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Bus Driver Needed

The Groton Area School District has an opening for a morning bus route driver for the 2016-17 school year. Interested persons should contact Superintendent Joe Schwan at 397-2351.

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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Thursday, Aug. 4

U.S. Coast Guard Day

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice/chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square.

Anniv: Craig & Kim Weber

Birthdays: Kristie Fliehs • Allen McKiver • Tim Berndt • Lindsey Furman

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

Friday, Aug. 5

Summer Olympics begin in Rio

Work Like a Dog Day

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Jim/Linda Bahr

Birthdays: Gerald Rix • Rich Zimney • Shelley Merkel • Jacob Harms • Dylan Sweeter • Mathieu LaMee • Barb Grube

6:00pm: Wine on Nine at Olive Grove

Saturday, Aug. 6

National Mustard Day first Saturday

Wiggle Your Toes Day

Birthdays: Becky Hunter • Cheri Hein • Alexis Gustafson • David LaMee • Cheri Shabazz • Karen White • Damian Bahr

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, Aug. 7

Friendship Day

International Forgiveness Day

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

MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

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2016-2017 Groton Area School District Back to School Information Groton Area School District 06-6 – “Mission Statement”

Each school will foster a school climate conducive to learning by encouraging good behavior and citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards. Teachers will employ strategies and approaches to instruction to meet the needs of all children assigned to them. With proper motivation and instruction, all children can learn!

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers of core academic subjects must hold at least a bachelor's degree, have full state certification, and demonstrate knowledge in the core academic subject they teach. For information regarding the qualifications of your child's teachers, you may contact the superintendent's office at 397-2351.

Certified Staff Changes

Certified staff new to the District include: Austin Fordham, Instrumental Music Teacher

Registration

Anyone new to the District should contact the respective building principal(s) as soon as possible. Most kindergarten children were registered at pre-school screening in April; therefore, only those who did not register in April need to report for registration. Middle School and High School Schedule changes can be made on Monday, August 22nd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

School Supply Lists

Students' school supply lists for the elementary school (preschool – grade 5) are posted on the District's web site at www.grotonarea.com. Students in the middle school (grades 6-8) will be required to have the same color notebook, folder, and book cover for each class. Math will be green; English, blue; reading, red; science, purple; and social studies, black. The students can choose their own colors for PE, art, health, and computer classes.

Welcome Back Picnic & Open House – Tuesday, August 23rd

All students enrolled in the district for the 2016-2017 school year, their parents, and all staff are invited to a “Welcome Back” picnic and Open House on Tuesday, August 23rd. The picnic will be held at the GHS gym and will run from 5:00PM – 6:30PM. A free meal will be served and door prizes will be given away.

Open House will run from 6:30PM – 8:00 PM at the elementary school. There will be no open house activities at the middle/high school building following the picnic. In lieu of the fall open house event for middle/high School students, we'd ask you to mark your calendars for a Fall Family Night from 4:00PM to 7:00PM on Monday, November 7.

6th Grade Orientation – Tuesday, August 23rd

Orientation for all 6th grade students and their parents will take place at 6:30PM in the GHS Arena following the “Welcome Back” picnic. This will be an opportunity for the 6th grade students and their parents to become familiar with the building and ask questions about their upcoming transition.

Tablet PCs Issued to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

Prior to being issued their tablet PC, students and their parents must sign and return the following documents: Laptop Computer Protection Agreement, the Student Pledge, E-mail Acceptable Use Agreement, the Groton Area School District Network/Internet agreement, and the Parental Consent to Publish Student Photos/Work. Required forms can be picked up in the High School Office or will be sent home with students on the first day of classes.

First Day of School – Thursday, August 25th

The first day of school is on Thursday, August 25th.

golden
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

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Students participating in band should bring their instruments. Buses will run and school lunch will be served. Each route driver will contact parents to confirm bus arrival times. Other bus route questions may be referred to transportation supervisor, Loren Bahr, at (605) 397-8117. The GRASP (OST) program at the elementary school will be available on the first day of school.

Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade

The District offers all-day, every day kindergarten classes. Children may enter kindergarten if they are 5 years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which they are to enter school. The District offers a junior kindergarten program each day from 12:30PM – 3:23PM for students that are eligible to attend kindergarten, but are not quite ready for kindergarten. Students enrolling in first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year.

Non-Resident Enrollment

For out-of-district students, applications to open enroll may be accepted throughout the school year. Applications are available from any school district administrative office. All open enrollment requests and related questions should be referred to school superintendent, Joe Schwan, at (605) 397-2351.

2016-2017 School Hours

Groton Area Elementary	8:15AM	Arrival Time (Supervision)
	8:25AM – 3:23PM	Classes in Session
Groton Area MS/HS	8:25 AM	First Bell
	8:30AM – 3:30PM	Classes in Session

Athletic Physicals

In accordance with SDHSAA regulations and District policy, each student (grades 7-12) who intends to participate in athletic competition is required to have an athletic physical prior to participation, including practice.

1st practice for HS boys' golf	Monday, August 8
1st practice for HS soccer	Monday, August 1
1st practice for HS football	Thursday, August 11
1st practice for HS volleyball	Thursday, August 11
1st practice for HS cross country	Thursday, August 11
1st JH practice	First week of school

Since athletic physical requirements are more comprehensive and are required only every third year, parents are advised to make appointments directly with their family physician or chiropractor. Any questions may be directed to head coaches or athletic director, Brian Schuring, at (605) 397-8381.

GRASP (OST) Program

The GRASP program services children in junior kindergarten through grade five with before and after-school homework help, supervised learning activities, and snacks. The GRASP program will be held in the Groton Area Elementary School from 7:00AM - 8:00AM and 3:25PM – 6:00PM each day that school is in session. Rates are \$2.50 per hour, per child. Any OST questions or registrations may be directed to elementary principal, Mr. Brett Schwan, at (605) 397-2317.

K-12 Breakfast and Lunch Program

The school provides breakfast and lunch for all students each day school is in session. All meals are on a cash basis (i.e. pay as you go), while recognizing the provisions for free and reduced price meals. Guidelines for 2016-2017 applications for free and reduced priced meals were mailed out the week of August 1st. Parents are encouraged to apply for free and reduced priced meals if there is a possibility they may qualify. Prices are as follows:

Groton Area Elementary:	
Daily Breakfast	\$2.00
Daily Lunch	\$2.75
Prices for second servings at the elementary are \$0.50.	
Groton Area Middle School/High School:	

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Daily Breakfast \$2.50

Daily Lunch \$3.25

Prices for second servings at the middle/high school are \$0.75.

Activity Tickets

Activity tickets are intended to admit all students to regularly scheduled home activities or events, with about the only exceptions being tournaments and the Pops Concert. Students in grades 1-5 may purchase an activity ticket, if they wish. All students who participate in activities for which an activity stipend is paid are required to purchase an activity ticket as a condition of participation since they are the primary beneficiaries of the activity programs. For example, staff activity stipends include: all sports, marching band, forensics, cheerleading, drama, oral interp, DI, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA etc.

Activity Ticket prices for 2016-2017 are as follows:

Grades 1-5 \$25.00

Grades 6-12 \$30.00

Adults \$45 (10 events)

Adults – All Events \$75.00

Admission Prices:

Adults = \$5.00; \$6.00 for double headers

Students, Grades 1-12 = \$4.00

Church Night

Wednesday nights during the school year are set aside for activities in the community's churches. No locally sponsored school activities or conflicting practices are to be held after 6:00PM on Wednesday.

School Cancellations

All school cancellations or early dismissals due to inclement weather or emergencies will be sent out via the School Messenger System. Within minutes, School Messenger automatically sends a pre-recorded message to every recipient on a selected list. Parents will be asked to provide phone numbers and e-mail addresses (when available) to the school so that a selected calling list can be created. Emergency cancellations will be broadcast over TV stations KSFY, KDLT, and KELO and notification will be sent out through the Groton Daily Independent e-mails. It will also be posted on the District Facebook page and website, www.grotonarea.com and the Groton Independent's home page (www.397news.com) and facebook page (theGDI).

Immunization Requirements (SDCL 13-28-7.1)

State law requires that any pupil entering school or an early childhood program in the state shall, prior to admission, be required to present the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that the new child has received or is in the process of receiving adequate immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, rubeola, rubella, mumps, tetanus, and varicella, according to recommendations provided by the Department of Health. The Department of Health may modify or delete any of the required immunizations. As an alternative to the requirement for a physician's certification, the pupil may present:

- 1) Certificate from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or
- 2) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization; or
- 3) A written statement signed by one parent or guardian requesting that the local health department give the immunization because the parents or guardians lack the means to pay for such immunization.

NEW...Students enrolling in 6th grade are required to get one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine on or after their 11th birthday.

Harassment and Bullying Policies

The district has harassment & bullying policies in place in both buildings. Bullying among students can be defined as intentional, repeated hurtful acts, words or other behavior, such as name-calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more students against another. This definition also includes

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"cyber-bullying" which is the sending or posting of cruel or harmful texts or images using the Internet or other digital media such as cell phones, etc. For a complete copy of the district's harassment or bullying policy, please contact the building principal.

Grievance Procedure

In an effort to maintain effective communications, if you have a particular concern about your child's progress or about what is happening on the bus, at school, in a class or activity, first discuss it with the driver, teacher, or director of the activity. If your concern or grievance remains unresolved at that level, or if there is a need to share your concern, contact the principal in charge of the school in which your child attends. If the concern/grievance remains unresolved at that level, contact the superintendent. If school policy is at issue or if the concern grievance remains unresolved, you may request that the superintendent include the subject on the school board meeting agenda. To maintain confidentiality, student matters may be confined to an "executive session" with the Board and administration.

Complaint Policy for Federal Programs and Homelessness Policy

A parent, student, employee, or district stakeholder who has a complaint regarding the use of federal funds and is unable to solve the issue, may address the complaint in writing to the district's superintendent. Disputes addressing the enrollment, transportation, and other barriers to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness are also addressed under this procedure. For a copy of the complete policy, contact the school superintendent or refer to the District web site.

Child Find

Parents or guardians are to be informed that the Groton Area School District 06-6 continuously conducts a "Child Find" search to identify and evaluate District children ages 0-21, with special education needs. Persons who know of a child with un-served education needs may refer the child, by name, to the appropriate building principal. With the parent or guardian's consent, an evaluation will be made. After the evaluation has been completed, a placement committee will meet with the parent or guardian to determine if special assistance is needed.

Title I

The federal government provides funding to states each year for Title I services. The goal of Title I is to provide extra help in math and reading for eligible students. Students are selected for the program based on information provided by classroom teachers, parents, and achievement test results. Title I services in our district are provided to students in grades K-5, with a strong emphasis on students in grades K-3.

Federal Compliance Notice

Students, their parents, and employees of the Groton Area School District #06-6 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, age, disability or religion in employment practices and educational activities. To ensure compliance with Section 427 of GEPA, effective steps shall be taken to remove potential barriers so as to ensure equity of access and participation in grant programs and to achieve high standards. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance or application of Title VI, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act is directed to contact Federal Program compliance coordinator, Joe Schwan, Superintendent, Groton Area School District 06-6, Phone 397-2351 or, Department of Education, Civil Rights Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; Phone: (816) 268-0550; TTD (800) 4370-0833; FAX: (816) 823-1404; Web link: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html?src=mr>

FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Groton Area School District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

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1. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Groton Area School District to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

1. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

1. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Groton Area School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, and all professional organizations holding negotiated agreements or professional agreements with the school district are hereby notified that this district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, disability, national origin, or ancestry in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

Section 504

Section 504 is the part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that applies to persons with disabilities. Section 504 is a civil rights act that protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. It states that no person with a disability can be excluded from or denied benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 and special education are two separate services.

Notification of Asbestos in School Building(s)

In compliance with the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule, the Groton Area School District had its school buildings inspected on 04/18/16 by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the state of South Dakota. During that inspection, areas of suspected asbestos (ACBM) were identified and inspected. The Groton Area School District has an Asbestos Management Plan which provides information on the periodic monitoring of the condition of asbestos (ACBM) remaining in the school buildings. Anyone that would like to see the Asbestos Management Plan can contact a building principal or superintendent.

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Today in Weather History

August 4, 1960: At Draper in Jones County, three inch hail caused very heavy damage to roofs, building windows and automobiles. Losses estimated at 100,000 dollars. About 1,000 chickens and turkeys killed on nearby farms.

August 4, 2000: Tennis ball size hail along with high winds caused a lot of damage throughout Selby. Many east and north windows were broken along with many vehicle's windshields. Also, many vehicles were dented, house siding was damaged, gardens were completely destroyed, and many acres of crops around Selby were destroyed. Softball hail broke windows and caused extensive damage to a few vehicles and homes west of Faulkton. Baseball size hail and high winds had broken out about every window on all of the buildings at the Brentwood Colony in Edmunds County. The large hail and high winds also damaged many of the buildings.

1882 - A vivid aurora was visible from Oregon to Maine, down the east coast as far as Mayport FL, and inland as far as Wellington KS. Observers at Louisville KY noted merry dancers across the sky, and observers at Saint Vincent, MN, noted it was probably the most brilliant ever seen at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1930 - The temperature at Moorefield, WV, soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record, having reached 110 degrees the previous day. Widespread drought after April of that year caused some towns to haul water for domestic use, and many manufacturing plants were barely operational. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Spokane, WA, reached an all-time record high of 108 degrees. Kalispell, MT, set an all-time record with a reading of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - A record forty-two consecutive days of 100 degree heat finally came to an end at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. July 1980 proved to be the hottest month of record with a mean temperature of 92 degrees. There was just one day of rain in July, and there was no measurable rain in August. There were 18 more days of 100 degree heat in August, and four in September. Hot weather that summer contributed to the deaths of 1200 people nationally, and losses from the heat across the country were estimated at twenty billion dollars. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought relief from the heat to a large part of the Midwest, while hot weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. Morning thunderstorms in Nebraska deluged the town of Dalton with 8.71 inches of rain, along with hail three inches in diameter, which accumulated up to four feet deep near the town of Dix. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Iowa to Lower Michigan during the afternoon and evening hours, producing golf ball size hail and spawning several tornadoes. A thunderstorm at Maquoketa, IA, produced wind gusts to 75 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas to the Great Lakes Region, with 150 reports of large hail or damaging winds during the afternoon, evening, and nighttime hours. Thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Claremont, MN, and wind gusts to 75 mph at Milwaukee, WI. Thunderstorms representing what once was Hurricane Chantal produced five inches of rain at Grant, MI, and deluged Chicago, IL, with more than three inches of rain in three hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Severe storms moved across northern Illinois and Indiana with tornadoes and very strong winds reported. With tornado sirens blaring, the game at Wrigley Field between Cubs and Astros was stopped as fans were told to evacuate to the lower concourse. Passengers at O'Hare International Airport were evacuated to lower levels of buildings as well. An estimated 350 flights were cancelled.

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Today

Tonight

Friday

Friday
Night

Saturday

Saturday
Night

Sunday



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 80 °F



Mostly Clear

Low: 52 °F



Sunny

High: 81 °F



Mostly Clear

Low: 54 °F



Sunny

High: 81 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 58 °F



Mostly Sunny

High: 82 °F

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 89.8 F at 5:16 PM

Heat Index: 101 at 4:09 PM

Low Outside Temp: 68.5 F at 2:04 AM

High Gust: 31.0 Mph at 3:48 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1934

Record Low: 42 in 1978

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.31

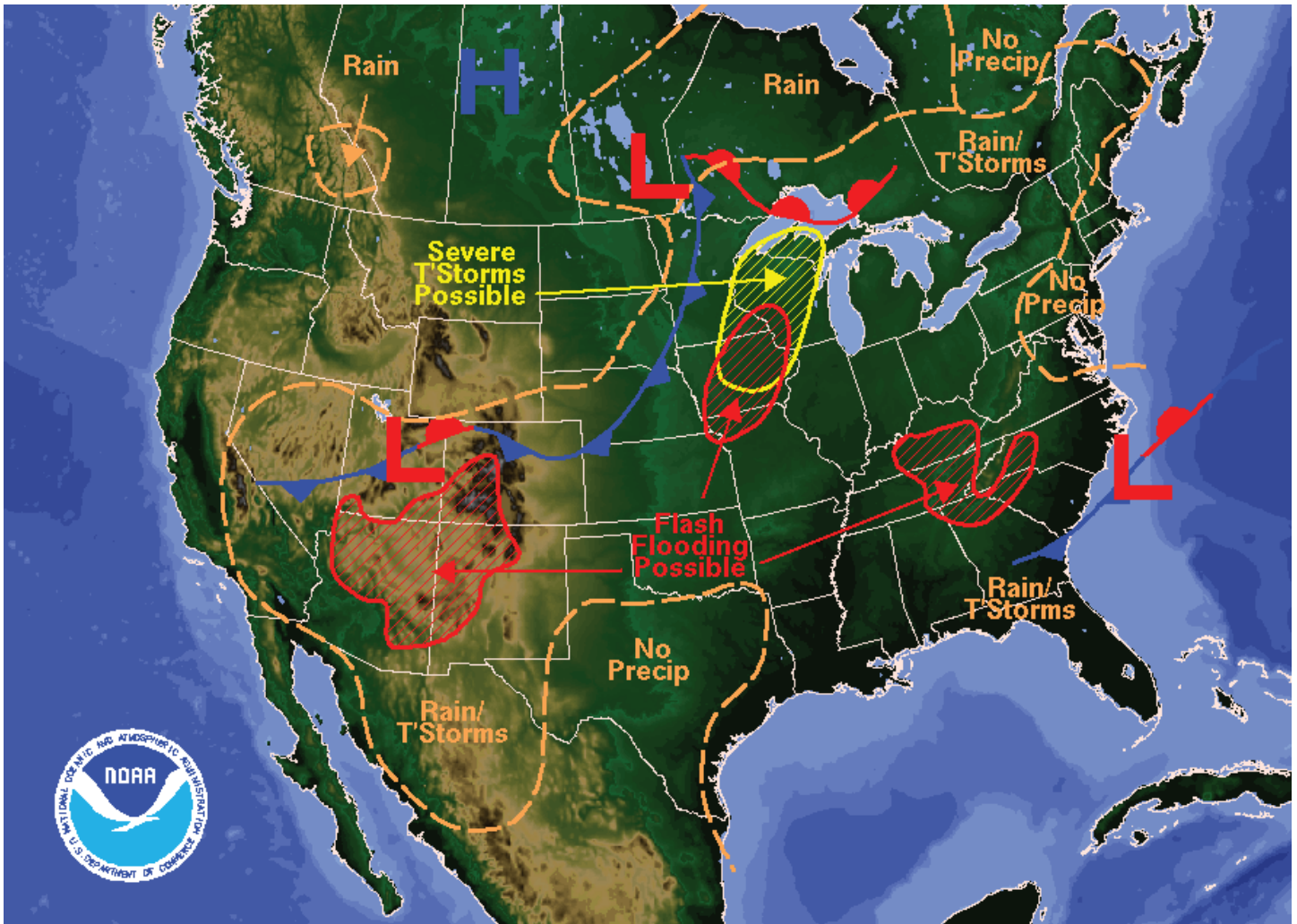
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.17

Precip Year to Date: 10.58

Sunset Tonight: 8:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:23 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Aug 04, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ADVANCE!

When Caesar crossed the English Channel from Gaul and was preparing to go ashore he knew that the odds were against his winning the battle. After thinking about the seriousness of the situation he did a strange thing.

Prior to the invasion, he ordered his men to get off of the ships and gather around him. He then commanded all but a few to move forward and not look back. Then, he ordered the remaining few to stay with him. At his command they were to set fire to all of the ships.

After the first party made their way forward he issued the order to set the ships ablaze. When the ships were blazing he then gave another command for the men to turn around and see the burning ships.

The men were stunned as they looked at the burning vessels. They realized that they were now stranded in enemy territory and could not retreat to safety. There was nothing that they could do but advance and fight. And they did. With every ounce of strength they possessed they fought their way forward and were victorious!

When we are faced with overwhelming challenges and difficult decisions, we must look to God and ask Him what is the best way to advance and win the battle. He knows what we should do. However, we must trust in Him, follow His advice and trust His strength to be victorious.

Prayer: Each day, Lord, we face tasks that are trying and problems that are perplexing. May we look to You for Your insight and wisdom as we advance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 3:5, 6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5, 6

News from the Associated Press

Obama shortens sentence of drug convict from Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A drug convict from Aberdeen is among 214 federal inmates whose sentences are being shortened by President Barack Obama.

Cory Kamerud was sentenced to two decades in federal prison in 2002 for distributing methamphetamine. He now will be released on Dec. 1.

Almost all of the prisoners who received commutations were serving time for nonviolent drug offenses. The commutations bring to 562 the total number of sentences Obama has shortened, more than the past nine presidents combined.

White House counsel Neil Eggleston says those receiving commutations were imprisoned under antiquated, overly harsh sentencing laws.

Funeral set for teenage girl found slain in Atlanta suburbs

ROSWELL, Ga. (AP) — A service has been scheduled for one of two teenagers found shot to death behind a grocery store in an Atlanta suburb.

H.M. Patterson & Son Funeral Directors says a memorial service is planned at 10 a.m. Friday at Roswell Presbyterian Church for 17-year-old Natalie Henderson.

Roswell police arrested 20-year-old Jeffrey A. Hazelwood on Wednesday on two counts of murder in the deaths of Henderson and 17-year-old Carter Davis. Both were found Monday with single gunshot wounds to their heads.

Police have not released a motive in the deaths.

Henderson would have been a senior this year at Roswell High School.

Davis, who lived in Rapid City, South Dakota, during part of his high school years, was about to start his senior year at River Ridge High School in Woodstock.

Lack of rainfall affecting South Dakota's alfalfa hay crop

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Minimal rainfall across large areas of South Dakota this summer is having an effect on the state's alfalfa hay crop.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that one-third of the crop is rated in poor or very poor shape. Another 45 percent is rated fair, with only 22 percent in good-to-excellent condition. The third cutting of alfalfa is underway.

Fifty-five percent of the spring wheat crop and 87 percent of the winter wheat is harvested, well ahead of the average pace.

Precipitation over the past week was scattered, and damage from hail and strong winds was reported in parts of northern and western South Dakota.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 41 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 69 percent adequate to surplus.

Lemmon will be South Dakota's capital for a day Aug. 31

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The northwest South Dakota community of Lemmon has been chosen to be the state's capital for a day at the end of the month.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Lemmon will step in for Pierre Aug. 31 as part of his Capital for a Day

program.

Daugaard has said the program allows him to get better acquainted with residents and issues affecting their area.

Activities planned include a walk on main street, business tours and a social event for the community. Leaders will discuss the needs of the city with Daugaard during a roundtable.

Lemmon Mayor Neal Pinnow says the community is often regarded as a statewide leader in rural community development and is pleased with the opportunity to share its "story and accomplishments" with Daugaard and members of his cabinet.

South Dakota hearing to address proposed gaming compact

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Commission on Gaming says a hearing will be held on a proposed gaming compact between the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the state of South Dakota.

The public meeting is scheduled to be held Aug. 11 in Wagner.

The proposed compact to be discussed can be located online.

Federal law allows tribes in South Dakota to establish gaming operations under a state-tribal compact.

Watertown man ordered to pay sales, tobacco taxes

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A state judge has ordered a Watertown man who admitted to selling unstamped cigarettes and not having a sales tax license to pay more than \$2,300 in taxes.

The state Department of Revenue said Wednesday that Roger Brandriet was found guilty on misdemeanor charges. He was also placed on probation for a year and ordered to pay court costs.

It wasn't immediately clear if Brandriet has an attorney, and a working telephone number for him could not be found.

Man held on murder charges in teens' deaths near Atlanta

JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ROSWELL, Ga. (AP) — Police arrested a 20-year-old man on murder charges Wednesday as they investigate the slayings of two teenagers, each shot in the head, whose bodies were found behind a grocery store in an Atlanta suburb.

Jeffrey A. Hazelwood is accused of killing Natalie Henderson and Carter Davis early Monday morning in a case that left parents in Atlanta's sprawling northern suburbs on edge, Roswell Police Chief Rusty Grant said at a Wednesday news conference at Roswell police headquarters.

While investigators are unsure of the motive, "we believe he acted alone," the chief said.

Hazelwood was being held at the Roswell Detention Center on two counts of murder, and was expected to be transferred to the Fulton County Jail later, police said.

A delivery driver spotted the bodies behind a Publix store, Det. Zachary Frommer said. The Fulton County medical examiner said each teen was killed by a bullet to the head.

Officers located Hazelwood at a gas station not far from the crime scene, and brought him to police headquarters for questioning around 5 a.m. Wednesday, Grant said. He's been "generally cooperative" during the interviews with detectives, Frommer said.

Hazelwood is from Roswell, and also has ties to the Woodstock and east Cobb County areas, Frommer said. He had been staying with family and friends at various places in the Roswell area in the recent past, the detective said.

Though police declined to specify exactly what led them to pursue Hazelwood as a suspect, it was

a combination of physical evidence, electronic evidence, interviews and old-school police works that resulted in the arrest, Frommer said.

"It just seemed like everything came together," Frommer said. "This was a true, old-fashioned type of police case."

The two 17-year-olds were about to start their senior years at high school. Henderson attended Roswell High, just across the street from the Publix, and Davis was a standout lacrosse player at River Ridge in nearby Cherokee County.

Davis also played lacrosse in Rapid City, South Dakota, before returning to finish high school in Georgia, where he had lived as a child, Black Hills Lacrosse Association past president Richard Sudmeier said.

"Our players up here in Rapid City, we called him 'Georgia.' That was his nickname," Sudmeier said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Davis wore No. 6 when he played on the Black Hills Lacrosse team, so Sudmeier said teammates may wear helmet stickers with the number in his honor.

The South Dakota players plan to gather Friday to remember Davis, who was always willing to help his former teammates improve and "was pretty much like a second coach," said Zach Hockert, the varsity coach at Black Hills Lacrosse.

"If I could have a whole team of Carter Davises, we'd be unbeatable," Hockert said Wednesday.

Man held on murder charges in teens' deaths near Atlanta

JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ROSWELL, Ga. (AP) — Police arrested a 20-year-old man on murder charges Wednesday as they investigate the slayings of two teenagers, each shot in the head, whose bodies were found behind a grocery store in an Atlanta suburb.

Jeffrey A. Hazelwood is accused of killing Natalie Henderson and Carter Davis early Monday morning in a case that left parents in Atlanta's sprawling northern suburbs on edge, Roswell Police Chief Rusty Grant said at a Wednesday news conference at Roswell police headquarters.

While investigators are unsure of the motive, "we believe he acted alone," the chief said.

Hazelwood was being held at the Roswell Detention Center on two counts of murder, and was expected to be transferred to the Fulton County Jail later, police said.

A delivery driver spotted the bodies behind a Publix store, Det. Zachary Frommer said. The Fulton County medical examiner said each teen was killed by a bullet to the head.

Officers located Hazelwood at a gas station not far from the crime scene, and brought him to police headquarters for questioning around 5 a.m. Wednesday, Grant said. He's been "generally cooperative" during the interviews with detectives, Frommer said.

Hazelwood is from Roswell, and also has ties to the Woodstock and east Cobb County areas, Frommer said. He had been staying with family and friends at various places in the Roswell area in the recent past, the detective said.

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"If I could have a whole team of Carter Davises, we'd be unbeatable," Hockert said Wednesday.

Sioux Falls man knocked out, robbed of pants and wallet

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Sioux Falls man has reported being hit over the head, stabbed and robbed of his wallet and pants in the doorway of his home.

Police say the 55-year-old victim was knocked unconscious early Wednesday morning. He didn't require hospitalization.

The Argus Leader reports that authorities say the man didn't see the attacker and couldn't offer a description. Police are investigating the attack.

Can house dust explain why Amish protected from asthma?

LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Forget Fluffy and Fido. Bessie the cow just might make a healthier pet.

That idea stems from new research in two farming-based religious communities that shun modern ways but have dramatically different childhood asthma rates. The goal was to find an explanation for why asthma is so uncommon among Amish communities, where children run barefoot in dairy barns and farm fields, but much higher in the other group.

Blood samples, house dust and mice experiments revealed some tantalizing clues, suggesting something in the dust was protecting the Amish children.

The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine . It involved 60 school-aged children — 30 each from an Amish community in Middlebury, Indiana, and from a Hutterite colony near Mitchell, South Dakota. Amish and Hutterites both originated in Europe, share old-style Protestant beliefs and lifestyles and have similar genetic ancestry.

But Hutterites live on large highly industrialized communal farms, use modern agricultural machinery, and children are more isolated from livestock. By contrast, the Amish have family-run farms, they use horse-drawn plows, their barns often are located near their homes and their children have daily exposure to farm animals, the researchers explained.

Asthma is a lung disease involving narrowed airways and episodes of wheezing, coughing and breathing difficulties. Its cause is unknown but scientists believe genes and the environment play a role. Having a family history of allergy or asthma increases the risk, and pollution, dust and pet dander are among triggers in susceptible people.

No Amish children and six Hutterites had asthma. Other studies have found rates of about 5 percent in Amish school-aged children versus up to about 20 percent in Hutterites and 10 percent for U.S. kids. Reasons for the higher Hutterite rate aren't known but exhaust from farm machinery is an unlikely ex-

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planation because they typically don't come in close contact with it, said study co-author Carole Ober, a University of Chicago geneticist.

Blood tests confirmed both groups of children had similar genetic profiles. But Amish children had far more white blood cells called neutrophils — important in fighting infections. Plus, these cells looked younger in Amish kids, suggesting their immune system was constantly stimulated by exposure to germs to produce more.

Other blood cells called monocytes were found in similar numbers in both groups. Previous studies suggest these cells are hyperactive in allergy-prone children but the cells showed signs of being less responsive to allergy triggers in the Amish kids, said co-author Anne Sperling, a University of Chicago immunologist.

"This was a phenomenal difference," she said. "We were blown away."

She said the second "gee-whiz moment" came after researchers collected Amish and Hutterite house dust and tested it on special mice sensitized to develop asthma symptoms. Hutterite dust triggered breathing troubles and inflamed airways in the mice; Amish dust did not.

What exactly is in Amish house dust that might protect children is not known and more research is planned to find out, but the study authors theorized it could be microbes including bacteria from dairy cows.

"We could just say put a cow in everyone's house and no one would have asthma anymore but of course that's not easy," Ober said with a chuckle.

But if protective germs can be identified, it might someday be possible to create an asthma blocker for all children, she said.

A journal editorial said the study bolsters evidence that exposure to germs from traditional farming may protect against asthma. The results also support the so-called "hygiene hypothesis," which theorizes that relatively germ-free homes of modern society make infants more vulnerable to allergies and asthma.

Dr. Talal Chatila, an allergy expert at Boston Children's Hospital who wrote the editorial, said the study doesn't answer when and how often exposure to farm dust might be needed to protect children and if it needs to begin before birth.

Ober noted that research has shown that infants whose families have dogs are less likely to develop asthma and allergies but that acquiring a dog later on doesn't make a difference.

South Dakota charges 2 men trying to help launch pot resort

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's top prosecutor charged two consultants who worked with a Native American tribe on its plans to open the nation's first marijuana resort with drug offenses, accusing them of having seeds shipped from the Netherlands hidden in CD cases and sewn into clothing.

The charges announced Wednesday come eight months after the Flandreau Santee Sioux destroyed their crop amid fears of a federal raid, abandoning an ambitious scheme to develop "an adult playground" that they estimated could net as much as \$2 million a month in profits. Tribal leaders this week said they don't plan to revisit the proposal, and instead will use their greenhouse to grow vegetables, including tomatoes. The tribe declined immediate comment on the charges against the consultants.

Attorney General Marty Jackley, who warned against the tribe's proposal from the start, said that a range of marijuana possession charges had been brought against two top officials of Monarch America,

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the Colorado-based company hired to work with the tribe on the resort idea.

Eric Hagen, Monarch's chief executive, was charged by indictment with conspiracy to possess, possession and attempt to possess more than 10 pounds of marijuana. Jonathan Hunt, the vice president and cultivation expert, was charged with conspiracy to possess between a half-pound and a pound of marijuana.

Hagen, 34, of Sioux Falls, declined to comment. Hunt, 43, of Denver, Colorado, didn't immediately respond to telephone messages requesting comment. Jackley said Hunt was expected to plead guilty Aug. 15.

Court documents say Hunt ordered marijuana seeds from a company in the Netherlands that were put in CD cases and sewn into shirts and shipped surreptitiously to the tribe's office in 2015. Authorities say Hunt and others cultivated the plants at the Flandreau grow facility before they were burned in batches — about 600 plants in all.

"It is very clearly a violation of both federal and state law what was proposed and what was happening," Jackley said.

Jackley portrayed the tribe as a victim. Moody County State's Attorney Paul Lewis also took pains to say the charges were "not an indictment against the members of the Flandreau Santee Sioux."

But Lewis also added the charges are "a clarion call" to the tribe "to reconsider their efforts to move forward on an adult playground for marijuana ingestion and consumption."

A court affidavit says the tribe still had unused marijuana seeds after their crop was destroyed. Jackley said he hoped the tribe would turn them over to law enforcement.

The Santee Sioux began exploring a marijuana growing operation after the Justice Department in 2014 outlined a new policy clearing the way for Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana under the same conditions as some states that have legalized pot. When tribal leaders initially touted their plan to open the resort on tribal land in Flandreau, which is about 45 miles north of Sioux Falls, President Anthony Reider said they wanted it to be "an adult playground."

They projected as much as \$2 million in monthly profits, with ambitious plans that included a smoking lounge with a nightclub, bar and food service, and eventually an outdoor music venue. They planned to use the money for community services and to provide income to tribal members.

Jackley warned against the idea from the outset, saying that changes in tribal law to permit the operation wouldn't protect non-tribal members.

Federal officials had concerns, too, that Reider said were about whether the tribe can sell marijuana to non-Indians, along with the origin of the seeds used for its crop. After the tribe destroyed its crop in November, he said they wanted to demonstrate good faith in trying to resolve concerns about the project.

Many tribes have hesitated to move into marijuana cultivation, in part because of uncertainty over the risks involved due to a tangle of state, federal and tribal law enforcement oversight on reservations. Just a few months before the Santee Sioux burned their crop, two California tribes had their growing operation raided by federal authorities who cited concerns about third-party ownership and pot distribution off tribal land.

"This adds additional weight to the notion that tribes that are within states who are still not warmed up to the idea of medical marijuana or recreational marijuana are going to have a very difficult time moving those projects ahead," said Blake Trueblood, an attorney at a Florida-based economic development and Indian law firm.

Maine tribe says it'll stick to hemp for now, not marijuana

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A Maine tribe has ruled out growing medical marijuana for now and will stick to pursuing growing hemp.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe says it had cut off all contact on the marijuana idea last fall with Monarch America, a Littleton, Colorado-based company that said it was close to building a Maine cultivation facility with the tribe. The tribe said that was false.

On Tuesday, South Dakota's attorney general announced drug charges against officials of Monarch America after they helped a tribe in that state with its first marijuana crop.

Passamaquoddy CFO Darrin Coffin said at this point, the tribe doesn't want to "push the boundary" by growing medical marijuana in Maine.

Sioux Falls Council comes up short in veto override attempt

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A veto by Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether clearing the way for a \$25 million city office building downtown will stand.

The City Council recently voted to pull funding for the 79,000-square-foot, three-story structure. Huether vetoed the move, saying the project is needed.

The council on Tuesday night failed to override the veto.

An activist is trying to gather enough petition signatures to allow the public to vote on the project. Bruce Danielson needs to collect about 5,700 valid signatures to force a special election.

Bakken Pipeline financing complete, share sold to pay debt

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Companies building an oil pipeline from North Dakota across the Midwest into Texas say they've completed project financing and sold a share of the pipeline to another company to pay down the debt.

Energy Transfer Partners, Sunoco Logistics Partners and Phillips 66 said Tuesday they completed borrowing the remaining \$2.5 billion needed to complete the Bakken Pipeline project.

The project includes the \$3.7 billion Dakota Access Pipeline to carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois. A second leg, the \$1 billion Energy Transfer Crude Oil Pipeline, will carry oil from Illinois to Texas terminals.

The companies say they've sold nearly 37 percent of the project to Enbridge Energy Partners and Marathon Petroleum Corp. The \$2 billion cash from that deal will help pay down the project debt.

Mega Millions lottery ticket sold in Huron worth \$25,000

HURON, S.D. (AP) — A Mega Millions ticket sold in Huron is worth \$25,000 in Tuesday's drawing.

The ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Mega Ball to win the game's \$5,000 third prize, and an option purchased for an additional dollar multiplied the amount five times.

State lottery officials say the odds of winning the third prize are 1 in about 740,000.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$30 million for Friday's drawing.

GOP frustrations with Trump mount as allies weigh options

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Republicans' frustration with Donald Trump has reached new heights, with party leaders scrambling to persuade their presidential nominee to abandon divisive tactics that have triggered sinking poll numbers and low morale.

Party chairman Reince Priebus is appealing to the New York billionaire's adult children to help amid new signs of a campaign in trouble.

Trump's operation has been beset by internal discord, including growing concern about general election preparedness and a lack of support from Republican leaders, according to two people familiar with the organization's inner workings.

One of the people said Trump privately blames his own staff for failing to quiet the backlash from his own party after he criticized an American Muslim family whose son, a U.S. Army captain, was killed in Iraq.

The inner tension comes as Priebus and handful of high-profile Trump allies consider whether to confront the candidate directly to encourage a new approach following a series of startling stances and statements. In the midst of the uproar over his continued criticism of the Khan family, Trump infuriated Priebus and other party leaders by refusing to endorse GOP House Speaker Paul Ryan's re-election.

The officials, including one with direct knowledge of Priebus' thinking, were granted anonymity to discuss internal strategy because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issuer publicly. This came after one of the most tumultuous weeks of Trump's presidential campaign.

Trump on Wednesday dismissed suggestions that the GOP frustration was hurting his campaign, even as he openly contemplated an Election Day loss.

"Wouldn't that be embarrassing to lose to crooked Hillary Clinton? That would be terrible," he said during a campaign stop in battleground Florida. He also insisted, "We've never been this united."

In an interview later Wednesday with Florida's WPEC-TV, Trump was asked if he was being "baited into battles."

"I think that's probably right," he acknowledged. "We're going to focus more on Hillary Clinton."

The most powerful Republicans in Washington and New York's Trump Tower concede things will not change unless Trump wants them to.

"The candidate is in control of his campaign," campaign chairman Paul Manafort told Fox News Channel, highlighting his inability to control the nominee. "And I'm in control of doing the things that he wants me to do in the campaign."

Clinton, meanwhile, kept up her assault on Trump's business practices, holding up a Trump-branded tie as she spoke at the Knotty Tie Company in battleground Colorado.

"I really would like him to explain why he paid Chinese workers to make Trump ties," she told employees in Denver, "instead of deciding to make those ties right here in Colorado."

Trump blamed the media — "so dishonest" — for growing criticism of his recent statements and his unwillingness to accept guidance from senior advisers.

Privately, however, Trump has concerns about his own team.

He was deeply upset when GOP leaders "took the other side" during his ongoing quarrel with the Khan family, one person said, and blames his campaign staff for not keeping top Republicans in line. Another person said Trump is irritated that general election planning in battleground states isn't further along with less than 100 days until Election Day.

The internal tension is complicated by Trump's frequent travels without his senior advisers and his

adult children, who wield significant influence in the campaign, the people close to the campaign said.

"I would say in the last couple of weeks, he has been remarkably underperforming and we'll see whether or not he can take a deep breath and learn these lessons," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Fox Business News.

Trump stunned Republicans by telling The Washington Post in an interview Tuesday that he wasn't ready to endorse Ryan, who faces a primary contest in Wisconsin next week. Ryan has backed Trump despite deep differences on policy and temperament, and has encouraged other Republicans to unite behind the party's nominee.

Former Trump adviser Barry Bennett acknowledged signs of poor morale among the campaign staff he maintains contact with, but he also said it would be silly to dismiss Trump's chances with three months before Election Day.

"This would be the end of any other Republican candidate in the history of the country. And he's only 5 or 6 points behind," Bennett said.

Indeed, Trump on Wednesday reported raising \$80 million in July for his campaign and the Republican Party, a significant improvement from past months. Clinton raised about \$90 million over the same period.

Privately, Trump points to his recent fundraising success, large rallies and decent polling against a seasoned candidate as evidence that his campaign is working well.

And his loyalists continue to stand behind him.

"The media is blowing this out of proportion significantly," said New Hampshire Rep. Stephen Stepanek.

Woman pleads guilty to robbery, says prison is like home

BOB MOEN, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A longtime inmate who was recently released from prison pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to robbing a bank in Wyoming and asked a judge to impose the maximum sentence, saying going back to prison would be like going home.

Just a week after the robbery, Linda P. Thompson, 59, waived her right to a grand jury proceeding and entered the plea to a bank robbery charge.

Thompson said she had already spent about 18 years in prison for various crimes.

"Prison is home to me so I'm just going back home," she said. She added later, "I'd like as much time as possible."

Thompson pleaded guilty as part of a plea bargain that did not contain a recommended sentence. A bank robbery conviction generally carries a maximum 20 years in prison, though the term can be lengthened when previous convictions are considered.

Thompson's attorney, David Weiss, said outside court that it's unusual to represent a defendant who wants to go back to prison and "exceptional" to have one who wants so much prison time.

He described Thompson as competent and intelligent and an advocate for transgender prison inmates. She was featured a decade ago in a documentary film titled "Cruel and Unusual" that examined the lives of transgender prisoners.

Thompson was arrested July 27 after a US Bank branch in Cheyenne was robbed by a woman who tossed the money into the air outside and offered some to passers-by. She then sat down and waited for police to arrive.

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Thompson told U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal that she was released June 21 from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon, where she said she had served six years after a robbery conviction.

Thompson said she protested her release from the prison but her request to stay was denied.

She said she "hopped" a freight train headed for Wyoming, where her plan to stay ended when she was assaulted in a park on July 24 and decided she was better off in prison.

"The easiest way to get there is rob a bank," Thompson said.

Thompson was polite while speaking to the judge, and joked with her attorney. She interrupted the hearing once to ask permission to sit down because of back pain.

Freudenthal set sentencing for Oct. 12 after a pre-sentence investigation is completed.

American woman killed, 5 hurt in London knife attack.

DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

JONATHAN SHENFIELD, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police say a man who stabbed six people in London's Russell Square was a Norwegian of Somali origin, but they have found no signs of radicalization.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley says the investigation "increasingly points to mental health issues" as lying behind the rampage.

He says one person was killed in the attack, an American woman.

The five injured people are British, American, Israeli and Australian. None has life-threatening injuries.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. GOP FRUSTRATIONS WITH TRUMP MOUNT

Republican party leaders scramble to persuade the presidential nominee to abandon divisive tactics that have triggered sinking poll numbers and low morale.

2. EARL MAKES LANDFALL IN BELIZE

The Category 1 hurricane slammed into the coast of the Caribbean nation with sustained winds of 80 mph and heavy rain.

3. POLL: POLICE HARASSMENT FAMILIAR TO YOUNG BLACKS, LATINOS

Two-thirds of young African-Americans and 4 in 10 Hispanics say they or someone they know has experienced violence or harassment at the hands of the police, a new GenForward poll finds.

4. ONE GIANT LEAP FOR PYONGYANG

A senior official at North Korea's version of NASA tells the AP that the country plans to launch several satellites by 2020 and hopes for a moonshot within the next 10 years.

5. WOMAN KILLED, 5 HURT IN LONDON KNIFE ATTACK

A 19-year-old man suspected in the rampage in Russell Square, which is near the British Museum, claimed the life of a woman in her 60s and police believe the suspect's "mental health" was a factor.

6. AMERICA SEEN FROM ABROAD: ARROGANT, NICE, TECH-SAVVY, FREE

The AP finds that Americans are viewed from afar as generous tippers, friendly, uncomplicated, rich and the standard bearers of freedom, equality, creativity and technological power.

7. DC OFFICER CHARGED WITH TRYING TO SUPPORT IS

Nicholas Young, 36, a police officer for Washington's transit system, traveled to Libya and boasted of joining rebel groups there, and even described his collection of Nazi memorabilia to law enforcement, according to court documents.

8. OLYMPICS OFFERS SHOWCASE FOR TECHNOLOGY

From Visa beta testing a payment ring with Olympic athletes to Getty smart cameras capturing the action in 360 degrees, there's no shortage of new technology on display in Rio.

9. WHAT EASTWOOD SAYS ABOUT TRUMP

The actor-director stopped short of endorsement, but in an interview in Esquire magazine praised the Republican presidential candidate for being "on to something."

10. PACE PAVED WAY FOR RAMS' 'GREATEST SHOW ON TURF'

At 6-foot-7, the St. Louis offensive tackle had the wingspan to ward off pass rushers, at 325 pounds the bulk for the power game, plus he was amazingly light on his feet.

Look at 11 key challenges facing Nepal's new government

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Another coalition government has taken over in Nepal, where Parliament elected former communist rebel leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal as prime minister on Wednesday. The change is unlikely to ease the political instability that has plagued this Himalayan nation for years. A look at 11 main challenges facing the tiny South Asian nation, home to the world's tallest mountains:

1. SHORT-LIVED GOVERNMENTS:

The new government led by Dahal is the ninth in the past 10 years. It is also the 24th government over the last 26 years. Most have been coalition governments as squabbling over who gets to be prime minister or gets key ministerial portfolios have often resulted in a collapse of partnerships.

2. STRANGE BEDFELLOWS:

A single political party has been unable to capture a majority of seats in parliamentary elections, forcing it to form a coalition with the second biggest vote getter. The main partners in the last government were the two largest communist parties, but they failed to overcome the differences between them. The Maoists are former communist rebels who came to power after giving up armed struggle, while the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist) has been mainstream for decades. They are both competing for voters who believe in the communist ideology. Dahal led the communist insurgency between 1996 and 2006, while his coalition partner Sher Bahadur Deuba (leader of the Nepali Congress party) once offered a \$50,000 bounty for Dahal's head when he was prime minister.

3. MONARCHY:

Nepal was ruled by kings for centuries until 2008, when the Constituent Assembly voted to abolish the monarchy and turn the country into a republic. The last king, Gyanendra Shah, left the royal palace and lives the life of a civilian. Kings were believed by many people to be the reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, but in the past few decades they became unpopular for their authoritarian rule. After the massacre of 10 royal family members in 2001, when the crown prince gunned down his father, mother and relatives at a party, most people lost the faith in the crown. Gyanendra was largely unpopular and his son even more so owing to drunken brawls and car crashes allegedly involving him that killed at least two people.

4. NEW CONSTITUTION:

After the monarchy was abolished, political parties and Maoists attempted to draft a new constitution that would guarantee citizens' rights and those of marginalized groups. However, it took political parties seven years to complete the task. The first Constituent Assembly was elected in 2008 with a two-

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year deadline, but was disbanded after four years. The second assembly, elected in 2013, managed to finish the job in September 2015, but the constitution was rejected by ethnic groups in southern Nepal.

5. ETHNIC TROUBLE:

The Madhesi ethnic group in southern Nepal bordering India clashed with police and imposed a general strike in the region. They also blocked border crossings, cutting off supplies that led to severe shortages of fuel and medicines. More than 50 people were killed in the protests, which ended in February without meeting the group's key demands— more land in the new federal state assigned to them by the new constitution. Other smaller ethnic groups also demanded their own separate states.

6. FRAGILE DEMOCRACY:

Street protests in 1990 forced King Birendra to give up the Panchayat system, where political parties were outlawed and the king was in full control of the rubber stamp government and parliament. After multiparty democracy was restored, political parties competed for power, position and money. Corruption was ever increasing and tainted political parties. When the Maoist rebels began fighting the government, King Gyanendra seized absolute power in 2004, jailing politicians, curbing fundamental rights and putting the army in charge.

7. MAOIST COMMUNIST INSURGENCY:

The Maoists began their insurgency in 1996 by attacking a small police station in a mountain village armed with just two old guns. By the time the rebels put their arms down in 2006, the fighting had spread to much of Nepal, leaving more than 17,000 dead and hundreds missing. The decade of war put on hold Nepal's development. The Maoists entered a U.N.-monitored peace deal and joined mainstream politics, and in 2008, succeeded in their campaign to end the monarchy. However, their popularity suffered as leaders like Dahal, who once walked village to village, eating simple food, moved to mansions in Kathmandu, driving around in expensive cars and are believed to have accumulated huge wealth for their families.

8. ECONOMY:

Nepal's inflation rate this year hit 10.5 percent, while the economy grew barely 1.5 percent. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the region and imports most of its supplies and all of the oil products. Nepal's main source of foreign currency is hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists and money sent by an estimated 4 million Nepalese working abroad. The India border blockade last year and early this year made the situation worse.

9. ENERGY AND WATER SHORTAGES:

Even though Nepal has several mountain rivers that can be used to produce electricity from hydro-power plants, it continues to face huge power shortages. Consumers face up to 12 hours of daily rolling outages. It was not possible to build new plants during the communist insurgency and only a few have been built since then. Tap water for Kathmandu's 3 million people is available only two hours a week on average.

10. DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE:

The April 25, 2015, earthquake and the aftershocks killed nearly 9,000 people and damaged 1 million buildings. Though the government and donors were quick to distribute plastic sheets, tents and food, reconstruction have been slow and nearly 4 million people are still homeless. It took nearly a year for the government to form the earthquake reconstruction authority and it managed to give the first grant installments to only a few thousand families. Foreign donors have pledged \$4.1 billion in aid, but only half was made available. Nepal says it needs \$7.9 billion over the next five years.

11. MOUNT EVEREST:

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Nepal's biggest asset is the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) -high Mount Everest. Nature, however, hasn't been kind in the last few years. In April 2014, an avalanche swept through the Khumbu Icefall, killing 16 Sherpa guides and ending the climbing season that year. A year later, the earthquake triggered another massive avalanche over base camp, killing 19 people. There were fears that the back-to-back disasters would drive away climbers and tourists, and the government waived climbing fees and announced an improved climbing management in a bid to reassure visitors. This year, another five climbers died on Everest, but hundreds were successful in reaching the summit.

Storms return to Southwest, but less intense than earlier

TERRY TANG, Associated Press

PAUL DAVENPORT, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Storms hit areas of the Southwest again on Wednesday, but with less intensity than a day earlier when monsoon rains swamped the desert region, stranding drivers, flooding streets and prompting water rescues.

Forecasters warned of the potential of more flooding in six states — Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Utah and California, particularly in washes and streams.

Rain fell in the Four Corners region but there were no reports of flooding or mudslides. More intense monsoon rain was expected in that area through Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Flood watches in effect covered large swaths of desert and forests and cities such as Phoenix, Las Vegas, Tucson and Albuquerque. There was some flooding in the Arizona border city of Nogales.

Meteorologist Ken Drozd said more than an inch of rain fell on the U.S. side of the border along with 2 inches on the Mexico side, overwhelming washes and some streets. Fire officials, however, said the water was receding by late afternoon and traffic was moving normally.

Heavy rains fell Wednesday in parts of northern Phoenix, according to report on the Arizona Republic website. And in Casa Grande, about 50 miles south of Phoenix, a monsoon storm knocked over trees and power poles. The Casa Grande Dispatch reported that up to 1,800 homes and businesses were without electricity for a few hours.

A flash-flood watch remained in effect until late Wednesday night for the Phoenix metro area and parts of Maricopa, Pinal and Gila counties — meaning flooding was possible in washes, creeks and drainage areas.

Just over a month ago in Phoenix, residents were swapping social media photos of boiling temperature readings. Now, images of flooded streets and dark skies were being shared after a storm dropped 2 inches of rain in an hour in some spots Tuesday.

The rains bring some relief to crews fighting wildfires but also the potential for mudslides in areas blackened by flames. Because of the moisture, forest managers have been allowing wildfires to burn in areas where they didn't threaten structures or public safety.

While there are fears that lightning could spark new blazes and strong winds could fan them, flooding remained the main threat, according to the National Weather Service in Flagstaff.

The weather wreaked havoc on Tuesday evening's commute. Flooding closed an Interstate 17 underpass in Phoenix for five hours and firefighters rescued a man sitting atop his flooded car on the metro Phoenix thoroughfare.

Arizona Department of Transportation spokesman Steve Elliott said pumps were overwhelmed by 3 inches of rain that fell within about a half-hour at an interchange where the freeway dips below street level.

"We're talking about moving swimming pools of water," Elliott said. "Those low-lying areas are great

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collectors of water.”

Heavy rain is typical during monsoon season. The phenomenon occurs each summer when the winds shift, bringing moisture north from the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to produce radical and unpredictable weather changes.

“So a normal monsoon year you’re going to have a few of these extreme events. It may sound like an oxymoron — they’re extreme events but we know they’re going to happen every year,” Waters said.

At least one Phoenix couple took advantage of the weather for some wet and wild fun. Alexandria Gleason and Levi Robertson came home from work to find the streets around their apartment building flooded.

“Levi was the one who jokingly suggested I should get one of my floats,” Gleason said. “I said ‘That’s probably the best idea ever.’”

Gleason said she bobbed in the streets in her doughnut-shaped float for about 15 minutes as the rain poured down.

Robert Goluba, who lives in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert, captured video of a recycling bin floating down the street in front of his home. The 15-year Arizona resident said Tuesday’s storm was one of the stronger ones in recent years and he’ll be ready for the next storm.

“I’m going to be waiting for somebody’s Mercedes to float down to my yard,” Goluba joked.

America seen from abroad: arrogant, nice, tech-savvy, free

VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The rest of the world may think Americans eat a lot of burgers, have huge shopping malls and are ruled by an arrogant government. And yet the “Ugly American,” it would seem, isn’t all bad. Americans are also seen from afar as generous tippers, friendly, uncomplicated, rich and the standard bearers of freedom, equality, creativity and technological power.

While many Americans feel their nation is divided as never before, a sampling of the rest of the world reflects a more charitable view.

EDITOR’S NOTE — This story is part of Divided America, AP’s ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

Generations in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America have grown up under the influence of the superpower U.S. and have felt awe and envy. America permeated their lives — through comics and Coke, through Hollywood and Neil Armstrong, and via the internet, iPhone and Facebook. It has been seen as the land of plenty, freedom and equality where Indian migrants could head behemoths like Google, Microsoft and Pepsi, and a South African could capture the imagination with an electric car. And after 9/11, the world grieved with America.

Yet, America’s admirers have felt betrayed by other shades of the American character: the military interventions in Vietnam, Iraq and elsewhere; the gun violence; the right (inexplicable to many) to carry weapons; the deep and angry racial divisions; and, lately, a presidential nominee calling for harsh restrictions on Muslims and Mexicans.

The Associated Press sent reporters across the world to ask ordinary people about their views of America. And in the opinions that came back, some clear threads emerge, anecdotal yet illuminating.

WHAT IS THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD “AMERICA”? DESCRIBE THE COUNTRY AS YOU SEE IT:

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— “The first word that comes to mind when I hear the word America is ‘Arrogance.’ They are big and loud and they are in charge of everything.” — Christopher Darroch, 39, actor, Toronto.

— “Capitalism. Money rules everything. Overweight people, Donald Trump, elections, shootings.” — Ingerlise Kristensen, 68, retired bank employee, Copenhagen, Denmark.

— “America is food ... fast food and (Coca) Cola. It’s cars. It’s the many electronics we have ... the bridge in San Francisco.” — Ksenia Smertova, 21, student, Moscow.

— “America? Uhh, that’s a huge country. Burgers, the American dream, choppers, ... Elvis, cowboys. We dream of America and they dream about Europe. But one thing for sure, they cannot make beer.”

— Knut Braaten, 43, handyman, Oslo, Norway.

— “Everything in America is high tech!” — B.S. Mehta, 34, health insurance agent, New Delhi.

— “Has a very liberal culture, great people and a country that drives innovation.” — Shitij, 26, sales and marketing worker, New Delhi.

— “A lot of (consumer) products. A lot of dresses, and cars, and all that. A society that has more things than our society.” — Antara Rao, 18, economics student, New Delhi.

— “(America) welcomes all different races.” — Marren Cahilig, 21, bartender, Manila, Philippines.

— “It is powerful.” — Gennelyn Escopete, 33, DVD street vendor, Manila, Philippines

— “Probably capitalism, but I see it more as freedom ... that every person can do what he wants, when he wants — true freedom, but it costs a lot I think, and sometimes it brings you lower than takes you higher.” — Karin Cohen, 25, bookshop worker, Jerusalem.

— “The first thing I think when I hear United States is a world power.” — Pedro Ivan Gonzalez, 35, juice seller, Havana.

— “It is a world imperialist power country. Obviously (the people) don’t have much to do with the government’s political decisions but I do think that it is a big, powerful country that has always tried to dominate countries it doesn’t favor.” — Rosa Moscoso, 42, Havana.

— “A country of freedom, particularly freedom of thought. And it’s a country with quite advanced technology industries. You see, I even have two iPhones.” — Liu Xiaodan, 30, hotel manager, Beijing.

— “America is a country that produces a massive amount of cultural output such as Hollywood movies, music and many other (forms of) entertainment.” — Sam Wang, 20, university student, Beijing.

— “My image of America is a country that goes to war anywhere in the world,” — Susumu Inoue, 82, retired agricultural lab technician, Tokyo.

— “I think of Major League Baseball,” Ayumi Takeoka, 41, housewife, Tokyo.

TALK ABOUT ONE EXPERIENCE YOU’VE HAD WITH AMERICA OR AN AMERICAN:

— “I have been in the States a few times ... It is a great country and would love to live there. People are nice but superficial. Not sure whether I actually am ready to move there because it must be a tough country to live in. I prefer it here. It is more cozy (laughing), less restrictive ...(made drinking gesture).”

— Knut Braaten, 43, handyman, Oslo, Norway.

— “When I was driving to North Carolina I stopped at McDonald’s. I was wearing a T-shirt that said, ‘You Can’t Get This In The States.’ The fellow in line asked me in a very American accent, ‘Y’all can’t get what in the States?’ I explained it was a joke, I was from Canada. And he said, ‘Oh Canada! Y’all get snow up there.’” — Christopher Darroch, 39, actor, Toronto.

— “I was stunned to see how big everything is over there. Shopping malls, meals, people, cars. We in Europe have smaller things ... What I liked when I was over there was the service level, it was very high. But people expect to be tipped so that is why they are so services-minded. Their approach is different from ours ... we do it because we care about others, they do it because they get tips ... they were raised that way.” — Ingerlise Kristensen, 68, retired bank employee, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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— “I had a roommate ... a Californian, when I was in Korea as a college exchange student. She was a happy person, better than my Chinese roommate ... there were three of us in the room. The American was easy to talk with and we had a lot of things in common. (She believed) that the people’s voice should be heard.” — Marren Cahilig, 21, bartender, Manila, Philippines.

— “A friend had an American friend over and he was surprised to see how laid back we are. He also emptied my friend’s fridge, saying he’s used to eating and drinking whenever he feels hungry or thirsty. And he drank tap water ... oh no!” — Kenni Friis, 28, computer technology student, Copenhagen, Denmark.

— “They’re generous. If we ask for a high price, they don’t bargain. They’re calm and kind and friendly and they like to smile.” — Gennelyn Escopete, 33, DVD street vendor, Manila, Philippines

— “There is a lot of misconception about their politics. I’ve seen that many times they are very charismatic, friendly but that does not mean that they share the political thinking of the United States (government).” — Pedro Ivan Gonzalez, 35, Havana.

— “I think the way they are talking and dealing with personal relations is quite direct. They just like speaking their mind, which is a reason that I don’t feel quite comfortable going around with Americans.” — Liu Xiaodan, 30, hotel manager, Beijing.

— “My impression of Americans is that they uncomplicated. Interpersonal relations among Americans are much more practical, in contrast to the complicated way that we Chinese people treat each other.” — Men Xuezhi, 54, doctor, Beijing.

— “I don’t like American guys who always pursue their own personal interests. I prefer hanging out with Canadians or students from Europe, because at least they are quite polite.” — Li Jiaqi, 23, college student in U.S., renewing his visa in Beijing.

— “An American friend visiting ... came with the idea that he is going to find another America here ... I believe they should understand the values that we have as Arabs, embrace them and try to go to a more local level to comprehend why we think and why we live the way we live.” — Summer Abu Ltaif, outside the American University of Beirut.

— “I think everyone is very tolerant there, in a way that there are all kinds of people, whether from different ethnicities, different countries, different religions. People are mostly not concerned with what another (person) is doing. There was a bit of a culture shock when I first went there because the way people dress there is very much different from the way we dress here. All of them wear shorts.” — Antara Rao, 18, student, New Delhi.

— “I have traveled all over the United States in Greyhound buses as a tourist. I did not find any discrimination. I found the people ... very hospitable, nice and very cordial.” — Kanti, 74, travel agency owner, New Delhi.

WHAT MAKES AMERICANS AMERICAN? OR WHAT IDENTIFIES AS AMERICAN TO YOU?

— “A black-and-white look at the world. They miss nuances.” — Knut Braaten, 43, handyman, Oslo, Norway.

— “I think there obviously is the American dream, the idea that unifies them all. They are also unified in the sense that the dream isn’t really a real thing anymore. The reality doesn’t match the ideal. What identifies an American? Loudness. All of the Trump stuff in the U.S. has been depressing ... you would like to think people are smarter than that ... but definitely surprising and depressing to see how much support he has and how much support his ideas have.” — Christopher Darroch, 39, actor, Toronto.

— “Americans are American because they feel (they are) better than the rest of the world but in reality we are as good as they are. They simply don’t see us as their equal ... but we are. Sometimes we

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are even better than them . but don't tell them (laughing)." — Kenni Friis, 28, computer technology student, Copenhagen, Denmark.

— "You can easily distinguish an American like here in the restaurant. The Americans are more of a tipper, good tipppers. Americans are gallant." — Marren Cahilig, 21, bartender, Manila, Philippines.

— "Many things ... their arrogant ideology of a powerful country and above all they have a language that is practically universal and almost everyone depends on that language. And they are a people that like having a lot of fun ... and their brands: McDonald's, all of that, makes the American identity ... or North American ... we call them North Americans rather than Americans, because we all are Americans." — Pedro Ivan Gonzalez, 35, Havana.

— "Technology makes Americans American." — B.S. Mehta, 34, health insurance worker, New Delhi.

— "America is a land of opportunities. I think that anybody with good ideas, if they want to make a mark, it gives you an equal opportunity in that country. America stands out because people recognize merit out there." — Shitij, 26, sales and marketing worker, New Delhi.

— "They believe in democracy, in freedom; they are willing to die, kill, et cetera, for that. They believe in the right to have a good life and to help others to have a good life, and I think that's part of what makes them Americans." — Ziva Meizels, retiree, Jerusalem.

— "I think their patriotism, you know, God bless America. And it is a great country; I have visited it. It's a wonderful country and there is high security, standard of living is very high. So yes, they are fortunate, and it is God bless America — that's what makes America, America." — Summer Abu Ltaif, outside the American University of Beirut.

— "I think that they are formed by an ideology. There are no Americans as such. Because there is no such ethnicity. But there is an ideology that unites them all." — Zhila Gudzueva, university lecturer, Moscow.

— "My definition of Americans is those who are cheerful, friendly and willing to communicate." — Ayumi Takeoka, 41, housewife, Tokyo.

Associated Press journalists Charmaine Noronha in Toronto, Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, Mauricio Cuevas and Ariel Fernandez in Havana, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, Chris Bodeen in Beijing, Thomas Cytrynowicz in New Delhi, Moshe Edri in Jerusalem, Mohammad Aouti in Beirut, Alexander Roslyakov in Moscow and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

HOF 2016: Pace paved way for Rams' Greatest Show on Turf

R.B. FALLSTROM, AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Orlando Pace accomplished what he set out to do, becoming one of the best offensive tackles in the NFL. At 6-foot-7, he had the wingspan to ward off pass rushers, at 325 pounds he had the bulk for the power game, plus he was amazingly light on his feet.

"He's cut from a different cloth," former St. Louis Rams teammate D'Marco Farr said. "Canton is built for guys like him."

There is one small regret for the new Pro Football Hall of Famer.

Though he played an outsized role in the Greatest Show on Turf with the assemblage of high-octane talent that produced two Super Bowl teams and a championship with the St. Louis Rams from 1999-2001, the soft-spoken, five-time All-Pro never made it to the end zone.

"I did get a little jealous when I see Ryan Tucker score, and some other guys, too," Pace said.

Though head coach Mike Martz was somewhat receptive to the idea of giving Pace the ball in the second Super Bowl season, offensive line coach Jim Hanifan nixed the tackle-eligible hijinks, judging Pace

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too much of a vital cog to risk injury.

"He didn't want me to catch the ball, he didn't want me to get hurt," Pace said. "He vetoed all those thoughts and all those special plays."

Now, the 40-year-old Pace has a chance to dictate terms. He has chosen his son, Justin, to be his presenter in Canton, Ohio, on Saturday.

"He was my first-born and I wanted him to really share in that moment," Pace said.

Pace was such a catch coming out of Ohio State in 1997 that the Rams traded up with the Jets to snatch him first overall. From 1999-2004, St. Louis was wildly successful, in no small part because of the gentle giant protecting the left flank for first Kurt Warner and then Marc Bulger.

"He was the MVP of what we were doing," wide receiver Isaac Bruce said.

"The first time I saw him walk through the door I was like, 'my goodness.' He was huge," Farr said. "He was one of our better athletes, and that included the receivers and the running backs."

In an eight-year stretch from 1998-2005, Pace played every game in seven of those seasons. He had the franchise tag three consecutive years in a career finally derailed by a torn biceps.

The Sandusky, Ohio, native made such an impression that current Rams guard Rodger Saffold, who also grew up in Ohio, wears No. 76 in his honor.

Linebacker Mike Jones had the tackle that saved the 2000 Super Bowl victory over Tennessee, but like other teammates, he recognized the rare talent on offense that got the Rams to the pinnacle. Jones said Pace had the skills of a power forward.

"He had that rare ability to drive you off the ball and set a fence that no one could get around," Jones said.

Hall of Famer and former teammate Aeneas Williams remembers being struck by a speech from Archie Manning, who said, "Guys, you see me limping, so it's obvious that none of my teammates, offensive linemen, are in the Hall of Fame."

"I can say this about Kurt Warner, he's not limping. He's fairly healthy and one of the reasons is because he had Orlando Pace protecting his blind side."

Before the Rams chose him, Pace had never been to St. Louis. He was familiar with Dick Vermeil, though, from the coach's experience on college football telecasts before returning to the NFL.

Pace was among the first to be credited with pancake blocks when he dominated at Ohio State.

"When I went to Columbus, it was almost like a dream," Pace recalled. "Everything that could go right, did go right."

The NFL agreed with that assessment, and Pace was the first offensive lineman picked No. 1 overall since 1968.

"There's not a lot of hardships being No. 1," Pace said.

There was an adjustment period. He made nine starts his rookie year, struggling along with the rest of the franchise, which had a losing record each of its first four years in St. Louis after making the move from the West Coast.

In 1999, the famously intense Vermeil backed off on what had been a grueling practice regimen. Everybody thrived with a more focused approach, and though Kurt Warner and Marshall Faulk got the lion's share of the credit, none of it would have happened without Pace paving the way.

In '99, Pace anchored a line that helped the offense produce the most passing yards in NFL history.

"I loved it in St. Louis, I'm always a Ram," said Pace, who wrapped up his career with a year in Chicago in 2009. "Nobody can ever take that away. It was a special time for us."

Pace is the second member of the Rams' glory years in St. Louis make it to Canton, joining Faulk. He hopes there will be more, and soon, with Warner a finalist the last two years, and wide receivers Bruce and Torry Holt also instrumental in that run.

"Kurt should have gotten in this year," Pace said. "Hopefully he gets the call for what he did for two organizations, winning two MVPs. There's no way he should not be in the hall."

Pace takes his place there on Saturday night.

Years of surveillance leads to terror charge against officer

MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — For years, authorities had concerns about Metro Transit Police Officer Nicholas Young: He traveled to Libya and boasted of joining rebel groups there, and he even described his collection of Nazi memorabilia to law enforcement, according to court documents. But until last month, authorities said, he hadn't committed a crime.

Now Young, 36, of Fairfax, Virginia, is the first law-enforcement officer in the U.S. to be charged with a terror-related crime, after prosecutors say he bought about \$250 worth of gift cards in an FBI sting for someone he thought was working with the Islamic State group.

Young was arrested Wednesday at Metro Transit Police headquarters in Washington and charged with a single count of attempting to provide material support to a terrorist group. According to an FBI affidavit, Young bought the gift cards last month intending that they be used by the Islamic State group to purchase mobile messaging apps. But the person he gave the cards to was actually an undercover FBI officer, the affidavit said.

He made a brief court appearance Wednesday afternoon, wearing a T-shirt and what appeared to be his uniform slacks.

David Smith, who was appointed to represent Young after the hearing, said he could not comment because he had not yet been able to research the details of the case. A status hearing was scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

If convicted, Young could face up to 20 years in prison.

Young had been under surveillance since 2010, and he traveled to Libya at least once in 2011, where he said he joined rebel forces seeking to oust dictator Moammar Gadhafi, the affidavit said. He traveled with body armor, a Kevlar helmet and other military-style items.

Young was deeply paranoid about law enforcement spying on him, often taking the battery out of his cellphone when he wanted to go somewhere and talk, the document said. Young frequently told one undercover source to be wary of potential informants, according to the affidavit.

On Jan. 24, 2011, an undercover officer said Young told the officer he once aimed an AK-47-style rifle out of a window at his home, scanning for law enforcement he believed was watching him. On another occasion, he grew angry that the FBI talked to his family and co-workers and said he wanted to find the FBI agent and kidnap and torture her.

The undercover officer said he "doubted that Young seriously intended to act upon those words," according to the affidavit.

Authorities were not the only ones who had concerns about Young. As police searched Young's townhome in Fairfax on Wednesday, neighbor Dina Ahmad described him as standoffish and said he had occasional run-ins with the homeowners' association over his cluttered front lawn.

He often worked on his car at late hours, and the car was adorned with anti-Israel bumper stickers, she said. Asked if she was surprised to learn of the charges against Young, she said no.

"We knew something was weird about him," Ahmad said. "You just kind of got that creepy vibe off of him."

Joshua Stueve, spokesman for the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, said Young posed

no threat to the Metro system.

Metro spokesman Dan Stessel said Young, who had been employed since 2003, was fired.

"Obviously, the allegations in this case are profoundly disturbing. They're disturbing to me, and they're disturbing to everyone who wears the uniform," Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said in a statement.

FBI spokesman Andrew Ames confirmed that Young is the first law enforcement officer to be charged under the federal government's terrorism law.

Young was an associate of two other people charged with terror-related crimes. In 2010, law enforcement interviewed Young because of his links to Zachary Chesser, who eventually pleaded guilty to trying to join the militant group al-Shabab and to issuing threats to the makers of the "South Park" cartoon series after they penned an episode he found insulting to Islam.

Young also met regularly with Amine El Khalifi, who pleaded guilty in a sting operation in which he planned to attempt a suicide bombing at the U.S. Capitol in 2012.

In his years under surveillance, Young frequently made alarming comments that did not rise to a criminal level. During one conversation with an undercover officer, Young said if he was ever betrayed by someone, "that person's head would be in a cinder block at the bottom of" a lake.

In March 2015, he raised suspicion when he brought a large amount of ammunition, AK-47s and a pistol to an off-duty weapons training event provided by another Metro officer. Young said he owned even more weapons, according to the affidavit.

In a June 2015 interview with law enforcement, he described dressing up at Halloween parties as a jihadist who had beheaded a hostage and as a Nazi. He told officers he collected Nazi memorabilia and he had a German eagle tattooed on his neck.

According to George Washington University's Program on Extremism, Young is the 100th person since March 2014 to be charged with an offense related to support for the Islamic State group.

AP Exclusive: North Korea hopes to plant flag on the moon

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korean space officials are hard at work on a five-year plan to put more advanced satellites into orbit by 2020, and don't intend to stop there: They're also aiming for the moon, and beyond.

In an interview with The Associated Press, a senior official at North Korea's version of NASA said international sanctions won't stop the country from launching more satellites by 2020, and that he hopes to see the North Korean flag on the moon within the next 10 years.

"Even though the U.S. and its allies try to block our space development, our aerospace scientists will conquer space and definitely plant the flag of the DPRK on the moon," said Hyon Kwang Il, director of the scientific research department of North Korea's National Aerospace Development Administration.

North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

An unmanned, no-frills North Korean moon mission in the not-too-distant future isn't as far-fetched as it might seem. Outside experts say it's ambitious, but conceivable. While the U.S. is the only country to have conducted manned lunar missions, other nations have sent unmanned spacecraft there and have in that sense planted their flags.

"It would be a significant increase in technology, not one that is beyond them, but you have to debug each bit," Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who maintains an exhaustive blog on international satellites and satellite launches, said in an email to

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the AP.

Hyon said the current five-year plan, at the order of leader Kim Jong Un, focuses on launching more Earth observation satellites and what would be its first geostationary communications satellite — which, technologically, would be a major step forward. He said universities are also expanding programs to train rocket scientists.

“We are planning to develop the Earth observation satellites and to solve communications problems by developing geostationary satellites. All of this work will be the basis for the flight to the moon,” Hyon said on July 28, adding that he personally would like to see that happen “within 10 years’ time.”

North Korea has marked a number of successes in its space program — and, of course, in its development of ever-more-sophisticated long-range missiles for military use. On Wednesday, it test-fired what was believed to be a medium-range ballistic missile into the seas off Japan, the fourth reported weapons launch it has carried out in about two weeks.

It launched its latest satellite — the Kwangmyongsong 4, or Brilliant Star 4 — into orbit on Feb. 7, just one month after conducting what it claims was its first H-bomb test.

That brought new sanctions because nuclear tests and rocket launches, which can have military applications, are banned under United Nations resolutions.

Hyon said the sanctions are “ridiculous.”

“Our country has started to accomplish our plan and we have started to gain a lot of successes,” he said. “No matter what anyone thinks, our country will launch more satellites.”

He said North Korea’s long-term target is to use its satellites to provide data for crop and forestry assessments and improved communications. It also intends “to do manned spaceflight and scientific experiments in space, make a flight to the moon and moon exploration and also exploration to other planets.”

The U.S. made its first lunar flyby in 1959, only six months after its first satellite, Explorer 1, though it took eight more years and several failed attempts to succeed with a lunar orbiter. The USSR made its first moon shot after only three successful Sputnik satellites. Its probe — just a year and a half after Sputnik 1 — reached the moon, but missed its orbit.

“So it’s not ridiculous to attempt a moon mission early in your space program,” McDowell said.

“Given their low flight rate of one mission every few years, I think it is hard to see them succeeding in this in the next five years, but possible to see them attempting it,” he said.

North Korea currently has two satellites in orbit, KMS-3-2 and KMS-4. It put its first satellite in orbit in 2012, a feat few other countries have achieved. Rival South Korea, for example, has yet to do so.

Hyon said that as of July 27, KMS-4 had completed 2,513 orbits, and that within one day after its launch it transmitted 700 photographic images back to Earth. He said it is still working properly and sending data whenever it passes over North Korea, which is four times a day.

Foreign experts have yet to confirm any communications from the satellite.

“There’s been no independent evidence that KMS-4 sent data back, but no evidence that it didn’t, either,” McDowell said.

German analyst Markus Schiller, one of the world’s foremost experts on North Korea’s missiles and rockets, said a geostationary satellite might be a more ambitious goal for the country than a lunar flyby or crash-landing.

“Hitting the moon hard would require less performance — power, rocket size — than getting into GEO (geostationary equatorial orbit), but it will still be quite a challenge,” he said in an email from Munich, where he is based.

“Judging from what I have seen so far with their space program, it will take North Korea about a decade or more to get to lunar orbit at best — if they really pursue this mission,” he said. “My personal

guess, however, is that they might try but they will fail, and we will not see a successful North Korea lunar orbiter for at least two decades, if ever."

Hyon said claims that North Korea's space plan is a military program in disguise are hypocritical, considering the history of space exploration. The U.S., Russia and China all built their space programs out of military technology. Many of the rockets they use today were initially developed as ICBMs.

"It is the U.S. that militarized space," he said.

He said the North Korean military has already succeeded in developing long-range missiles that can reach anywhere on Earth, "especially to American territory," and so "there is no need for our state to use the space program for ballistic missile development."

That argument isn't likely to sway sanctions advocates in Washington or Seoul. But Schiller said the claim is plausible, given the advances in weaponry North Korea has displayed through its overtly military missile tests and the specific designs of the Unha rockets that are used to launch its satellites.

"I agree they (the military) will not learn any essential new things from launching another Unha rocket," he said. "Of course, there are lessons learned that you can also apply for the missile program. But the whole missile program shows so many different characteristics that they seem to be separated to a certain degree."

China lawyer gets 7 years in 3rd subversion trial this week

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese lawyer was sentenced to seven years in prison Thursday in the third in a series of subversion trials demonstrating the ruling Communist Party's determination to silence independent human rights activists and government critics.

The sentence given to Zhou Shifeng results from his role as director of Beijing's Fengrui Law Firm, which took on sensitive cases and represented people who dared challenge the party.

Zhou, 52, accepted the ruling and will not appeal, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

His half-day trial in the northern city of Tianjin followed those of two related legal activists earlier this week, both on charges of subversion. As with the others, Zhou was detained in July of last year during a sweeping roundup of activists and lawyers. About 300 people were initially seized and questioned before most were released.

Zhou was accused of coming under the influence of "anti-China forces" and opposing China's government and political system. He was also accused of opposing the "one country, two systems" policy applied in former foreign colonies Hong Kong and Macau.

Zhou "played a major role in a group of activists who attempted to manipulate public opinion and damage national security by spreading subversive thoughts," state media quoted the verdict as saying.

It said Zhou worked with activists Hu Shigen, Zhai Yanmin and Li Heping "to encourage lawyers to highlight sensitive cases and hired protesters to disturb the judicial system." Hu was given a 7½ year sentence on Wednesday and Zhai a suspended three-year sentence on Tuesday, while Li is being tried separately.

Zhou also "asked administrative officers in the law firm to post anti-government comments online to stir up public sentiment," the verdict said.

Zhou established Fengrui in 2007, and the following year took on one of the country's biggest dairies in a massive tainted infant formula scandal that the government had tried to squelch. The firm also represented clients targeted by the government, including members of the banned Falun Gong meditation sect and activist artist Ai Weiwei.

Zhou's final case involved Zhang Miao, a news assistant for the German weekly Die Zeit who was

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detained for nine months after helping with the magazine's coverage of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Zhou was meeting Zhang at a hotel in suburban Beijing following her release when he was seized, hooded and driven away by agents.

This week's trials are part of a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations.

The trials show China is intent on silencing anyone who "raises legitimate questions about human rights and uses the legal system to seek redress," Amnesty International said in a statement on Zhou's conviction.

"The authorities are using vague legal provisions as a weapon to give their politically motivated assault the veneer of legitimacy. When state security laws are open to such rampant abuse, the law needs to change," Roseann Rife, the group's East Asia research director, said in the statement.

Several of those detained, including Zhou and fellow Fengrui lawyer Wang Yu, have made televised apologies for the crimes they are accused of, saying their legal activism was directed by unidentified "hostile foreign forces" to smear and attack the Chinese government.

Fengrui often worked with activists to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients and the disgruntled in street protests while spreading word online. Their actions were harshly denounced by the authorities as thuggery and interference in the legal process.

Many family members of those being held say they and their retained lawyers have been denied access to the detainees for more than a year, receiving only occasional updates by word of mouth. Some have been briefly detained themselves while seeking information. Zhou and others were assigned government-appointed lawyers who worked closely with the court.

More than a dozen of those detained last year remain in custody, their legal fates still unknown.

Fugitive hid for decades by settling in quiet town

TOM FOREMAN Jr., Associated Press

JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

REIDSVILLE, N.C. (AP) — A man on the run for 40 years after a deadly attack in Florida evaded capture in a mundane manner, according to authorities and friends: He got married, settled in this quiet town and ran a wallpaper store.

People say the man they knew as James Manion and his wife were cordial but quiet, blending into the community of about 14,000 near the Virginia border. He made sure his dog Prancer received regular haircuts, voted Republican in several elections and was seen working in his tree-shaded yard.

"I couldn't say enough nice things about both of them. There was never an inkling of anything amiss," said Preston Trigg, who grew up in Reidsville and kept in touch with the couple after he helped sell them his mother's house in 2002.

But the life of James Manion was part of a long deception dating back to a violent 1977 crime in Florida, according to the FBI. Authorities say the fugitive — whose real name is William Claybourne Taylor — was the triggerman in an attempt to assassinate the then-mayor of the city of Williston. The mayor was wounded, but another government official died in the attack.

Taylor is scheduled to have a court hearing in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Thursday, a week after his capture. Authorities say he disappeared in 1980 after he was indicted on charges of murder and aggravated battery.

By several accounts, Taylor and his wife, Sheryl Manion, were well-liked in the North Carolina town

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where they'd lived for more than a decade. There were signs, however, that the couple was having financial problems after the wallpaper store went out of business several years ago.

Dog groomer Kim Merricks said the couple brought Prancer in every few weeks for trims and bathing since the early 2000s when the Portuguese water dog was a puppy. She said Taylor, who went by Jay, loved to talk about dogs but didn't divulge much personal information, though that wasn't unusual for her clients.

"He lit up every time he talked about his dog. He loved that dog. That was his baby," she said, adding that the dog died recently.

Merricks, whose father is the couple's neighbor, said the neighborhood was shocked by the news.

"I'm still kind of numb about it," she said. "I'm still waiting on proof that it's him because he was such a nice guy."

Neil Hendrix, who lives several doors down from the couple, said he saw them about once a month at a local sports pub. He said the husband, who was quiet, worked there briefly as a cook.

"There wasn't nothing out of the ordinary about him," Hendrix said. "He was just a nice guy. I would have never suspected, but you never know."

Another neighbor, 86-year-old neighbor Alberta Morris, said she occasionally saw Taylor doing yard work, but never talked to him.

The couple ran a business called Smart'n Up Wallcoverings in Greensboro that failed several years ago, Hendrix and Merricks said.

The business was registered in Sheryl Manion's name in 2003, according to filings on the Secretary of State's website. Filings show the business was suspended in 2010 after under a statute for companies that fall behind on taxes or required paperwork.

Jack Greene told the Greensboro News & Record that he used to see Taylor "on a weekly basis" while he worked as a contractor installing wallpaper sold by Smart'n Up.

"She always signed the checks," he told the newspaper. "It always struck me as a little odd."

Last year, Bank of America took Sheryl Manion to court over nearly \$10,000 she owed on a delinquent credit account, according to court filings. A Rockingham County court entered a default judgment after she failed to answer the complaint.

No one answered a knock at the couple's home Wednesday, nor did Sheryl Manion return phone messages.

It's not clear when the couple was married, but public records indicate they previously lived in Maryland. Authorities haven't elaborated on how they tracked Taylor down.

Sheryl Manion had grown up in the Reidsville area, said Hendrix, who went to school with her sister.

After returning, she and her husband kept up appearances of a normal life, both registering as Republican voters. The state Board of Elections website shows that James Manion registered in 2001 and voted in several elections including GOP primaries through 2006.

Trigg said he met the couple when he helped his mother sell the house where he grew up. Records show the couple bought the house — which is listed in the wife's name — for \$135,000 in 2002 using a mortgage loan for the bulk of the amount.

Trigg, who lives in Florida, said the closing went smoothly, but he recalled that Sheryl Manion did most of the talking. He said the couple stayed in touch and "were always exchanging holiday cards" with his mother.

"They were just unbelievably nice," he said.

Mexican couple among 4 dead in California bus crash

SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

ATWATER, Calif. (AP) — Fernando Ramirez and Petra Carillo Ruiz were headed from Mexico to Washington to visit a daughter they hadn't seen in many years — but the married couple were among the four people killed when a bus slammed into a highway sign in California's Central Valley, authorities said. Twenty-three people were injured.

Ramirez, 57, and Carillo Ruiz, 64, were known to nearly everyone in their hometown of Villa Juarez, Nayarit because they lived across from the small town's central plaza, said one of their neighbors, Natalia Torrayo Garcia.

"Everyone is very sad because of the news," Torrayo Garcia told the Merced Sun-Star on Wednesday. "They were very humble people, very hardworking."

The couple had a 12-year-old niece traveling with them Tuesday who was only slightly hurt and hadn't seen their daughter, who lives in Pasco, Washington, in a dozen years, the newspaper reported.

The dead also included Jose Morales Bravo, 58, who lived most recently in Avalon, California, but came from Concepcion de Buenos Aires in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, according to relatives. His wife was hospitalized in the crash.

Eva Maria Morales wept as she talked about her father, Jose Morales Bravo.

"He was a good father," she told The Associated Press in Spanish from her home on Santa Catalina Island, off the Los Angeles coast. "He loved being with his children."

She said her parents made sure to visit all their children at least once a year and had most recently left Catalina for Washington state, where two of them live. Morales said her mother is expected to survive.

Also identified was Jaime De Los Santos, 38, of Tijuana, Mexico. Relatives describe him as a devoted family man with four children.

The identities were released as investigators started piecing together what led to the crash early Tuesday. Among the possible factors being examined are driver fatigue and mechanical problems," said Don Karol, a senior highway accident investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board.

Such fatigue is a natural place to look considering the collision happened around 3:30 a.m., said Henry Jasny, senior vice president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

"We're daytime creatures," Jasny said. "Our bodies want to sleep at night."

After 10 hours continuously behind the wheel, bus drivers must be off for eight hours. Truckers are allowed to drive 11 hours, but have longer required rest periods at 10 hours.

It's unclear how long driver Mario David Vasquez, 57 of the Los Angeles area, had been behind the wheel. Investigators have not been able to interview him because of his injuries, California Highway Patrol Officer Moises Onsurez said.

Federal rules for bus drivers need to change, Jasny said.

"The consequences are very serious in terms of the numbers of lives at stake on a bus," he said.

There were 27 people, including the driver, aboard when the bus struck an exit sign post amid San Joaquin Valley farmland, officials said. Of the survivors, seven suffered major injuries, and 16 had minor to moderate injuries.

Investigations into such crashes can last months before a probable cause is determined.

The probe will also look into possible distractions or medical issues the driver suffered, as well as other drivers or hazards in the road and whether the bus company had a culture of safety problems.

Officials said they want to give answers to the survivors and the relatives of those killed as well as make bus travel safe.

As Zika fears escalate, lawmakers point fingers from afar

RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Zika virus escalates into a public health crisis, members of Congress remain entrenched politically, with Republicans and Democrats pointing fingers over the failure to act as the number of mosquito-transmitted cases in the U.S. grows.

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell warned lawmakers on Wednesday that her budget for fighting Zika is running out quickly. Without more money fast, she said, the "nation's ability to effectively respond to Zika will be impaired."

Yet lawmakers left Washington in mid-July for a seven-week recess without approving any of the \$1.9 billion President Barack Obama requested in February to develop a vaccine and control the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

Abortion politics played a key role in the gridlock over the anti-Zika bill. Republicans angered Democrats by adding a provision to a \$1.1 billion take-it-or-leave-it measure that would have blocked Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico from receiving money.

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, the Democratic candidate for vice president, has called for Congress to reconvene to immediately address the threat posed by Zika.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has signaled he is in no rush to return. In an op-ed published Monday in the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Kentucky Republican criticized Democrats for balking at passing the bill. He said they'll get another chance after Labor Day when Congress is back in session.

Here are key points to know about the anti-Zika legislation.

ZIKA MONEY BEING SPENT 'AGGRESSIVELY, PRUDENTLY'

Burwell's Aug. 3 letter seeks to counter Republicans who've criticized the Obama administration for not using several hundred million dollars already in the federal budget for Zika prevention. The money was initially allotted for fighting Ebola but was redirected to address Zika.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said Tuesday that's there's no excuse for not spending money that Congress already has provided. "Why are they holding that money back?" he asked.

Burwell said her agency is committed to using "scarce federal dollars aggressively and prudently." The Centers for Disease Control received the bulk of the \$374 million "repurposed" for Zika domestic response efforts, she said, and it will exhaust the remainder of the money by Sept. 30.

Money for vaccine development will run out even sooner, she said. The second phase of clinical trials would be delayed as a result, and Americans would have to wait longer for a vaccine, according to Burwell.

"Now that the United States is in the height of mosquito season and with the progress in developing a Zika vaccine, the need for additional resources is critical," Burwell wrote.

DON'T EXPECT CONGRESS TO INTERRUPT ITS RECESS

Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, said Congress doesn't have to interrupt its lengthy summer break to pass the bill. But Republicans immediately dismissed his proposal.

Nelson's state has become the epicenter for Zika in the U.S. Fifteen people are reported to be infected with the virus in Miami's Wynwood arts district. These are believed to be the first mosquito-transmitted cases in the mainland United States, a situation that Nelson said heightens the urgency to respond.

In an Aug. 2 letter to McConnell, Nelson said an anti-Zika bill could be passed in the Senate through a

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parliamentary procedure known as a pro forma session that requires the presence of only a few senators.

But even Nelson isn't optimistic that will happen. And he took a jab at McConnell on Tuesday evening, predicting the Senate would move hurriedly if a transmitted Zika case is reported in Kentucky, McConnell's home state.

Don Stewart, McConnell's spokesman, said Nelson's proposal isn't at all plausible unless Democrats are willing to end their filibuster of the anti-Zika bill that the House already has passed. Otherwise, the Senate would be only approving an earlier version of the legislation that Obama could not sign into law, Stewart said.

ZIKA IS RISKY FOR BUSINESS TOO

Zika is a looming economic development problem too, according to Rubio. Many Florida businesses depend heavily on tourism and the state's economy could be hurt if potential visitors decide to stay away, he said.

"I can foresee now when people that are planning to come to Florida, to go fishing perhaps, will decide to cancel their trip because they're worried about mosquitoes and they're worried about Zika," Rubio said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Wednesday that it's up to Congress to pass the legislation so that more can be done.

"They left on a seven-week recess a day early, at the height of mosquito season and basically told the American people, 'good luck,'" Earnest said.

How the GenForward poll of young Americans was conducted The Associated Press

The GenForward poll of young adults is a survey by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. It was conducted by NORC July 9-20. It is based on online and telephone interviews of 1,940 adults age 18-30 who are members of the GenForward panel, which was designed to be representative of the young adult population.

The survey includes a total of 514 interviews with African-Americans, 500 Hispanics, 301 Asian-Americans and 577 non-Hispanic whites, along with 48 young people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The survey was paid for by the Black Youth Project using grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

The original sample was drawn from two sources. Forty-seven percent of respondents are part of NORC's AmeriSpeak panel, which was selected randomly from NORC's National Frame based on address-based sampling and recruited by mail, email, telephone and face-to-face interviews. Fifty-three percent of respondents are part of a custom panel of young adults that uses an address-based sample from a registered voter database of the entire U.S and is recruited by mail and telephone.

NORC interviews participants over the phone if they don't have internet access. With a probability basis and coverage of people who can't access the internet, GenForward surveys are nationally representative.

Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

As is done routinely in surveys, results were weighted, or adjusted, to ensure that responses accurately reflect the population's makeup by factors such as race, age, sex, region and education.

No more than 1 time in 20 should chance variations in the sample cause the results to vary by more than plus or minus 3.8 percentage points from the answers that would be obtained if all adults age 18-30 in the U.S. were polled. The margin of sampling error is higher for subgroups.

There are other sources of potential error in polls, including the wording and order of questions. The questions and results are available at <http://www.genforwardsurvey.com/>

Pence tries to win over conservatives despite Trump gaffes

BRIAN SLODYKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Since his selection as Donald Trump's running mate, Mike Pence has tried to stay focused on winning over conservatives skeptical of the New York billionaire.

His new boss keeps getting in the way.

On several occasions in the past week, the Indiana governor has found himself in direct conflict with Trump, taking a different campaign tact or running damage control after one of the Republican presidential nominee's incendiary remarks. The latest came Wednesday, when Pence offered an unqualified endorsement of House Speaker Paul Ryan's re-election bid a day after Trump refused to endorse Ryan.

"There's been some cleanup," said Curt Smith, a longtime Pence friend who runs the socially conservative Indiana Family Institute. "I think you'll see more."

The early days of the general election campaign have been a contortionist act for Pence, who has remained loyal to Trump while trying to maintain his reputation as a principled, down-to-earth Midwesterner with the primary mission of acting as an emissary to the conservative and evangelical wings of the Republican Party.

The first noticeable split between nominee and running mate came during the Democratic convention, when Trump encouraged Russia to find and make public missing emails deleted by Hillary Clinton from the private servers she used while secretary of state.

At roughly the same time, Pence blasted Russia in a statement issued by the campaign that said "the United States government will ensure there are serious consequences" if Russia is "interfering in our elections."

Last weekend, Pence, whose only son is a U.S. Marine, sought to quell the uproar Trump created by lashing out at Capt. Humayun Khan's parents, who appeared at the Democratic convention and have criticized Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric. Their son was killed in Iraq.

In a statement, Pence said he and Trump believe Khan is "an American hero" and said "his family, like all Gold Star families, should be cherished by every American." He then shifted gears to praise Trump, who he said will "support our military and their families" and "defeat the enemies of our freedom."

He backed up those remarks at a Monday evening town hall meeting in Nevada, when the audience jeered a woman who asked how he can tolerate what she called Trump's disrespect of American servicemen.

Pence asked the crowd to quiet down and then said of the questioner: "That's what freedom looks like. That's what freedom sounds like."

Trump, meanwhile, wrote on Twitter that day: "Mr. Khan, who does not know me, viciously attacked me from the stage of the DNC and is now all over TV doing the same... Nice!"

On Tuesday, Pence held a meeting with Arizona Sen. John McCain — a day after the former prisoner of war said Trump did not have "unfettered license to defame those who are the best among us," and hours after Trump responded by telling The Washington Post he would not endorse McCain's re-election.

In that same interview, Trump also refused to endorse Ryan, who faces a primary election next week.

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On Wednesday, Pence had a very different message.

"I'm very confident after Donald Trump is elected president and Paul Ryan is re-elected to Congress ... these two men are going to do great things," Pence said in an interview with Fox News Channel. "I talked to Donald Trump this morning about my support for Paul Ryan and our longtime friendship. He strongly encouraged me to endorse Paul Ryan."

While Trump has been openly hostile toward members of the media, Pence has struck a conciliatory tone. He recently gave a reporter in his traveling press entourage cupcakes for her birthday. And after law enforcement and local volunteers barred a Washington Post reporter from entering a rally in Wisconsin, Pence said on conservative commentator Hugh Hewitt's radio show the campaign would evaluate its policy and added that events would be "available to the media, whether they're fair or unfair."

"I think it will be a challenge for Mike, but I also think he'll meet the challenge," Smith said of his friend Pence's relationship with Trump. "As many marriages as (Trump's) had and as good as his kids are, I suspect he's had people tell him 'We're not going to agree on this' or 'I see it differently.'"

Campaign spokesman Marc Lotter didn't respond to a request to interview Pence about his relationship with Trump. He also would not answer questions about the Indiana governor's approach to dealing with the fallout from Trump's remarks.

But there are no outward signs that Trump has any issues with Pence, or that his statements come as a surprise to the candidate at the top of the ticket. Two people familiar with the campaign's inner workings said the official statements and tweets from Pence are approved at campaign headquarters. They spoke on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

"He's staying consistent with his character and he's not changing who he is, but he's also careful not to criticize his spouse," said Indiana Republican public affairs consultant Mike Murphy, who has known Pence for nearly 30 years.

And Trump's voters don't seem to mind the differences.

Jeanne Eskew, who attended a recent Pence rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan, said she hopes Pence can "balance" Trump out.

"I really like Mike Pence. I feel like he's real," said Eskew, a 54-year-old former Ben Carson supporter from Holland, Michigan. "For people who are on the fence, he's very credible."

Poll: Police harassment familiar to young blacks, Hispanics

COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Crystal Webb cringes whenever a patrol car appears in her rearview mirror. She also never wants to see the inside of a police station again.

Her personal experience with police, plus recent fatal shootings of unarmed black men by white officers, has led the Apple Valley, California, mother of two to ask: Who are the good guys and who are bad?

"You are the people I'm supposed to go to when I'm in trouble," Webb says of police.

Two-thirds of young African-Americans and 4 in 10 Hispanics say that they or someone they know has experienced violence or harassment at the hands of the police, according to a new GenForward poll. That includes about 2 in 10 in each group who say that was a personal experience, including about 3 in 10 black men who say the same. But the poll also shows that young people still desire a police presence in their communities.

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GenForward is a survey of adults age 18 to 30 by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The first-of-its-kind poll pays special attention to the voices of young adults of color, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of a new generation.

Those poll results come after the killing of several young black men by police around the country. Two of the more recent killings were the July 5 shooting death of Alton Sterling during a struggle with officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the fatal shooting of Philando Castile the following day by an officer in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Those shootings were followed by the July 7 killing of five officers in Dallas by a black gunman during a protest against police shootings of black suspects. Two police officers and one sheriff's deputy were shot and killed by a black gunman during a July 17 ambush in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

About 6 in 10 young adults consider the killings of black people by the police and violence against the police as extremely or very serious problems, according to the poll. But young African-Americans and Hispanics see killings by police as more serious problems and young whites see violence against the police as more serious. Most, especially blacks and Hispanics, say not-guilty verdicts for three Baltimore police officers charged in the April 2015 death of Freddie Gray give them less confidence in the police.

Gray, 25, was fatally injured while handcuffed and shackled in the back of the van.

Crystal Webb, who is black, says she was arrested last November by two officers — one white, the other black.

"They threw me in the police car and when I gave them my story, the other officer who was white gave me a look," she said. "While the officer of color was asking questions and being nice, the other officer got in the car and started yelling at me. He told me to just shut up."

Webb, 29, said she was four months pregnant at the time and her hands were cuffed behind her back in the rear of the car. She said the white officer was driving and sped off. "The car jerked and it almost broke my arm," Webb said. "He kept doing it all the way to the jail."

The charges eventually were dropped by a judge, she said.

Webb said she believes the white officer was rude to her because of her skin color.

"I think he looked at me like I was ghetto," she said.

The new poll shows young people, including young blacks and Hispanics, do want a police presence in their communities. In fact, most support adding more police or armed security guards in public places like schools, movie theaters and malls.

"We need good (police officers)," Webb said. "We need people who aren't going to react so quickly to a person of color."

Billy Busby, 24, of Atlanta, says he was working a security job and helping police in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with crowd and traffic control during the popular Black Bike Beach in May when he was approached by a white officer.

"The officer came up to me and said, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'I'm sorry, I'm doing my job.' She said, 'You need to move or I'm going to arrest you,'" Busby said.

Busby said his supervisor showed up, vouched for him and defused the situation.

"I think she felt intimidated because I was a black male and doing traffic," Busby said.

Harassment of black men by white officers is routine, he added.

"The majority of the time we are targeted," Busby said. "They are going to stop us and they are going to run our names and try to lock us up."

Some officers in southern Mississippi target Hispanics, thinking they're in the U.S. illegally, said Patience Buxton, 28, who owns a company in Forest, Mississippi, that shuttles people back and forth to

various appointments.

Buxton identifies as white and says many of her customers are Hispanic.

"I know they are looking at me," Buxton said of officers. "I get nervous myself. I know I've done nothing wrong. They've called me a coyote, asked me if I'm transporting illegals. They abuse their authority completely."

The poll of 1,940 adults age 18-30 was conducted July 9-20 using a sample drawn from the probability-based GenForward panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. young adult population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

The survey was paid for by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago, using grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Critics say Navy fuel tanks threaten crucial Hawaii aquifer

AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

AIEA, Hawaii (AP) — Anthony DeLuze keeps his ancestors' traditions alive in 21st century Hawaii by growing the staple crop taro on a suburban plot sandwiched between wings of a sprawling shopping mall.

But the aquifer that hydrates his starchy vegetables sits under 20 enormous underground tanks the Navy uses to store fuel for military ships and aircraft. One tank leaked tens of thousands of gallons of jet fuel into the ground in 2014, worrying DeLuze the tanks are a threat to his farm's natural springs and well.

The aquifer also supplies a quarter of the water consumed in urban Honolulu, which includes the tourist mecca Waikiki.

DeLuze and Honolulu water utility officials want the Navy to move the World War II-era tanks away from the aquifer. But the Navy views them as a vital strategic asset that would be difficult to replicate elsewhere.

Plus, the Navy says the water is safe.

"It makes no sense to me that one of the biggest aquifers on this island has fuel sitting on top of it," DeLuze said. "Anything can happen — could have an earthquake, could be a disaster, and we're screwed."

Each of the underground fuel tanks is about 25 stories tall. The tanks sit in two rows of 10 inside a hill about 3 miles from Pearl Harbor. They hold a total of about 187 million gallons of fuel, providing the military with a vital fuel reserve in the Pacific. Two are currently out of service.

Navy Region Hawaii commander Rear Adm. John Fuller said the tanks are the last fully U.S.-owned fuel stop for forces en route from the West Coast and Hawaii to Asia and the Middle East.

"If we don't have the fuel to operate the forces, then we can't be present. We can't help our friends," Fuller said.

The Navy is working on a 20-year plan, codified in a signed agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Health Department, to upgrade the 70-year-old tanks and better prevent and detect leaks.

As part of the deal, the Navy is building four new wells to monitor groundwater for contaminants by the end of the year. This will add to the 10 monitoring wells it already has. The Navy conducts quarterly

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and monthly testing at these wells, said Capt. Dean Tufts, commanding officer of Naval Facilities and Engineering Command, Hawaii.

"Fuel is not moving toward drinking water sources. And fuel is not in the aquifer at all," Tufts told The Associated Press in an interview.

Officials with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the city's water utility, say its water is safe to drink. But they point to Navy studies from the '80s through the late '90s showing petroleum hydrocarbon in the rocks underneath the tanks as a sign of the tanks' risks. They're worried about the possibility of an extremely large release of fuel due to a catastrophic event, in part because the tanks are so old.

As an island state, Hawaii can't import water from a neighbor if the fuel enters the water supply, said Ernest Lau, the utility's manager and chief engineer.

"We live on an island. Every drop of pure fresh water is precious to us," Lau said. He argues a better place for the tanks is about 20 miles west at Campbell Industrial Park, where a hard rock covering insulates the aquifer below.

Honolulu could install a treatment system to remove fuel contaminants, but that would be expensive, and ratepayers would have to foot the bill unless the utility could force the federal government to pay for it, Lau said.

The utility hasn't said how much it would cost to build a treatment system. But a 2010 Navy study estimated the price for installing one for the Navy's Red Hill shaft near the tanks would be between \$46 million and \$51 million. The study estimated the facility would cost \$6 million to \$7 million a year to operate.

Part of the difficulty is the uncertainty over where the leaked petroleum is heading and where future leaks might go.

Steve Linder, manager of the underground storage tanks program at the EPA region that includes Hawaii, said data doesn't indicate alarming signs of fuel in the groundwater or show an imminent threat to drinking water supply wells.

But he said more research would provide certainty and comfort.

"That's what we're looking for — getting a higher degree of understanding, a higher degree of certainty so we can make more informed decisions about what needs to happen in terms of release prevention in the future and what needs to happen in terms of mitigation of a problem that may already exist," Linder said.

Olympics offers showcase for tech such as VR, payments ring

MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writers

RYAN NAKASHIMA, AP Technology Writers

Besides dazzling feats of athleticism, dazzling new technologies will be on display at the Olympics.

About 217 million viewers in the U.S. alone tuned in to the London Olympics four years ago, making it the most watched TV event in history. The television audience is expected to increase for the Rio Olympics, which formally open Friday. Others will tune in online or watch the games in person in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

That makes the Olympics an excellent showcase for new and emerging technologies. Such brands as Visa and Samsung are taking the opportunity to show off their wares.

VISA'S PAYMENT RING

Visa, a 30-year Olympics sponsor, is running the payment systems at the Olympics. Visa is equip-

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ping about 4,000 payment terminals at souvenir shops, concession stands and other Olympic venues with a wireless technology called near-field-communication, or NFC. It's the technology that powers mobile-payment services such as Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay, though only Samsung's has launched in Brazil.

Visa is giving payments rings to 59 athletes to wear. With a tap on an NFC payment terminal, they can charge their Visa accounts. Giving the ring to Olympic athletes like swimmer Missy Franklin and decathlete Ashton Eaton lets Visa test the technology, while garnering buzz as athletes tweet about them and wear them around the Olympic village.

SAMSUNG'S SPECIAL EDITION GALAXY

Samsung, another Olympic sponsor, is delivering a special Olympic Games edition of its Galaxy S7 Edge phone to 12,500 Olympians. The phone is branded with the Olympic rings and has Olympics-themed wallpapers loaded on the device. The company also made 2,016 of the Olympic phones for the public to buy in selected countries, including Brazil, the U.S. and South Korea.

One feature Samsung expects to make a splash: The phones will come with a flag app, which athletes will be encouraged to hold up as they walk together by country during Friday's opening ceremonies.

"They can use the entire screen of the S7 to become a flag," said Pio Schunker, Samsung's global head of brand integrated marketing. "They will be waving the national flag through the S7."

NBC GETS INTO VR, GETTY GOES 360

Expect to see virtual-reality content, along with 360-degree video and images. NBC, which has television and online rights in the U.S., plans 85 hours of VR coverage through the NBC Sports app on Samsung's Gear VR headset. VR events will include opening and closing ceremonies, men's basketball, gymnastics and track and field. They will typically be shown on a one-day delay.

Getty, the Olympics' official photography agency, launched a virtual-reality division in June to focus on 360-degree images. Getty shot some 360-degree images at the London Olympics in 2012 as the technology was emerging. This time in Rio, every Getty photographer will have a 360-degree camera.

"We are only on the cusp of what will be a tectonic plate shift in VR," Getty CEO Dawn Airey said.

Meanwhile, Facebook's Oculus VR business, which developed the technology behind Gear VR, plans to showcase more than 400 360-degree images from various photographers. It will be available through the Oculus 360 Photos app on Gear VR and Oculus' own Rift headset.

HIGH-TECH COVERAGE

NBC owner Comcast Corp. is showcasing its X1 set-top box, giving its customers a way to search for live coverage and replays by country, athlete and sport. It's also integrating voice search into the system. Viewers, for instance, can get the latest medal count by speaking, "How is the USA doing?" The company is also offering a way to zip to gold-medal event highlights and restart events that have already begun.

The high-tech coverage makes use of the box's connection to the internet and increasing presence in Comcast subscriber homes. Comcast says about 40 percent of its 22.4 million video customers have X1. Comcast is aiming to reach 50 percent by the end of the year.

The X1 innovation is one way Comcast is trying to help viewers sort through some 6,000 hours of Olympics coverage on television and online. If it boosts audiences for the Olympics, it'll also help Comcast recoup some of the \$4.4 billion that NBC paid for the U.S. broadcast rights over six years.

Olympics provide unique opportunities for sneaker companies

KAREEM COPELAND, AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — While the men's basketball team's first order of business is to win the gold medal at the Rio Games there will be some other basketball business taking place on the court.

Shoe business, and it can get personal.

Michael Jordan is the shining example of how on-court moments can take on another life through sneakers in this global multi-billion dollar industry. Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and other members of the United States Olympic men's basketball team could have a similar opportunity in Rio. In an ideal world for players and shoe companies there will be a memorable golden moment that goes viral — leading to an 'it must be the shoes' phenomenon.

Nike is the official apparel provider for the team, but Jordan Brand, Adidas and other companies know the Olympics provide a unique chance to build a legacy around their product. And while it wasn't obvious in a Nike promotional photo of the team, Harrison Barnes and Kyle Lowry are sponsored by Adidas; Klay Thompson by ANTA.

"The one thing that's a little bit different between a lot of the Olympic models versus a new signature shoe for an athlete like Kevin Durant or LeBron James, is a lot of the Olympic stuff ties back into the history that's happened previously," said Brandon Elder, Finish Line content manager and creative strategist. "Nostalgia is still one of the best forms of marketing and retro stuff continues to be a very strong product point for a lot of these brands. It's a fine balance between that and anything that's new that's being unveiled around the Olympics.

"There's a good opportunity for somebody like Carmelo Anthony to go out there and drop 44 in an Olympic game and that being an iconic moment. Something like Vince Carter dunking over a 7-foot guy in the Nike Shox. That made Nike Shox one of the biggest shoes after that happened."

Carter had fans around the world on their feet with his dunk over 7-foot-2 Frenchman Frederic Weis in the 2000 Olympics.

Many sneaker enthusiasts associate the Jordan 3 with Jordan winning the 1988 dunk contest. The red and black Jordan 12 was nicknamed the Flu Game after Jordan scored 38 points in Game 5 of the 1997 NBA Finals despite an illness. Michael Johnson's gold shoes are still talked about from when he broke the 200 and 400 meter world records at the 1996 Olympics.

Much of this year's Nike Olympic products have been planned for 24 months, according to Nike Basketball color lead Eugene Rogers.

Durant's latest signature shoe, the KD 9, first released in late June in a grey colorway, but the red, white and blue version is what Durant has worn during the Olympic exhibition games.

"We kind of knew Kevin Durant would be the guy who would almost be the leader," said Nike Basketball senior design director Leo Chang, who worked on the KD 9, Kyrie 2 and Hyperdunk 2016. "It was kind of his time to shine and we wanted that moment to be great for him."

Durant certainly isn't the only player rocking new kicks. Anthony and Jimmy Butler debuted the Jordan 31 in the team picture two weeks ago. Paul George has been wearing the Nike Hyperdunk 2016 Flyknit. Kyrie Lowry is wearing Adidas' summer release of the Crazylight 2016.

"I think everybody's going to be watching us, so for the brand it's very important," Butler said, "with me and (Carmelo) being here and both wearing the shoe, I think everyone gets to see what it looks like, how it performs and hopefully it makes us play to the top of our game."

Each company benefits from a global audience that dwarfs the NBA Finals, Super Bowl or World Series, but each also hopes for an iconic moment that builds a storyline that lasts decades.

"You always kind of have to anticipate a moment of greatness like that," Chang said. "That means

the best execution of the product out on the floor at that time so when that moment is remembered, people remember the product as well.”

The marketing opportunities have gone beyond what the athletes wear at the Olympics. Sneaker companies have re-released several models from the past with Olympic-inspired colors or other attachments.

Elder said the hype and patriotism surrounding the Olympics always drives consumers to the stores and people in the United States are drawn to red, white and blue colorways.

Companies aren't just putting out special editions to coincide with the Olympics, but also giving planned product an Olympic theme. James, Kobe Bryant and Steph Curry have had red, white and blue versions of their signature line this summer — and none are playing in Rio.

Nike has been releasing the Nike Air Prestos during the last year, “so that’s going to be a shoe that’s Olympified,” said Corey Bullough, owner of Fice Gallery and Boutique in Salt Lake City. “Same thing with the (Nike Air More) Uptempo, that’s a shoe they decided to bring back six months ago. ... They tend to stick to their formula for the year.”

This year players and shoe companies are hoping the formula includes a memorable golden moment at the Rio Games.

Schools receive request for after-school ‘Satan Club’

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — After-school religious clubs appear to be the next venture of a national group that sought to install a statue of Satan outside two state capitols to protest Christian monuments on public grounds.

The Satanic Temple contacted nine public school districts across the country this week seeking to start after-school Satan programs. In all but one district, religious clubs are operated by the Child Evangelism Fellowship’s Good News Clubs, in which students can study the Bible and pray, according to temple co-founder Lucien Greaves.

Several districts contacted by The Associated Press said they were reviewing the group’s request and noted their facilities were available to community groups.

Mat Staver, founder of a Christian legal aid group that has represented the Child Evangelism Fellowship, said Greaves’ organization was illegitimate and an “atheist group masquerading” as religious. Greaves described Satanism as an atheist philosophy whose believers “feel it provides everything a religion provides to be legitimized as such.”

The Satanic Temple, based in Massachusetts with chapters in several states, said it wants to counter well-funded fundamentalist Christian organizations that it believes are eroding the separation of church and state in public schools. Greaves said the after-school program would show “that people can be of different religious opinions and still be moral, upright people.”

“We think that when kids are being exposed to the idea that they will burn in hell and other supernatural ideas, that there is a positive upshot to being exposed to the presence of a satanic afterschool program,” he said.

Greaves said his group could pose tough legal fights if its requests are denied.

In Utah, the Granite School District said that if the group meets set requirements, including paying rent, there’s nothing the district can do to stop it. District spokesman Ben Horsley said the group won’t be able to put up fliers in schools or talk to students during school hours, the same arrangement given to the Good News Club.

Springfield Public Schools in Missouri also said it was reviewing the group's request. It noted that granting requests to use the district's taxpayer-funded facilities "does not constitute the district's endorsement." The school district in Prince George's County, Maryland, described a similar policy and noted parental permission was required for after-school activities.

The other districts are in Georgia, California, Florida, Oregon, Washington and Arizona.

The Satanic Temple has taken up similar causes outside schools, including seeking to install an 8½-foot-tall bronze statue of Satan at the Oklahoma Capitol to stand in contrast to a Ten Commandments monument. The Oklahoma's Supreme Court later banned all religious displays on Capitol grounds. The group is seeking to do the same outside Arkansas' statehouse, where a Ten Commandments monument has been proposed.

Israel demolishes West Bank homes of 2 Palestinian attackers

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military says forces have demolished the homes of two Palestinians behind a deadly attack in Tel Aviv in June.

The military says the West Bank homes of Mohammed Mahamra and Khaled Mahamra were demolished early Thursday.

In the Tel Aviv attack, the cousins, both dressed in black suits, opened fire at a restaurant in a popular shopping and dining district. Four people were killed and several were wounded in one of the deadliest attacks in a 10-month wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence. The attackers were apprehended near the scene.

Israel says house demolitions are an effective deterrent against attacks. Critics counter that the tactic amounts to collective punishment.

Cuba says 2 people apparently contracted Zika inside country

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba says it has diagnosed the Zika virus in two people who appear to have contracted it inside the country, which has been largely successful in controlling the disease.

The Health Ministry said the cases were discovered Monday in the eastern city of Holguin and had been confirmed as Zika by laboratory tests. The ministry says neither patient had traveled outside the country.

Cuba has been quarantining travelers who arrive with Zika and spraying heavily for mosquitoes, strategies that kept the number of cases of the disease contracted inside Cuba to one before the announcement late Wednesday.

The government said the two patients were recovering well and their neighborhood was being subjected to intense investigation and spraying for mosquitoes.

IS group announces new Boko Haram leader in Nigeria

MICHELLE FAUL, Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamic extremists have a new leader who is threatening to bomb churches and kill Christians while ending attacks on mosques and markets used by ordinary Muslims, according to an interview published Wednesday by the Islamic State group.

He also says there is a Western plot to Christianize the region and has accused charities of using their aid for that purpose, according to a SITE Intelligence Group translation of an interview published Wednesday in the Islamic State newspaper al-Nabaa.

The newspaper identified Abu Musab al-Barnawi as the new "wali," or governor, of its so-called West

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Africa Province. The "wali" title was previously used to describe long-time Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau.

The report did not say what Shekau's current status was, although there have been rumors for weeks that he had been replaced.

The interview with al-Barnawi indicates a major shift in strategy for the Nigerian extremists, who have killed many more Muslims than Christians in attacks in mosques with suicide bombers and gunmen.

There have also been attacks on crowded marketplaces in predominantly Muslim areas and the killings and kidnappings of schoolchildren. The targeting of students accounts for its nickname Boko Haram, which means Western education is sinful or forbidden.

"They strongly seek to Christianize the society. ... They exploit the condition of those who are displaced under the raging war, providing them with food and shelter and then Christianizing their children," SITE Intelligence quotes the new leader as saying.

Al-Barnawi says the militants will respond to that threat by "booby-trapping and blowing up every church that we are able to reach, and killing all of those (Christians) who we find from the citizens of the cross."

Wednesday's announcement indicates a coup by Boko Haram breakaway group Ansaru against Shekau, and follows a trend of extremist Islamic groups moving away from al-Qaida to the Islamic State, analyst Jacob Zenn said.

Ansaru broke away from Boko Haram because it disagrees with the indiscriminate killing of civilians, especially Muslims.

Al-Barnawi is the pseudonym of a Nigerian journalist allied with Ansaru, which is known for kidnapping foreigners, according to Zenn.

In March 2015, Shekau switched allegiance from al-Qaida and declared that Boko Haram be known as the Islamic State's West Africa Province. At the time, Boko Haram was the most powerful military force in northeast Nigeria, controlling a huge area and was better equipped and motivated than Nigerian forces.

Under Shekau, the seven-year insurgency spread to neighboring countries, killed more than 20,000 people and drove more than 2.2 million from their homes, and created what aid workers are calling a catastrophic humanitarian emergency with children dying of starvation daily.

Boko Haram last week ambushed a humanitarian convoy, killing three civilians including a U.N. employee and causing the suspension of U.N. aid to newly liberated but still dangerous areas of Nigeria's northeast.

Since last year, Nigeria has a new leader, President Muhammadu Buhari, a former military dictator who has better armed and motivated security forces. He is also fighting corruption that diverted \$2.1 billion that was meant to buy weapons to fight the Islamic uprising, and is cooperating with a multinational force that has the extremists on the run.

In the interview, al-Barnawi said that under his leadership the militants will work to seize back territory. He said that increasing numbers of youth are joining the cause, though Nigeria's military reports that hundreds of its fighters have surrendered as aerial bombardments and ground assaults cut supply routes.

Hurricane Earl drenching Belize, then is heading for Mexico

PATRICK E. JONES, Associated Press

BELMOPAN, Belize (AP) — Hurricane Earl bore down on the coast of the Caribbean nation of Belize with the danger of high surf and winds, while also threatening neighboring Guatemala and southern

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Mexico with torrential rains.

Hotels along Belize's coast and the low-lying islands offshore had already pulled in awnings and beach chairs as the rains from the category-1 storm began whipping the coast Wednesday evening.

Authorities in the Mexican coastal state of Quintana Roo, to the north of the hurricane's predicted path, reported some evacuations and prepared shelters in case of flooding. Some people evacuated low-lying coastal areas in nearby Guatemala.

By late Wednesday, Earl was a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It was centered about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Belize City and moving west at 15 mph (24 kph).

A hurricane warning was in place for Belize and parts of Mexico, though the storm was expected to begin weakening when it moved ashore. The hurricane center said heavy rains would be a danger in southern Mexico through Saturday as Earl crosses the Yucatan Peninsula and the states of Tabasco and Veracruz.

On Wednesday, Earl raked the northern coast of Honduras with heavy rain. Officials said a big wave capsized a lobster fishing boat in the Caribbean, but all but two of the 83 people on board were rescued. The navy was looking for the two missing. Authorities also rescued four families in the coastal city of Trujillo after a river jumped its banks.

Lisandro Rosales, head of Honduras' emergency commission, said there were reports of large numbers of trees and utility poles being knocked down. Schools and universities closed across Honduras' coastal provinces as did two commercial airports.

In Belize, the government opened storm shelters and used radio and television broadcasts to urge residents of low-lying areas to move to higher ground.

Officials also ordered the international airport in Belize City to close and archaeological reserves and national parks were shut. The Belize Tourism Board announced that cruise ship calls had been canceled for this week.

Employees of the Caribbean Villas Hotel, in San Pedro on Belize's Ambergris Caye, pulled in beach chairs and chaise lounges as rain began to fall on the popular beach resort.

"Anything that's not anchored in, we've pulled back and out of the way," said hotel manager Paul Jewitt.

"It's a big storm but we're feeling relatively good over here," he added, noting the hurricane was expected to make landfall farther south.

Mexico's physically challenged 'charro' cowboys test limits

LULU OROZCO, Associated Press

CUAUTITLAN IZCALLI, Mexico (AP) — Salvador Espinoza spends his days in a wheelchair due to a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the waist down. When he mounts his horse and tightens the back brace that helps him keep upright in the saddle, he transforms into a charro, or Mexican cowboy.

In the traditional Mexican sport of charrería, this country's version of rodeo, they say you have to be agile, tough and brave.

For Espinoza and other members of the Mexican Association of Paracharrería and Equestrian Therapy, it also means overcoming conditions such as amputations, partial blindness, deafness or paralysis while competing in the same daredevil events as their more able-bodied peers: lassoing, horse-reining, bull-riding and others.

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Espinoza needs help mounting the horse and doesn't rely on the traditional stirrups attached to the saddle. But once on horseback, he's a skilled equestrian and a fearless competitor.

"This is where I have learned that athletes in wheelchairs have no limits," said Espinoza, who lost use of his legs 16 years ago when he fell from a four-story building while installing air conditioners. "The only limit is the one people give themselves."

The association was founded in 2010 as part of the Mexican Federation of Charrería, with the stated mission of combating discrimination against people with disabilities and helping integrate them through the national sport.

"There is no other organization that has done this before us," said Norma Angelica Patino Marquez, a doctor specializing in sports medicine who is also president of the paracharrería association, a team comprising 26 members from seven states in Mexico.

"In fact we invented everything, including the rules and system of medical-functional classification like they have in international paralympic sports," Patino said.

The first charreada, or team-competition rodeo, featuring people with disabilities took place in November 2011 as part of the cultural events of the Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. In another first, the opening ceremony included a wheelchair performance of the jarabe tapatio, the folkloric tradition known abroad as the "Mexican hat dance."

During a recent charreada in Cuautitlan Izcalli, outside the Mexican capital, Espinoza and four other members of Patino's team competed in all nine rodeo events at a 2,000-seat arena.

Clad in a close-fitting suit, boots and wide-brim sombrero, Espinoza expertly lassoed a wild mare after missing a few times. Later he broke out in a broad grin as the crowd roared its approval of a roping performance in which he and his teammates brought down a small bull. At a charreada, teams go head-to-head in events that are judged not by time but by poise and execution.

Espinoza and his wife, Graciela Sanchez Martinez, who met more than 10 years ago at a wheelchair basketball tournament, have performed in over a dozen charreadas and form the only married couple in the Patino paracharrería team. Sanchez Martinez was diagnosed at age 2 with Guillain-Barre syndrome, a nerve disorder that can cause muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis.

"Charrería holds many Mexican traditions: the music, the outfits, the people," Sanchez Martinez said. "And the fact that I am Mexican, it's part of my traditions, my roots and my taste."

At the recent charreada, Sanchez Martinez represented the team as the Queen of Paracharrería.

Sanchez Martinez said she and her husband have lost count of how many times they've fallen during competition, and she joked that paracharrería actually involves a 10th event — trying to stay on the horse.

"It is a sensation that you can't explain," said team captain Juan Manuel Garcia, who survived a stroke and seven-month coma that left him with muscular weakness on the right side of his body, total loss of mobility in his right leg and three amputated fingers. "Now it is gratifying, now it is something motivating, to know that I can dominate any animal."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 4, the 217th day of 2016. There are 149 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 4, 1991, the Greek luxury liner Oceanos sank in heavy seas off South Africa's southeast

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coast; the 402 passengers and 179 crew members all survived, largely through the efforts of ship's entertainers who oversaw rescue operations. (Capt. Yiannis Avranas and other officers faced criticism for leaving the ship while some passengers were still on board.)

On this date:

In 1735, a jury found John Peter Zenger of the New York Weekly Journal not guilty of committing seditious libel against the colonial governor of New York, William Cosby.

In 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard had its beginnings as President George Washington signed a measure authorizing a group of revenue cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1892, Andrew and Abby Borden were axed to death in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Lizzie Borden, Andrew's daughter from a previous marriage, was accused of the killings, but acquitted at trial.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium; the United States proclaimed its neutrality in the mushrooming world conflict.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the U.S. won the second of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he prevailed in the long jump over German Luz Long, who was the first to congratulate him.

In 1944, 15-year-old diarist Anne Frank was arrested with her sister, parents and four others by the Gestapo after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam. (Anne and her sister, Margot, died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

In 1996, on the final day of the Atlanta Olympics, Josiah Thugwane became the first black South African to win a gold medal as he finished first in the marathon.

In 2001, thousands of admirers turned out in London for what would prove to be the last birthday celebration for Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth, who was 101. (The Queen Mother died in March 2002.)

Ten years ago: Israeli warplanes destroyed four key bridges on Lebanon's last untouched highway, severing the country's final major connection to Syria. Authorities in Phoenix announced the arrests of two suspects in a string of apparently random late-night killings that had terrorized residents for months. (Dale Hausner received six death sentences after he was convicted of killing six people and attacking 19 others; he committed suicide in prison in June 2013. Samuel Dieteman, who had testified against Hausner, was sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: A Texas jury convicted polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs of child sexual assault in a case stemming from two young followers he'd taken as brides in what his church called "spiritual marriages." (Jeffs was sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made dueling appeals to the American Jewish community as they sought to rally support for their opposing positions on the Iranian nuclear deal; Netanyahu made his case against the agreement in a live webcast with more than 10,000 participants, according to the U.S. Jewish groups that organized the event, while Obama held a private meeting at the White House with Jewish leaders.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Tina Cole is 73. Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 72. Football Hall-of-Famer John Riggins is 67. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 61. Actor-screenwriter Billy

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Bob Thornton is 61. Actress Kym Karath (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 58. Hall of Fame track star Mary Decker Slaney is 58. Actress Lauren Tom is 57. President Barack Obama is 55. Producer Michael Gelman (TV: "Live with Kelly") is 55. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Roger Clemens is 54. Actress Crystal Chappell is 51. Author Dennis Lehane is 51. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 48. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 48. Actor Michael DeLuise is 47. Race car driver Jeff Gordon is 45. Rapper-actress Yo-Yo is 45. Country singer Jon Nicholson is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Marques (MAR'-kus) Houston is 35. Actress Meghan Markle is 35. Actress Greta Gerwig is 33. Country singer Crystal Bowersox (TV: "American Idol") is 31. Rock singer Tom Parker (The Wanted) is 28. Actors Cole and Dylan Sprouse are 24. Singer Jessica Sanchez (TV: "American Idol") is 21.

Thought for Today: "The beginning is the most important part of the work." — Plato, Classical Greek philosopher.