

Groton Daily Independent

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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

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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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

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Noem Staff to Hold Mobile Office Hours in Groton on July 14

WATERTOWN, S.D. – U.S. Representative Kristi Noem today announced that Kelly German of her Watertown office will hold Mobile Office Hours in Groton on Thursday, July 14. If any resident needs help with a federal agency or has comments they would like passed along to the Congresswoman, they may schedule an appointment with German by calling 878-2868.

"As South Dakota's lone Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I believe it is critical that my staff and I meet with South Dakotans one-on-one to hear about the issues important to them," said Rep. Noem. "It is my hope that those needing help with a federal agency or simply wishing to pass on their concerns to me will connect with my staff on July 14."

While in the area, German will also be holding meetings with community members and local businesses. To get immediate assistance, please call 878-2868 or visit Rep. Noem's website at www.noem.house.gov.

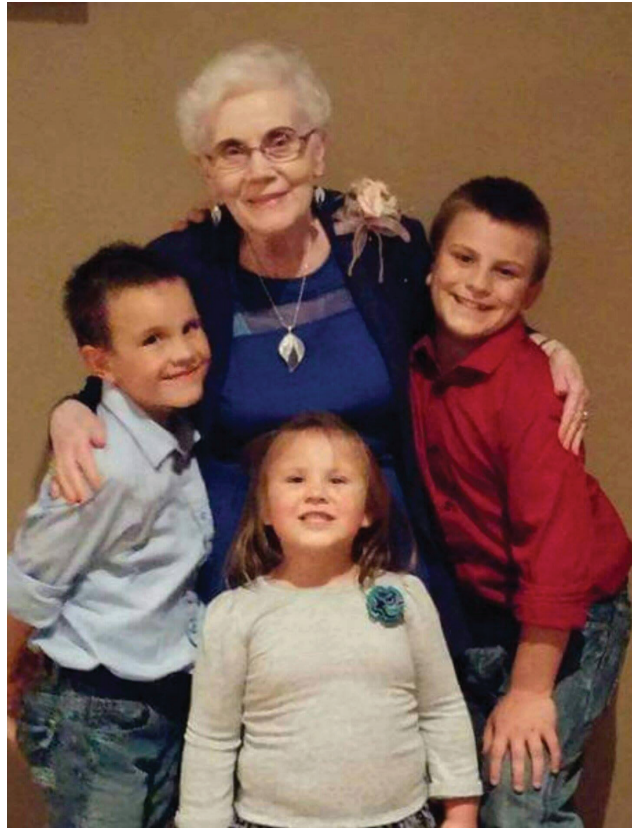
- THURSDAY, JULY 14 -

WHAT: Noem Staff to Hold Mobile Office Hours in Groton

WHEN: Thursday, July 14, 2016 – 1:30PM-5:00PM (CT)

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT: Please call Kelly German at 878-2868

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Residents may meet with Kelly German of Rep. Noem's Watertown office to get help with a federal agency or pass on any concerns or comments they have for the Congresswoman.

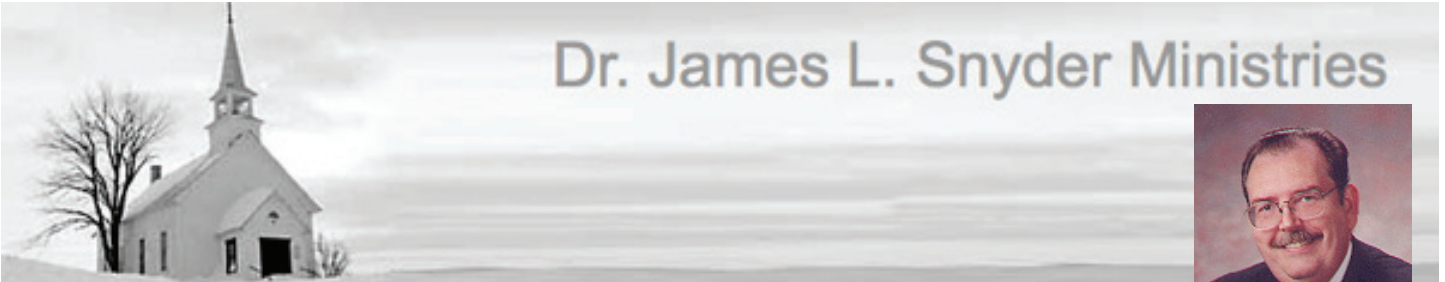


Hannon's 80th Birthday

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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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Why not just be an American

As we celebrate another birthday of this great country, I cannot help but think back on some of our history. What a grand history we have had. I know some people are ashamed of our history and so we have revisionists rewriting American history. Nevertheless, I certainly want to celebrate the real America.

My wife and I were relaxing after a scrumptious supper and were watching a little bit of TV. I was half dozing, as is usually my condition after such a supper, when my wife startled me with a question.

It was a news program on television updating us with the latest political scratch-talk. If it were not for politics, the airwaves would be silent. Oh, for those wonderful sounds of silence. Personally, I would be glad to double my tax rate if in doing so we could put to silence all this political-scratch-talk. I call it "scratch-talk" because whoever is talking is trying to scratch somebody's back even if it is just their own. I guess we have a lot of itchy backs in this country. Thankfully, we have an endless supply of backscratching politicians.

It does not matter which way the wind is blowing each political party says it is blowing in their direction. I guess you have to go to eight years to Harvard and have a student loan debt of \$120,000 to understand how that works. If you do not mind, I just do not want to know how it works.

With the politicians unable to create work in our country for common Americans, the real Americans, they sure know how to work a situation, usually to their advantage. If they could put all of this to work for the good of the ordinary American, I would feel happier about paying my taxes. As it is, I pay my taxes but not happily.

Back to my wife's question. "Who are," she said very carefully, "the real Americans in this country?" Then she paused for a moment and followed it with this question, "Who does Americareally belong to?"

Well, those two questions got me thinking.

Who are the real Americans? Are they Republicans, Democrats or Independents? I know there is a bunch of other miscellaneous political parties, but I cannot think of them right now. Which one is the American Party?

If I do not like any political party, where does that leave me? I am all for parties, but the whole idea of a party is for people to have fun. I do not see any political party where I could have fun. The strange thing today is, if I do not "belong" to some political party I am not able to vote in this country. Moreover, if I do vote, who in the world do I vote for?

My wife and I got to talking about this and I, for once in my life, posed a question. How would you describe the average American?

Is the average American black, white, yellow, red or a mixture of colors? Do you define an American by the color of his or her skin? What about gender? Is the average American male or female? Then there is age. How old is the average American?

We bounced these questions around for a long time and did not come up with any good answers. Then there was silence.

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I come back to one thought; why can't we just be Americans. Why do we have to have all the emphasis on variations, colors, temperaments and the people we elect to office who cannot tie their own shoes without conducting some poll? Why can't we send ordinary, common sense Americans to Washington, DC who understands the American life?

Most of the politicians, if not all, live in a bubble and cannot relate to the average American in this country. I challenge these politicians to act like, live like common, everyday, normal Americans.

We normal Americans have to live on a budget. If I do not have enough money, I have come to the end of my buying spree. I think this concept ought to be copyrighted and sent to Washington, DC. It is a new concept. It will need somebody to interpret it to those who are living in that venomous circle that we call the capital of the United States. I would recommend a first grader.

It would be refreshing to have somebody in Congress or the Senate who had common sense. I guess Will Rogers was right when he said the problem with common sense is it is no longer common.

A real American is one who is committed to the concept of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A real American is one who embraces the red, white and blue. A real American is the one who can clutch his five-dollar bill and say, "in God we trust." If it is good for our money, it is good for our life.

If only the American people, the real people of America, would wake up and see what our politicians are doing, perhaps they would do what our early founders did.

In celebrating another Fourth of July, my thought is simply, why not just be an American.

A real American also embraces what Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's" (Luke 20:25).

Is that the sound of a drumbeat I hear off in the distance?

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Fri., July 8, 10-3
Sat., July 9, 10-3



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Dry, Heat Drive Drought Expansion in South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The U.S. Drought Monitor has shown increases in drought area and severity throughout South Dakota.

"The latest map, issued on June 30, 2016 indicates that 38 percent of the state is currently in drought," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. "Almost six percent of the state is in severe to extreme drought, with the worst areas in the Black Hills and northeast."

Edwards explained that the warm and dry conditions of the last month drove a rapid increase in drought. Many western and northeastern South Dakota locations ranked June 2016 among the top five warmest on record.

Edgemont and Hill City recorded the warmest temperatures seen in more than 30 years. Camp Crook, Lead, Mt Rushmore and Summit ranked this June as the second warmest on record. "These stations have 55-109 years of record and were between 4.35 to 9.28 degrees above average for June 2016," Edwards explained.

July 2016 Outlook

Fifteen climate stations in South Dakota ranked June 2016 among the top five driest on record. Interior and Waubay had their driest June in more than 60 years, with 0.61 and 0.75 inches of rain. Other stations that were exceptionally dry included Alexandria, Edgemont, Philip and Ashton.

The climate outlook for July 2016, also updated on June 30, shows an increase in likelihood of warmer than average conditions for the month ahead.

"It is not clear yet if it will be near record warmth as we experienced in June 2016," Edwards said.

She added that the precipitation outlook for July 2016 indicates equal chances of being wetter, drier and near average conditions.

"Summertime precipitation can be challenging to forecast as thunderstorms can produce locally heavy rainfall," Edwards said.

Some drought impacts have already been reported across the state.

"Notably, dry vegetation in the western counties has increased the risk of wildland fire and grassland/prairie fire," Edwards said. "Several small fires have already been reported due to hay baling and other related activities."

Water Quality

Water supply and quality has also been a concern in agricultural areas. Producers with stock ponds and other surface water for livestock should be aware of potential unhealthy water quality, and have their water tested for Total Dissolved Solids.

In cropping systems, crops being cut for hay due to the drought conditions can also be tested for nitrates.

"In some eastern counties, early drought stress has been noted in corn and soybeans with leaf curling and poor/slow growth," Edwards said.

She added that the lack of moisture will have a substantial impact soon if conditions do not change, as corn typically enters pollination stage in early to mid-July.

"Drought stress during that time can have a large impact on yields," Edwards said. "The dry conditions however, have also reduced weed and disease concerns in cropping systems."



A Blueprint for Tax Reform

Before the iPhone, the near-universal ownership of a personal computer, and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States passed a new, 26,000-page tax code. In the 30 years since, very few reforms have been made to modernize that tax code – only loopholes added that have nearly tripled its size. No wonder 9 out of 10 taxpayers use either a professional tax preparer or computer software to file their taxes.

The call for comprehensive tax reform has been made for years and it's frustrating that it seems as though little has been done. That was one of the reasons I pushed so hard to join the House Ways and Means Committee this Congress. Out of the House of Representatives' 435 members, what happens to our tax code starts with the 24 majority members of the Ways and Means Committee. That is where I needed to be, so I was grateful to be named to the committee this year – the first South Dakota Representative in history to do so.

Earlier this summer, the committee released our blueprint for pro-growth tax reform. Simply put, it is designed to grow families' paychecks, the workforce, and the American economy. More specifically, the proposal centers around three ideas. First, the tax code should be simpler, fairer, and flatter. Second, it should make it easier to create jobs, raise wages, and expand opportunity. Finally, it should put taxpayers first.

This blueprint is all about simplicity. In fact, we tried to make it simple enough that most Americans could do their taxes on a postcard. That meant reducing the amount of tax brackets from seven to three. We then went through and eliminated many of the most damaging add-on taxes, such as the death tax. Finally, we made sure important "milestone" tax breaks remained to help give families peace of mind at critical moments in life, such as going to school, getting a job, raising a family, or planning for retirement.

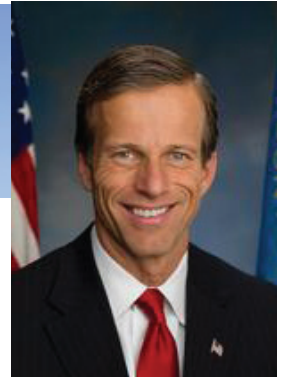
To make it easier to create jobs and raise wages, the proposal offers to cut taxes on small businesses, creating a separate, low tax rate of 25 percent for many on Main Street. Because U.S. businesses currently have to pay the highest corporate tax rate in the world, it also lowers the corporate tax rate to make America a more competitive place to do business.

Ensuring taxpayers come first meant we needed to tackle some pretty serious issues within the IRS – an agency that in recent years has allowed millions of taxpayer calls to go unanswered, targeted conservative organizations, and failed to operate in an ethical manner time and again. This blueprint outlines a restructured IRS that is held accountable to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and set up to provide excellence in customer service. It would also install a new, term-limited commissioner who would be required to administer the new tax code fairly while keeping politics out of the IRS.

This blueprint is just the beginning of the conversation. It isn't perfect or set in stone, but we've taken the initiative to draw the outline; now, it's time to color in the picture. While we included the ideas that so many taxpayers have talked about and urged for years, we'll continue looking for feedback and insight. The goal is to turn this plan into detailed, comprehensive legislation that can be moved when a new administration takes office in 2017.

If a family or business did things like they did in the 80's, they'd still be relying on a fax machine. The world doesn't work like that anymore and neither should our tax code.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A South Dakota Fourth of July

There are a lot of qualities that make South Dakotans some of the greatest people in America. They're humble, honest, and thoughtful, and they know a hard day's work and the true value of a dollar better than anyone else. South Dakotans have an immense respect for what it means to be an American and are grateful for the extraordinary blessing of having been born here, the freest country in the world. More than that, though, they understand those blessings came with a price – an immeasurable amount of blood, sweat, and tears. All that to say, the true meaning of July 4 isn't lost on the people who call South Dakota home.

Independence Day is one of those holidays that's celebrated in different ways by different people, but all with an underlying sense of pride and patriotism. I think that's exactly what the men and women who've laid down their lives on our behalf would have wanted, and it's a right for which our military heroes continue to fight and protect to this day.

For as many communities as there are across South Dakota, there's as many unique and enjoyable Fourth of July celebrations. The cowboys and cowgirls at Belle Fourche's Black Hills Roundup and Rodeo, one of the oldest annual outdoor rodeos in America, will ride in the 97th annual event this year. The week-long experience includes a parade, fireworks, the Miss Rodeo South Dakota contest, and the big rodeo itself, of course. While you're in the Black Hills, the Crazy Horse celebration is a sight to see, considering it usually includes an explosion or two as the monument continues to take shape.

It goes without saying, but while each of those celebrations and the dozens more that take place across the state are worth seeing on their own, nothing quite compares to spending July 4 at Mount Rushmore. On any given day, you'd be hard-pressed not to feel a rush of patriotism while visiting Borglum's tribute to some of our nation's Founding Fathers, but add the excitement of July 4 to the mix, and I don't think it gets more American than that.

Whether you and your family are camping, hiking, or firing up the backyard BBQ this Fourth of July, I hope it's a safe, enjoyable, and memory-filled day. Wherever you are and whichever parade you attend, don't miss the steely-eyed men and women marching quietly near the front. They won't be tossing any candy and they won't be riding on a flashy float. For our veterans, carrying the stars and stripes has a little extra meaning that day, and it's something we should always honor and never forget.

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Celebrating An Unparalleled Way Of Life

In the spring of 2012, I had the chance to visit somewhere I'd never expected to go. I joined Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee for a Department of Defense trip to Kuwait and Afghanistan. I am not well-traveled, so I had no idea what to expect.

Our first stop was Kuwait. Although it was springtime, we saw very little vegetation. Only along some parts of the road did we spot any growing plants – plants that had been planted and watered. We drove through blowing sand and dust, and traversed areas where overland oil pipelines and overhead electric transmission towers dominated the countryside. The dust was so bad at one point that we could not see the sun. The SD National Guard soldiers I met in Kuwait were just weeks from their scheduled return to South Dakota, and their mood was upbeat.

When we arrived in Afghanistan we were directed to wear helmets and flak jackets. America was actively at war here. We traveled in armored helicopters and when we flew, it was largely at night. Our helicopter was equipped with machine guns mounted on both sides. Armed soldiers accompanied us throughout our stay. In one daytime flight I noticed the walls surrounding most homes and some fields. The walls weren't built to contain or exclude livestock, but to provide security. One group of SD National Guard I met had the duty of providing security for transports. The mood of these guardsmen was more serious and tense.

Enroute home, we flew to Landstuhl, Germany, where the most severely injured troops were being sent. I remember a conversation with a soldier who had been shot in the lower extremities and would suffer permanent damage. His two buddies had also been shot. He judged that the person who shot them was about 10 years old.

When I arrived back in South Dakota, the prairies were lush and green. No escorts were needed, nor any body armor. I saw well-kept houses surrounded by green lawns. Kids were playing outside.

In America, our abundance and freedom is so commonplace that we often take things for granted – clean air, running water, kids playing, feelings of safety. Yet there are many places in the world where these things are uncommon or even rare.

On July 2, a group of South Dakotans who understand this more deeply than the rest of us will return home. After 10 months in Kuwait, the 155th Engineer Company will return to South Dakota. I expect the soldiers of the 155th will spend this holiday weekend fully appreciating the freedoms we have in America, and we should do likewise.

This Independence Day let us celebrate the beliefs upon which America was founded – that every person is born with unalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our freedoms have led to a prosperity that no one in 1776 could have imagined.

But beliefs alone did not secure America's way of life. Rather, it was those beliefs made tangible through the sacrifices of those who have worn our country's uniform. It is thanks to the men and women of the 155th Engineer Company and all of those who have served that you and I are free.

Happy Independence Day, America.



MIKE ROUNDS

United States Senator for **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Rounds Staff to Visit Groton

By Senator Mike Rounds

July 1, 2016

Strong, prosperous communities are the backbone of South Dakota. But in order for them to continue to thrive and grow, we must make certain federal policies are working at the local level. However, this requires constant feedback from you and all South Dakotans so I can better understand how legislation impacts you and how it can be improved. Since I am often in D.C. during the week, one way I am able to receive feedback more frequently is by having my staff members periodically visit communities across the state.

One of my staff members, Josh Haeder, will be in Groton on July 27, 2016, at the Community Center to meet with residents in the Groton area. I encourage you to stop by and visit with Josh between 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. if you have thoughts and suggestions you would like to share.

We may also be able to help if you are having difficulty with a federal agency. Josh and other members of my staff can act as a liaison between you and the federal government, so I encourage you to stop by if a particular agency is giving you trouble. While I frequently read the mail you send to my office and travel across the state as often as I can, I believe communication is crucial to helping me make the best decisions possible for our state. I hope you take the time to visit Josh when he's in town!

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Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the western edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hail was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to 70-mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the crops were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Wau-bay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. Specifically, an aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000-bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken houses and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.

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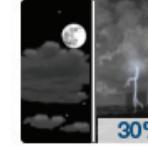




We now accept

for out patient therapy.
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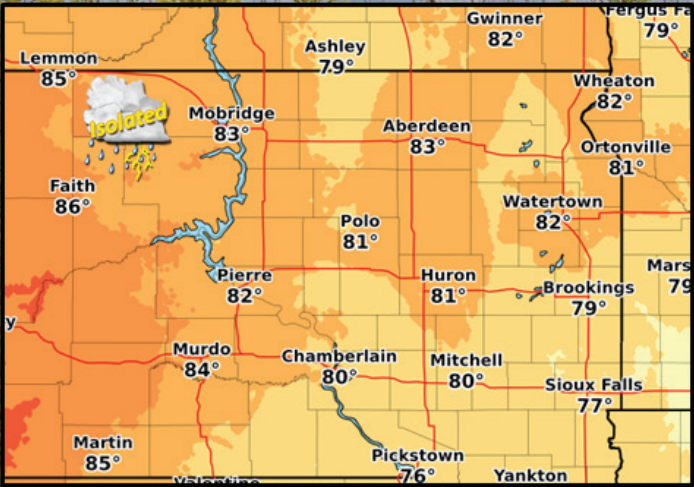
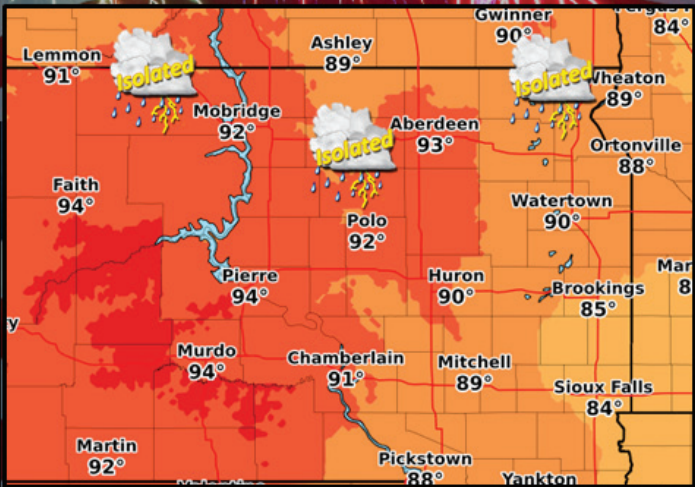
Today	Tonight	Independence Day	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 82 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 85 °F

Today

Gusty southerly winds, isolated thunderstorms west of the Mo. River

Independence Day

HOT!
Isolated thunderstorm chances

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 7/3/2016 5:20 AM Central

Published on: 07/03/2016 at 5:32AM

Gusty southerly winds and seasonal temperatures can be expected today. An isolated thunderstorm may crop up west of the Missouri River later in the afternoon, but any thunderstorms should be brief and short lived. Independence day will be hot and humid. Again, there is the possibility of an isolated thunderstorm, but current timing would suggest any storms hold off until very late Monday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.7 F at 4:14 PM

Heat Index: 83.0 at 4:14 PM

Low Outside Temp: 53.4 F at 5:58 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 1:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1949

Record Low: 39 in 1917

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.31

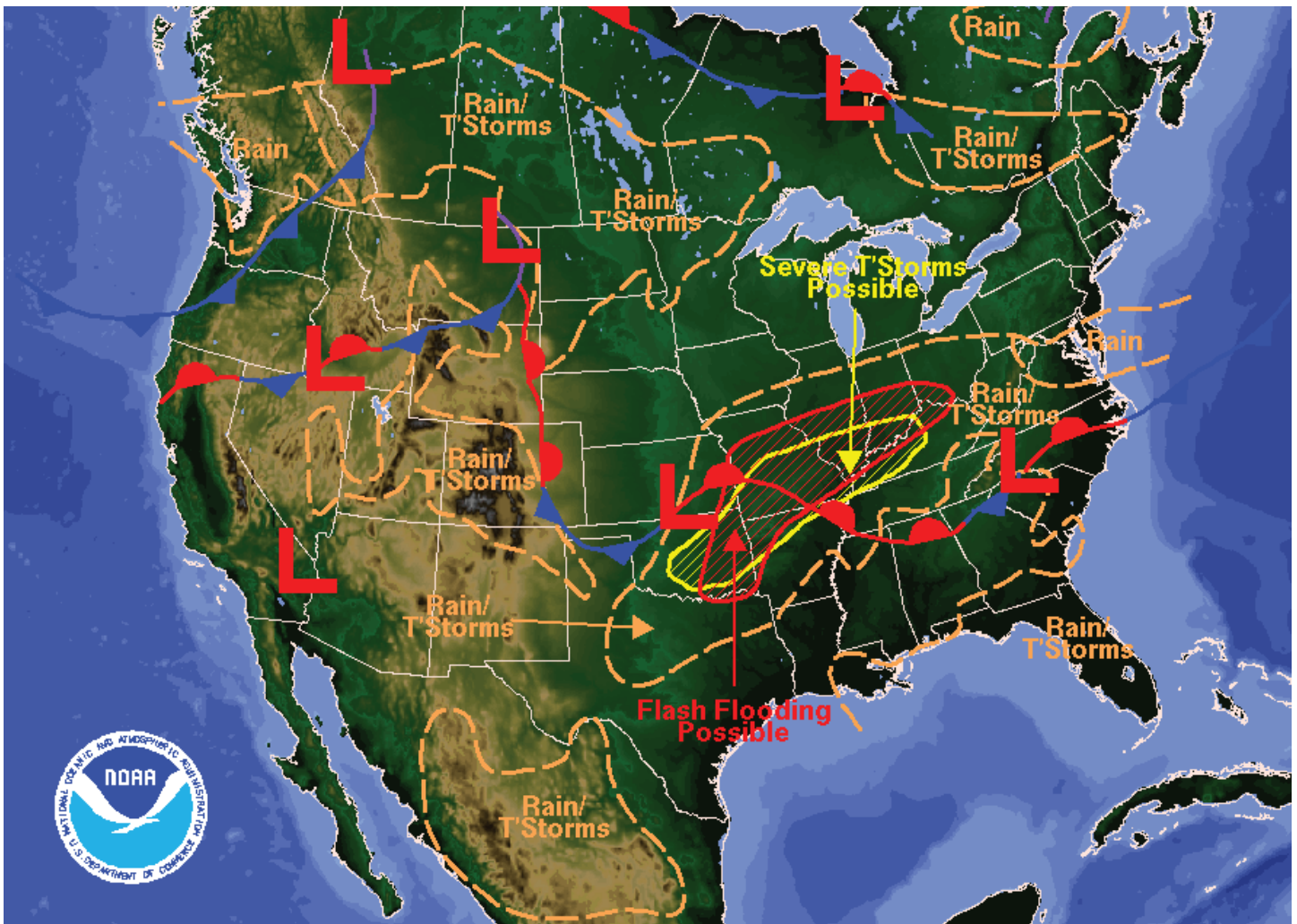
Precip to date in July: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 11.15

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Jul 03, 2016, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ATTITUDES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

His lifelong ambition was to become the CEO of the successful business his father founded. He dreamed about the day he would have a corner office overlooking the skyline of New York with a secretary to bring him coffee each morning.

Then reality set in. The day before he was to begin his career his father said, "Son, you'll start at the bottom just as I did. Your first job will be to water the hundreds of plants in our building."

His hopes dashed and his dreams shattered, he refused to become discouraged. The next morning he came to work with his new business card that read: "Plant Manager."

We cannot always control our circumstances but we can control our attitude. Whatever happens in our lives happens because God has something special for us to do in every situation we face. This does not mean that what happens to us is good. Rather, it means that God is able to turn every circumstance of our lives into something that will eventually be good for us. We must remember that God is not working to make us happy. He is working in us to complete the work that began in our lives when we received Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. His goal is to fashion and form us into the likeness of His Son so that we are enabled and equipped to fulfill the purpose He has for us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to refuse to be disturbed or destroyed by the disappointments of life. May we accept and believe that all things work together for our good. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

News from the Associated Press

9 folk artists honored with national fellowships

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nine artists have been given the nation's highest honor for folk and traditional arts.

The National Endowment for the Arts announced its 2016 National Heritage Fellows this week. They will be recognized at a concert Sunday at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall and again at an awards ceremony in September.

The fellows each get a \$25,000 cash prize.

Performers at Sunday's concert will include past recipients of the NEA heritage fellowship.

This year's recipients are: Brian Akipa of Sisseton, South Dakota; Joseph Pierre Boudreaux of New Orleans; Billy McComiskey of Baltimore; Artemio Posadas of San Jose, California; Clarissa Rizal of Juneau, Alaska; Theresa Secord of Waterville, Maine; Bounzeung Synanonh of Fresno, California; Michael Vlahovich of Tacoma, Washington; and Leona Waddell of Cecilia, Kentucky.

Wildlife officials hosting Outdoor University in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Children and families wanting to get a taste of fishing, canoeing, kayaking, archery and other outdoors activities can get their chance in Rapid City next weekend.

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department is hosting its annual Outdoor University July 9 at the Outdoor Campus-West in Rapid City.

Chad Tussing is the director of the Outdoor Campus-West. He says individuals and families can enjoy the variety of activities "no matter if they are an avid outdoors person or just getting started."

A children's area will feature soft target shooting and other outdoor park-setting games and crafts, including a giant yard mural.

The free event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bangladesh hunts hostage crisis clues, investigates IS claim

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Security officials searched on Sunday for evidence and the possible masterminds of the weekend hostage-taking in an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital. The government has denied the Islamic State group's claim of responsibility for the attack that left 28 dead, including six attackers and 20 of the hostages.

Police released photographs of the bodies of five attackers, along with their first names: Akash, Badhon, Bikash, Don and Ripon. The men belonged to the banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, and their families hadn't heard from them in months, according to police. Asked whether they might also have had Islamic State ties, Police Inspector General A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque said authorities were investigating that possibility.

Despite the police saying IS links were being investigated, the home minister refuted the possibility that the Islamic State directed the attack from abroad. Bangladesh's government insists the extremist Sunni Muslim group based in Syria and Iraq has no presence in the country, and in the past has suggested that any claims of responsibility for violence waged in the South Asian country are simply opportunistic attempts at grabbing global attention.

"They are all Bangladeshis. They are from rich families, they have good educational background," Khan said of the attackers. One surviving suspect was detained when paramilitary forces ended the

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10-hour standoff Saturday morning, and authorities said he was being interrogated.

The siege marked an escalation in the militant violence that has hit Bangladesh with increasing frequency. Most of the attacks in the past several months have involved machete-wielding men singling out individual activists, foreigners and religious minorities.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed her political opponents of trying to create chaos by backing domestic militants.

"Anyone who believes in religion cannot do such an act," Hasina said Saturday. "They do not have any religion, their only religion is terrorism."

On Sunday morning, the first of two days of national mourning for the victims, police were blocking all access to streets near the Holey Artisan Bakery where the siege occurred. Investigators from both Bangladesh and Japan visited the restaurant to collect evidence.

The 20 hostages who were killed included nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and one Indian teenager. Two police officers were killed by the attackers, and 13 people were rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant Saturday morning. Another 25 officers and one civilian were wounded, though hospitals would not give fresh information on their conditions.

The attack was the worst in the recent series of attacks by radical Islamists in the moderate, mostly Muslim nation of 160 million. Unlike the previous attacks, the assailants were well-prepared and heavily armed with guns, bombs and sharp objects that police later said were used to torture some of the 35 captives.

That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a change in tactics. The restaurant overlooking a lake serves Spanish food and is patronized by residents of Gulshan, an affluent neighborhood where most of the foreign embassies are located.

The hostages were asked to recite verses from the Quran, to prove themselves Muslim, according to a witness. Those who passed were allowed to eat. Those who failed were tortured and slain.

Western embassies issued travel warnings to their citizens, advising those in the country to be vigilant and avoid places frequented by foreigners in the diplomatic zone. The U.S. Embassy also urged its citizens and personnel to avoid traveling on foot or in open vehicles exposed to potential attackers.

In its claim of responsibility, the Islamic State group said its operatives had targeted the citizens of "Crusader countries" in the attack, warning that citizens of such countries would not be safe "as long as their warplanes kill Muslims." The statement was circulated in a manner consistent with past IS claims of responsibility.

The Amaq news agency, affiliated with IS, also published photos of five smiling young men, each holding what appear to be assault rifles and posing in front of a black IS flag, and identified them as the restaurant attackers, according to the SITE Intelligence Service, which monitors jihadi online activity. The men in those photographs appeared to match the bodies shown in police images of the dead assailants in the restaurant after the hostage crisis ended.

Amaq identified the five by noms de guerre indicating they were all Bangladeshis. It said the fighters used "knives, cleavers, assault rifles and hand grenades," and had "verified" the identities of the hostages in order to spare the Muslims and kill the foreigners.

Obama campaign machine revving up to elect Clinton

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The vaunted data-driven machine that twice got President Barack Obama elected is revving up to help elect Hillary Clinton, as Democrats look to recreate the tactical advantage they used against Republicans in 2008 and 2012.

With Obama's popularity rebounding, Democrats have been eagerly awaiting the president's return to campaigning, and he'll hold his debut event for her Tuesday in North Carolina. Yet campaign officials say just as critical to her success could be an Obama political operation that remains potent four years after his re-election, including deep troves of voter and donor information, and a corps of trained field staffers and volunteers that Clinton's campaign is now co-opting.

The crown jewel of Obama's machine, an email list of supporters that included 20 million addresses in 2012, is now fully available to Clinton. That list had been closely held within an Obama campaign committee that still exists to pay off old debt. Democratic groups and even Obama's Organizing for Action nonprofit had to rent the list for a hefty sum.

Now a copy of that list, which helped propel Obama to record-breaking fundraising, is controlled by the Democratic National Committee, which can send emails at will without going through Obama's campaign. That's according to individuals familiar with the list, who weren't authorized to discuss the arrangement and requested anonymity.

Just recently, the DNC started sending emails signed by Clinton to the entire list, including one last week inviting donors to enter a raffle to be Clinton's guest to the Broadway musical "Hamilton."

For Clinton supporters, the handover of the email list is the clearest indication that concerns that sprang up after Obama's re-election have turned out unfounded. In 2013, when Obama declined to transfer the list to the national party, some Democrats griped that he was holding out on his party by sequestering his most coveted campaign resources.

Mitch Stewart, Obama's battleground states director in 2012, said there was some disagreement that year about whether Obama's tech-infused strategy would work for other Democrats, or whether the phenomenon was Obama-specific. He said the continuity between Obama's campaign and Clinton's was proving it can be sustained.

"The people involved in the Clinton campaign aren't having to relearn the lessons in 2016 that we already learned in 2008 or 2012," said Stewart, who since started a consulting firm that's helping Clinton's campaign. "A lot of them are the same people."

Obama campaign veterans permeate Clinton's operation at just about every level. Elan Kriegel, who ran data analytics for Obama, is doing the same job for Clinton, and Obama pollster Joel Benenson is now her chief strategist. At Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, her battleground states director, national organizing director, political engagement chief and communications director are all former Obama hands.

In the most competitive states that will help determine the winner, Clinton has hired former Obama aides to build out her operation for the general election. Her state directors in Ohio, Colorado, Iowa and Nevada all had experience on Obama's campaigns.

For Clinton, the Obama imprimatur is particularly critical because of the election's arithmetic, which suggests she'll win the White House if she can carry the "Obama coalition" — young people, minorities and women — with similar numbers. Those groups haven't always shown up for Democrats when Obama isn't on the ballot, making their reliability an open question for Clinton.

That's where Obama's much-touted data operation comes in. After gathering troves of data in 2008 about donors and voters —for instance, which magazines they subscribe to, whether they like to vote

early, how likely they are to open certain emails — the campaign in 2012 debuted the ability to merge all those factoids into one dataset that can triangulate how best to reach an individual voter. That data file now lives at the DNC, where it's updated with new information from state elections agencies and commercial databases.

"The aspiration is to make it an inheritance, so that the campaign can spend its time working on the next incremental innovation and piece of infrastructure from a foundation of where the last campaign left off," said Joe Rospars, who was Obama's chief digital strategist in both campaigns and whose firm has done work for Clinton's campaign.

But Lindsay Walters, a Republican National Committee spokeswoman, said Republicans are prepared to rival Clinton's campaign with a data-intensive operation of their own. She said despite Obama's help, Clinton's poll numbers had proven that she's been unable to match his appeal to millennials and black voters.

"To use his model is to tap into all those voters, and right now, she's falling short," Walters said.

The Obama-Clinton cross-pollination extends to the money race, where high-dollar Obama donors are contributing to Clinton in large numbers. Priorities USA, a super PAC set up by former Obama officials to support his re-election, was taken over by Clinton allies and repurposed to help her win the White House, and many of the same donors who funded the group in 2012 are returning with their checkbooks, including media moguls Haim Saban and Fred Eychaner, who have both given the group millions this year.

Iraqi officials: 91 people killed in 2 bombings in Baghdad

MURTADA FARAJ, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — At least 91 people were killed Sunday in two bombings in the Iraqi capital, including a large-scale attack claimed by the Islamic State group that killed 86 people — among them 15 children — in a central shopping district, officials said.

The bombings demonstrated the extremists' ability to mount significant attacks despite major battle-field losses, including the city of Fallujah, which was declared "fully liberated" from IS just over a week ago.

The deadliest attack took place in the central Karada district of Baghdad, where a suicide bomber blew up his explosives-laded pickup truck outside a crowded shopping center, killing at least 86 people and wounding up to 170 others, according to a police officer. He said the dead included 15 children, 10 women and six policemen.

The suicide bomber struck shortly after midnight, when families and young people were out on the streets after breaking their daylight fast for the holy month of Ramadan. Most of the victims were inside a multi-story shopping and amusement mall, where dozens burned to death or suffocated, officials said.

"It was like an earthquake," said Karim Sami, a 35-year-old street vendor. "I wrapped up my goods and was heading home when I saw a fire ball with a thunderous bombing. I was so scared to go back and started to make phone calls to my friends, but none answered," the father of three added. He said that one of his friends had been killed, another was wounded and one was still missing.

Within hours, IS claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement posted online, saying they had deliberately targeted Shiite Muslims. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statement, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

At the scene, firefighters and civilians were seen carrying the dead away, their bodies wrapped in blankets and sheets. Smoke billowed from the shopping center, which was surrounded by the twisted and burned wreckage of cars and market stalls. A group of women were sitting on the pavement, cry-

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ing for their loved ones.

In the second attack, an improvised explosive device went off in Baghdad's northern Shaab area, killing 5 people and wounding 16, another police officer said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but it bore the hallmarks of IS militants who often target commercial districts and Shiite areas.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to release information to the press.

The high death toll made it the second deadliest attack in the capital this year. On May 11, IS militants carried out three car bombings in Baghdad, killing 93 people.

Hours after the bombing, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and lawmakers visited the blast site. Video footage uploaded to social media showed an angry crowd, with people calling al-Abadi a "thief" and shouting at his convoy. Eyewitness said the crowd pelted the al-Abadi's car with rocks, shoes and jerry cans.

Until the government launched its Fallujah operation, the prime minister had faced growing social unrest and anti-government protests sparked, in part, by popular anger at the lack of security in the capital. In one month, Baghdad's highly-fortified Green Zone — which houses government buildings and diplomatic missions — was stormed twice by anti-government protesters.

In Karada civilians expressed their frustration at the government's failure to secure the capital.

"We are in a state of war, and these places are targeted. The security can't focus on the war (against IS) and forget Baghdad," Sami, the street vendor, said.

IS still controls Iraq's second largest city of Mosul as well as significant patches of territory in the country's north and west.

At the height of the extremist group's power in 2014, IS rendered nearly a third of the country out of government control. Now, the militants are estimated to control only 14 percent of Iraqi territory, according to the office of Iraq's prime minister.

Trump statements, slow start put pivotal Southwest at risk

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Once a swing state in presidential elections, Colorado has teetered on the brink of becoming solidly Democratic. Donald Trump may have pushed it over the edge.

Trump's disparaging words about Mexicans, negative comments about women and weak campaign organization have punctuated the state's shift from a nip-and-tuck battleground to one that's Democrat-friendly. For the first time in more than 20 years, there are now more registered Democrats in the state than Republicans.

"Trump is turning off as many key voter groups as we have in this state," said former state Republican Party Chairman Dick Wadhams. "I would have to believe Trump's having trouble."

And it's not just Colorado. Trump's inflammatory rhetoric and weak campaign structure could ensure that perennially competitive Nevada and New Mexico are out of reach as well.

That matters for Trump. He can't win the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency without capturing some states that favored Barack Obama in the last two elections.

The three Southwestern states — which have a combined 21 electoral votes — might have offered some hope. All backed Republican George W. Bush 12 years ago.

But Trump isn't making as much of a push for those states as is his likely Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. He made his first campaign appearance in Colorado just Friday, speaking at the Western Conservative Summit in Denver.

Clinton made her fifth trip on Wednesday, proposing college-loan deferment for graduates who start

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businesses. It was a tactical move aimed at swaying young voters, many of whom flocked to Sen. Bernie Sanders, who beat Clinton soundly in March's Colorado caucuses.

"Hillary has some ground to make up," said Craig Hughes, who ran Democratic President Barack Obama's winning 2012 Colorado campaign. "But compared to Trump, Hillary is in a far, far better place."

In Colorado, Clinton's campaign is spending \$2.4 million on television advertising this month through Election Day, while a group that supports Clinton, Priorities USA, is spending \$13.6 million, according to Kantar Media's campaign advertising tracker. In Nevada, Clinton is spending \$2 million and Priorities USA is spending \$10.4 million.

Neither Trump nor any super PACs supporting him have reserved advertising time in the two states. Super PACs are organizations that can spend unlimited funds on a candidate, but can't coordinate with the campaign.

The National Rifle Association's political arm is making small ad buys — \$155,000 in Colorado and \$98,000 in Nevada — to attack Clinton's handling of the attacks on diplomatic compounds in Libya while she was secretary of state.

Clinton has had staff in Nevada for more than a year, ahead of the state's early caucuses, and in Colorado for almost a year. Trump has a Colorado state campaign director and a Southwest regional director in Nevada.

If Colorado is a stretch for Trump, Nevada and New Mexico may be out of reach with their larger Hispanic populations and wider Democratic edge. The number of Hispanic voters has boomed in Nevada, more than doubling as a percentage of the state's voters since 1980, to an estimated 22 percent this year. In New Mexico, nearly half the population is Hispanic.

Trump has alienated Hispanics with his call to build a wall on the Mexican border, his plans to deport the roughly 11 million immigrants who are in the United States illegally and by characterizing some Mexican immigrants as drug smugglers and rapists.

Still, Nevada Republican strategist Ryan Erwin says Trump could salve the wounds were he to make the effort himself.

"As that population changes, it's harder for a Republican presidential candidate that isn't here all the time," said Erwin, 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney's Nevada director.

But Trump is relying on the Republican National Committee for staffing, as he is in all competitive states, said Trump's Colorado director, Patrick Davis.

"There's only so much one presidential candidate can do," Davis said. "You've got to use all of the means of communication to get it done."

Trump's statements, late organizational start and Clinton's statewide organization have her Colorado director Emmy Ruiz cautiously optimistic.

"I think the odds are in our favor. But I don't think that they are strong odds. I also don't think they are high enough for us to sit back," Ruiz said.

Part of Clinton's tail wind: Democrats in April nosed ahead of Republicans in voter registration for the first time since 1994. Since 2012, Democratic voter registration in Colorado has grown 7.5 percent, compared to 5 percent for Republicans.

In Nevada, registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 70,000, a gap that Democrats and Republicans say could top 120,000 by Election Day. It's a small but significant chunk of the state's 1.5 million voters.

"Unless and until Republicans can match the kind of funding Democrats have put into their voter registration here, Republicans are going to fall behind," said Erwin, the Republican strategist.

Last week, 18-year-old Kevin Garcia knocked on doors in 100-plus degree heat, registering Las Vegas

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residents to vote. He then attended a Clinton campaign calling session at a pizza restaurant.

Garcia, whose family emigrated from Mexico, was among about a dozen callers sipping cold Pepsis and using cellphones to call Nevadans. His goal was to make 100 calls that night — some in Spanish.

He said he supports Clinton because of her support for allowing people in the United States illegally to stay under certain circumstances. And because of Trump's rhetoric.

"And my whole family is naturalized," he said. "We're all citizens."

Turkish authorities detain 3 more over airport attack

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's state-run news agency says authorities have detained three new suspects in connection with the attack at Istanbul's airport that killed at least 44 people.

Anadolu Agency didn't identify the suspects or specify their nationalities.

It said Sunday the total number of those detained in relation to the shooting and suicide attack at the airport is now 27. Thirteen suspects, including three foreigners, have been referred to Istanbul's Bakirkoy Court after undergoing medical checks, according to the report.

Three militants armed with assault rifles and suicide bombs stormed Istanbul's Ataturk Airport on Tuesday night. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Turkish officials say they believe it was the work of the Islamic State group, which is based in neighboring Syria and Iraq and has operatives in Turkey.

Overnight flash floods kill 30 people in northern Pakistan

RIAZ KHAN, Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Heavy monsoon rains overnight triggered flash floods that killed at least 30 people in a remote village in northern Pakistan, close to the Afghan border, officials said Sunday.

Maghfiat Shah, the mayor of Chitral district, said heavy monsoon rains and flash floods washed away a mosque and several houses in Ursoon, an area of Chitral. He said that the four women and five children were among the 30 killed.

The flash flooding hit as people were offering up special Ramadan prayers at the mosque. Dozens of worshippers were swept away in the flood waters, which destroyed the mosque and damaged several nearby houses and a security post, Shah said.

The bad weather hampered rescue efforts, but by morning most of the bodies had been recovered and one person had been rescued, Shah said.

A spokesman for the disaster management authority, Yousuf Zia, said search crews recovered the bodies of seven people. He said 30 people were missing and believed dead. Authorities called for helicopters to join the rescue and relief operation because nearby roads had been washed away, Zia said, adding that in areas where the weather had cleared teams were already distributing essential goods.

Some 37 houses were completely destroyed and 47 were partly damaged, according to an initial report by the disaster management authority.

The provincial chief minister, Pervez Khattak, expressed his grief over the tragedy and announced that the families would receive compensation of \$300 for each loss of life. He said that he had given orders for disaster management officials to quickly provide the affected communities with tents, food, medicine and other relief goods.

Chitral is in the far north of Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan's Nooristan and Badakhshan provinces.

This story has been corrected to show that the flooding took place in Ursoon, not Arsun.

Clinton's FBI interview may show email probe is nearing end

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton's interview with the FBI may signal that the Justice Department is nearing the end of its yearlong probe of her use of a private email server while secretary of state, a controversy that has hung over her White House bid.

"I've been eager to do it, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to assist the department in bringing its review to a conclusion," Clinton said in describing the FBI session to NBC's "Meet the Press" for an interview to air Sunday. She agreed that the tone of meeting with investigators had been civil and business-like.

Clinton said she had no knowledge of any timeline for the review and would not comment on whether she was given an indication that charges would not be filed.

The presumptive presidential nominee for the Democratic Party gave a voluntary interview for 3 1/2 hours Saturday at FBI headquarters in Washington, her campaign announced. Spokespeople for the FBI and the Justice Department declined to comment.

The interview, which had been expected to take place before the Democratic National Convention on July 25, did not suggest that Clinton or anyone else is likely to face prosecution. If the former senator and secretary of state and her aides are exonerated, it might help brush aside a major distraction that has made many voters question her trustworthiness.

Donald Trump, the Republican Party's presumptive nominee, has repeatedly said the email issue undermines Clinton's fitness for office and suggested she will receive leniency from a Democratic administration. Following reports of Clinton's FBI interview, Trump tweeted: "It is impossible for the FBI not to recommend criminal charges against Hillary Clinton. What she did was wrong!"

While she was Obama's secretary of state, Clinton exclusively used a private email server for her government and personal emails, rather than the State Department's email system. The Associated Press revealed the existence of the server in March 2015.

Clinton has said relying on a private server was a mistake but that other secretaries of state had also used a personal email address.

The FBI is investigating the potential mishandling of sensitive information. The matter was referred last summer by the inspectors general for the State Department and intelligence community following the discovery of emails that were later determined to contain classified material.

Clinton sat down with the FBI just days after her husband, former President Bill Clinton, had an impromptu meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch while at a Phoenix airport in separate planes. That Clinton would approach Lynch while her Justice Department was investigating his wife's actions, and that Lynch would speak to him, opened a new angle of criticism about the Clintons' judgment and sense of entitlement.

Lynch, while maintaining that their discussion on Monday purely personal and didn't touch on the email server, said Friday she regretted meeting with the former president. Bill Clinton joined her in saying he would not do it again, either, in light of the impression it gave. He had nominated Lynch as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York in 1999.

Asked about the ongoing investigation, Lynch said Friday that she intended to accept the findings and recommendations of career prosecutors who have spent months on the case.

Knife with blood found in home where children killed

ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Sheriff's deputies found a large butcher knife with what appeared to be blood on it in an apartment where a Tennessee mother killed her four children by cutting their throats, court documents say.

Shanynthia Gardner, 29, of Memphis, has been charged with four counts of first degree murder while committing aggravated child neglect in the deaths of her three daughters and one son — all under the age of 5. Their bodies were found after deputies entered her apartment in a gated community in unincorporated Shelby County on Friday. Neighbors and friends of the family attended a vigil to honor the victims on Saturday.

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. She is being held without bond, with an arraignment scheduled Tuesday.

An affidavit filed in Shelby County court by a sheriff's detective identified the victims as 4-year-old Talen Gardner; 3-year-old Sya Gardner; 2 year-old Sahvi Gardner; and 6-month old Yahzi Gardner. A fifth child, 7-year-old Dallen Clayton, fled the apartment and escaped the attack, the affidavit said. Dallen is Gardner's son from a previous marriage.

Gardner spoke by phone with her current husband, Martin Gardner, and acknowledged that she killed her children, the affidavit said. Attempts to reach him or relatives of the Gardners have been unsuccessful.

"This is a terrible act, an egregious act that has shocked, I believe, the community, and has shocked our staff to the core," Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham said Saturday.

Deputies were called to an apartment complex in unincorporated Shelby County on Friday afternoon. When they arrived at Shanynthia Gardner's apartment, they found her with superficial cuts to her neck and wrists, the affidavit said. Deputies also found four children with "severe lacerations to the throat," the document said.

Two children were found in the living room — Yahzi was in her baby carrier and Sya was lying next to the carrier. The other two victims were in a bedroom.

The affidavit said Dallen was able to escape the apartment and run up to a man, yelling that his mother had stabbed his sister.

The man told officers that he saw Shanynthia Gardner come outside with a large knife in her hand, then re-enter the residence. Deputies found the knife in the apartment, the affidavit said.

Authorities have not divulged what circumstances they believe led to the killings. Oldham said investigators were trying to determine if Gardner has mental health problems.

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.

About 30 people attended an outdoor candlelight vigil at the apartment complex on Saturday evening. They prayed for the four children, the surviving boy, and Shanynthia Gardner. A pastor poured water from a decanter onto the ground, in remembrance of the victims.

Sonya Clayton, Dallen Clayton's grandmother, said she had not seen the boy's mother for a few years. She said she was shocked by the attack.

"She was a sweet young lady," Clayton said of Shanynthia Gardner. "What happened, I don't understand."

Later, Sonya Clayton said she forgives her former daughter-in-law.

"I know this is the work of the devil," Sonya Clayton said. "I know this is not Shanynthia. And I pray and I love Shanynthia."

Sonya Clayton said her son, Detrail Clayton, has not seen Dallen since the stabbings. She said her son is not doing well, and he wants to see Dallen soon. Sheriff's officials say the boy has been under protective supervision.

Neighbor Mona Hansen, who attended the vigil, became emotional when talking about how her own daughter adopted three girls after their brother was killed by a parent. Hansen called the killings of the four children in the apartment complex where she lives "heart-wrenching."

"Like the minister said, you don't know what they could have been in life," Hansen said of the Gardner children. "Their lives didn't even get started yet, before they were taken."

Day 3 of Taj Mahal casino strike: Still no talks scheduled

JOSH CORNFIELD, Associated Press

WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Just after midnight on a typical Sunday, John McLaughlin would be preparing for a shift bartending at a lounge at Atlantic City's Trump Taj Mahal casino.

Instead, the lights were on at the closed club on the casino floor Sunday morning and the stage was empty except for a silent drum kit, while McLaughlin was with a group of about 30 union members marching on the boardwalk outside as a strike entered its third day.

Local 54 of the Unite-HERE union walked off the job against the Taj Mahal on Friday, unable to reach a contract that restores its members' health insurance and pension plans. The former owners of the casino got a bankruptcy judge to cancel those benefits in 2014.

"I don't mind it because it's for a good cause. When somebody steals health benefits from young families with kids for 22 months I think that's horrendous and outrageous," said McLaughlin, who said he has worked as a bartender at the Taj since it was opened by Donald Trump in 1990.

The casino now belongs to Trump's friend and fellow billionaire, Carl Icahn.

"Everyone is really motivated and really excited out here fighting Carl Icahn," union President Bob McDevitt said as he walked with the protesters early Sunday morning. "They're not counting the days right now. They just figure they'll be here as long as they have to."

Icahn's management team has said the union seems "hell-bent on trying to close this property" and pointed out that he has spent \$86 million keeping the Taj Mahal alive through bankruptcy.

Guests continued to come and go during the Fourth of July weekend, which is traditionally the busiest of the year for Atlantic City casinos. Gamblers continued playing the slots and table games early Sunday morning and some restaurants were open, while others were closed.

The casino's website wasn't accepting hotel room reservations through next week and an employee stationed at the front check-in desk said that no rooms were available through next week because of the striking workers.

Officials would not go into detail about their staffing arrangements during the strike. On strike include those that serve drinks, cook, transport luggage, clean rooms and more. Casino dealers and security are not part of the union striking.

The union said no further contract talks are scheduled.

While it still bears his name, Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has not owned it for years. The bankruptcy filing and the benefit terminations at the Taj Mahal happened five years after Trump relinquished control of the casino and its parent company, Trump Entertainment Resorts.

to bondholders in a previous bankruptcy.

Aside from a 10 percent stake in the company for the use of his name that was wiped out in bankruptcy when Icahn took over in March, Trump has had no involvement with the company since 2009.

The last time Local 54 waged a strike, in 2004, the walkout lasted 34 days.

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and author, dead at 87

VERENA DOBNIK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, the Romanian-born Holocaust survivor whose classic “Night” became a landmark testament to the Nazis’ crimes and launched Wiesel’s long career as one of the world’s foremost witnesses and humanitarians, has died at age 87.

His death was announced Saturday by Israel’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. No other details were immediately available.

The short, sad-eyed Wiesel, his face an ongoing reminder of one man’s endurance of a shattering past, summed up his mission in 1986 when accepting the Nobel Peace Prize: “Whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation, take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

President Barack Obama said of Wiesel on Saturday, “As a writer, a speaker, an activist, and a thinker, he was one of those people who changed the world more as a citizen of the world than those who hold office or traditional positions of power. His life, and the power of his example, urges us to be better.”

Wiesel’s wife, Marion, described her husband as “a fighter” in a statement Saturday night.

“He fought for the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and he fought for Israel,” she said. “He waged countless battles for innocent victims regardless of ethnicity or creed.”

For more than a half-century, Wiesel voiced his passionate beliefs to world leaders, celebrities and general audiences in the name of victims of violence and oppression. He wrote more than 40 books, but his most influential by far was “Night,” a classic ranked with Anne Frank’s diary as standard reading about the Holocaust.

“Night” was his first book, and its journey to publication crossed both time and language. It began in the mid-1950s as an 800-page story in Yiddish, was trimmed to under 300 pages for an edition released in Argentina, cut again to under 200 pages for the French market and finally published in the United States, in 1960, at just over 100 pages.

“‘Night’ is the most devastating account of the Holocaust that I have ever read,” wrote Ruth Franklin, a literary critic and author of “A Thousand Darkneses,” a study of Holocaust literature that was published in 2010.

“There are no epiphanies in ‘Night. There is no extraneous detail, no analysis, no speculation. There is only a story: Eliezer’s account of what happened, spoken in his voice.”

Wiesel began working on “Night” just a decade after the end of World War II, when memories were too raw for many survivors to even try telling their stories. Frank’s diary had been an accidental success, a book discovered after her death, and its entries end before Frank and her family was captured and deported. Wiesel’s book was among the first popular accounts written by a witness to the very worst, and it documented what Frank could hardly have imagined.

“Night” was so bleak that publishers doubted it would appeal to readers. In a 2002 interview with the Chicago Tribune, Wiesel recalled that the book attracted little notice at first. “The English translation came out in 1960, and the first printing was 3,000 copies. And it took three years to sell them. Now, I get 100 letters a month from children about the book. And there are many, many million copies in

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print.”

In one especially haunting passage, Wiesel sums up his feelings upon arrival in Auschwitz:

“Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. ... Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.”

“Night” was based directly on his experiences, but structured like a novel, leading to an ongoing debate over how to categorize it. Alfred Kazin was among the critics who expressed early doubts about the book’s accuracy, doubts that Wiesel denounced as “a mortal sin in the historical sense.” Wiesel’s publisher called the book a memoir even as some reviewers called it fiction. An Amazon editorial review labeled the book “technically a novel,” albeit so close to Wiesel’s life that “it’s generally — and not inaccurately — read as an autobiography.”

In 2006, a new translation returned “Night” to the best-seller lists after it was selected for Oprah Winfrey’s book club. But the choice also revived questions about how to categorize the book. Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com, both of which had listed “Night” as fiction, switched it to nonfiction. Wiesel, meanwhile, acknowledged in a new introduction that he had changed the narrator’s age from “not quite 15” to Wiesel’s real age at the time, 15.

“Unfortunately, ‘Night’ is an imperfect ambassador for the infallibility of the memoir,” Franklin wrote, “owing to the fact that it has been treated very often as a novel.”

Wiesel’s prolific stream of speeches, essays and books, including two sequels to “Night” and more than 40 books overall of fiction and nonfiction, emerged from the helplessness of a teenager deported from Hungary, which had annexed his native Romanian town of Sighet, to Auschwitz. Tattooed with the number A-7713, he was freed in 1945 — but only after his mother, father and one sister had all died in Nazi camps. Two other sisters survived.

After the liberation of Buchenwald, in April 1945, Wiesel spent a few years in a French orphanage, then landed in Paris. He studied literature and philosophy at the Sorbonne, and then became a journalist, writing for the French newspaper L’Arche and Israel’s Yediot Ahronot.

French author Francois Mauriac, winner of the 1952 Nobel in literature, encouraged Wiesel to break his vowed silence about the concentration camps and start sharing his experiences.

In 1956, Wiesel traveled on a journalistic assignment to New York to cover the United Nations. While there, he was struck by a car and confined to a wheelchair for a year. He became a lifetime New Yorker, continuing in journalism writing for the Yiddish-language newspaper, the Forward. His contact with the city’s many Holocaust survivors shored up Wiesel’s resolve to keep telling their stories.

Wiesel became a U.S. citizen in 1963. Six years later, he married Marion Rose, a fellow Holocaust survivor who translated some of his books into English. They had a son, Shlomo. Based in New York, Wiesel commuted to Boston University for almost three decades, teaching philosophy, literature and Judaic studies and giving a popular lecture series in the fall.

Wiesel also taught at Yale University and the City University of New York.

In 1978, he was chosen by President Carter to head the President’s Commission on the Holocaust, and plan an American memorial museum to Holocaust victims. Wiesel wrote in a report to the president that the museum must include denying the Nazis a posthumous victory, honoring the victims’ last wishes to tell their stories. He said that although all the victims of the Holocaust were not Jewish, all Jews were victims. Wiesel advocated that the museum emphasize the annihilation of the Jews, while still remembering the others; today the exhibits and archives reflects that.

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Among his most memorable spoken words came in 1985, when he received a Congressional Gold Medal from President Ronald Reagan and asked the president not to make a planned trip to a cemetery in Germany that contained graves of Adolf Hitler's personal guards.

"We have met four or five times, and each time I came away enriched, for I know of your commitment to humanity," Wiesel said, as Reagan looked on. "May I, Mr. President, if it's possible at all, implore you to do something else, to find a way, to find another way, another site. That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims."

Reagan visited the cemetery, in Bitburg, despite international protests.

Wiesel also spoke at the dedication of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington in 1993. His words are now carved in stone at its entrance: "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness."

Wiesel defended Soviet Jews, Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, Cambodian refugees, the Kurds, victims of African famine and victims of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. Wiesel was a longtime supporter of Israel although he was criticized at times for his closeness to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. When Netanyahu gave a highly controversial address to Congress in 2015, denouncing President Obama's efforts to reach a nuclear treaty with Iran, Wiesel was among the guests of honor.

"What were you doing there, Elie Wiesel?" Haaretz columnist Roger Alpher wrote at the time. "Netanyahu is my prime minister. You are not an Israeli citizen. You do not live here. The Iranian threat to destroy Israel does not apply to you. You are a Jew who lives in America. This is not your problem."

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, which he established in 1988, explored the problems of hatred and ethnic conflicts around the world. But like a number of other well-known charities in the Jewish community, the foundation fell victim to Bernard Madoff, the financier who was arrested in late 2008 and accused of running a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme.

Wiesel said he ended up losing \$15.2 million in foundation funds, plus his and his wife's own personal investments. At a panel discussion in February 2009, Wiesel admitted he bought into the Madoff mystique, "a myth that he created around him that everything was so special, so unique, that it had to be secret." He called Madoff "a crook, a thief, a scoundrel."

Despite Wiesel's mission to remind the world of past mistakes, the greatest disappointment of his life was that "nothing changed," he said in an interview.

"Human nature remained what it was. Society remained what it was. Too much indifference in the world, to the Other, his pain, and anguish, and hope."

But personally, he never gave up — as reflected in his novel "The Town Beyond the Wall."

Wiesel's Jewish protagonist, Michael, returns to his native town in now-communist Hungary to find out why his neighbors had given him up to the Nazis. Suspected as a Western spy, he lands in prison along with a young man whose insanity has left him catatonic.

The protagonist takes on the challenge of "awakening" the youth by any means, from talking to forcing his mouth open — a task as wrenching as Wiesel's humanitarian missions.

"The day when the boy suddenly began sketching arabesques in the air was one of the happiest of Michael's life. ... Now he talked more, as if wishing to store ideas and values in the boy for his moments of awakening. Michael compared himself to a farmer: months separated the planting from the harvest. For the moment, he was planting."

Australians could wait until next week for election result

ROD MCGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australians could be forced to wait until the end of next week to find out who is in charge of their government after a knife-edge national election raised the prospect of a hung parliament, the prime minister said on Sunday.

The gamble by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to call a rare early election may have failed, with his conservative Liberal Party-led coalition on track to lose a swathe of seats in the House of Representatives — and potentially control of the country.

Turnbull said he was pinning his hopes of maintaining a majority government on mail-in and early ballots that traditionally favor the conservatives.

"I remain quietly confident that a majority coalition government will be returned at this election when the counting is completed," Turnbull told reporters.

"While the count will take a number of days, probably until the end of next week, I can promise all Australians that we will dedicate our efforts to ensuring that the state of new parliament is resolved without division or rancor," he added.

The government was concerned that any perception of instability while the count was resolved could harm Australia's triple-A credit rating, he said.

Parties need to hold at least 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to form a government.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten did not speculate on a Labor victory, but celebrated the strong swing to his party just three years after it was convincingly dumped from power in the last election.

"What I'm very sure of is that whilst we don't know who the winner was, there's clearly one loser: Malcolm Turnbull's agenda for Australia and his efforts to cut Medicare," Shorten said on Sunday, referring to Australia's universal health care system.

Given the close result, just two possibilities remain: Turnbull's coalition will win by the slimmest of margins, or there will be a hung parliament.

Shorten and Turnbull said they had both contacted the five independent lawyers who could be called on to support a minority government.

Turnbull called the 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.

Turnbull on Sunday did not directly say whether he considered calling new elections an option to resolve any deadlock.

"We are committed to ensuring that the parliament, as elected, will work effectively and constructively for the Australian people," Turnbull said.

The 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.

That volatility is the new norm in modern politics, with many voters unwilling to commit to either major party, said Rodney Smith, professor of Australian politics at the University of Sydney. Behind that lack of commitment is the tendency of both the public and their politicians to focus more sharply on

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short-term rather long-term results.

"The speed of politics has definitely increased," Smith said. "We talk about the 24-hour news cycle and so on, and I think that's starting to make it difficult for parties in government to say, 'Well, you're not going to see any benefits from this policy for the next few years but it'll be good in the long term.'"

Opinion polls had predicted a close race, but had largely tipped the government to win by a narrow margin.

Monash University political analysts Nick Economou said Australia's new Senate could prove more resistant to free trade deals and globalization initiatives after two minor protectionist parties were among the winners at the election.

The Australian Electoral Commission said the Nick Xenophon Team party, which advocates protection of manufacturing jobs, and the anti-immigration Paul Hanson's One Nation party have likely won several seats.

Xenophon had been his party's lone senator for South Australia state. The party will now likely have three senators and a lawmaker in the House of Representatives. Hanson's party has had no representative in Parliament since she was voted out in 1998.

She and probably a second candidate from her party have won senate seats for Queensland state.

Going into the election, the government had 33 senators, Labor 25, the minor Greens party 10 and there were eight crossbenchers.

If the Labor and the Greens rejected legislation, the government needed the support of at least six of the crossbenchers to pass it.

Xenophon expects that if the government retains power, it would need the support of eight or nine crossbenchers to pass legislation against the will of Labor and the Greens.

The final makeup of the senate won't be known for weeks.

Thailand, Japan share mutual affection that is rare in Asia

MALCOLM FOSTER, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand is smitten by Japan: Sushi restaurants fill the malls, Issey Miyake's luxury "Bao Bao" bags are all the rage and Thai tourists are flocking to Japan in record numbers to visit a country many view as a role model.

"I love Japan. They really put their heart into whatever they do," says Aunyawee Sahachalermphat, 26, who has traveled to Japan more than a dozen times since studying there five years ago and owns at least 10 Comme des Garçons shirts, another popular brand that sounds French but is actually Japanese.

Like many Thais, she loves Japanese food and admires the quality of its products and its advanced, orderly economy that retains a respect for tradition. "We look up to them," she says.

Japan, too, has a soft spot for Thailand, although it doesn't loom nearly as large in the public mind. It's seen more as a warm, easygoing tourist spot — a welcome break from Japan's often onerous social codes — and a vital production and export hub for more than 4,500 Japanese companies, including behemoths such as Toyota, Honda and Canon.

All this has resulted in a mutual affection between these two nations that's rare in Asia, where historical, political and territorial tensions often complicate ties.

Typical of many in her generation, Aunyawee traces her positive feelings to watching Japanese cartoons such as "Doraemon" and "Sailor Moon" as a child. As an adult, she instinctively trusts anything "Made in Japan" and admires the courteous, subdued manners of many Japanese — widespread senti-

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Economic and bureaucratic changes have helped foster these ties. Three years ago, Japan waived visas for Thais for up to 15 days, prompting tourist numbers to surge to nearly 800,000 last year, up five-fold from 2011.

As Thai incomes have grown and budget carriers such as AirAsia have intensified competition, trips to Japan have become more affordable. Likewise, Japanese tourists can now fly from Tokyo to Bangkok for about the same price as to Okinawa, in southern Japan.

There seems to be a cultural affinity between these two peoples — a gentleness, an aversion to conflict and an emphasis on proper etiquette — that creates a sense of familiarity and safety.

Yet there are still enough intriguing differences to make the other culture appealing in a non-threatening way.

Buddhism, for example, has influenced both countries, although in Thailand it plays a more overt role and it is epitomized by brilliantly colored temples and monks in orange robes, while in Japan it takes on a more subdued form. Both countries have royal families, although the Thai king holds greater sway over society than the emperor does in Japan.

"There's a kindred feeling" with Thais, more so than with other Asians, said Mariko Uehara, an English instructor from Chigasaki, southwest of Tokyo, who recently visited Thailand for a second time since 2012. "We have something in common that makes us feel secure." Some 1.38 million Japanese tourists came to Thailand last year, a similar level to previous years.

Japan and Thailand aren't encumbered by historical baggage that has strained ties with their respective neighbors.

Tokyo's ties with China and South Korea are tainted by territorial disputes and lingering resentment over Japan's aggression before and during World War II. After briefly resisting Japanese troops, Thailand formally became an ally of Tokyo during most of the war and served as a supply base and so suffered less. Japan's infamous "Death Railway" in western Thailand was built by British, U.S. and Australian POWs and thousands of other Asians.

Japan's rosy image here has been partly shaped by popular books, TV dramas and movies.

"Khu Kam," a novel that has been made into movies many times — titled "Sunset on the Chaophraya" in English — depicts a wartime romance between a Japanese naval officer and a Thai woman in the resistance. He manages to win her over before being killed.

Japanese food, once considered a delicacy in Thailand, has become more affordable and popular as more than 2,300 Japanese restaurants have opened up across the country, tripling since 2008.

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Japan is more popular than previous favorites Hong Kong or Singapore because "it's much more exotic" and less "robotic," said Chaitee, who also roams the country taking pictures.

Taking their cues from Thai fashion magazines and websites that highlight the latest Japanese styles, Thai women line up in Tokyo to buy Issey Miyake's "Bao Bao" brand bags, which can cost several hundred dollars and have become a staple of Bangkok's fashion elite. Shiseido cosmetics, Kenzo shoes and Casio G-Shock watches are also hot.

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"We need to think in terms of being in the same boat as they are — that whatever Thailand is doing well is good for Japan, too," said Sadoshima, who was surprised to find a big "Ippudo" restaurant in Bangkok serving ramen noodles native to his home island of Kyushu.

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Japan's official development aid to Thailand shows up prominently in places like the "Thai-Japanese Bridge" sign — with national flags — on a flyover at a major Bangkok intersection. Assistance from Tokyo helped build 14 of the 21 bridges across the Chao Phraya River that runs through the capital. Officials from the two countries are doing feasibility studies on three high-speed railway lines that would cross the country, the ambassador said.

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Each country offers something appealingly different to the other.

The very discipline and proper etiquette that Thais admire about Japanese culture can become an enormous burden to some Japanese who find Thailand's easygoing, accepting ways a welcome refuge.

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Coal mine floods in north China, 12 miners trapped

BEIJING (AP) — A coal mine in northern China flooded and trapped 12 miners, the country's safety watchdog said Sunday.

The accident happened around 11 p.m. Saturday in Shanxi, a coal-rich province.

The State Administration of Work Safety said in an online statement that 94 miners were working underground in the locally state-owned mine and the other 82 were rescued.

China's mines had long been the world's deadliest, but safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years.

Brad Keselowski finally earns 1st Daytona victory

JENNA FRYER, AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Brad Keselowski had his confidence shaken at Daytona International Speedway more than once.

He was a good plate racer, but never could find his way to victory lane at NASCAR's most famous track.

That changed Saturday night with a dominating performance that gave Team Penske its 100th career Sprint Cup Series victory — a win that Roger Penske celebrated in victory lane by participating in the traditional champagne spray.

More important, it gave Keselowski his long-awaited first win at Daytona.

Keselowski led a race-high 115 laps then held off Kyle Busch on a two-lap shootout that sent the race into overtime for one additional lap. It gave him his fifth career Cup win in a restrictor-plate race, but all the others had come at Talladega. He won on the Alabama track most recently in May.

"I don't care if it's not the 500. It's Daytona. This is huge," he said. "I love this place."

He loved it even when he came up frustratingly short, or not even close at all.

Keselowski said his futility at Daytona was "a kick in the you-know-what," but he and his No. 2 Ford crew kept chipping away at it even after he had a disappointing run in the season-opening Daytona 500.

"I got down on myself here," he said. "We came down here for the 500 and quite honestly we ran like dog crap, but my team worked on it. I didn't give up on them. I believe in my team and my team believes in me and we went to work and we put together a better car, and it really showed with a great effort from the whole team. I'm really proud of everybody."

Penske said he was "proud to be an American" after winning on Fourth of July weekend.

"To win 100 races with the competition we have in this sport is amazing," said Penske. "Sixteen years ago we won our 100th race on the IndyCar side, it took us some time to catch up over here. Pretty important night for us."

The race was marred by a 22-car accident that collected more than half the field and thinned the competition for Keselowski. It really only left Kyle Busch as a legitimate contender, but a restart for a two-lap shootout that sent it into overtime forced Keselowski to earn the win.

He easily held off Busch, and challenger Kurt Busch was eliminated when he was knocked out of line by Joey Logano as they headed to the checkered flag.

"I don't remember a whole lot. It gets kind of crazy," said Kyle Busch, who crashed his primary car Friday morning and raced in a backup.

"You just tried to play it as safe as you could but as smart as you could, and being as aggressive as you could without trying to tear up any cars. If we could have got the 2 car out of there, it probably would have been a decent race, but that thing was just so strong that there wasn't much passing him.

"Really it took a lot of guys ganging up and getting together in order to make a move on him. He was pretty smart about where he positioned his car on the racetrack, and I could see that, and I tried to do some of those same things, but man, it just never really worked for me as good as he could handle it."

Trevor Bayne finished third and was followed by Keselowski teammate Logano and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. as Ford drivers took four of the top five spots.

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Keselowski credited a push from his teammate for helping him shake the Busch brothers on the final restart.

"I was able to get Brad a good push to clear and get a Penske car to victory lane, which is really cool," Logano said. "The 2 was the fastest car and he deserved to win the race."

It was a plan to work together and disrupt the Toyota contingent that used teamwork to dominate the Daytona 500. Instead, Kyle Busch was the only Toyota driver to finish inside the top 10.

Kyle Larson was sixth and the highest finishing Chevrolet. He was followed by Austin Dillon, who ended last year's race in an airborne accident, then pole-sitter Greg Biffle and Clint Bowyer.

Michael McDowell was 10th.

Tony Stewart, seeking his fifth victory in his final race at Daytona, was in contention until a late accident. He finished 26th.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was the defending race winner, but never contended Saturday night and finished 21st. He was involved in the 22-car accident — his third consecutive crash in a plate race — but was able to continue to the finish this time.

"Miserable night," Earnhardt tweeted. "Had some gremlins in the steering."

OTHER NOTABLES FROM DAYTONA:

BUSCH'S BAD FINISH: Kurt Busch was briefly charging toward Keselowski on the final shootout, couldn't pull off a pass, then found himself turned into the grass when Logano hit him. It took him from a possible top-five finish to 23rd, and he called Logano's move "an aggressive mistake."

"I don't know where Logano wanted to go. He was going to go from fifth to first?" Busch said. "There's not a chance that he had enough to win it. We positioned ourselves to be the car to get a run off the bottom. And it just didn't work out with him trying to drive straight through us."

Busch's crew chief had much stronger words for Logano.

"Stupid is as stupid does!!!" tweeted Tony Gibson.

STEWART'S GAIN: With 11 laps remaining and Stewart running fifth, his chance at a second consecutive victory blew up when he got loose and started a crash. Casey Mears ran into the back of him and Stewart's car turned into traffic then back into the wall.

"I got loose into one there, I just overcorrected there and drove it in the fence. My fault," Stewart said.

Stewart wound up 26th — but it was enough to get him to 30th in the standings. He's got to be inside the top-30 to qualify for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

"We knew we might be able to get points here, for us, it was more trying to take care of ourselves," he said. "I probably should have been smart and just sat back a little bit. But we were in position to get a top-five and had to take a chance."

UP NEXT: A Saturday night race at Kentucky Speedway, which was won last year by Kyle Busch as he charged into contention for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. It's one of only two active tracks on the Sprint Cup schedule where Tony Stewart has never won.

3 days of heavy rain in China leave 50 dead, 12 missing

BEIJING (AP) — Three days of heavy rain in southern China have left 50 people dead and another 12 missing and destroyed thousands of homes, authorities said Sunday, as areas along the Yangtze River braced for more floods.

Groton Daily Independent

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Torrential rains caused the deaths of 27 people and left a further 12 missing since Thursday in central Hubei, the provincial civil affairs department said. Nearly 400,000 people have been evacuated or are in need of aid in the province. Almost 15,000 houses have collapsed or are seriously damaged and more than 500,000 hectares of crops have been affected, causing direct economic losses of 5.669 billion yuan (\$850 million), the department said.

In mountainous Guizhou province in the southwest, the bodies of 23 people were found after a landslide buried a village Friday, Dafang county government said. Seven people were injured.

Rainstorms soak the southern part of China every year during the summer monsoons, but this rainy season has been particularly wet.

State television on Saturday showed people using boats to navigate flooded streets in eastern Anhui province. Anhui's civil affairs department said 18 people have died and four are missing due to heavy rain since June 18.

Vice Premier Wang Yang warned last month that there was a high possibility of floods in the Yangtze River and Huai River basins this year, which equate to a large swath of China's southern, central and eastern areas.

He said the situation was made worse by "super El Nino." El Nino is the natural warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide and the latest occurrence of the phenomenon has been blamed for triggering droughts in parts of Africa and India and playing a role in a record hurricane season in the Pacific.

A similar El Nino effect was linked to China's worst floods in recent history, when 4,150 people died in 1998, most along the Yangtze. Flood control measures along China's longest river, including dikes, have since been reinforced, but experts say this time severe floods are likely to hit the Yangtze's tributaries, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The Yangtze River flood control headquarters has ordered local authorities to remain on high alert.