones, Lyman, central Corson and central Dewey counties.

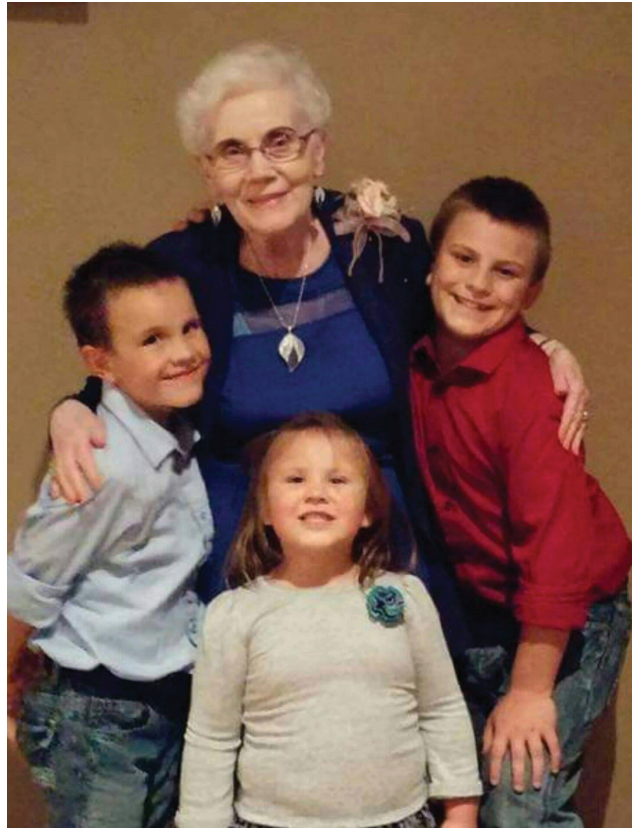
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS...

State and local actions: None known at this time that affect central and northeast South Dakota or west central Minnesota.

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS.

Calculated soil moisture anomalies show deficits generally from 2.35 inches to 3.15 inches across North-east South Dakota and West Central Minnesota, which includes the moderate to severe drought location. According to the latest National Agricultural Statistics Service /NASS/ report for South Dakota released June 27th:

Topsoil moisture is rated at 37 percent short or very short.
Subsoil moisture is rated at 29 percent short or very short.



Hannon's 80th Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to Ida Hannon. We will be celebrating on Saturday, July 9th, from Noon to 6 pm at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites located at 3310 7th Ave SE, Aberdeen SD 57401. Cards and gifts are welcome. If unable to attend feel free to send to 1902 Prospect Ave Apt B2, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS.

The latest NASS report shows the following for crops across the state of South Dakota:

Winter Wheat... 6 percent poor or very poor

Corn ... 5 percent or very poor

Spring Wheat ... 8 percent poor or very poor

Soybeans ... 5 percent poor or very poor

Oats ... 5 percent poor or very poor

Barley ... 8 percent poor or very poor

Sorghum ... 2 percent poor or very poor

Alfalfa ... 20 percent poor or very poor

As for livestock... pasture and range conditions... they rated 13 percent poor to very poor. Stock water supplies rated 17 percent short or very short.

RIVER AND STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS.

Seven-day average stream flow compared to historical stream flow is below normal to much below normal across Northeast South Dakota and parts of west central Minnesota, which is affected by D1 and D2 drought conditions. The Little Minnesota River near Peever is much below normal, at 8 percent. The Big Sioux River at Watertown is also much below normal and running at 6 percent below normal. Below normal stream flow conditions are also being reported across central South Dakota at the Grand Rivver at Little Eagle, the Moreau River near Whitehorse and the Bad River near Ft. Pierre.

FIRE DANGER IMPACTS.

Overall rangeland fire danger has been reaching moderate to high over the past couple of weeks on days of dry and windy conditions. Earlier spring green-up has hampered overall fire threat a bit, but fuels are quickly curing over central South Dakota and Northeast South Dakota. Continued dry conditions will increase the fire threat on dry and windy days.

CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS.

NONE KNOWN AT THIS TIME OVER CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA...OR WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA.

CLIMATE SUMMARY...

June precipitation totals were generally 2 to 3 inches below normal across Northeast South Dakota and West Central Minnesota. Since the beginning of the year, Sisseton is 4.56 inches below normal. The average temperature for June ranges from 2 to 6 degrees above normal across the region.

PRECIPITATION/TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK...

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook calls for near normal temperatures and precipitation. The one-month outlook valid for July calls for above normal temperatures with equal chances for above normal, normal or below normal precipitation.

HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK...

All major rivers acorss central, northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota have a less than 20 percent chance of reaching flood stage in the next 90 days.

NEXT ISSUANCE DATE...

This product will be updated around August 1st or sooner if necessary in response to significant changes in conditions.

Abnormally Warm and Dry June

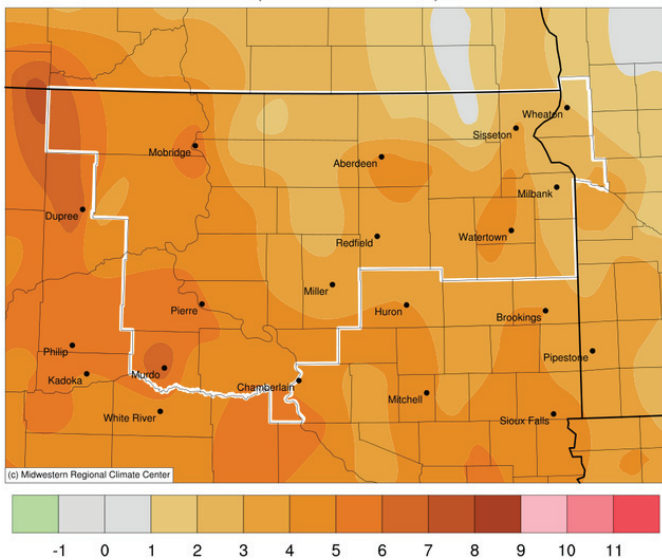
June 2016 was a very warm and dry month across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. The average monthly temperatures were from 4 to 6 degrees above normal. In fact, most all locations had one of their top fifteen warmest Junes on record. The June heat for 2016 paled in comparison to the extreme heat of June of 1988 when the average temperatures ranged from 7 to 12 degrees above normal. Several 100 degree readings occurred in June 2016 with Aberdeen tying a record set back in 1933 on the 9th with 100 degrees.

Rainfall for the month was anywhere from 1 to 4 inches across the region ranging from just above normal to nearly 3 inches below normal.

Severe weather for June was minimal across the region. The most notable event for the month was on June 14th, when a strong upper level low pressure area moved across our region and brought widespread rainfall along with several weak tornadoes. Six weak tornadoes touched down in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota with minimal damage.

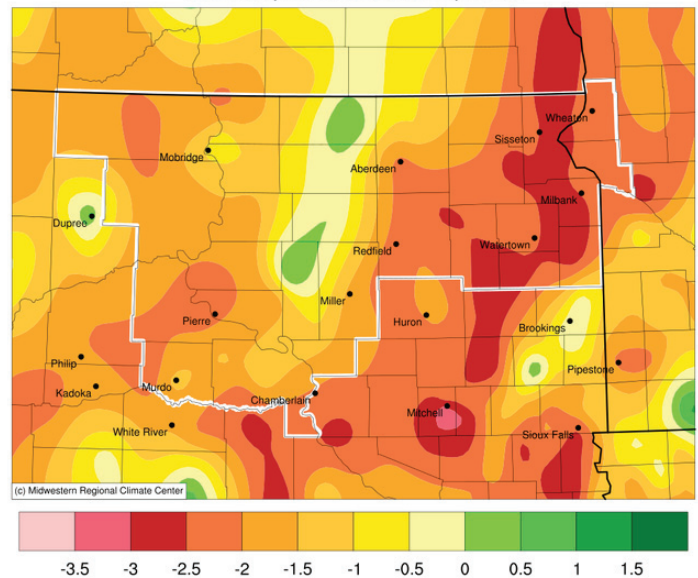
Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

June 01, 2016 to June 30, 2016



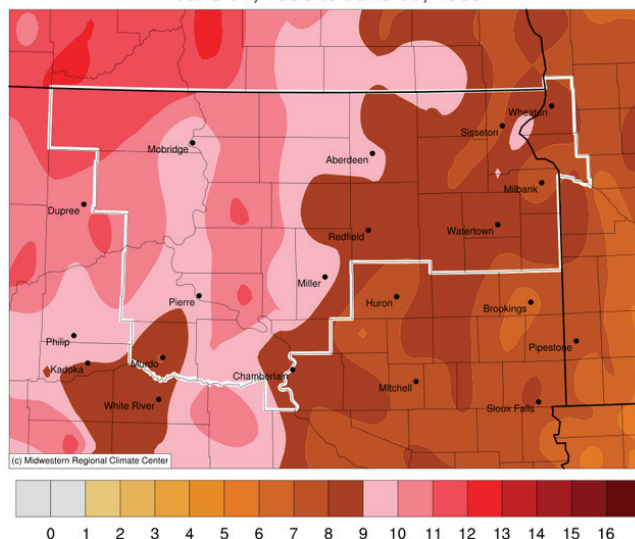
Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

June 01, 2016 to June 30, 2016



Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

June 01, 1988 to June 30, 1988



GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 5, 2016 - 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) 7pm Betty Breck
- 2) 7:05pm Minutes
- 3) Financial Report
- 4) Bills
- 5) 7:15pm Delinquent Utility Customer Hearings
- 6) 7:30pm Department Reports
- 7) Review of charges for Finance Office
- 8) Capitol Improvement List – Budget Considerations
- 9) Comm Center floor refinishing
- 10) 2nd Reading Ordinance 705 – Yard Waste Removal Fines
- 11) 2nd Reading Ordinance 706 – Water Tower Reserve Funding
- 12) Newspaper Quotations
- 13) Appoint Newspapers and Banks
- 14) City Quarterly Report
- 15) Move Cash Fund Balances for Debt Payments
- 16) Exe Session – Legal & Personnel

**Council meeting to be Livestreamed at
www.gdilive.com**

Groton Blood Drive a success

James Valley Telecommunications has sponsored a very successful blood drive. The drive held in Groton on June 14th saw 48 people volunteer to donate blood and 41 were able to give. Ten people gave blood on the automated 2RBC machine which collects two units of red blood cells during the donation, so a total of 51 products were collected. One person volunteered for the first time.

According to Fern Elofson, Donor Recruitment Representative for United Blood Services, "Communities like Groton make a regional blood program work. People volunteer to donate when there has been a well organized campaign, informing the public of the need for blood."

Stacy Oliver coordinated the drive. The James Valley Telecommunications was also responsible for registering donors and providing refreshments. Space to hold the drive was provided by the American Legion.

On behalf of the patients who benefited, United Blood Services appreciates all the thoughtful people who volunteered to help others by giving of themselves.

Blood is for sharing; you have truly given the "Gift of Life."

Education in Spotlight at the State Fair

(Huron, SD) – Every year teachers are encouraged to submit student education entries to the Education Department in the Arts & Education Building at the South Dakota State Fair. For some teachers, it's a tradition. For others, it's their first time submitting.

This year, 93 teachers submitted 5,038 entries compared to 78 teachers submitting 4,578 entries in 2015.

"We are very excited about the increased number of entries this year in the education department! In the last couple years, we have made changes to the education static book in response to teacher requests and changing student goals/expectations in the classroom. We have also worked to get the education static book in educators' hands sooner so that entries can be incorporated into lesson plans the entire school year, not just second semester when the static book was available in the past. We saw a number of teachers take advantage of the printed static books available during the 2015 event and make notes as they viewed the exhibits," said Mary Helen Wipf, education superintendent. "We want to say 'thank you' to the 93 teachers who have made the extra effort to submit their students' classroom projects. We wish the teachers could see and hear what staff and volunteers hear when students see their entry displayed at the South Dakota State Fair."

"This increase in entries is exciting news," said State Fair Manager Peggy Besch. "The Arts & Education Building offers such a diversified array of educational displays while also showcasing the talents of South Dakotans. This growth is just one more strong indication there is a lot of interest and value in participating in the programs offered. We are thrilled to see the participation increase."

Deadlines for all other South Dakota State Fair open class entries are coming up quickly. The static entry deadline is Sunday, July 31. Entries postmarked on that day will be accepted. Remember to include payment and completed W9 form (include SSN) with your entry. The open class livestock entry deadline is Monday, Aug. 1. Late fees will apply to entries received after the deadline.

Premium books are available online at www.sdstatefair.com.

The 2016 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Sept. 1, through Monday, Sept. 5. Channel Seeds Preview night will be Wednesday, Aug. 31. This year's theme is "Thrills, Squeals and Ferris Wheels." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find it on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Today in Weather History

July 2, 1921: Barns were destroyed on two farms near Frederick in Brown County. A boy who could not make it to the cellar was killed in the open near a barn. This death is one of the earliest known from a significant, estimated F2 tornado in Brown County.

July 2, 1960: Hail shredded corn flattened grain and hay, and pounded soybeans into the ground in a strip extending from Clinton to Montevideo in Minnesota. Leaves and bark were stripped from trees. Hail stones were reported to pile up to a depth of four feet in low spots. One farmer lost 2000 turkeys. Twelve barns demolished, many outbuildings destroyed and several homes damaged by winds. Near Appleton, 45 cars of a moving 174 car freight train derailed by the wind, one hanger destroyed, and two planes were damaged. In Big Stone County alone, the cost to repair power lines and poles estimated to be near 10,000 dollars. Total crop acreage affected was near 64,000 acres. The three counties of Big Stone, Swift, and Chippewa Counties, was designated a disaster area.

July 2, 2005: A line of severe thunderstorms with very strong straight-line winds moved from north-east Wyoming and southeast Montana across northwest South Dakota during the evening. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph affected northwest South Dakota; breaking tree limbs, downing trees, and knocking down snow fences. The high winds capsized a boat on the Belle Fourche Reservoir near Orman Dam. Five people, including an infant, were rescued by emergency personnel with no one injured. The strongest winds were reported north of Newell, near Castle Rock, where gusts estimated at 100 mph damaged a barn roof and ripped a chimney off a house. Hail to the size of quarters was also reported across parts of the area, and combined with the wind, caused some minor damage.

1833: The following is from the "History and Description of New England" published in 1860: "On the 2nd of July, 1833, this town (Holland, Vermont) was visited by a violent tornado, which commenced on Salem Pond in Salem, and passed over this place in a northeasterly direction. It was from half to three quarters of a mile wide, and prostrated and scattered nearly all the trees, fences, and buildings in its course. It crossed the outlet of Norton Pond, and passed into Canada, and its course could be traced through the forests nearly to Connecticut River."

1843: An alligator reportedly fell from the sky onto Anson Street in Charleston, SC during a thunderstorm.

2001: In Michigan, frost and freezing temperatures were observed in some locations with Grant dropping to 29 degrees. Muskegon reported their coldest July temperature on record with 39 degrees. Other daily record lows included: Lansing: 38, Muskegon: 39, Flint: 40, Youngstown, Ohio: 40, and Grand Rapids, Michigan: 43 degrees.

Now Doing Core Aeration
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Spring/Fall Cleanups
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Cutting Edge Lawn Care
Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices



golden living

We now accept

Avera Health Plans

for out patient therapy.

1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365



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This
Afternoon



Mostly Sunny

High: 82 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 56 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny

High: 83 °F

Sunday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 61 °F

Independence
Day



Mostly Sunny

High: 89 °F

Monday
Night



30%
Chance
T-storms

Low: 67 °F

Tuesday



30%
Chance
T-storms

High: 91 °F

Saturday

Temps:

75 to 85

Winds:

South 10 to 15 mph,
gusts up to 20 mph
west of the
Missouri river

Sunday

Temps:

80 to 90

Winds:

South 15 to 20 mph,
gusts to 25 mph

Thunderstorms:

Isolated afternoon
chances west of the
Missouri River

4th Of July

Temps:

85 to 95

Winds:

South 10 to 15 mph,
gusts to 20 mph

Thunderstorms:

Isolated chances late
afternoon



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 07/02/2016 at 5:34AM

A predominately dry holiday weekend can be expected, although don't completely rule out an isolated thunderstorm Sunday (west of the Missouri River) and Monday. Southerly winds will also transport heat and humidity back into the region through early next week. The Independence Day temperatures are expected to rise into the 90s for much of western and central SD and into the mid to upper 80s for far northeast SD and west central MN.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 78.4 F at 5:45 PM

Low Outside Temp: 43.5 F at 5:11 AM

High Gust: 12.0 Mph at 10:02 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1949

Record Low: 37 in 1945

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.21

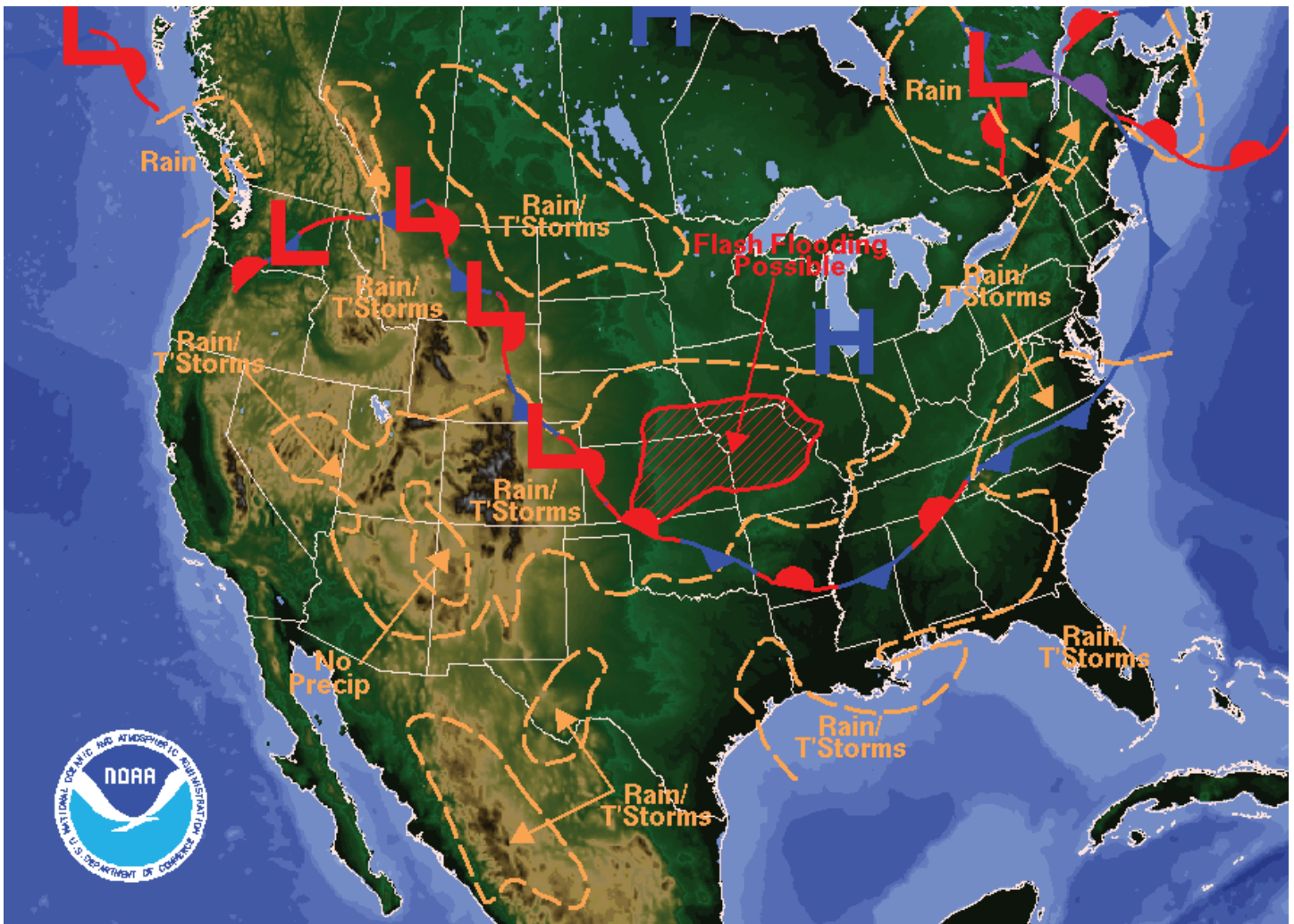
Precip to date in July: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 11.05

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jul 02, 2016, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHO WANTS YOU?

It was the final game of the year. The team that won the game would receive the victor's trophy for the season. But the star running back broke the team curfew and was benched – unable to play.

It was a difficult game and the team fell behind. However, the students began to rally support for the benched player and started to chant, "We want Roger! We want Roger!"

Looking at the benched player, the coach motioned to him. He jumped up and said, "I'm ready Coach, I'm ready!"

"Great," said the coach. "Go up into the stands. They want you more than I do."

Jesus said, "Those who come to me I will never reject." This verse should give us an assurance of how welcome we are to enter into the presence of God.

It does not matter where we have been or what we have done, none of our behaviors or beliefs will cause Him to reject us. His arms are open, His voice is calling and His invitation is to "whosoever will."

Our coming to Christ is never conditioned by who we are but who He is and what He has done.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, that Your grace, mercy and salvation are extended to those who hear Your voice and accept Your invitation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. John 6:37

Retrofitted bus provides studio for Native American artists

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — In this sprawling expanse of South Dakota badlands, dozens of families make ends meet by creating and selling earrings, paintings, decorated feathers, moccasins and other crafts. This community's artists take pride in their work, but challenges abound for their arts-based economy.

The artists live on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which is dozens of miles and many tax brackets away from the nearest urban area, meaning arts supplies are not easily accessible and training on business, marketing and e-commerce is even harder to find.

But help is now literally on its way to some of those artists — some of whom sell their wares just to afford dinner — in the form of a small passenger bus.

The retrofitted vehicle crisscrossing the reservation, which is one of the most impoverished in the U.S., has an art studio and a business training center. The Rolling Rez Arts bus provides anyone interested in the arts — established and emerging artists, children and adults — a space to explore their creativity. It also brings arts supplies, gives business lessons and even offers banking services; the bus has space for a bank teller and safe and is equipped with video cameras.

The bus, managed by the First Peoples Fund nonprofit, came in response to a market study showing that nearly 80 percent of the reservation's home-based businesses are arts-related.

"A lot of the artists have amazing art skills, but may lack some of the basic business skills, marketing, pricing, financial management, things like that," said Jeremy Staab, program manager with First Peoples Fund. "We have a two-day comprehensive business training ... but what we were seeing is that some of our artists were having to hitchhike to get here because they have transportation challenges. ... Many of them are in survival mode."

On a sweltering June afternoon, the Wi-Fi-equipped, air-conditioned bus was parked in the lot of Oglala Lakota College in Pine Ridge to offer free featherwork lessons taught by Jay Garnett. Four young adults showed up for a class on how to decorate feathers typically used during ceremonies.

The 19-year-old Garnett makes a living out of creating earrings, rawhide bags, featherwork and other artwork, charging about \$175 for decorating a single eagle feather and between \$45 and \$65 for a pair of earrings. Like other artists in the community, he allows people to pay on installments or trades his work for other craft supplies such as glue and feathers.

"This is an art form that puts bread and butter on the table," said Garnett, who has been creating art since eighth grade. "But it's really important for people to really understand the time, the quality and the effort that is put in to some of the art pieces."

Garnett's workshop, which focused on how to decorate feathers that are typically used during ceremonies and other events, was LaQuita Cortier's second class in the mobile studio. She learned how to make earrings out of hide during the first.

"It helps you learn more about your culture," Cortier, a 21-year-old Allen resident, said. "It's learning the arts of Natives."

Artists who participated in the market study expressed the need for physical and online marketplaces. Guss Yellow Hair, the coordinator and driver of the bus, said the trainings emphasize the need for artists to appropriately price their items and expand their market. He said many of the artists sell their work

within the reservation, but they could reach more customers by taking a well-lit photo to sell it online. "They need that technical support," Yellow Hair said. "We provide them what we can so that they can increase their sales and give them the edge that they need."

Authorities identify truck driver who died in Hoven crash

HOVEN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has released the name of a truck driver who died earlier this week in a one-vehicle crash near Hoven.

Authorities have identified the driver as 28-year-old Claremont resident Lee Loeb.

The Highway Patrol says Loeb lost control of the service truck he was driving on state Highway 47 Thursday afternoon near Hoven. The vehicle rolled after going into the ditch, and Loeb was ejected.

Loeb was pronounced dead at the scene. The Highway Patrol says he was not wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.

4-square-mile Crow Peak Fire reaches 40 percent containment

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire that has been burning on Crow Peak west of Spearfish for more than a week is now at 40 percent containment.

The blaze sparked by lightning on June 24 has torched more than 2,700 acres, or about 4 square miles. No homes have been lost, though voluntary evacuation notices are still in effect.

Crow Peak is a key landmark in the Northern Black Hills and has a popular hiking trail. Officials say area businesses, campgrounds and recreation sites in the Northern Black Hills remain open for the Fourth of July holiday weekend, but Crow Peak is still closed.

Visitors are encouraged to check the websites of the Black Hills National Forest and the Spearfish Chamber of Commerce for additional event and conditions information.

More than 530 people are fighting the fire on the ground and from the air.

Lawyer wants man's catheter-obtained urine sample dismissed

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The attorney for a South Dakota man charged with felony drug ingestion has asked a judge to dismiss evidence from an involuntary urine sample obtained with the use of a catheter.

Attorney Jeremy Lund filed the motion in May in the case against Dirk Landon Sparks, who was arrested March 14 in Pierre on a report of a domestic disturbance, the Argus Leader (<http://argusnews.com/29azUpH>) reported Friday. The motion states that after a judge signed off on a search warrant for blood or urine samples, Sparks refused to cooperate. He was then taken to a hospital, where he was restrained while a catheter was forced into his penis to obtain the sample, according to the filing.

Sparks's urine tested positive for THC and methamphetamine. He was subsequently charged with obstruction, felony drug ingestion, and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Lund declined a request from the newspaper to comment on the case. In the motion filed in Hughes County, he argued that the use of the catheter was not authorized by the judge and it violated Sparks's constitutional rights against unreasonable searches.

The use of catheters isn't new, but defense attorneys and at least one civil rights organization say the practice is unnecessarily invasive.

Ryan Kolbeck, a Sioux Falls lawyer and president of the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said he doesn't know what state law would permit the use of catheters to obtain a urine sample. He said the procedure should not be used in routine cases such as drunken driving or drug ingestion.

"They want someone's urine that bad?" Kolbeck said.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley defended the practice. He said it's ultimately up to suspects whether they choose to cooperate.

"I don't think anyone wants to go through that methodology," Jackley said. In an interview with the newspaper, he would not cite the state law that authorizes the catheterization, but said a court order can allow it.

The practice has been challenged in other states. In Indiana, a man lost a case in 2011 that he brought against the city of Lawrenceburg after nurses obtained a urine sample using a catheter. The judge ruled against the defendant because a court had ordered the sample.

Houston woman files lawsuit in North Dakota pedestrian fatal

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Houston woman is suing a South Dakota company over a fatal semitrailer-pedestrian accident in North Dakota.

Barbra Pennie is seeking unspecified damages in the death of Carlos Price, who was killed in July 2014 near the intersection of two highways in McHenry County. Pennie is the surviving parent of Price.

The complaint accuses truck driver David Kinney and FlyingLow Corp. of Brookings, South Dakota, of negligence. It says Price failed to control his speed, failed to keep a proper lookout and failed to adhere to numerous motor carrier regulations.

The suit says Kinney was charged in McHenry County with failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving a serious personal injury.

Court documents do not list attorneys for the defendants.

State: Leave fireworks at home when visiting state parks

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is asking state parks visitors to leave their fireworks at home.

Setting off fireworks isn't allowed on lands that the department owns or leases. That prohibition includes places such as state parks, nature areas and recreation areas.

State parks director Katie Ceroll says parks are a Fourth of July destination. She says campgrounds are often busy with visitors at this time.

Lighting off fireworks is also prohibited in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District and in South Dakota's national forests and national parks.

Student wins \$10K in South Dakota safe driving campaign

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A Yankton teenager has earned \$10,000 as part of a safe driving campaign targeting young drivers.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety on Friday said 16-year-old Adam Lange won the top prize in the contest involving the Lesson Learned SD web-based program.

The program consists of videos featuring South Dakota high school students participating in demonstrations that show what can happen when people sitting behind the wheel are distracted, don't wear seatbelts or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Drivers between the ages of 14 and 19 who watched the videos and answered safety questions were entered into a contest to win cash prizes. Adam was one of the more than 2,200 eligible entries.

The South Dakota Broadcasters Association sponsored the cash prizes.

Alcohol problems in Whiteclay consume county's budget

GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A tiny Nebraska village that sells millions of cans of beer each year near a South Dakota Indian reservation is consuming a sizeable chunk of the surrounding county's budget, according to county officials.

Sheridan County Commissioner James Krotz raised the issue during a closed-door meeting earlier this year to address problems in Whiteclay, Nebraska, a ramshackle town on the border of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

His comments were disclosed Friday in documents obtained through an open-records request by activists who want to shutter Whiteclay's four beer stores. A second county commissioner provided The Associated Press with budget documents showing that roughly one-third of the county's \$5.2 million general fund was spent on law enforcement, jailing inmates, and prosecuting and defending cases. Krotz said in minutes of the closed-door meeting on Feb. 1 that most of the costs are from Whiteclay. He did not return a phone call on Friday seeking further comment.

The stores sold the equivalent of 3.5 million cans of beer last year despite having only a dozen residents, and critics blame them for widespread alcoholism and fetal alcohol syndrome within the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Local residents, officials and business owners have met at least half a dozen times at Gov. Pete Ricketts' urging to try to address panhandling and violence in the village, but they haven't reached an agreement.

Activists say the expense to local taxpayers is yet another reason to close the stores instead of adding law enforcement. John Maisch, a former Oklahoma alcohol regulator who produced a documentary about Whiteclay, said the county should petition the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission to revoke or refuse to renew the beer stores' liquor licenses.

"If Gov. Ricketts and his Whiteclay task force are sincere about addressing the fiscal impact and safety concerns caused by Whiteclay's four beer stores, then they should call for a voluntary moratorium on all beer sales in the unincorporated town for six months until comprehensive solutions can be proposed by the governor," Maisch said.

Maisch argues that alcohol regulators are violating state law by allowing too many beer stores in one place without adequate law enforcement or sanitation.

The 11-member task force includes Whiteclay business owners, elected officials, law enforcement and religious leaders. According to minutes Maisch obtained from the task force's February meeting, Ricketts urged members to try to keep their work confidential until they were ready to go public. He also implored them to trust and respect one another, and strive for "small victories" as they attempt to solve the problem.

Two of the town's beer store owners voiced concerns related to youths in Whiteclay, according to the minutes. Stuart Kozal, who owns the Jumping Eagle beer store, said the younger crowd was more aggressive and causing more problems on the streets. Doug Sanford of D&S Pioneer Service said he had noticed early-morning and underage drinkers.

In an interview, Sheridan County Attorney Jamie Simmons said her office doesn't track how many cases originate in Whiteclay, but the village requires a heavy law enforcement presence. Many of the cases are alcohol related, and more recently, she has seen an increase in methamphetamine use.

"We have a very high caseload per capita," she said.

Simmons, who sits on the task force, said she was optimistic that the group will eventually develop a plan to address some of the problems in the village.

Despite the costs, Sheridan County Commissioner Jack Andersen said closing the beer stores wouldn't

solve the problem and could lead to more drunken drivers in the county.

Andersen said the county stationed an officer in Whiteclay several decades ago, but the town's heavy drinkers simply waited until he went off-duty. The officer lived in Whiteclay for a brief time, but his house kept getting vandalized.

Andersen said he believes some panhandlers would use the town as a hangout even if the beer stores closed, because they've done so for decades and can still buy from bootleggers. And even though Whiteclay is small, he noted that the dry reservation has an estimated population of nearly 29,000.

"We don't have officers up there all the time, by any means," Andersen said. "But I would guess there's seldom a day when one of our officers isn't up there at least twice."

Sanford Underground Lab ready to celebrate Neutrino Day 2016

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — The Sanford Underground Laboratory in Lead is ready to celebrate Neutrino Day 2016 next week.

The annual science festival scheduled for July 8 and 9 will include hoistroom tours, displays, activities for children, presentations that address the exploration of Mars, and live video chats with scientists underground at the Sanford Lab.

NASA's Jason Crusan will be the keynote speaker July 8. His presentation at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead will focus on space travel, the new technologies being developed for the space agency and the Mars 2030 Experience, a virtual reality experience that would allow people to simulate life on Mars.

The events from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. are free and open to the public.

Jury clears Brookings police in excessive force lawsuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal jury has cleared the police department in Brookings of any wrongdoing in an excessive use of force lawsuit.

The jury returned a verdict Friday in the case brought by 45-year-old Tamra Welbig against the city of Brookings, its police chief and three officers over excessive force use and false allegations. Welbig filed the federal lawsuit in Sioux Falls after she was acquitted of assaulting a Brookings police officer.

Welbig's attorney, Rick Ramstad, is not satisfied with the verdict. He says "the jury was apparently unwilling to hold these officers accountable for their egregious actions."

Welbig, of Brookings, in her lawsuit argued officers unnecessarily slammed her to the floor and then wrongfully arrested her for a felony in 2012. The lawsuit claimed the officers conspired to hide their actions.

The city denied all allegations.

Custer park officials offer warning after buffalo incidents

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. (AP) — Custer State Park officials are offering another warning to visitors that bison are dangerous and shouldn't be approached.

Park rangers responded to two incidents Thursday involving visitors getting perilously close to bison. One of the incidents resulted in a visitor receiving treatment for a laceration to the leg.

Lydia Austin, interpretive program manager for Custer State Park, says the large animals may appear docile, but they're actually wild and hard to predict. She says it's safest to view bison from a vehicle.

Rangers are looking into both incidents.

A woman was gored at the park in May when she approached a bull.

Midwest economic survey points toward slow growth

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Figures from a survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states have dropped slightly but still suggest economic growth ahead, according to a report issued Friday.

The Mid-American Business Conditions index hit 50.1 in June, compared with 52.1 in May, the report said. The index generally has been on the rise since dropping to a 12-month low of 39.6 in December.

"The region's manufacturing sector is expanding, but at a slow pace as gains for nondurable-goods producers more than offset continuing losses for regional durable-goods manufacturers," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

Most survey participants completed the survey before voters in Great Britain opted to leave the European Union. In 2015 the Midwest and Plains region exported almost \$2 billion in goods to Great Britain and imported about \$1.9 billion.

A subsequent British recession or weak British currency would not have a significant impact on the nine states' economy, but the region would benefit from the strengthening of the dollar against a broad range of currencies, Goss said.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The regional employment gauge fell last month to 46.1 from May's tepid 51.4.

"While the region's manufacturing sector has lost jobs over the last several months, the overall regional economy continues to add jobs but at a pace of roughly half that of this time last year," Goss said.

Scotty Moore, Elvis Presley's first guitarist, dies at 84

Scotty Moore, the pioneering rock guitarist who played on "Hound Dog" and other early Elvis Presley hits, has died

By ADRIAN SAINZ and HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Scotty Moore, the pioneering rock guitarist whose sharp, graceful style helped Elvis Presley shape his revolutionary sound and inspired a generation of musicians that included Keith Richards, Jimmy Page and Bruce Springsteen, died Tuesday. He was 84.

Moore died at his home in Nashville, said biographer and friend James L. Dickerson, who confirmed the death through a family friend.

"As a musician, I consider him one of the co-founders of rock 'n' roll because of the guitar licks that he invented," Dickerson said, calling Moore an icon.

Presley's ex-wife Priscilla Presley echoed that sentiment in a statement Tuesday night: "Elvis loved Scotty dearly and treasured those amazing years together, both in the studio and on the road. Scotty was an amazing musician and a legend in his own right. The incredible music that Scotty and Elvis made together will live forever and influence generations to come."

Moore, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was the last survivor of a combo that included Presley, bassist Bill Black and producer Sam Phillips.

Moore was a local session musician when he and Black were thrown together with Presley on July 5, 1954, in the Memphis-based Sun Records studios. Presley was a self-effacing, but determined teen anxious to make a record. Moore's bright riffs and fluid solos — natural compliments to Presley's strumming rhythm guitar — and Black's hard-slapping work on a standup bass gave Elvis the foundation on

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which he developed a fresh blend of blues, gospel and country that came to be called rock 'n' roll.

"One day, we went to have coffee with Sam and his secretary, Marion Keisker, and she was the one who brought up Elvis," Moore said in a 2014 interview with Guitar Player magazine. "We didn't know, but Marion had a crush on Elvis, and she asked Sam if he had ever talked to that boy who had been in there.

"Sam said to Marion, 'Go back in there and get that boy's telephone number, and give it to Scotty.' Then, Sam turned to me and said, 'Why don't you listen to this boy, and see what you think.' Marion came back with a slip of paper, and it said 'Elvis Presley.' I said, 'Elvis Presley — what the hell kind of a name is that?'"

For the now-legendary Sun sessions they covered a wide range of songs, from "That's All Right" to "Mystery Train." After "That's All Right" began drawing attention, Presley, Moore and Black took to the road playing any gig they could find, large or small, adding drummer D.J. Fontana and trying their best to be heard over thousands of screaming fans.

The hip-shaking Presley soon rose from regional act to superstardom, signing up with RCA Records and topping the charts with "Heartbreak Hotel," "All Shook Up" and many other hits. Elvis was the star, but young musicians listened closely to Moore's contributions, whether the slow, churning solo he laid down on "Heartbreak Hotel" or the flashy lead on "Hard-Headed Woman."

"Everyone else wanted to be Elvis," Richards once observed. "I wanted to be Scotty."

Moore, Black and Fontana backed Presley for his shocking TV appearances and early movies, but by 1957 had tired of what Moore called "Elvis economics." In the memoir "That's Alright, Elvis," published in 1997, Moore noted that he earned just over \$8,000 in 1956, while Presley became a millionaire. Moore also cited tension with Elvis' manager, "Colonel" Tom Parker.

"We couldn't go talk to Elvis and talk about anything," Moore, who along with Black left Presley's group, told The Tennessean newspaper in 1997. "There wasn't ever any privacy. It was designed that way, but not by Elvis. It's not that I feel bitterness, just disappointment."

Moore continued working with Elvis into the 1960s and shared the stage with him one last time for the 1968 "comeback" TV special that helped return him to the top of the charts. But Moore's compensation didn't even cover his travel expenses, he would recall, and he was not asked to join Presley's band for his tours in the 1970s. (Presley died in 1977).

Starting in the late 1950s, Moore worked on various projects. In 1959, singer Thomas Wayne had a Top 5 hit, "Tragedy," on Moore's Fernwood record label. Moore put out a solo album in 1964 called "The Guitar That Changed the World!" and with Fontana played on the 1997 Presley tribute album "All the King's Men," featuring Richards, Levon Helm and other stars. He and Fontana also backed Paul McCartney for the ex-Beatle's cover of "That's All Right." In 2000, Moore was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame. More recently, he was a recording studio manager, engineer and businessman.

"He was a class act as a human being," biographer Dickerson told The Associated Press late Tuesday. "Besides being one of the best guitarists that ever lived and most inventive, he was a great person, and you don't always find that in the music industry."

Dickerson said a family member of Moore's longtime companion, Gail Pollock, who had been staying in the house with Moore confirmed the death Tuesday. Pollock died in November 2015.

Moore was born near Gadsden, Tennessee, in 1931, and learned guitar at an early age. He was a fan of jazz and country and was strongly influenced by Chet Atkins and Les Paul. After serving in the Navy, he settled in Memphis, working at a dry cleaning plant during the day and playing music after his shift was over.

Phillips, who had not been impressed with Presley at first, had called in Moore and Black to work with

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the young singer. The two had been recorded by Phillips previously as members of a country-Western band, The Starlite Wranglers.

"I wanted them to get together (with Presley) and get a feel for each other," Phillips told the Los Angeles Times in 1981. "I also told them to keep an eye out for material."

Moore told of that recording session many times over the years, remembering that it was not going well until Presley broke into a spontaneous, upbeat version of "That's All Right." The song, also called "That's All Right, Mama," was originally recorded by bluesman Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup in 1946.

Moore and Black began jamming with Presley and helped work out the version that Phillips put on tape.

"Sam poked his head out of the door — this was before mixing consoles had a talkback button — and he said, 'What are you guys doing? That sounds pretty good. Why don't you keep doing it,'" Moore told Guitar Player. "So I got my guitar, ran through it a couple of times, and that was it. That was the beginning of, how do you say it — all hell breaking loose!"

Clinton interviewed by the FBI about private email server

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton was interviewed by the FBI about her use of a private email server as secretary of state, her campaign said Saturday, as federal investigators neared the end of the probe that has hung over her presidential campaign.

Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, gave a voluntary interview for 3 1/2 hours on Saturday morning at FBI Headquarters in Washington, her campaign said.

"She is pleased to have had the opportunity to assist the Department of Justice in bringing this review to a conclusion," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said. "Out of respect for the investigative process, she will not comment further on her interview."

The interview was expected and it does not suggest that she or anyone else is likely to face prosecution. Some legal experts view criminal prosecution as exceedingly unlikely. The interview may indicate that the Justice Department's yearlong probe is drawing to a close.

But the ongoing investigation represents a major risk for Democrats as Clinton is merely four weeks away from being formally nominated as the party's presidential candidate.

Donald Trump, the Republican Party's presumptive nominee, has seized on the email issue and repeatedly said the probe undermines Clinton's fitness for office. Trump has called his opponent, "Crooked Hillary," and said she cannot be trusted in the White House.

The investigation also poses an unwelcome distraction just as she has vanquished primary rival Bernie Sanders, holds a huge fundraising advantage over Trump and polls show her well-placed to become America's first female president even as many voters question her trustworthiness.

The questioning came a day after Attorney General Loretta Lynch, under scrutiny for an impromptu meeting with Bill Clinton on her plane in Phoenix, said that she intended to accept the findings and recommendations of career prosecutors who have spent months investigating the case.

Identities, nationalities of dead in Dhaka restaurant attack

The Associated Press

A partial list of nationalities and identities of those reported slain in the Dhaka restaurant attack, and some details on their lives, as reported by local media.

Italians confirmed dead by the Italian Foreign Ministry (9):

Nadia Benedetti: a managing director for a Bangladeshi branch of a British firm.

Claudio Cappelli: 45, lived in Vedano al Lambro, near Monza.

Vincenzo D'Allestro: 46, Swiss-born, lived in Accera, southern Italy.

Claudia Maria D'Antona: 56, worked in clothing and textiles business. Her husband, Gianni Boschetti, whom she had met in 1993 in India, survived the attack. When she lived in Italy, in the early 1980s, she served as a volunteer helping disaster victims, including those in the 1980 Naples area earthquake.

Simona Monti: 33, worked in a textiles firm.

Adele Puglisi: 54, a quality control manager from Catania, Sicily, who was due to head back to Italy any day.

Maria Rivoli: 34, from the Bergamo area of northern Italy, mother of 3-year-old, traveling in Bangladesh for textile business

Cristian Rossi: 47, business manager for Feletto Umberto, married father of 3-year-old twin girls. He had previously worked as a buyer for an Italian textile company, then worked in his own clothing import business involving clothing made in a Dhaka factory.

Marco Tondat: 39; had been in Bangladesh for about a year, worked in textiles industry, was about to return home.

One Italian not accounted for, according to the ministry

Japanese confirmed dead by the Japanese Foreign Ministry (7):

Five Japanese men and two women, all working on a Japanese government aid project in Dhaka, who were dining at the restaurant under siege Four of the seven have been identified:

Koyo Ogasawara

Makoto Okamura

Yuko Sakai

Rui Shimodaira

Indian confirmed dead by India (1):

Tarushi Jain: 18, a student at University of California-Berkeley who was visiting her businessman father in Bangladesh

Bangladeshis, not immediately identified, confirmed dead (3):

In addition, two police officers died at a hospital after being wounded in the gunfire, according to Bangladesh police.

Nationalities not immediately available, confirmed dead by Emory University (2):

Abinta Kabir: a second-year student at Emory University, Georgia, from Miami

Faraaz Hossain: a student at Emory University, Georgia, from Dhaka

Mother charged with murder in deaths of her 4 children

ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A mother in Tennessee has been charged with first-degree murder and child abuse and neglect in connection with the stabbing deaths of her four young children, authorities said Saturday.

Shanynthia Gardner of Memphis was charged with four counts of first degree murder while committing aggravated child neglect in the deaths of four of her children — all under the age of 5 — whose bodies were found after deputies entered her apartment in unincorporated Shelby County.

Gardner also faces four counts of first degree murder while committing aggravated child abuse; four counts of aggravated child neglect or endangerment; and four counts of aggravated child abuse.

Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham says the victims were a 4-year-old boy; a 3-year-old girl; a 2-year-old girl; and a 6-month-old girl. Their names have not been released.

A 7-year-old boy escaped the attack, but Oldham said details of how he survived were not being disclosed at this time. All five children were Gardner's.

"This is a terrible act, an egregious act that has shocked, I believe, the community, and has shocked our staff to the core," the sheriff said Saturday. He did not release a suspected motive for the attack.

Deputies were called to an apartment complex in Shelby County on Friday afternoon. They took Gardner into custody after finding the children's bodies.

On Friday, Oldham said the district attorney general's special victims' unit had been called in and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell has promised all resources necessary for the investigation.

"One of the most difficult questions in any investigation is always, 'Why did this happen?'" the sheriff said.

County Commissioner Mark Billingsley also said the county would work to help the family of the children recover.

"It's just a very sad day," he said. "It's really beyond words, quite frankly."

Neighbor Sean Ahearn said he didn't know the family by name, but that he often saw the children, who all appeared to be under age 6, playing in the front yard. They liked to pet his dog when he was taking it for a walk, he said.

"From what I saw, they were very open and friendly kids," he said. "You never imagine that this kind of thing could happen."

The apartment where the stabbing occurred is in a gated community with a golf course called The Greens at Irene. On Friday afternoon, deputies were standing at the gate house questioning motorists as they drove into the neighborhood.

Resident Patricia Johnson spoke with reporters from her car. She said she wasn't allowed to leave for two hours as deputies investigated the scene.

She has a child, and said she burst into tears when she heard about the killings.

"I can't fathom that," she said. "What would babies do to make you do that?"

The state Department of Children's Service has offered its assistance to local law enforcement, but has no record of interaction with the slain children, said spokesman Rob Johnson.

"We've done an exhaustive search and we are not aware of any contact with this family," he said.

Dead whale towed off Los Angeles beach ahead of holiday

JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The reeking carcass of a dead humpback whale was towed back out to sea some 24 hours after washing up at a popular Los Angeles County beach Friday.

Authorities used boats pulling ropes attached to the tail to pull it off the sand during the evening high tide, taking the whale far out to sea and avoiding a foul stench and grim scene on the beach as Fourth of July weekend crowds began arriving.

Authorities had earlier attempted the procedure at midday, with a bulldozer pushing, but it was unsuccessful because of the low tide.

The huge whale washed onto Dockweiler Beach, a long stretch of sand near the west end of Los Angeles International Airport, just before 8 p.m. Thursday and holiday beachgoers began arriving in the morning.

Lifeguards posted yellow caution tape to keep people away and biologists took samples to determine what caused the death of the humpback, an endangered species. Beachgoers watching from a distance covered their noses.

Tail markings were compared with a photo database and found that the same whale had been spotted three times previously off Southern California between June and August of last year by whale watchers who gave it the nickname Wally, said Alisa Schulman-Janiger, a whale research associate with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

At the time of the prior sightings the humpback was covered with whale lice, which usually means a whale is in poor physical condition, but it was also actively feeding and breaching, she said.

Schulman-Janiger said she noticed healed entanglement scars on its tail indicating that in the past it been snarled in some sort of fishing line. The carcass was in relatively good condition which meant the whale could have died as recently as Thursday morning, she said.

The whale was about 46 feet long and at least 15 years old, meaning it had reached maturity, said Justin Greenman, stranding coordinator for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Skin and blubber samples were taken for DNA testing along with fecal matter to be tested for biotoxins.

The experts had hoped to more extensively open up the whale but due to the holiday weekend authorities decided to get it off the beach as soon as possible, Greenman said.

North Pacific humpbacks feed along the West Coast from California to Alaska during summer, according to the Marine Mammal Center, a Sausalito-based ocean conservation organization. Although the species' numbers are extensively depleted, humpbacks have been seen with increasing frequency off California in recent years, the center's website said.

Humpbacks, familiar to whale watchers for their habits of breaching and slapping the water, are filter feeders that consume up to 3,000 pounds of krill, plankton and tiny fish per day, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The whale that washed up is not the same one spotted earlier in the week off Southern California tangled in crab pot lines. That animal was identified as a blue whale. Efforts by a rescue crew in a small boat to cut away the line failed, and it disappeared.

California has seen a number of whales on beaches this year. A humpback carcass that appeared off Santa Cruz in May had to be towed out to sea, while a massive gray whale that ended up on San Onofre State Beach in April had to be chopped up and hauled to a landfill.

The same month, a distressed humpback was freed from crabbing gear in Monterey Bay. In March, a dead gray was removed from Torrey Pines State Beach.

Tight election may leave Australia with hung parliament

ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's era of political chaos continued on Saturday, with a general election failing to deliver an immediate victor and raising the prospect of a hung parliament.

Hours after the polls closed, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull sounded a confident tone despite early results showing his conservative Liberal Party-led coalition in a virtual tie with the opposition center-left Labor Party.

"Based on the advice I have from the party officials, we can have every confidence that we will form a coalition majority government in the next parliament," Turnbull said in a speech to cheering supporters early Sunday morning.

Parties need to hold at least 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to form a government. As of early Sunday, the Australian Electoral Commission said Labor was leading in 70 seats, Turnbull's coalition in 68 seats, and minor parties or independents in five seats. Counting was less clear in another seven seats.

The final tally was not expected to be known until Tuesday, after mail-in ballots and those cast ahead of Saturday's election were counted.

Just two possibilities remain: The coalition will win by the slimmest of margins, or there will be a hung parliament.

Turnbull called the rare early election — dubbed a "double dissolution" because both the House and the Senate are dissolved — in a bid to break a legislative deadlock over a bill that would have created a construction industry watchdog. But the result of the election may bring further deadlock: If neither party earns a majority of seats in the House, both Labor and the coalition will be forced to try to forge alliances with independent lawmakers to form a minority government.

Hung parliaments are extremely rare in Australia, with only two since 1940. The most recent was in 2010, when then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard's ruling Labor Party was forced to secure an alliance with the minor Greens party and three independent lawmakers to form a fragile minority government. Three years later, the coalition swept to power after winning 90 seats.

Treasurer Scott Morrison said he thought the coalition would ultimately be able to form a majority government once all the votes were counted. But Labor's only hope was to form a minority government.

Saturday's elections continue an extraordinarily volatile period in the nation's politics, where internal party squabbling and fears over sagging poll ratings have prompted five changes of prime minister in as many years.

Amid the chaos, Labor and the coalition each tried to paint themselves as the safer, more stable choice. But selling stability was a tough job for either party, both of which have been marred by infighting in recent years. Labor Party leader Bill Shorten played a key role in ousting two of Labor's own prime ministers in the space of three years, and Turnbull himself ousted Tony Abbott as prime minister in an internal party showdown less than a year ago. Up until 2007, conservative John Howard served as prime minister for nearly 12 years.

On Saturday, Shorten accused Turnbull of failing to deliver the economic reform and steady leadership Australians want.

"Whatever happens next week, Mr. Turnbull will never be able to claim that the people of Australia have adopted his ideological agenda," Shorten told supporters. "He will never again be able to promise the stability which he has completely failed to deliver tonight."

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Monash University political expert Nick Economou said Turnbull's leadership had been terminally damaged by his decision to call the early election. It involved the longest campaign since 1969 and appeared to have delivered several hard-line social conservatives and right-wingers to the Senate that the moderate prime minister would have difficulty working with if his government survives, Economou said.

"What an amazing amount of political damage Malcolm Turnbull has been able to inflict in a very short period of time as prime minister," Economou said. "I think his credibility is shot to pieces."

Opinion polls had predicted a close race, but had largely tipped the government to win by a narrow margin. Several government ministers blamed the surprisingly strong result for Labor on what they dubbed a dishonest campaign that claimed the conservatives were threatening Australia's universal health care system known as Medicare.

"Even today people were talking about not being able to afford health care because we were going to get rid of Medicare. It was utter rubbish," Liberal Party Deputy Leader Julie Bishop told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "But what do you do when one party relies on a monstrous lie to get elected?"

Two weeks before the election, Shorten ramped up his campaign on health policy by describing the poll as a referendum on the future of Medicare. A Labor government introduced the government-funded program in 1984 to provide free or subsidized health care for all Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Labor accused the government of planning to privatize Medicare — a claim Turnbull dismissed as an audacious scare campaign.

But aside from the privatization debate, Shorten also promised to better fund Medicare than the government. He vowed to increase the government subsidies paid to private doctors to treat patients. The government had frozen the subsidy rate for the next four years, with many patients likely to be charged more for consultations.

Shorten also promised to restore incentives paid to private companies to provide free X-ray and pathology services to patients. The government cut those incentives from July 1.

The government focused much of its campaign on a promise to generate jobs and economic growth through tax cuts to big businesses. Economic growth is a key issue for many Australians, who have seen thousands of jobs vanish from the country's once-booming resources sector amid China's industrial slowdown.

Labor has said it will keep the higher tax rates and use the revenue to better fund schools and hospitals.

Saturday's uncertain result suggests the era of volatility in Australian politics is set to continue, said Deakin University political scientist Geoff Robinson. It was difficult for modern governments to make tough and unpopular decisions as tax revenues decline with the slowing Chinese economy and low commodity prices.

"The government's 'jobs-and-growth' mantra didn't really attract that much attention and probably Labor did make up ground on the Medicare issue," Robinson said.

Many Aussies who lined up at the polls were weary of the constant upheaval.

Morag McCrone, who voted for Labor at a polling station in Sydney, acknowledged her choice could lead to yet another new prime minister, but couldn't bring herself to vote for Turnbull's party.

"Internationally, it's embarrassing," McCrone said of the endless stream of leadership changes. "It's a bit like ancient Rome at times, really."

Lynch meeting latest episode to strain Clinton trust

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An impromptu meeting between Bill Clinton and the nation's top cop could further undermine Hillary Clinton's efforts to convince voters to place their trust in her, highlighting perhaps her biggest vulnerability.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch expressed regret on Friday that she met with the former president earlier in the week at the Phoenix airport while the Justice Department's investigation into Hillary Clinton's email practices nears a conclusion. Lynch acknowledged that it "cast a shadow" on the public's perception of the case.

"I certainly wouldn't do it again," Lynch said of the meeting with the former president, who nominated her to serve as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York in 1999.

She added that she would follow the recommendations of career prosecutors on whether to file criminal charges at the close of the investigation, indicating that she would accept whatever decision was presented to her.

The attorney general's remarks at a Colorado conference were aimed at tamping down concerns that the investigation could be politically tainted or that Lynch, an Obama administration appointee, might overrule the findings of agents and prosecutors. They have spent months looking into the possible mishandling of classified information on the private email server Clinton used when she was secretary of state.

For Clinton, about four weeks shy of becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, the episode raises the risk that voters will see her again as part of an enduring power couple that doesn't play by the normal set of rules.

Confronted by questions about her email use, Clinton has struggled to overcome questions about her honesty during the campaign. The Phoenix meeting involving her husband could only compound the dilemma.

The former first lady and New York senator has argued that she is more trustworthy than Donald Trump on handling the issues that matter to most Americans: foreign policy, national security and running the economy. But the email investigation has continued to hang over her campaign and the meeting plays into Trump's argument that she showed poor judgment and will receive leniency from a Democratic administration.

"Oh, just a coincidence. He just happened to be at the airport at this time," Trump said with a dose of sarcasm while campaigning Friday in Colorado.

Speaking of the former president, Trump added: "He opened up a Pandora's Box. And it shows what's going on. And it shows what's happening with our laws and with our government."

While Democrats privately expressed angst about the meeting, others suggested it was more indicative of a gregarious former president.

John Morgan, a top Democratic fundraiser in Florida, said if the ex-president is at an airport and knows an acquaintance is close by, he's likely to stop by for a quick hello.

"It doesn't matter if it's Loretta Lynch or Loretta Lynn. He's coming over if he knows you," Morgan said.

Congressional Republicans seized on the meeting between the former president and the attorney general.

Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the third-ranking House Republican, said Lynch should recuse herself entirely from the case and appoint a special prosecutor. Lynch had said she would still be briefed on the investigation and review the results, but let the career officials make the call on whether a prosecution should go ahead.

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"The notion that the prosecutor, the person who runs the Justice Department, would spend 30 minutes in a private conversation with the spouse of someone her department is investigating raises all sorts of red flags and even Democrats have admitted it," GOP Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida told Miami 610 WIOD Radio.

Lynch says the meeting was unplanned and happened while the former president was waiting to depart on another plane. She said he walked over and boarded her plane after she landed.

She said Clinton talked about his grandchildren and they discussed former Attorney General Janet Reno, whom they both know.

"We basically said hello, and I congratulated him on his grandchildren as people tend to do," she said Friday. "It really was a social meeting," she added. "He spoke to me, he spoke to my husband."

The outcome of the investigation is likely to shape the presidential campaign, whether to Clinton's benefit if she is cleared or to Trump's advantage if she or anyone close to her winds up being prosecuted.

It comes as Clinton is entering a new phase of her campaign, considering a potential vice president choice and holding her first public events with Obama on Tuesday in Charlotte, North Carolina, and with Vice President Joe Biden in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Friday.

Clinton has been hammering Trump's business record and expects to make a high-profile case against the Republican mogul in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on Wednesday. Democrats hope that the Phoenix incident is quickly forgotten.

"It's not worrisome," said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, a Clinton supporter. "It's a kerfuffle that will go away in another day as soon as Trump says something outrageous."

Macedonian police discover 73 migrants hidden in truck

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — Macedonian police say they have discovered 73 illegal migrants in a truck during a routine check early Saturday near Macedonia's border with Serbia.

The migrants are from Syria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Most of them are women with children, police said.

The 35-year-old truck driver, a Macedonian, has been detained. He had charged the migrants an undisclosed amount for the expected transfer across the border.

Macedonia, a tiny Balkan country wedged between Greece to the south and Serbia to the north, lies on a main travel route for migrants who want to reach wealthier European countries.

People smuggling has been on the rise since Balkan countries closed their borders to migrants in March.

Bangladesh siege highlights Japan's development aid overseas

KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The militant attack at an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital, where Japanese and other foreign diners were taken hostage, highlights Japan's major role in development work overseas, particularly in Asia.

Eight outside consultants for Japan's development agency were eating together at Holey Artisan Bakery in a diplomatic zone in Dhaka when the attack began around 9:20 p.m. Friday. One, who had been shot, was among 13 hostages rescued after security forces stormed the restaurant Saturday morning. Before the fates of the others were confirmed, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described the situation as dire.

"These people are those who worked hard for the development of Bangladesh, and so this is the

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utmost sorrow," he said in a brief statement to reporters after nightfall in Tokyo. "Those innocent lives were taken by this cruel and atrocious terrorism, and I feel strong indignation."

Bangladesh Brig. Gen. Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury said 20 hostages were killed, along with two police officers and six of the attackers. He did not identify the hostages' nationalities.

The Japanese were working on an infrastructure project for the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The development agency disburses about \$1.4 billion a year in grants, \$1.2 billion in technical assistance and \$8.8 billion in low-interest development loans.

Japan's overseas development assistance has shrunk since its peak as the country wrestles with budget deficits and its own economic stagnation. But its aid remains large, and Abe has pushed to increase and refocus it as part of his effort to increase Japan's role internationally. The top recipients are in Asia, but Japan also is a sizeable donor in Africa.

The president of JICA, Shinichi Kitaoka, said his agency would strengthen security precautions while continuing to contribute to the development of Bangladesh.

JICA had warned of possible attacks during the month of Ramadan, particularly after the killing of a Japanese man in northern Bangladesh last October, but Kitaoka said that the restaurant was believed to be relatively safe. He noted, though, that it also may have been a soft target for militants.

In October, a Japanese farmer who was growing high-yield cattle feed in Bangladesh was shot and killed by masked assailants riding a motorbike. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the killing of Kunio Hoshi, as well as other recent targeted killings of foreigners and the restaurant attack. Bangladesh's government previously has denied IS had a presence in the country.

Japanese were also killed by militants in two other attacks in early 2015, though neither involved development workers:

— In January 2015, the Islamic State group killed two Japanese men in a hostage drama in Syria that gripped Japan for 11 days. The militants had captured Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer, in the summer of 2014, and Kenji Goto, a freelance journalist, after he went to Syria to try to rescue Yukawa in October of that year. IS demanded \$200 million for their release, setting off round-the-clock crisis meetings from Japan to Amman, Jordan. It then beheaded the men. Another Japanese freelance journalist, Jumpei Yasuda, went missing last June and is reportedly being held by a militant group in Syria.

— In March 2015, three Japanese tourists were among 22 people killed when gunmen opened fire at the National Bardo Museum in Tunis. Three other Japanese were injured. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, though experts also suspected other militant groups. The victims were cruise ship passengers.

File 17 is glimpse into still-secret 28 pages about 9/11

DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid the clamor a year ago to release 28 still-secret pages of a congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11 attacks, the government quietly declassified a little-known report listing more than three dozen people who piqued the interest of investigators probing possible Saudi connections to the hijackers.

The document, known as "File 17," offers clues to what might be in the missing pages of the bipartisan report about 9/11.

"Much of the information upon which File 17 was written was based on what's in the 28 pages," said former Democratic Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, co-chairman of the congressional inquiry. He believes the hijackers had an extensive Saudi support system while they were in the United States.

"File 17 said, 'Here are some additional unanswered questions and here is how we think the 9/11

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Commission, the FBI and the CIA should go about finding the answers," Graham said.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir denies any allegations of Saudi complicity, telling reporters in Washington earlier this month that there is "no there there."

Former President George W. Bush classified the 28-page chapter to protect intelligence sources and methods, although he also probably did not want to upset U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia, a close U.S. ally. Two years ago, under pressure from the families of those killed or injured on Sept. 11, and others, President Barack Obama ordered a declassification review of the 28 pages. It's unclear when all or some may be released.

The report by the two researchers, one of several commission documents the National Archives has reviewed and released, lists possible leads the commission could follow, the names of people who could be interviewed and documents the commission might want to request in looking deeper into the attacks.

File 17, first disclosed by 28pages.org, an advocacy website, names people the hijackers were in contact with in the United States before the attacks. Some were Saudi diplomats, raising questions about whether Saudi officials knew about the plot.

The 9/11 Commission's final report stated that it found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" al-Qaida. "This conclusion does not exclude the likelihood that charities with significant Saudi government sponsorship diverted funds to al-Qaida," the report said.

Releasing the 28 pages might answer some questions, but the disclosure also could lead to more speculation about the key Saudi figures investigated by the U.S. after the attacks. A look at some of those named in the declassified report and what the 9/11 Commission concluded:

FAHAD AL-THUMAIRY

An imam at the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City, California, al-Thumairy was suspected of helping two of the hijackers after they arrived in Los Angeles. He was an accredited diplomat at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Los Angeles from 1996 to 2003.

The 9/11 Commission said al-Thumairy reportedly led an extremist faction at the mosque. He has denied promoting jihad and told U.S. investigators that he never helped the hijackers.

The commission said al-Thumairy met at the consulate with Omar al-Bayoumi, a Saudi national, in February 2000 just before al-Bayoumi met the two hijackers at a restaurant. Al-Thumairy denied knowing al-Bayoumi even though the two talked on the phone numerous times as early as 1998, including more than 11 calls between Dec. 3-20, 2000. Al-Bayoumi told investigators those conversations were about religious matters.

The 9/11 Commission said that despite the circumstantial evidence, "We have not found evidence that al-Thumairy provided assistance to the two operatives."

A CIA document dated March 19, 2004, said Khallad bin Attash, an al-Qaida operative and suspected planner of the USS Cole bombing in Yemen in October 2000, was in Los Angeles for two weeks in June 2000 and was seen in the company of "Los Angeles-based Sunni extremists (redacted section) Fahad al-Thumairy."

On May 6, 2003, al-Thumairy tried to return to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia, but was refused entry on suspicion he might be connected with terrorist activity.

OMAR AL-BAYOUMI

A Saudi national who helped the two hijackers in California. Al-Bayoumi told investigators that he and

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another man drove to Los Angeles from San Diego so that he could address a visa issue and collect papers at the Saudi consulate. Afterward they went to the restaurant in Culver City where he heard the two hijackers speaking in what he recognized to be Gulf Arabic and struck up a conversation with them.

The hijackers told him they didn't like Los Angeles, and al-Bayoumi invited them to move to San Diego. He helped them find and lease an apartment.

The congressional researchers' report said: "Al-Bayoumi has extensive ties to the Saudi government and many in the local Muslim community in San Diego believed that he was a Saudi intelligence officer."

The 9/11 Commission said al-Bayoumi was officially employed by Ercan, a subsidiary of a contractor for the Saudi Civil Aviation Administration. The commission also said that a fellow employee described al-Bayoumi as a "ghost employee," noting that he was one of many Saudis on the payroll who was not required to work.

He left the United States in August 2001, weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The 9/11 Commission said it did not "know whether the lunch encounter occurred by chance or by design." The commission said its investigators who spoke with him and studied his background found him to be an "unlikely candidate for clandestine involvement" with Islamic extremists.

OSAMA BASSNAN

A close associate of al-Bayoumi who was in frequent contact with the hijackers and lived in an apartment complex across the street from them in San Diego. Bassnan vocally supported Osama bin Laden.

The staffers' found that Bassnan, a former employee of the Saudi government's educational mission in Washington, received considerable funding from Princess Haifa al-Faisal, wife of Prince Bandar bin Sultan, former intelligence chief in Saudi Arabia and the kingdom's U.S. ambassador from 1983 to 2005. The money was supposedly for Bassnan's wife's medical treatments, and the 9/11 Commission said there was no evidence the money was redirected toward terrorism.

MOHDHAR ABDULLAH

The staffers' report said Abdullah translated for the two hijackers and helped them open bank accounts and contact flight schools. Interviewed many times by the FBI, Abdullah said he knew of the two hijackers' extremist views but said he did not know what they were planning.

The 9/11 Commission said: "During a post 9/11 search of his possessions, the FBI found a notebook (belonging to someone else) with references to planes falling from the sky, mass killing and hijacking. Further, when detained as a material witness following the 9/11 attacks, Abdullah expressed hatred for the U.S. government and stated that the U.S. brought 'this' on themselves."

The commission also learned of reports that Abdullah bragged to other inmates at a California prison in the fall of 2003 that he knew the hijackers were planning an attack — reports the commission nor the FBI were not able to verify.

He was deported to Yemen in May 2004 after the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California declined to prosecute him on charges arriving out alleged comments made in prison.

Investigators say voice recording from EgyptAir crash intact

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian investigators said Saturday they would be able to access the cockpit voice recordings of the EgyptAir flight that crashed in May despite damage to the black box.

"None of the memory chips of the electronic board were damaged," the Egyptians participating in the examination of the device in France said in a statement, adding that only some connecting components

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had to be replaced.

"Test results were satisfactory as (they) enabled the reading of the recorders of the CVR memory unit," they added. The Egyptians now plan to bring the recorder to Cairo for further analysis.

The flight from Paris to Cairo crashed into the Mediterranean on May 19, killing all 66 people on board. The pilots made no distress call, and no militant group has claimed to have brought the aircraft down.

The flight data recorder shows that there was smoke in the lavatory and onboard equipment, and investigators say they have found heat damage on parts of the wreckage recovered from the Mediterranean Sea floor last month.

The bulk of the wreckage is believed to be at a depth of about 3,000 meters (9,800 feet). Deep ocean search teams are still working to find and recover human remains.

French authorities opened a manslaughter inquiry on Monday, but said there is no evidence so far to link the crash to terrorism.

EgyptAir Flight 804 disappeared from radar at about 2:45 a.m. local time between the Greek island of Crete and the Egyptian coast.

Radar data showed the aircraft had been cruising normally in clear skies before it turned 90 degrees left, then spun 360 degrees to the right as it plummeted from 38,000 feet (11,582 meters) to 15,000 feet (4,572 meters). It disappeared when it was at an altitude of about 10,000 feet (3,048 meters).

Apple sued in China over showing of war film from the 1990s

LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Apple is being sued by a subsidiary of China's broadcasting regulator over a propaganda film more than 20 years old, in the latest legal wrangling for the tech giant in China in recent weeks.

A Beijing court says the case has been brought by a production center that alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast a film that depicts Chinese fighting against Japanese soldiers in northern China in the early 1930s.

The plaintiff is also suing the developer and operator of the Youku HD app available on Apple's App Store that it says enabled users to watch the film and caused it "huge economic losses," according to the Beijing Haidian District People's Court.

The court says it has accepted the case brought by Movie Satellite Channel Program Production Center that comes under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

The plaintiff alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast "Xuebo dixiao," which loosely translates as "Bloody Fight with the Fierce Enemy" and was first shown in 1994.

The production center is also suing Heyi Information and Technology (Beijing) Company Ltd., which developed and operated the Youku HD app, the court said in an online statement Thursday.

The app is sold by Youku.com, according to information on Apple's iTunes site. The Youku site is one of China's best known movie and TV program streaming sites and is owned by Youku Tudou Inc., which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The plaintiff wants the two companies to immediately stop broadcasting the film and is seeking compensation of 50,000 yuan (\$7,500) plus its "reasonable expenditure" of 20,158 yuan (\$3,000) in attempting to stop the infringement of its rights, the court said.

Emailed requests for comment to Apple spokespeople were not answered Saturday, and a spokesman for Youku Tudou was not able to immediately comment.

Apple Inc. has recently faced legal setbacks and other obstacles in China, its second-biggest global

market.

In April, it suspended its iBooks and iTunes Movies services, reportedly due to an order by Chinese regulators.

In May, a Beijing intellectual property tribunal in Beijing ordered Apple to stop selling its iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus in the city after finding they look too much like a model made by a small Chinese brand. Sales of the phones are continuing while Apple appeals.

Also that month, Apple suffered another setback when a court ruled that a Chinese company is allowed to use the iPhone trademark on bags, wallets and other leather goods.

Pentagon: 2 IS leaders killed in airstrike on Iraq's Mosul

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Pentagon says two senior Islamic State group commanders were killed in a U.S. airstrike in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on June 25.

In a statement late Thursday, the Pentagon says the strike killed IS's deputy war minister, Basim Muhammad Ahmad Sultan al-Bajari, and a military commander named Hatim Talib al-Hamduni.

The announcement comes less than a week after Iraqi ground forces backed by coalition airstrikes retook the city of Fallujah from IS.

The fall of Fallujah means that Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, is IS's only remaining urban stronghold in Iraq.

IS has suffered a string of territorial losses in Iraq but the group continues to carry out large-scale militant attacks in the capital, Baghdad, and other territory far from the front-lines.

Australians vote in tight general election contest

ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Polls have closed on the Australian east coast on Saturday in general elections in which the ruling conservative coalition expected to lose ground as it seeks a second term after a divisive first three years in power.

After years of political turmoil, leaders of the nation's major parties are each promising to bring stability to a government that has long been mired in chaos.

The election, which pits the conservative coalition government against the center-left Labor Party, caps off an extraordinarily volatile period in the nation's politics. Australian political parties can change their leaders under certain conditions and have done so in recent years with unprecedented frequency. Should Labor win, its leader, Bill Shorten, will become Australia's fifth prime minister in three years.

The winner will likely be known late Saturday. West coast polls close two hours after the east coast.

A Newspoll published in The Australian newspaper on Saturday showed the coalition leading by 50.5 percent to Labor's 49.5 percent. The Newspoll was based on nationwide interviews with 4,135 voters conducted between Tuesday and Friday, and has a 3 percentage point margin of error.

The so-called revolving-door prime ministership, coupled with global instability wrought by Britain's recent vote to leave the European Union, prompted promises by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that sticking with the status quo was the safer choice.

"In an uncertain world, Labor offers only greater uncertainty," Turnbull warned in one of his final pitches to voters this week. "They have nothing to say about jobs, growth or our economic future."

Labor, meanwhile, has sought throughout the eight-week campaign to cast Turnbull's Liberal Party as deeply divided, with Shorten saying: "You cannot have stability without unity."

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Selling stability is a tough job for either party, both of which have been marred by infighting in recent years. Shorten played a key role in ousting two of the Labor Party's own prime ministers in the space of three years, and Turnbull himself ousted Tony Abbott as prime minister in an internal party showdown less than a year ago. Up until 2007, conservative John Howard served as prime minister for nearly 12 years.

Many Aussies who lined up at the polls on Saturday were weary of the constant change.

Morag McCrone, who voted for Labor at a polling station in Sydney, acknowledged her choice could lead to yet another new prime minister, but couldn't bring herself to vote for Turnbull's party.

"Internationally, it's embarrassing," McCrone said of the endless stream of leadership changes. "It's a bit like ancient Rome at times, really."

Sydney resident Beau Reid, who also voted for Labor, agreed.

"I'm getting a little bit sick of it," Reid said. "Not to say that John Howard was a great prime minister, but it was good to have someone who was at the helm for a period that wasn't two (or) three years."

Though the race is tight, polls suggest that Labor won't be able to gain the 21 seats it needs to form a majority government in the 150-seat House of Representatives. Labor currently holds 55 seats, the conservative coalition has 90, and minor parties and independents have five.

Polls have also shown that the public's frustration with Labor and the coalition may prompt an unusually high number of votes for minor parties, such as the Greens. That raises the prospect that neither Labor nor the coalition will end up with enough seats to win an outright majority, resulting in a hung parliament.

The government has focused much of its campaign on a promise to generate jobs and economic growth through tax cuts to big businesses. Economic growth is a key issue for many Australians, who have seen thousands of jobs vanish from the country's once-booming resources sector amid China's industrial slowdown.

Labor has said it will keep the higher tax rates and use the revenue to better fund schools and hospitals.

Same-sex marriage has also emerged as a campaign issue. Turnbull, who personally supports gay marriage despite his party's opposition to it, has promised to hold a national poll known as a plebiscite this year that would ask voters whether the nation should allow same-sex marriage. But governments are not bound by the results of plebiscites, and some conservative lawmakers have said they would vote down a gay marriage bill even if most Australians supported marriage equality.

Labor, which dubbed the plebiscite a waste of taxpayers' money, promises that the first legislation the party will introduce to parliament will be a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

Afghan official: suicide bomber kills 2 civilians in east

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan official says that at least two civilians have been killed after a suicide bomber on a motorbike targeted a local tribal elder in eastern Nangarhar province.

Noor Ahmad Habibi, deputy spokesman for the provincial governor of Nangarhar, said Saturday that 11 others were wounded in the attack, which took place in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

Habibi says the bomber was targeting local tribal elder Hayatullah Khan, who escaped unhurt.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban are known to be active in the province.

On Thursday, Taliban twin suicide bombers attacked a convoy of Afghan police cadets outside the Afghan capital, Kabul, killing 37 people — mostly policemen — and wounding 40 others.

Report: Albuquerque police failed in use-of-force reviews

MARY HUDETZ, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Albuquerque police struggled to adequately investigate use-of-force cases amid a mostly failed review system for holding officers accountable, while the department's SWAT units showed improvement in de-escalating standoffs and other high-stress situations, a court-appointed monitor's report said.

The report filed Friday in federal court by monitor James Ginger described a police department still falling short with supervisor oversight and use-of-force policies, despite an overall commitment to reform.

Ginger is tasked with tracking reforms mandated in a settlement agreement between Albuquerque police and the U.S. Justice Department, which found a culture of excessive force among the police department ranks after a monthslong investigation that ended in 2014.

The Albuquerque Police Department also faced public scrutiny for a high rate of shootings by police between 2010 and 2014.

"Across the board, the monitoring team has found that the components in APD's system for overseeing (and holding officers accountable for) the use of force, for the most part, has failed," the report said. "Mistakes or misconduct led to reporting failures, delayed investigations, and the loss of potential evidence, including key statements."

Ginger, who the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Mexico describes as an expert on police reform, took particular issue with a case in which an officer reportedly kned a suspected car thief in the head in October. The officer's supervisor delayed filing a report on the case, which monitors said raised serious concerns about a "superficial chain of command" for reviews.

The 352-page report from Ginger's team is its third for the Albuquerque Police Department. It reviews the department's reform efforts between December and March.

Past reports pointed to struggles with writing policies aimed at guiding officer training for crisis intervention and the use of force. Those policies have since been finalized and approved by Ginger.

Ginger said the policy for the Albuquerque Police Department's tactical teams — including the SWAT unit — is one of the strongest within the department, with officers training regularly on how to de-escalate crisis situations with the least amount of physical force necessary. The result has been fewer deaths and injuries in incidences involving the units, Ginger said.

"I think history shows that when he raises a concern, the department's response is to address it, and that's what the community can expect," said Jessica Hernandez, the city attorney for Albuquerque.

Since the reporting period, all police department supervisors have been trained on a new policy for conducting use-of-force investigations, city officials said. The deadline for training all officers against those policies was June.

"It's really important to remember and make clear that he's reporting on how investigations were being done before any of the training was in place," Hernandez said.

Stroke for stroke: Phelps edges Lochte at US swim trials

PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Matching each other stroke for stroke, Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte surged to the wall in almost perfect sync.

Phelps got there first, just ahead of the guy who's pushed him hard for more than a decade. It was like so many races they've had before.

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There's one more to go in Rio.

In the latest epic of their longtime rivalry — and billed as the last showdown in their home country — Phelps edged Lochte in the 200-meter individual medley at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials Friday night.

"Ryan and I always have a great race with one another," said Phelps, who plans to retire again after his fifth Olympics. "When we race each other, we bring each other to a different level."

Phelps led from start to finish, but Lochte was right with him all the way. In fact, he seemed to pull even midway through the final lap, but the most decorated athlete in Olympic history managed to get to the wall in 1 minute, 55.91 seconds.

Lochte was next at 1:56.22 and had no complaints about the consolation prize: his only individual race at the Olympics.

"I knew going into this race it was definitely going to be a dogfight to the end," Lochte said. "It's been a long journey, but the journey's not over. We still have another month to get ready and show the world that the U.S. is number one."

Lochte, an 11-time medalist, injured his groin on the very first day of the meet, struggled in his next few races and was down to his final chance to get a swim of his own at the Summer Games.

Now, that's out of the way, which means Phelps and Lochte will get another crack at each other in South America.

As a three-time defending gold medalist in the 200 IM, Phelps will be the favorite.

But he knows Lochte won't be far behind, especially with a month to get over the groin issue.

"I don't know of another person in this world who brings out the best in me like he does," said Phelps, who has 18 golds and 22 medals overall. "Neither one of us likes to lose."

Phelps and Lochte actually had their first encounter on the way to the deck. Lochte, walking out right behind Phelps, stepped on the back of his sneaker.

"I gave him a flat tire by accident," Lochte said. "He's like, 'What are you doing, trying to mess me up?' I was like, 'No, no, no.'"

All was forgiven when it was over, Phelps and Lochte holding up their arms together on the deck while the sellout crowd roared.

It was the end for another defending Olympic champion.

Tyler Clary finished third in the 200 backstroke and called it a career, having missed out on a chance to defend the gold he won in London. He finished behind California Aquatics teammates Ryan Murphy and Jacob Pebley, who earned the two spots for Rio.

Murphy grabbed the lead on the second lap and pulled away to win easily in 1:53.95, completing a sweep of the backstroke events.

Pebley held on for the second spot, touching in 1:54.77 to earn his first trip to the Olympics.

Clary was next at 1:55.33. He clung to a lane rope while Murphy and Pebley celebrated, before swimming over to congratulate them both.

"That's it," Clary said. "I couldn't be happier to be sending Team USA off with two backstrokers that I have a lot of respect for, and I know they are going to represent Team USA well in Rio."

There was another sweep in the women's breaststroke, where Lilly King added a 200 victory to her earlier triumph in the 100. The 19-year-old from Indiana won in 2:24.08, while Molly Hannis claimed the second Rio spot at 2:24.39, giving the U.S. team yet another Olympic rookie.

Then again, it wasn't totally a night for the upstarts.

Anthony Ervin and Nathan Adrian were the top two qualifiers in the semifinals of the 50 freestyle. The 35-year-old Ervin led the way in 21.55, while Adrian was second quickest in 21.60. Both men are

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already on the team, with Ervin still seeking an individual event to go with his relay duty and Adrian set to defend his 100 free title from the London Games.

Don't forget Cullen Jones, a silver medalist in this event four years ago. The 32-year-old was third quickest in 21.93.

Katie Ledecky's bid to add another relay to her Rio program took a big blow when she finished seventh in the 100 freestyle. Abbey Weitzeil (53.28) and Simone Manuel (53.52), a pair of 19-year-olds heading to their first Olympics, earned the individual spots. Olympic veterans Amanda Weir, Lia Neal, Allison Schmitt and Dana Vollmer took the next four spots to put themselves at the head of the 4x100 free relay pool.

Ledecky will likely have to settle for three individual events and one relay at these games. Her sprinting still needs a bit of work.

"I would've loved to have gone faster, but I'll take it," she said.

Phelps has locked up two individual events for Rio, having already qualified in the 200 butterfly. He returned about 30 minutes after his victory over Lochte to post the sixth-fastest time in the semifinals of the 100 fly.

That was good enough to send Phelps to the final Saturday night — his final event of the trials.

Then it's on to Rio, where one more race with Lochte awaits.

'Cajun John Wayne' targets congressional seat

KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

OPELOUSAS, La. (AP) — Body-armored and gripping a high-powered rifle, former Sheriff's Capt. Clay Higgins looks at the camera and leaves no doubt what he thinks of the young men alleged to be members of a violent Louisiana gang called the Gremlins.

"Thugs."

"Animals."

"Heathens."

On-camera, Higgins, who is white, refers to the law enforcement officers arrayed behind him, along with several black community leaders.

"Men like us?" he says. "Son, we do dumbbell presses with weights bigger than you."

Higgins' boss, St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz, told Higgins to tone down the rhetoric. Instead, the man dubbed by the media as the "Cajun John Wayne" resigned — and now he's running for Congress.

Higgins, a Republican, is one of seven candidates vying for the seat in Louisiana's southwestern district, which is being vacated by Republican Rep. Charles Boustany, who is running for Senate. Also in the race: former gubernatorial candidate Scott Angelle, the fundraising leader so far.

What Higgins, 54, lacks in money he makes up with fame. His over-the-top Crime Stoppers videos have been growing in popularity since last summer and even made it onto "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," where Fallon jokingly suggested Higgins should run for president.

Higgins — who says he's of Irish, not Acadian, descent — is counting on his straight talk to boost his candidacy.

One popular video features his recounting of an otherwise unremarkable break-in at Stelly's Supermarket and Restaurant, a pit stop near fields of corn and sugar cane.

"Look at me, son," Higgins says, addressing the unknown burglar with a touch of menace in his Louisiana drawl. "The sheriff likes Stelly's restaurant. And so do I."

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Reaction has run the gamut from praise to amusement to ire. The Gremlins video, in particular, drew criticism from the Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which said, "nothing that Mr. Higgins said will make his community safer."

Higgins sought to pre-empt any accusation of racial motivation. In the video, he tells viewers to look at the black community leaders arrayed behind him, side-by-side with law enforcement officers. "This is not about race," he says.

New Orleans black activist Raymond Brown argued otherwise. "He knew ... his name was going to go big by interjecting race," Brown said.

Clarence Lazard, a black Baptist pastor who took part in the Gremlins video, supports Higgins. He says that, beneath Higgins' "country bumpkin" drill-sergeant persona is "a unique gentleman who's not scared to say what he thinks."

Guidroz issued a statement that he supported the "overall message" of the Gremlins video, but that earlier videos sometimes crossed the line with comments he called unprofessional. He also said Higgins violated policy — for instance, by using the sheriff's office address to register a business selling mugs, T-shirts and other "Captain Higgins" trinkets.

Higgins may also face another issue in the campaign: a recently unearthed 1991 divorce record in which his first wife, now deceased, said he once put a gun to her head.

"I fell out of my chair," Higgins said in a recent interview of the moment he was contacted by a reporter about the record. He said he had not contested the divorce and knew nothing of the allegation.

He said the marriage fell apart after the death of their 6-month-old daughter. But, he insisted, there was no violence, no threats.

Now married to his fourth wife, Higgins is a New Orleans native. He grew up on a horse farm north of the city, achieved financial success in the automobile business and served in the National Guard. He says he began turning around an admittedly raucous lifestyle — "I worked too much, I drank too much, I didn't honor my wedding vows" — after a divorce from his second wife and the resulting separation from their children.

He slips Bible references into some of his videos and wears wrist bands with the words "Redemption" and tiny crosses.

If politics doesn't work out, he's still in law enforcement, now a deputy marshal in the city of Lafayette. One campaign selling point: He says his fame means he won't be just another freshman when he walks into the Capitol.

"When I show up representing Louisiana, they're going to have to pay attention," he said.

NBA players cash in as big free agency period opens

BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

Mike Conley and All-Stars Andre Drummond and DeMar DeRozan are staying put. So are Hassan Whiteside and Nicolas Batum.

Dwight Howard, Joakim Noah and many more players are on the move — and some are getting paid like they never could have imagined.

Howard and Noah both returned to their hometowns Friday, with the Atlanta Hawks and New York Knicks hoping the former Defensive Players of the Year have plenty left to offer.

Howard agreed to a three-year deal worth \$70.5 million with the Hawks, with the Knicks gave Noah \$72 million over four years.

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Kent Bazemore also re-signed with the Hawks for \$70 million over four years, joining players such as Chandler Parsons, Evan Turner and Timofey Mozgov in cashing in during the first day of free agency — and really, of a new era — in the NBA.

With revenues rising and the salary cap soaring right along with it, good players were being paid like All-Stars, while All-Stars were getting contracts that used to go only to superstars.

And former players couldn't help but be a little jealous.

"Um.....it might be time for a comeback.....#freeagency," former Miami forward Shane Battier wrote on Twitter.

Conley is in a class of his own — for now— after agreeing to a \$153 million, five-year deal to remain in Memphis, the biggest deal handed out yet.

And the players at the top of the class haven't even started agreeing to deals yet. Kevin Durant and Al Horford probably can't wait to see what they get after watching what lesser players on the market have already received.

For example:

Parsons — four years, \$94 million from Memphis.

Turner — four years, \$70 million from Portland.

Mozgov — four years, \$64 million from the Lakers.

Their timing was even better than their play, as they became free agents at the ideal moment. With the NBA's national TV contracts worth more than \$2.6 billion annually beginning with next season, the salary cap that's tied to revenues will soar well beyond its previous record to between \$90 million to 95 million.

Some players didn't have to wait long to claim their share of it.

Drummond's five-year maximum contract to stay in Detroit will be worth \$130 million, just a share more than the \$128 million Bradley Beal got to remain in Washington. DeRozan will do a little better in Toronto and Charlotte kept Batum for about \$120 million.

But the Hornets lost a couple of key players from their 48-win team, as Jeremy Lin got a three-year, \$36 million contract from Brooklyn, and the Pacers lured Al Jefferson to Indiana with a three-year, \$30 million contract.

None of the contracts can be signed until July 7, after next season's salary cap is set and the moratorium is lifted.

Missing out on the money was O.J. Mayo, the former No. 3 overall pick who finished last season in Milwaukee and was a free agent. But he was dismissed and disqualified from the NBA on Friday for violating the terms of the league's anti-drug program, the first player to receive that punishment in a decade. He will be eligible to apply for reinstatement in two years.

His old team was busy, as the Bucks agreed to terms with free agent shooter Mirza Teletovic on a three-year deal worth \$30 million, and also agreed to terms on a four-year, \$38.4 million offer sheet with restricted free agent Matthew Dellavedova. The Cleveland Cavaliers have the option to match that deal.

Durant had his first discussions with another team, meeting with the Golden State Warriors. He met with his Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday, before free agency opened, as the former NBA MVP decides whether to remain with the franchise that selected him with the No. 2 pick in 2007.

The other MVP available is LeBron James, who opted to become a free agent. But he said last week he intends to return to Cleveland to defend the city's first championship in 52 years.

The Cavaliers' biggest decision could be what to do with free agent forward J.R. Smith, whose 3-point shooting — and defense — helped Cleveland rally to beat Golden State in the finals. Smith fits in well with Cleveland because he follows James' lead and he's embraced a stopper's role given to him by

coach Tyronn Lue.

CDC: Amoeba didn't die in whitewater center's murky churn

EMERY P. DALESIO, Associated Press

TOM FOREMAN Jr., Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The chlorination and filtration systems at an artificial water rapids course where Olympic kayakers train were inadequate to kill a rare, brain-attacking organism, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said after an Ohio teenager died from the amoeba.

The rushing water channels at the U.S. National Whitewater Center had become so murky with debris that the chlorine and ultraviolet light that might have killed the *Naegleria fowleri* amoeba didn't work, Dr. Michael Beach said Friday.

"It's kind of a murky water," said Beach, the CDC's associate director for healthy water. Speaking by phone, Beach wouldn't comment on whether a more effective system could have saved the life of Lauren Seitz, 18, of Westerville, Ohio.

The whitewater center closed its whitewater rafting and kayaking operations on June 24. The fast-water channels will be drained, dried and scrubbed to kill any vestiges of the amoeba, the non-profit said on its web site. The website didn't indicate when the rapids course might reopen. A spokesman for the center declined to comment Friday on the CDC findings.

Seitz died June 19, just three weeks after graduating from high school and more than a week after returning home to suburban Columbus, Ohio, from a church group trip that included a visit to the whitewater center about 15 miles west of Charlotte. Her only known underwater exposure was thought to be when her raft overturned at the whitewater center.

The center held Olympic qualifying trials for U.S. canoe and kayak competitors in April and also hosted the qualifying races before the 2012 and 2008 Olympics, said Aaron Mann, a spokesman for USA Canoe/Kayak. American Olympians haven't used the Charlotte course in recent weeks because they've been competing in Europe ahead of a training camp in France leading up to the Rio de Janeiro games, he said.

The amoeba is very common in lakes and other kinds of warm, fresh water, yet it's very rare that it will make anyone sick, said Dr. Thomas Kerkering, chief of infectious diseases at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, Virginia. The amoeba won't infect a person who drinks or swallows water containing it, and must enter the body through the nose to cause harm.

"Where most people get it is when they wipe out waterskiing and the water goes up their nose," Kerkering said.

The odds that the organism will cause the dangerous, brain-eating disease are just about chance, Kerkering said, since some people jumping into the water might contract the illness while most others don't.

Only 138 people nationwide have been stricken by the disease between 1962 and 2015, according to the CDC. Florida and Texas have had the most cases with 34 each in that time. North Carolina had four cases prior to Seitz, none of them involving the whitewater center, while Ohio is one of 32 states without a recorded case over the five-decade span. All five cases last year were fatal. They were in California, Oklahoma, Arizona, and two in Texas. The most recent was in Texas last August.

Initial symptoms showing up on average five days after exposure may include headache, fever or vomiting and worsen to include stiff neck, confusion, seizures and hallucinations.

The deadly amoeba was found in all 11 water samples taken from the National Whitewater Center's

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fast-flowing whitewater channel, said Dr. Stephen Keener, Mecklenburg County's medical director. Four samples from the neighboring Catawba River didn't find the organism, but it was found in one sample of the river's sediment, Keener said Thursday.

Water for the center's courses comes from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg municipal system, two water wells and rain, the operator said.

Seitz planned to study music and environmental science at Denison University in Ohio, according to an obituary posted by the funeral home handling arrangements. A celebration of her life is scheduled Saturday. Her family didn't return a telephone call seeking comment.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 2, the 184th day of 2016. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

On this date:

In 1566, French astrologer, physician and professed prophet Nostradamus died in Salon (sah-LOHN').

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1926, the United States Army Air Corps was created.

In 1955, "The Lawrence Welk Show" premiered on ABC-TV under its original title, "The Dodge Dancing Party."

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1991, actress Lee Remick died in Los Angeles at age 55.

In 1996, electricity and phone service was knocked out for millions of customers from Canada to the Southwest on a record-hot day. Seven years after they shot-gunned their parents to death in the family's Beverly Hills mansion, Lyle and Erik Menendez were sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 2001, Robert Tools received the world's first self-contained artificial heart in Louisville, Kentucky. (He lived 151 days with the device.) Vice President Dick Cheney returned to work two days after receiving a new pacemaker.

Ten years ago: Conservative free-trader Felipe Calderon (fay-LEE'-pay kahl-duh-ROHN') defeated leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (ahn-DRAYS' mahn-WEHL' LOH'-pez OH'-brah-dohr) by just 234,000 votes in Mexico's presidential election. Comic Jan Murray died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 89.

Five years ago: Petra Kvitova beat Maria Sharapova 6-3, 6-4 to become the first left-handed woman to win the Wimbledon title since Martina Navratilova in 1990.

One year ago: Trying to close the books on the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, BP agreed to

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provide billions of dollars in new money to five Gulf Coast states in a deal the company said would bring its full obligations to an estimated \$53.8 billion. A Philippine ferry, the Kim Nirvana, capsized after leaving port in Ormoc City, killing about 60 people.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 87. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 86. Actor Robert Ito is 85. Actress Polly Holliday is 79. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 79. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 77. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 74. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 69. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 69. Actor Saul Rubinek is 68. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 67. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 64. Actress Wendy Schaal is 62. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 60. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 55. Country singer Guy Penrod is 53. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 51. Actress Yancy Butler is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 40. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 38. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 37. Singer Michelle Branch is 33. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 32. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 32. Actor Nelson Franklin is 31. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 31. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 30. Actress Margot Robbie is 26.

Thought for Today: "Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things." — Amelia Earhart (1897-1937?).