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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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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
National Lighthouse Day
Sisters Day

Birthdays: Kelli Hanson • Sherwin Nyberg • Jessica Grams • Lynda Townsend • Tiffany Unzen • Ryan Kutter • Connor Blumhardt

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with communion

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion (Special Congregational meeting after worship)

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

Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

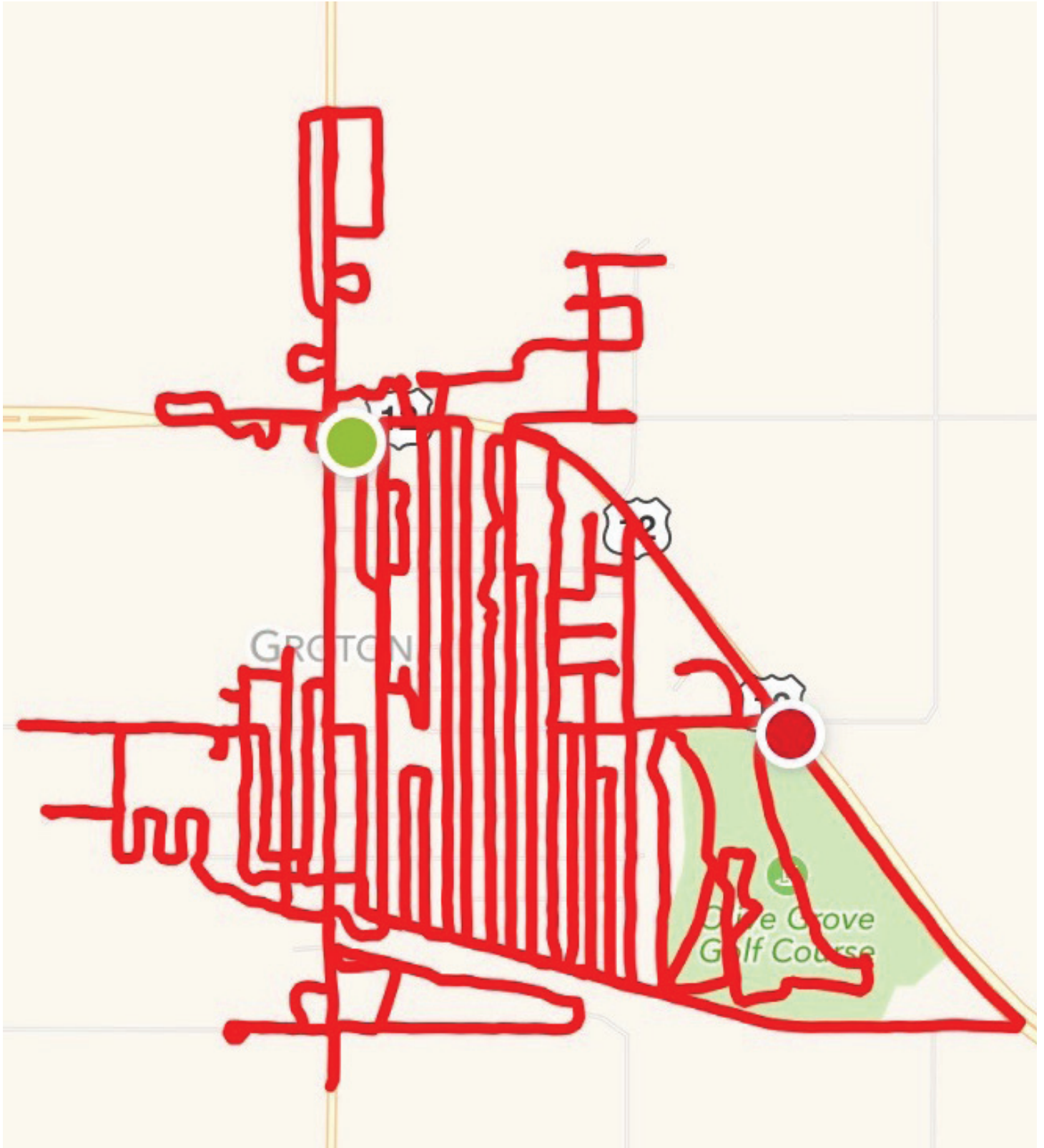
midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



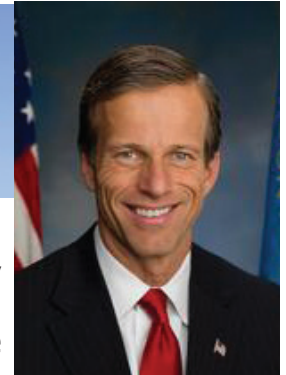
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The city of Groton did mosquito control last night, making a 30 mile trek around town and using 8.6 gallons of chemical. There was a slight northwest breeze and the temperature hovered around 68 degrees.



John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Celebrating National Health Center Week

August 7-13 is National Health Center Week in America, and it's a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the health care professionals who make small community health centers across the country a reality. These physician assistants, nurse

practitioners, nurses, doctors, dentists, and others play a pivotal role in creating rural access points for South Dakotans who live in areas where the nearest hospital could be an hour or more away. The centers themselves are an important part of the community, and they help create a seamless transition to quality health care for rural patients.

It's not uncommon for Main Street in rural communities throughout South Dakota to have a post office, a gas station, a small grocery store or market, and possibly a traffic light or two – not much more than that. Just because some South Dakotans choose to call small town America home doesn't mean they're less deserving of the health care that's often available in more populated areas. The health care professionals who choose to practice in these smaller communities should be applauded because without them, the community members who rely on these facilities would be forced to travel long distances and likely incur higher costs along the way.

It's not only the paid medical staff who are to be commended, it's the volunteers across the state who dedicate their time at South Dakota's community health centers. Recognizing the enormous benefit provided by these volunteer health professionals, last year I reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would encourage additional volunteer opportunities at these kinds of facilities. My bill, the Family Health Care Accessibility Act, would change federal law to lift malpractice coverage burdens that are a barrier to volunteerism for some providers. Doing so will make it easier for those who wish to donate their time and services to these health professions shortage areas.

We've also looked at new and cutting-edge ways to help alleviate some of the problems faced by long distances between health care facilities. For example, if a patient at a community health center required specialized care or examination, what if distance no longer mattered? That's where telehealth technology can play an important role. Telehealth is the way of the future, so we should do all we can to embrace this innovative technology. I cosponsored legislation earlier this year that would expand telehealth services and make it easier for Medicare patients to connect with their doctors and other providers without having to travel long distances to do so. This legislation, the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) Act, is another bipartisan initiative that would help create higher quality care for patients in rural South Dakota.

While no two states in the country are the same, nearly every state from New York to California faces certain challenges in rural health care. With a little hard work, those challenges can be turned into opportunities, and that's exactly what we're seeing here in South Dakota at community health centers that are serving patients and fighting to keep them healthy.

golden
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

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Putney Putovers 4-H

The Putney Putovers 4-H Club met August 1st, 2016 at the Simon's home. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Alexis Hanten. The flag pledges were led by US: Hailey Monson, State: Braden Althoff, and 4-H: Caleb Hanten. Roll call was completed with the topic "Favorite food at the fair". The Secretary's Report was read by Hailey Monson; it was approved by Lucas Simon and seconded by Lane Tietz. The Treasurer's Report was read by Lucas Simon; it was approved by Caleb Hanten and seconded by Hailey Monson. There were no bills. Community Service was reported by Caleb Hanten who served at church. There was no old business. In new business, an email was sent regarding concession stand times available for workers and the concession stand "Wish List". Members are encouraged to look at last month's Newshound for important dates.

The next meeting date is to be announced. The meeting was adjourned by Alexis Hanten, with a motion made by Hailey Monson and seconded by Cole Simon. The hosts and hostess were Alexis, Cole, Carter, and Lucas Simon. Braden Althoff did a talk on "The Common Fish in South Dakota". Demonstrations were provided by Braden Althoff "How to Ice Fish and the Basic Materials" and Cole Simon "How to Make Freezer Breakfast Burritos".

---Hailey Monson, Secretary

Wine transfer from Townsend to Kokales

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR SALE OF WINE FOR 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 15th day of August, 2016 at the hour of 7:30 pm in City Hall, 209 N Main, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider the following new application for an on sale off sale wine license to operate within the City of Groton, South Dakota for the 2016 licensing period, which have been presented to the governing body and filed on the Finance Office.

City of Groton - On-Sale/Off -Sale Retailer (Paula Kokales dba Olde Bank Floral N More-Orig.Plat, Bk 5, Lots 6-8

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person, persons, or their representative may appear at said scheduled public hearing and present objections to the above applicant, if any objections there be.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 4th day of August, 2016.

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

Please join us for an
Open House Bridal Shower for

Sydney Erickson

Bride-to-be of
Blake Wilkinson

Saturday, August 13

9:30-11:30am

United Methodist Church
Groton

The couple is registered at
Target and Herbergers.



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Breaking News:

Dollar General is building in Groton

According to Tyler Oliver of Colby Capital, he told the Groton Independent that they are planning to close on the property (North end of Main St and US 12) on August 11th and to start construction on August 15th.

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting August 8, 2016 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of July 11, 2016 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of minutes of July 12, 2016 special school board meeting as drafted or amended.
3. Approval of minutes of July 21, 2016 special school board meeting as drafted or amended.
4. Approval of minutes of July 26, 2016 special school board meeting as drafted or amended.
5. Approval of minutes of July 26, 2016 special school board meeting #2 as drafted or amended.
6. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.
7. Approval of July District bills for payment.
8. Approval of July Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
9. Approve transportation request from Langford in accordance with SDCL 13-29-4.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
3. Continued discussion on building improvement measures.
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and approve bus routes for 2016-2017 school year. [Loren Bahr]
2. Approve Craig Sternhagen as Volunteer Assistant Boys Soccer Coach for 2016 season.
3. Approve Chris Kucker and Barb Lone as Volunteer Assistant Girls Soccer Coaches for 2016 season.
4. Approve Seth Erickson as Volunteer Assistant Football Coach for 2016 season.
5. Approve Jenna Strom as Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach for 2016 season.
6. Acknowledge receipt of Public School Exemption #17-01: Grade 9.
7. Approve Open Enrollment #17-15 (grade 12) from Aberdeen School District.
8. Approve lane change for Aaron Helvig from BS+15 to BS+30.
9. Approve lane change for Janene Harry from BS to BS+30.

ADJOURN

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Groton Senior Citizens

Groton Seniors met July 11 for a regular meeting. Twenty-five members and two visitors were present. Betty Schneider from Andover SD and Orvilla McIntosh from Pierpont. Vice president Jan Raap opened the meeting with the flag pledge. Lee Schinkel played "My country tis of thee"! Minutes and treasures report were read and accepted. A memorial was given to the Rescue Squad in memory of Audrey Padfield. A birthday card was signed by all for Carolyn Morehouse. A sympathy card for the family of Audrey Padfield. Meeting was adjourned and cards played. Winners of the game. Whist- Grace Albrecht, Tony Goldade, Lorraine Sippel, Bridge -Darlene Fisher, Canasta- Mary Walker and Eunice McColester, Pinochle- Ivan Morehouse. Lunch was served by Alan and Sharon Zoellner and DeLoris Knoll.

July 18, thirty three members met to celebrate the July and August birthday. Two families of Carolyn Morehouse came and helped celebrate her 80 birthday. Birthday song, was song to the honorees, Beverly Sombke's birthday was the same day. Bingo was played and Carolyn Morehouse won black out. Cards were played after bingo. Lee Schinkel and Beverly Sombke sang, "God Bless American Again." Door prizes- Mary Walker, Rosalind Gyori and Elda Stange. Special prizes from the Lion Club went to Orvilla McIntosh, Tony Goldade Lorraine Sippel, Beulah Hoops, and Lois Pasch. Beverly Sombke, Mary Walker and Lee Schinkel severed cake and ice cream, watermelon candy and nuts.

July 25 thirty-one members attended. President Ella Johnson opened with the pledge and Lee Schinkel played and song 'America". Minutes and treasurers report were read and excepted. A get well card was signed for Betty Syneider with no old or new business the meeting was adjourned and cards were played. The winners of the games. Canasta-Beulah Hoops and Eunice McAlester, whist- Marian Raines, Bridge- Wally Fischer, pinochle- Tony Goldage, Sharon Zoellner, Darlene Fischer and Barb Davies. Lunch was served by Wally and Darlene Fischer and Lois Pasch.

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Today in Weather History

August 4, 1987: Six tornadoes touched down in central South Dakota. Five of these tornadoes touched down in Lyman County, including three which did damage near Kennebec within 25 minutes of each other. One of the tornadoes destroyed three farms, downing outbuildings, power lines, granaries, and killing farm animals.

August 5, 2000: A wet microburst with winds estimated at 120 mph caused heavy damage in and around Mitchell. Apartments and several mobile homes were destroyed, vehicles were overturned, and other damage occurred to buildings and vehicles. Widespread tree and power line damage also occurred. Ten people were injured, although the majority of the injuries were minor. The damage path was approximately a mile and a half long and a mile wide, extending over the southwest part of Mitchell.

1843 - A spectacular cloudburst near Philadelphia turned the small creeks and streams entering the Delaware River into raging torrents. As much as sixteen inches of rain fell in just three hours. Flooding destroyed thirty-two county bridges, and caused nineteen deaths. It is believed that several small tornadoes accompanied the torrential rains, one of which upset and sank more than thirty barges on the Schuylkill River. (David Ludlum)

1875: Several tornadoes moved across northern and central Illinois. One of the stronger tornadoes touched down in Warren County. This tornado badly damaged or destroyed 25 homes with 2 people killed and 15 injured. Another in a series of tornadoes touched down near Knoxville and moved east into northern Peoria County. 14 people were hurt and 20 farms destroyed by this family of tornadoes, described by eyewitnesses as looking like a "monstrous haystack".

1961 - The temperature at Ice Harbor Dam, WA, soared to 118 degrees to equal the state record established at Wahluke on the 24th of July in 1928. The afternoon high of 111 degrees at Havre, MT, was an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Severe thunderstorms raked eastern South Dakota. The thunderstorms spawned half a dozen tornadoes, produced softball size hail at Bowdle, and produced wind gusts to 90 mph south of Watertown. Hot weather continued in eastern Texas. Afternoon highs of 100 degrees at Houston and 106 degrees at Waco equalled records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Indiana and Lower Michigan to Pennsylvania and New York State during the day. Thunderstorms in Michigan produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Ashley, Hastings and Lennon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma, and from Iowa to the Upper Ohio Valley, with 216 reports of large hail or damaging winds between early Saturday morning and early Sunday morning. Thunderstorms moving across Iowa around sunrise produced extremely high winds which caused ten million dollars damage to crops in Carroll and Greene Counties. Thunderstorm winds at Jefferson IA reached 102 mph. Afternoon thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Bay Mills, WI. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 81 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 83 °F

Mild & Dry Through The Weekend

Next Week—Increased Temperatures & Humidity—Chances For Thunderstorms

Today

Highs: 80s

Tonight

Lows: 50s

Saturday & Sunday

Highs: Mid & Upper 80s



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 08/05/2016 at 3:47AM

Mild and dry conditions will stick with us through the weekend though we will see a slow but steady uptick in temperatures. Heat and humidity returns for the upcoming work week, along with chances for storms.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.4 F at 12:19 AM

Low Outside Temp: 60.6 F at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 29.0 Mph at 12:12 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1941

Record Low: 41 in 1994

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.39

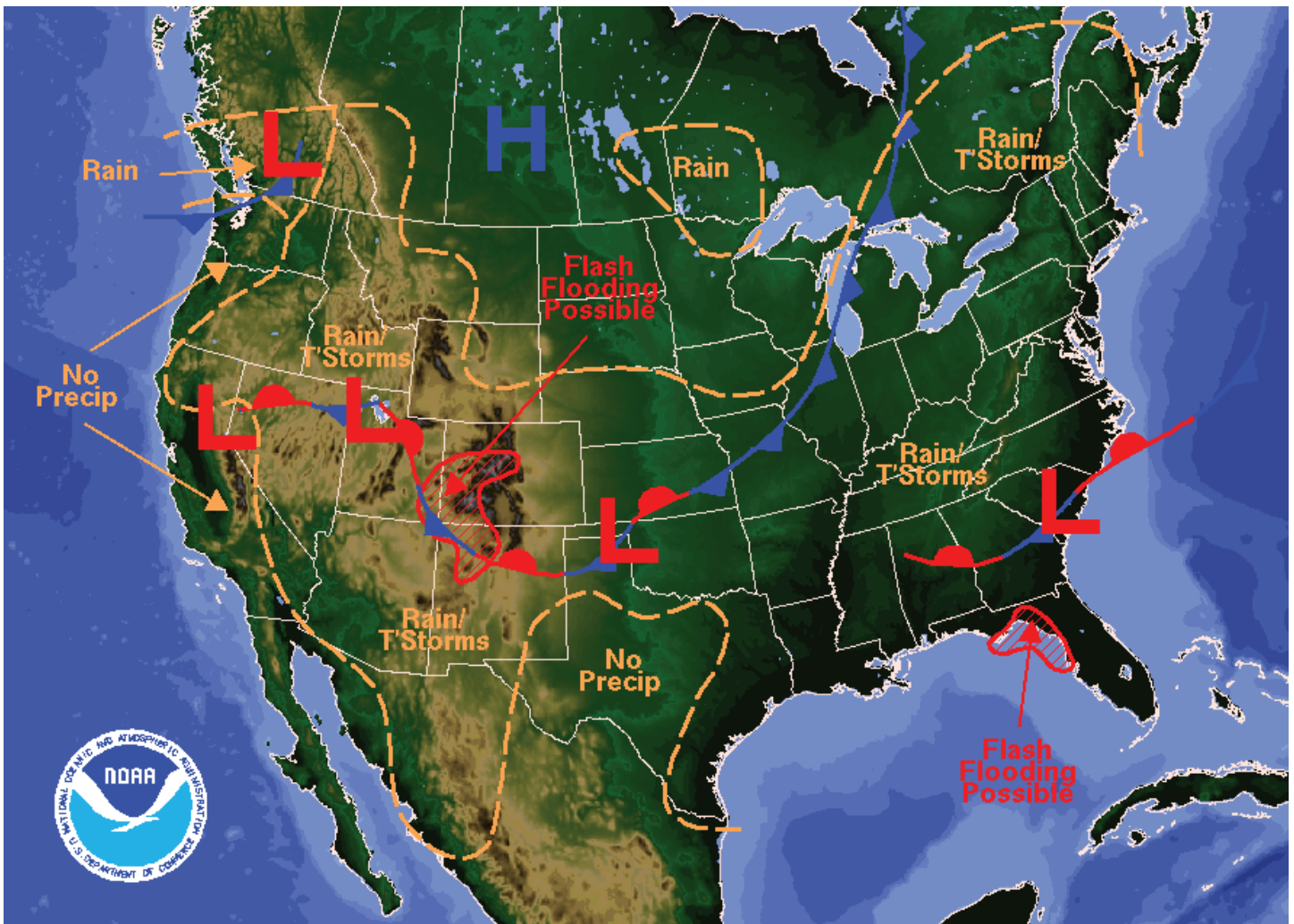
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.25

Precip Year to Date: 10.58

Sunset Tonight: 8:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Aug 05, 2016, issued 4:37 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION

A salesman was calling on one of his favorite customers – an elderly gentleman who owned a country store. He found "Old Sam" sitting on the porch of his store gently rocking back and forth with an old Labrador retriever laying quietly beside him. As he walked up the steps he said, "Does your dog bite?"

"Nope," said "Old Sam," as he continued to rock.

The salesman reached down to pet the dog. Just as he touched the dog's head, it growled and snapped viciously at him. He jumped back and shouted, "I thought you said that your dog didn't bite!"

"My dog doesn't. But that's not my dog," responded "Old Sam."

All of us collect information. It is an ongoing process in all of our lives. But the value of the information we collect depends on the questions we ask.

Thomas once asked, "Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The most important question everyone must answer is implied in the response of Jesus: "Do you know the way to God?" Jesus left no doubt about the route: We can only get to God through Him.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You that Your Son clearly and consistently explained the only way to come to You is through Him. May we in faith accept Your "way." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

American Indian farmers settlement fund draws high interest

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — About 150 groups from around the country that provide services to American Indian farmers and ranchers have applied to receive grant money from a \$38 million one-time fund set up as part of the federal government's loan discrimination settlement with Native Americans.

An advisory committee will whittle down the proposals and make a recommendation to a federal judge by Oct. 17 on which groups should get money. There is no set number of groups that will be funded, and when they will actually get the money is unclear, according to Christine Webber, a plaintiff's attorney.

The Obama administration in 2011 agreed to pay \$680 million to settle a class-action lawsuit filed in 1999 by Indian farmers who said they were denied loans for decades because of government discrimination. The lead plaintiffs were George and Marilyn Keepseagle, who are ranchers on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, which straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border.

More than \$380 million remained after claims were paid out. In April, a judge approved a plan for the money that included additional payments to claimants, a \$265 million trust that will distribute funds at the direction of an independent board of trustees for up to 20 years, and the \$38 million "fast track fund" to get some money out to nonprofits more quickly.

"It takes a while to get an organization as big as the trust up and running," Webber said. "There was interest in, while that may take a year or so to do, that there be some money distributed more quickly than that. People have been waiting a long time for this."

Nonprofit organizations, tribal programs and education institutions that assist Native American producers were eligible to apply to the fast track fund. Grant awards will vary depending on several factors, including the focus and scope of the proposed work.

There is still more legal wrangling before any money from the fund is likely to be disbursed, as one of the lawsuit plaintiffs, Keith Mandan, in late June appealed the modification of the settlement agreement.

"I have no expectation of the court acting (on fund recommendations) before the appeal is resolved," Webber said.

Mandan's attorneys did not respond to a request for comment on the appeal.

Motorcycle crash in Lawrence County kills 57-year-old man

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — A 57-year-old man is dead in a motorcycle crash in Lawrence County.

The Highway Patrol says the man lost control of the bike on state Highway 14A and it went in the ditch about 5 miles west of Lead. He was pronounced dead at the scene shortly before noon Thursday. Authorities did not immediately identify the man. He was alone on the motorcycle.

Friends, relatives mourn 2 teens slain in Atlanta suburb

JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Loved ones on Thursday mourned two slain teenagers whose bodies were found behind a suburban Atlanta grocery store, as police prepared to move a 20-year-old suspect to an Atlanta jail.

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Jeffrey A. Hazelwood was being held in Roswell's city jail early Thursday and expected to be transferred to the larger Fulton County Jail by Friday evening. Police weren't saying when he was to be moved due to "safety reasons," Roswell police Detective Zachary Frommer said.

Hazelwood was arrested Wednesday on two counts of murder in the slayings of Carter Davis and Natalie Henderson, both 17. Each teen was shot once in the head, the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office said.

On Friday, Frommer said Hazelwood is also charged with two counts of aggravated assault, one count of theft by taking and financial transaction card fraud. The card fraud charge stems from the use of Henderson's credit-debit card at an area gas station after the killings, Frommer said.

Police aren't discussing any motive, nor will they comment on the relationship, if any, between Hazelwood and the teens, Frommer said Thursday.

Detectives encountered apps used to send messages as they investigated the killings, Roswell Police Chief Rusty Grant said. He would not provide details on which apps are involved in the case, but he said gaining access to the apps and cellphones proved somewhat challenging for investigators.

Henderson appeared to be extremely active on social media. She had since September 2015 been a representative for the "Smack High" social media app, designed to connect teens with similar interests, its CEO said Thursday.

"We are extremely saddened at Smack High to hear about the deaths of Natalie Henderson and Carter Davis," Smack High co-founder and CEO Giuseppe Stuto said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The app's mission "is to give teens the power to make new friends, stay connected, and communicate through the full extent of their individuality," the app's website states. "Our central thesis is that real-time teenage interaction actually leads to the purest form of expression and engagement, and that is our mission for all teens across the nation."

A memorial service is planned for 10 a.m. Friday at Roswell Presbyterian Church for Henderson, H.M. Patterson & Son Funeral Directors said. She would have been a senior this year at Roswell High School.

"Our beautiful shining girl: Natalie, a rising senior at Roswell High School, was smart, funny, sassy, and strong, a free spirit with a gorgeous smile that could make your day or your week," her obituary from the funeral home said.

"Natalie had a loving heart and an infectious zest for life. Unusual for one so young, she had the courage to always be, unapologetically, herself."

On Thursday, a celebration of life service was held for Davis. The Rev. James Hamner read a statement to reporters from Carter's parents, Michele and Jeremy Davis.

"Whether he was dribbling a soccer ball, throwing a football, or making a fast break in lacrosse, Carter's athleticism and passion for team sports was evident," Hamner said.

"Although his life was cut short, everyone in his life will remember how he loved the Lord, loved everyone, and told them often. He lived life to the fullest."

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

In recent months, Hazelwood had been staying with various friends and relatives in Roswell and in nearby Cobb and Cherokee counties, Frommer told the AP.

Hazelwood was mostly raised by his grandparents in the Roswell area, his aunt, Kathy Dinwiddee, told WAGA-TV.

"He has some hurt and anger in him, but I don't know what it was about, only Jeff could tell you," Dinwiddee told the Atlanta station.

Sioux Falls event to offer tool to help recover lost kids

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State officials will be in Sioux Falls this weekend to encourage parents to register their children in a comprehensive child identification program.

The South Dakota Child Identification Program will collect information to register children at the Sioux Empire Fair. The kits may include child's photos, dental impressions, fingerprints, a DNA cheek swab and video interview.

The information packets will be given to each child's parents to keep. The kit is meant to aid law enforcement in recovering missing children.

The state's program is part of MASONICHIP, an initiative of the Masons. The state's Academy of Physician Assistants and Dental Association are among the groups that help implement the program in South Dakota.

Parents can register their children between noon and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

49-year-old motorcyclist dies in crash near Rochford

ROCHFORD, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in South Dakota say a 49-year-old motorcyclist is dead following a crash Wednesday night near Rochford.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the man was riding his motorcycle around 7:15 p.m. Wednesday when he failed to negotiate a left turn and hit a guard rail about two miles east of Rochford. The man, who has not been identified, was thrown from the motorcycle and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Highway Patrol says the man was not wearing a helmet.

Authorities say the crash remains under investigation.

Proposed Fort Pierre livestock rules anger rural residents

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Fort Pierre officials are reworking an ordinance aimed at limiting agricultural operations in the city, after some rural residents complained the regulations would also affect them.

One of the proposed provisions would raise the property threshold for owning livestock from 1 acre to 10 acres. The issue is that it would apply not only in city limits but also in the 1-mile "extraterritorial" zone just outside that's also under city jurisdiction.

The Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2ax40TS>) reports that another proposed new rule would permit animal grazing but not breeding or calving.

Opponent Teri Heninger said the city is making decisions affecting rural residents who aren't eligible to vote in the city.

"I'd like to see the City Commission consider giving back that 1 mile to the county. We have no representation," Heninger said.

Public Works Director Rick Hahn acknowledged the problem earlier this week.

"That was my mistake there, on that part of it," Hahn said. "I'm trying to get a balance between the two, that we have some residential out in that extra-territorial that's adjacent to agricultural. We'll try to bring that balance."

According to Hahn, a different ordinance already on the books says that a farm or ranch must be at least 10 acres, and that the intention of the new ordinance was to match that already existing rule.

Hahn said the new rules were proposed to conform to the city's adopted comprehensive plan for future development. He said he had not considered how the proposed rule would affect rural residents.

Hahn said that he would consider created two different sets of regulations, one for inside the city limits and one for the extraterritorial 1 mile. He said people who are currently under existing rules could

be grandfathered in, or allowed to operate under the previous rules.

The proposed ordinance will go back to the city's planning and zoning committee for changes.

US judge's big ruling on sage grouse looming in Nevada

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A federal judge in Nevada could rule any time now on a lawsuit filed nearly a year ago in an effort to block protections of the greater sage grouse across much of the West.

Nevada's attorney general, nine counties, ranchers and mining companies filed their final briefs in Reno Wednesday challenging land use planning amendments and a temporary freeze on new mining claims the government has adopted to guide future management of lands where the imperiled bird lives.

The two sides continue to argue over the most basic point — whether U.S. District Judge Miranda Du even has any authority at this time to strike down the new policies Interior Secretary Sally Jewell unveiled just days after she decided in September the grouse doesn't need protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Opponents claim she does. They say they're being harmed by the planning amendments and 2-year mining withdrawal that they say are having a chilling effect on mining and energy exploration, as well as the ability of livestock ranchers and entire county governments to plan for the future.

Government lawyers argue any such challenge is premature. They say the policies offer guidelines but no specific decisions on individual grazing, mining or other federal permits.

Not until those site-specific decisions are made can anyone file an administrative appeal or bring a lawsuit in federal court, the government maintains.

Du denied the plaintiffs' request for a temporary injunction in December, ruling that the critics' claims raise "only the possibility — not a likelihood — of irreparable harm."

The land use planning amendments at issue apply specifically to Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, north-east California and southwest Montana, but they carry ramifications for all 11 western states that are home to the imperiled bird.

"Along with a majority of Nevada counties, my office has been pushing back against the federal government's overreaching sage grouse land plan for almost a year," Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt said.

"As our latest brief again demonstrates, the Bureau of Land Management's rushed, one-size-fits-all sage grouse plan not only violates multiple federal laws, but also the agency's own regulations," he said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined in 2010 that protection of the bird under the Endangered Species Act was warranted, but that a listing was precluded due to other priorities. Jewell reversed that decision in September, based on her conclusion that a 2 year effort to strengthen the protections through a series of land management plans provides enough certainty that the bird won't go extinct even though its numbers once totaling an estimated 16 million have dwindled to as few as 200,000.

Environmentalists who have been granted intervenor status in the case back the government's position that the grouse likely will have to be listed under the act if the plans are struck down.

"The only reason sage grouse are not now proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA is because of the plans challenged by the plaintiffs," wrote lawyers for The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation and Earthworks.

Walk-away state prison inmate back in custody in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate who walked away from a work assignment last weekend is back in custody.

State corrections officials say Alden No Moccasin left his community service job in Rapid City on Saturday without authorization. He was apprehended in the city earlier this week.

No Moccasin was sentenced in 2014 to 5 1/2 years in prison for a second-degree burglary conviction in Pennington County.

Patrol IDs victims of fatal truck crash in Jackson County

BELVIDERE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified two Norris men who died in a one-vehicle crash in Jackson County.

The Highway Patrol says 42-year-old Mark Clairmont Sr. was driving a pickup truck that crashed in a ditch off state Highway 63 midday Tuesday, about 1 1/2 miles south of Belvidere.

Clairmont and 52-year-old passenger Trudell Bullman Jr. were thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene.

Malaysia confirms Flight 370 course was on pilot's simulator

EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia acknowledged for the first time that one of the pilots of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 had plotted a course on his home flight simulator to the southern Indian Ocean, where the missing jet is believed to have crashed.

Australian officials overseeing the search for the plane last month said data recovered from Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah's simulator included a flight path to the southern Indian Ocean. Malaysian officials at the time refused to confirm the findings.

On Thursday, Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai told local journalists that the flight path was found on the simulator. He also cautioned there were "thousands" of destinations on the simulator and no evidence that Zaharie flew the plane in that area or deliberately crashed it.

A recording of the news conference was made available to The Associated Press on Friday.

New York Magazine reported last month that an FBI analysis of the device showed Zaharie had conducted a simulated flight to the southern Indian Ocean less than a month before the plane vanished along a similar route. The magazine cited the discovery as strong evidence that the disappearance was a premeditated act of mass murder-suicide at the hands of the captain.

"Until today, this theory is still under investigation. There is no evidence to prove that Captain Zaharie flew the plane into the southern Indian Ocean," Liow said. "Yes, there is the simulator but the (route) was one of thousands to many parts of the world. We cannot just base on that to confirm (he did it)."

Liow didn't say when the Indian Ocean path was flown on the simulator. He stressed that international experts and Australian officials have agreed that the most likely scenario was "uncontrolled ditching" of the plane.

The latest development in the saga of the world's biggest aviation mystery unnerved families of the victims, who blame Malaysia for a cover-up and incompetence.

"It is sheer nonsense! I don't believe it at all. We were told in the past that both the plane and the pilots had no problem and now we are told there was something wrong with the pilot," said Li Xinmao, whose daughter Li Yan and son-in-law Luo Wei were among the many Chinese passengers on the flight.

"It is another irresponsible thing the Malaysian government has done to try to fool the relatives and cover up the truth and the conspiracy. We relatives strongly protest it and strongly demand the discovery of our loved ones," he said.

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In Malaysia, Jacquita Gonzales, whose husband Patrick Gomes was a crew member, said there were many unanswered questions about the Indian Ocean flight path in the captain's simulator.

She said it was unclear when he last flew the route on the simulator. She also noted reports citing a private investigator that a flaperon — a small section of the wing that washed ashore on Reunion island off East Africa last year — was broken off, indicating controlled ditching of the plane.

"I am not blaming the pilot, but the government should be more forthcoming with information. Why is France still not releasing details on the flaperon after so long?" she said. "It's very frustrating. We are like yoyo going up and down all the time."

She also said police questioned all crew families in the early days of the tragedy and had told them that all crew members were cleared.

Liow said Thursday that French authorities were still waiting for documents from several parties including Boeing, and insisted on holding on to the wing part as court evidence.

Australia's Joint Agency Coordination Center — which is overseeing the search for the plane off Australia's west coast — has also said that evidence of the route did not prove that Zaharie had planned to steer the plane off course and showed only "the possibility of planning" for such an event.

Malaysia's national police chief, Khalid Abu Bakar, has said investigations will not be conclusive until the black boxes — the cockpit voice recorder and a data recorder — are recovered. He did not rule out a pilot suicide.

Malaysia has been criticized for being slow in providing information about the disappearance of the plane belonging to its national flag carrier.

"There is no clear reason why the Malaysian government is doing this, but it does seem to be connected with wanting the disaster to have as little impact as possible on the standing of the airline, which is already in deep financial trouble," said Damien Kingsbury, professor of international politics at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

"Having one of its pilots intentionally ditch the plane in the ocean, as this might seem to indicate, means that a question mark is placed over all of its pilots. This in turn means people will be less confident in flying with Malaysia Airlines, meaning a further downturn in its already struggling business," Kingsbury said in an email.

Officials have been stymied in their efforts to explain why the Boeing 777 carrying 239 people veered so far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. Theories have ranged from a deliberate murder-suicide plot by one of the pilots, to a hijacking, to a mechanical catastrophe. Similarly, search crews have been unable to find the main wreckage of the plane despite a sweeping underwater hunt of a remote stretch of ocean off Australia's west coast.

Last month, officials from Malaysia, Australia and China announced that the underwater search will be suspended once the current search area has been completely scoured. Crews have fewer than 10,000 square kilometers (3,861 square miles) left to scan of the 120,000-square kilometer (46,332-square mile) search area, and should finish their sweep of the region by the end of the year.

14 killed, 16 injured in rebel attack in India's Assam state

WASBIR HUSSAIN, Associated Press

GAUHATI, India (AP) — At least 14 people were killed and 16 others injured Friday after rebels opened fire in a crowded market in Assam state in India's remote northeast, officials said.

Six rebels arrived in a motorized rickshaw and fired automatic weapons and lobbed grenades in the crowded market in Balajan, an area just outside the town of Kokrajhar in western Assam, said top local police official L.R. Bishnoi.

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He said that one gunman was killed by security forces and troops were pursuing five others who fled. Several homes and shops were badly damaged in the attack.

Police blamed a faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland for the attack. The group has been fighting for an independent homeland for the region's Bodo tribespeople for decades. The Bodos are an indigenous tribe in Assam, making up 10 percent of the state's 33 million people.

Friday's attack was the worst in the recent past, but the group was blamed for the shooting deaths of more than 60 Muslim settlers and Adivasi tribespeople in Assam in separate attacks in 2014.

The rebels have been targeting communities they consider outsiders, including Adivasis, whose ancestors migrated to Assam more than 100 years ago to work on tea plantations — as well as Muslims, accusing them and the federal government of exploiting the region's wealth while neglecting the locals.

Dozens of rebel groups have been fighting the government and sometimes each other for years in seven states in northeast India. They demand greater regional autonomy or independent homelands for the indigenous groups they represent.

At least 10,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in Assam state alone in the last three decades.

Hong Kong names candidates in council polls; rejects up to 9

ANNIE HO, Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's government on Friday announced the names of candidates approved to run in the territory's most contentious Legislative Council elections since reverting to Chinese rule almost two decades ago, amid a dispute over people excluded on political grounds.

As many as nine candidates have been rejected because of their stance on the Chinese special administrative region's political future in what critics say is an ill omen for its democratic development. Three excluded candidates say they will appeal, although no ruling is expected before the Sept. 4 elections.

The rejections are seen as a sign of China's growing political interference in the financial hub, which enjoys its own legal system and far greater democratic freedoms than the Communist Party-run mainland.

The government said 289 candidates have been approved to run for the 70-seat body, half of which is elected from geographic districts and half from professional constituencies such as engineering, tourism and the arts. Twelve of those seats are being filled by candidates running uncontested.

Election officers warned candidates they must pledge to uphold Hong Kong's mini-constitution, including a newly added section saying the city is an "inalienable" part of China, and excluded those who refused. The rejected candidates, who hail from Hong Kong's marginal but growing independence, or "localist," movement, said they refused because the demand amounted to political screening.

Officers rejected the candidacy of one high-profile localist candidate, university student Edward Leung of the group Hong Kong Indigenous, even after he signed the pledge and renounced previous pro-independence statements.

Speaking to The Associated Press on Thursday, Leung characterized the imposition of the new pledge as both unnecessary and illegal.

"I think the political scene in Hong Kong is being manipulated completely by the Beijing authority," said Leung, 25, who became active in politics during monthslong and ultimately unsuccessful street protests in 2014 demanding the right to freely nominate candidates for the territory's chief executive.

Hong Kong people "need to recognize that the sovereignty of Hong Kong should always belong to

them," he said.

Leung and other localist activists planned to hold a rally Friday night that could serve as a gauge of their public support.

The pro-independence movement is oriented toward the year 2047, when China's promise not to change Hong Kong's social, economic and legal systems for 50 years expires.

Despite a lack of substantial public support for the movement, China is determined to ensure there is no discussion of independence either during the campaign or within the council, said Joseph Cheng, a retired professor of political science formerly with the City University of Hong Kong. That could end up backfiring badly, he said.

"People in general see this as a very rough intervention in the election process," Cheng said. "Therefore this crackdown will generate even more resentment and more support for the cause of independence among young people."

Citing poll results showing more than 17 percent of Hong Kongers — about 1 million people — support independence after 2047, Leung said frustration would grow if that constituency has no one to speak for them in government.

"So what are you going to do with these 1 million people? Criminalize them? Put them into jail? You cannot," Leung said.

Rio Olympics opening ceremony highlights Brazil, environment

MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — There's nothing like the unique Brazilian vibe — and the opening ceremony for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will see no shortage of samba, culture, diversity and history as the South American nation proudly showcases its traditions and environmental wonders.

Millions of television viewers from around the world are expected to watch the three-hour ceremony Friday night, which comes as the country is reeling from political and economic turmoil.

Since the event won't be able to avoid the issues that are gripping Brazil — a president facing impeachment, a deep recession and environmental threats — organizers made sure that global warming and the environment, especially the country's magnificent Amazon rainforest, are important parts of the Olympic opening ceremony.

"The world is very tense and so is Brazil. We are also willing to tell the world to stop attacking our home. The world is threatened because of global warming. We are calling for action," said Fernando Meirelles, one of the directors of the show.

Samba and pop music singers are expected to perform, including Grammy award winners Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil. Supermodel Gisele Bündchen will also be on hand.

But the climax of the show, the lighting of the cauldron, depends on whether Brazil's most famous athlete — soccer star Pele — appears. He said this week he was invited to take part, but business deals were stopping him from doing it.

The cauldron was designed by American sculptor Anthony Howe, who told The Associated Press he was inspired by life in the tropics. There will be two cauldrons in Rio, one at the Maracana soccer stadium that is hosting the opening ceremony and another open to the public in downtown Rio.

The cauldron in central Rio is expected to be lit by a runner after the opening ceremony is finished, Howe said.

The floor of the stadium will be a vast stage for projections, a substitute for more expensive structures in a nod to Brazil's economic troubles.

In all, 4,800 performers and volunteers will be involved in the show, which is built on three basic pil-

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lars of life in Brazil. Those are sustainability, particularly re-forestation; finding joy in life and in being Brazilian; and the idea of “gambiarra,” the quirky Brazilian art of improvising repairs using whatever parts are available.

“Smile is the approach the Brazilians have toward life,” said Marco Balich, the executive producer. “Brazil is not a grand nation. They’re saying in this ceremony, we are who we are, with a lot of social problems, a lot of crises in the political system, etc.”

Space limitations in the Maracana also curbed the creative possibilities for the show. The stadium does not have typical Olympic dimensions — there is no track. The only Olympic events it is hosting are soccer matches.

NBC will broadcast the opening ceremony on a one-hour tape delay because it wants the entertainment spectacle to be shown completely in U.S. prime time. Rio is one hour later than Eastern time.

Unpopular interim Brazilian President Michel Temer is expected to attend the opening ceremony. He will be replacing his ally-turned-enemy, suspended President Dilma Rousseff.

Fewer heads of state are expected than usual Friday night because of Brazil’s current political crisis. Rousseff’s impeachment trial is expected to end after the Olympics ends on Aug. 21, which leaves the country with two presidents until then.

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. TENSION, EXCITEMENT SURROUNDS OPENING CEREMONY FOR RIO OLYMPICS

Brazil will display samba, culture and diversity but political turmoil, economic woes and environment concerns loom large.

2. WHAT YOUNG AMERICANS SAY ABOUT THE GOP AND DEMS

Most feel neither party represents them, although the Democratic Party holds a clear advantage in appealing to young people of color, according to a GenForward poll of Americans age 18-30.

3. OBAMA DENIES \$400 MILLION PAYMENT TO IRAN WAS RANSOM

He defended the transaction as evidence that the nuclear accord with Iran has allowed for progress on other matters.

4. A NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN THREATS IS KEY TO CHINA’S CRACKDOWN ON LEGAL ACTIVISTS

The effort drew new attention this week with the carefully scripted trials of a lawyer and three activists on subversion charges.

5. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MISSILES THAT NORTH KOREA FIRES INTO THE SEA

The AP explains what we know and don’t know about the fate of the weapons.

6. MCCAIN SEEMINGLY HAS EVERY REASON TO OPPOSE TRUMP BUT DOESN’T

The Arizona senator wants to focus on his own re-election campaign but Trump has dogged him at every step.

7. WHY RALLIES, DEBATES HAVE BEEN MISSING AHEAD OF CRUCIAL THAILAND VOTE

The military junta made sure there was no campaigning ahead of Sunday’s referendum on a new constitution that would enshrine a watered-down democracy.

8. U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO ISSUE SOLID MONTHLY JOBS REPORT

If it does, it would ease concerns that the economy is struggling.

9. AMAZON UNVEILS CARGO PLANE AS IT TIGHTENS CONTROL OVER DELIVERY PROCESS

It is one of 40 jetliners that will make up the e-commerce giant’s own air transportation network.

10. HOW A CHINESE DIRECTOR RESPONDED TO CRITICISM OVER MATT DAMON CASTING
Zhang Yimou said the lead role of his \$150 million movie "The Great Wall" was never conceived for a Chinese actor.

Indonesian police: plot foiled to fire rocket at Singapore

NINIEK KARMINI, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's counter-terrorism police on Friday arrested six suspected militants who were allegedly planning to launch a rocket attack on downtown Singapore from nearby Batam island.

The Indonesian men were captured Friday on the Indonesian island, which is about 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of Singapore, said National Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar.

He said the arrests, which included the 31-year-old alleged leader of the group, highlight the continued threat posed by extremists in Indonesia despite a sustained crackdown by authorities.

"We have strong indications that the six men were planning to launch a rocket at Singapore's Marina Bay from Batam," Amar said. He would not confirm whether an actual rocket had been found in the police raid.

Marina Bay is a busy area close to the heart of Singapore's downtown filled with office towers, water-side eateries and tourist attractions, including one of Asia's biggest casinos.

Amar said all the men claimed they were members of Katibah Gigih Rahmat, a little-known extremist group that helps Indonesian militants travel to Syria. Police believe it has received funds from Bahrin Naim, an Indonesian fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria.

Naim has been linked to a succession of poorly executed attacks in Indonesia, including a suicide bombing outside police headquarters in the city of Solo last month that killed the bomber.

Singapore state media reported that local authorities were aware of the rocket plot.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement that Singapore's security agencies had coordinated with Indonesia to monitor the activities of the group and apprehend those involved.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, suffered a spate of deadly attacks by members of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant network, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

However, in recent years, smaller and less deadly strikes have targeted government agencies, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces. Many Jemaah Islamiyah members say they no longer support violent jihad but some have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group.

Visitors to Rio Olympics will find all 5 senses triggered

PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Right after getting off the plane, sweat beads will start to gather on your forehead. That's just Rio de Janeiro's ever-present humidity saying "hello."

Look around and you will be enveloped by shades of green — lush tropical forests jammed between buildings of all sizes — and tones of blue along the miles of inviting coastlines.

Towering over the 2016 Summer Olympics host city is the Christ the Redeemer statue. After a few days, you might chuckle when a hotel brochure or tour guide tries to sell you something by saying it "includes" a view of the statue.

Jesus is everywhere here, as is plenty of temptation and sin.

In Brazil, prostitution is legal, though that doesn't mean that you will see women and men hawking

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their bodies all over the city. In fact, walking around, you are more likely to come upon churches, especially of growing evangelical denominations like Pentecostals.

Up in the hills, you can see small dwellings that look like stone huts jammed one after the other, in red and green and pink and orange and many other colors of the rainbow. The slums of Rio, known as favelas, are the most colorful places in the city, culturally vibrant and filled with interesting people. They are also the city's poorest areas, often controlled by drug-traffickers and plagued by violence.

No matter where you are in Rio, you might hear gunfire. It could be drug dealers battling it out for turf, or military police conducting an operation. Firefights mostly happen in favelas, but sometimes spill out into the "zona sul," or southern part of the city, home to more well-heeled Brazilians and where tourists flock.

While you might be tempted to capture all the vibrancy of Rio on your smartphone, take a good look around before pulling it out. The "Cidade Maravilhosa" has long been plagued by violent muggings and robberies that can happen at any time of day and in any neighborhood.

A walk along the famed beach in Copacabana reveals both luxury and seediness: Rio's iconic area of yesteryear still shines but also has its share of hobos, panhandlers and hard-luck cases.

Keep walking further west to get to Ipanema beaches. And if you are in the mood to see and be seen and spend more money, go a little further to get to Leblon, Rio's most expensive neighborhood.

It's winter in the Southern Hemisphere, the equivalent of February up north. But the beaches still have plenty of people, both local and foreign, taking dips. And with good reason: Temperatures are frequently in the mid-80s and sometimes even low 90s.

Here you will see some of Rio's stereotypes in real life: dental-floss bikinis for women, tight speedos for men and bodies that ooze fitness and sensuality. But the beaches have so much more than that. There are pickup soccer and volleyball games and capoeira martial arts. The beats of the drum circles will make you feel like you're in movie.

Speaking of rhythms, in cafes, food stands and bars, it's common to hear the soothing sounds of Caetano Veloso or Gilberto Gil, just two of the country's talented musicians known worldwide. The classics are embraced but there is so much more for the ears: pop, funk and everything in-between, especially in any of the thousands of yellow cabs circulating in the city.

At the beach or anywhere close to a waterway, you could smell something rank. Your sniffer is not off: most likely that's sewage. How strong it is depends on where you are, how recently it rained and many other factors. Currently Rio only treats about 60 percent of its sewage, which means the waste from millions of residents finds its way into the water. Olympic athletes competing on that water are taking a host of preventative measures to avoid getting sick.

If all this made you tired, just about any corner on the city offers the perfect pick-me-up: fruits. It would be impossible to exaggerate the variety or all-around scrumptiousness of what you are about to eat or drink.

If you don't speak Portuguese (and most Rio people don't speak English), just point at the reddish mangos, the green guavas (with pink insides) or fruits you may have never heard of like Jaboticaba, which look like oversized grapes.

Sit back and enjoy.

Philippine president acknowledges abuses in drug war

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged abuses in a war on illegal drugs, which has left more than 400 people dead in a month and alarmed rights activists, but

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refused to back down from a shoot-to-kill order for drug suspects.

Duterte said in a speech late Thursday that most drug dealers and addicts slain in gunbattles with police had put up a fight, but added that he was sure some were "salvaged," a local slang for extrajudicial killings usually by law enforcers.

In the case of illegal killings, Duterte said the government will investigate.

"They really fight back, I know that," Duterte said in a speech in southern Davao city, where he built a name as a mayor for his extra tough approach to crime before winning the presidency on June 30. "I'm sure there are some who were salvaged, I am also sure of that."

Early Friday, he told reporters that he gave "shoot-to-kill" orders against drug dealers, including politicians involved in the illicit trade.

"I'll really have you killed. Look at what you're doing to the Philippines and I'll forgive you?" Duterte told reporters, apparently enraged after visiting a town police chief who was shot in the chest by a suspected drug dealer and rushed to a Davao hospital.

"My order is shoot to kill you. I don't care about human rights, you better believe me," said Duterte, a 71-year-old former government prosecutor.

Duterte's centerpiece anticrime drive, focused on an ambitious campaign promise to end the widespread drugs problem in six months, has left more than 400 drug suspects dead, many of them either in firefights with police or under suspect circumstances. More than 4,400 have been arrested, police said.

The unprecedented killings have scared more than half a million drug users and dealers who gave themselves up to police, officials said. An overwhelmed Duterte has said he was considering to set aside some areas in military camps nationwide to build rehabilitation centers for those who surrender.

A legal expert, Jose Manuel Diokno, said Duterte's latest shoot-to-kill order is, at the least, legally questionable.

Adequate safeguards exist in the country's legal system, including requirements for court warrants for arrests, to protect the public and ensure law enforcers are not given "unbridled discretion" that can lead to abuses, Diokno said.

The government's Commission on Human Rights could seek to stop the anti-crime drive through a court petition, said Diokno, who heads the Free Legal Assistance Group, a nongovernment group that provides legal help to the poor.

Sen. Leila de Lima, who led the commission previously, has sought a senate investigation of the killings but has faced opposition from Duterte's political allies. She said she supports the battle against drugs but condemned the widespread killings.

"There must be a way other than this method that brings us to our collective descent into impunity, fear, and ultimately, utter and complete inhumanity. We cannot wage the war against drugs with blood," de Lima said in a senate speech this week.

She said the dead included those who were innocent and "the proportion is rising."

China's crackdown raises familiar specter of foreign forces

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — In halting televised confessions and emotional courtroom testimony, Chinese lawyers and activists held in a government crackdown have voiced the same ominous message: Shadowy foreign forces are funding, directing and encouraging activities bent on destabilizing China's government and smearing its reputation.

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The familiar narrative of a country besieged by foreign enemies — with the United States implied as ringleader — is a key element of China's yearlong campaign to stamp out the country's burgeoning legal activism movement. That effort drew new attention this week with the carefully scripted trials of a lawyer and three activists on subversion charges.

Though the tactic is far from new, political observers say the trials are a reminder of how the administration of President Xi Jinping has wielded the specter of foreign threats with far greater frequency and force, a reflection of the leadership's deeply seated belief that China is locked in a pitched, strategic and ideological battle against the West.

The four facing trial this week were associated with the Fengrui Law Firm in Beijing, one of the country's best-known advocates for human rights. Its director, Zhou Shifeng, was sentenced Thursday to seven years in prison while two received suspended sentences and one a term of seven years, three months. All were accused of organizing protests outside courthouses, hyping cases via social and foreign media, and receiving training and funding from foreign nonprofit organizations.

Even if Fengrui's activist tactics crossed ethical or even legal lines, as some Chinese legal professionals believe, the government had scant evidence to level subversion charges, said Tong Zhiwei, a professor at East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai. Rather, the involvement of foreign actors served as the legal and political fulcrum in the cases, Tong said.

"If there were no foreign elements, it would have completely changed the complexion of the cases," Tong said, pointing out that while the prosecutors pointed to conversations the defendants had in a restaurant about ending Communist Party rule, they offered little evidence of an actual plot to topple the government.

"China has had legal education exchanges for decades with the West," Tong said. "Where do you draw the line of unacceptable interaction? Is being a visiting scholar at Harvard considered subversive?"

The crackdown on the legal profession, launched in July 2015 with a sweeping roundup of close to 300 activists and lawyers, is part of a far-reaching effort to stamp out suspected foreign influence since Xi took power in 2012. Most have been released although more than a dozen remain in detention.

Also in 2012, the Communist Party issued an internal communique, known as Document No. 9, aimed at limiting the penetration of Western-style "universal values," such as multi-party democracy and media freedoms, into Chinese society, especially its classrooms.

The government followed that up this year by passing a law to strictly regulate the work of thousands of international nonprofits working in China and place them under direct police supervision. In January, China detained and interrogated Peter Dahlin, a Swedish activist who had provided Fengrui lawyers training and support, for 23 days before releasing and deporting him — but only after he gave a confessional interview with the state broadcaster.

The government's message was vividly reinforced in statements from those similarly accused this week. In her televised interview, Wang Yu, a Fengrui lawyer, said she intended to refuse all international recognition, referring to an award from the American Bar Association and other Western groups she had received while in jail. "I am a Chinese," she said. "I can only accept awards from the Chinese government."

Four years into Xi's administration, the trials reflect how the party is leaning on nationalism as a pillar of legitimacy at a time of faltering economic growth, said Willy Lam, a history professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"Xi genuinely thinks China is in an existential crisis, and unless the administration can stamp out Western influence, the party may collapse," Lam said. "But there is also the angle of political expediency. A sizeable part of the Chinese public is very nationalist. If they change the narrative to 'human rights lawyers are stirring up trouble because the U.S. is behind them,' they get away from the lawyers'

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work on the lack of justice in Chinese society.”

The cases sent party organs and state media into overdrive this week. The Communist Youth League and Supreme People’s Procuratorate, equivalent to the attorney general, circulated on social media an ultra-nationalist video warning of an imminent U.S.-led revolution in China, garnering hundreds of millions of views.

The video’s creator, a Chinese Middle Eastern studies student in Australia, told state media he was motivated to make the video after he perceived in the Fengrui cases the classic warning signs of “the early pre-penetration stages of a color revolution” underway in China, a reference to movements that have toppled authoritarian governments in Georgia, Ukraine and the Middle East.

Jerome A. Cohen, a Chinese law expert at New York University, pointed out that in Wang’s supposed confession, the Fengrui lawyer said she would not “accept, recognize or acknowledge” international awards — the same language used by the Foreign Ministry in rejecting a June verdict by a Hague-based international tribunal against China’s maritime claims in the South China Sea. That verdict prompted Chinese state media to denounce the arbitration process as an American-led ploy to deny China its historical territory.

“Increasingly, law is at the core of both the domestic and international challenges,” said Cohen, who has previously consulted for provincial officials. “Xi is ill-equipped to deal with foreign legal claims, whether they concern international human rights, the law of the sea or economics, but he can slap down domestic purveyors of the rule of law.”

The unmistakable message has been that, even as Chinese business and society integrates with the world, a hard line has been drawn between Chinese and foreign civil society groups.

“Chinese citizens who have formed relationships with foreign entities are the ones suffering,” said John Kamm, director of the Duihua Foundation, a San Francisco-based nonprofit humanitarian organization. “That’s the main point: Don’t imagine for a moment that a foreign government or entity can save you.”

Former modeling agent says he got Melania Trump’s visa

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump’s former modeling agent says she obtained a work visa before she modeled professionally in the United States in the mid-1990s. Those comments came in response to questions about Mrs. Trump’s own remarks that appeared inconsistent with U.S. immigration rules.

In an interview with The Associated Press, agent Paolo Zampolli offered the most detailed description yet of how the wife of the Republican presidential nominee came into the country.

Donald Trump’s presidential campaign repeatedly declined to clarify her comments. The campaign also declined to discuss Mrs. Trump’s immigration history in detail or provide copies of any paperwork that would put the issue to rest.

Donald Trump has made illegal immigration a signature plank in his campaign platform, and his wife has often cited her path to U.S. citizenship in defense of his hard line, saying she came to the U.S. legally and other aspiring Americans should follow her example.

Zampolli said that while he was a partner at modeling agency Metropolitan Models, he secured a work visa for Mrs. Trump, who in the mid-1990s was named Melania Knauss.

“I know she was not working a paid job before she got the H-1B,” Zampolli said, referring to the type of work visa that U.S. companies can obtain for “fashion models of distinguished merit and ability.” H-1B visas generally allow a person to work and live in the U.S. for three years with the opportunity to

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renew the visas for another three years.

Zampolli said he based the H-1B application on Mrs. Trump's previous modeling work in Paris and Milan. "We used whatever she did before to get her a visa," he said. "She had enough tear sheets to qualify."

In interviews earlier this year with MSNBC and for a profile in Harper's Bazaar, Mrs. Trump's comments appeared to be inconsistent with holding a work visa.

"I never thought to stay here without papers. I had a visa. I traveled every few months back to the country to Slovenia to stamp the visa," she said during the MSNBC interview.

U.S. immigration law did not require such trips that Mrs. Trump describes for work-visa holders at the time. People who hold visitor visas would be required to leave the country on or before the end date of their authorized stay. U.S. law does not allow someone to use a visitor visa to regularly live and work in the country.

Mrs. Trump published a statement on Twitter on Thursday, disputing that she violated immigration laws. "I have at all times been in full compliance with the immigration laws of this country. Period. Any allegation to the contrary is simply untrue," she wrote.

Mrs. Trump has said she came to the U.S. in 1996 on a visa, got her green card in 2001 and became a U.S. citizen in 2006, the year after she married Donald Trump.

In her statement, Mrs. Trump did not specify which visa she held during the early part of her modeling career in New York.

Zampolli said Thursday he believes Mrs. Trump was confused about her visa requirements, noting that she traveled to Slovenia to visit her family multiple times.

Zampolli said he was not aware whether Mrs. Trump ever held a different visa. He said it was possible she came to the U.S. on a visitor visa to check out the modeling agency, a practice he said was common when foreign models were considering making the jump to New York.

"They come to meet the client to see if they really should come to New York," he said, noting that the process often includes taking photos to build a portfolio to attract bigger-name modeling contracts.

In her statement, Mrs. Trump did not address reports in Bloomberg News, Politico and The Washington Post speculating whether nude photos taken of her in New York in 1995 were evidence that she had worked illegally in the U.S. before securing the appropriate visa.

U.S. law allows a person to use a visitor visa to conduct temporary business for a foreign company or explore a future career opportunities such as visiting modeling agencies or meeting with potential clients.

Zampolli, who didn't book the shoot, said the photos, which appeared in the French magazine Max, were likely a "free shoot to build the book of the model. She needed to get her tear sheets."

The AP left a phone message Thursday with the photographer who took the photos, but it was not immediately returned. The photographer, Jarl Ale de Basseville, told The Washington Post that Trump was not paid for the photo shoot.

Obama denies \$400M payment to Iran was ransom

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama vigorously denies that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran was ransom to secure the release of four Americans jailed in Tehran. He defended the transaction as evidence that the nuclear accord with Iran has allowed for progress on other matters.

"This wasn't some nefarious deal," Obama said during a news conference Thursday at the Pentagon.

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The money was delivered to the Iranian government in January, at the same time the nuclear deal was settled and the Americans were released. The payment was part of a decades-old dispute over a failed military equipment deal dating to the 1970s, before the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Obama also answered political questions at the news conference, pushing back at Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's suggestions that the November election might be rigged, calling the assertion "ridiculous." He said his advice to Trump, a candidate he has declared "unfit" for the presidency, was to "go out there and try to win the election."

The president's appearance before reporters followed an hours-long meeting with military leaders at the Pentagon on the fight against the Islamic State group.

Obama said there have been gains in weakening IS in Iraq and Syria, but he conceded the extremist group still poses a threat to the United States as it shifts its tactics to carrying out attacks elsewhere around the world. While those attacks may result in less carnage, Obama said IS knows they still create "the kinds of fear and concern that elevates their profile."

Asked whether he feels any personal disappointment about not being able to do more to stop the Islamic State, Obama said: "I haven't gotten numb to it. It bugs me."

On Syria, the president criticized Russia's support of government attacks against opposition forces and its sieges of cities such as Aleppo. He accused Russia of failing to take steps to reduce violence in Syria — where a civil war has raged for much of Obama's presidency — but said the U.S. would continue trying to push Moscow to focus on the fight against IS and other extremists.

On Iran, Obama expressed surprise at criticism of his administration's cash payment to settle a long-standing legal claim, adamantly rejecting claims that it was a ransom paid for the release of the four Americans.

He pointed out that the payment, along with an additional \$1.3 billion in interest to be paid later, was announced by the administration when it was concluded in January, a day after the implementation of a landmark nuclear agreement with Iran. "It wasn't a secret. We were completely open about it," he said.

Obama allowed that the one piece of new information, first reported this week by The Wall Street Journal, was that the \$400 million was paid in cash. It was delivered to Iran on palettes aboard an unmarked plane.

"The only bit of news is that we paid cash," he said. "The reason is because we couldn't send them a check and we couldn't wire the money. We don't have a banking relationship with Iran which is part of the pressure we applied on them."

GenForward Poll: Most young whites think Clinton broke law

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Young Americans are divided over Hillary Clinton's handling of her email account while she was secretary of state, with most young whites saying she intentionally broke the law and young people of color more likely to give Clinton the benefit of the doubt.

The new GenForward poll of young Americans age 18-30 also finds both Clinton and Donald Trump viewed negatively by a majority of those polled.

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

Things to know about how young people view the presidential contest:

CLINTON'S EMAILS

Among all young adults in the GenForward poll, 43 percent say Clinton intentionally broke the law in

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her use of a private email address on a personal server while she was secretary of state, and another 20 percent think she did so unintentionally. As for the rest, 27 percent think she showed poor judgment but did not break the law, and 8 percent say she did nothing wrong at all.

More than half of young whites — 54 percent — think Clinton intentionally committed a crime, and another 17 percent think she did so unintentionally.

Young African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Hispanics view Clinton's actions in a more sympathetic light, though few clear her of all wrongdoing. Just 32 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of Asian-Americans and 21 percent of African-Americans think Clinton intentionally broke the law, with most of the remainder saying she either did so unintentionally or showed poor judgment that did not amount to lawbreaking.

NOT LIKING THEIR OPTIONS

Neither Trump nor Clinton is well-liked by young adults overall, with just 38 percent saying they have a favorable view of Clinton and even fewer — 21 percent — saying they have a favorable view of Trump.

While majorities of young African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Hispanics do have a positive view of Clinton, 7 in 10 young whites have a negative opinion. Trump is viewed negatively by more than 8 in 10 young blacks, Hispanics and Asian-Americans and by about two-thirds of young whites.

Large majorities of young adults across racial and ethnic groups consider Trump to be unqualified to be president. On the other hand, most young African-Americans, Hispanics and Asian-Americans think Clinton is qualified to be president, but most young whites say she's not.

More than 7 in 10 young Americans don't see Trump or Clinton alike as honest and trustworthy. For Clinton, that perception is greater among young whites, while young people of color are more likely to doubt Trump's honesty than Clinton's.

SANDERS SUPPORTERS

The GenForward poll, which was conducted before the political conventions, showed an uphill battle for Clinton in consolidating support among young people. Young people across racial and ethnic groups were more likely to support Sanders than Clinton in their primary contest, the poll shows. And among those who supported Sanders during the primary season, less than half were prepared to say they'll support Clinton over Trump in the fall. Still, few said they'd support Trump. The rest said they were undecided, will vote for a third-party candidate, or will not vote.

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Young people are largely in agreement that the two major American political parties are lacking when it comes to representing the public. Just 28 percent of young adults, including 31 percent of African-Americans and Hispanics and 26 percent of whites and Asian-Americans, say the two parties do a good job of representing the American people.

Although they're not happy with their options, young people across racial and ethnic groups are mostly unfamiliar with their alternatives. Seven in 10 say they don't know enough about Libertarian Gary Johnson to have an opinion about him, and nearly 8 in 10 say the same about Jill Stein of the Green Party. An AP-GfK poll also conducted in July found similar levels of unfamiliarity among adults of all ages.

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.

X-ray uncovers hidden portrait beneath famed Degas painting

KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — A powerful X-ray technique has unveiled a hidden portrait beneath a famed painting by French impressionist artist Edgar Degas, helping solve a mystery that has stumped the art world for decades.

An article published this week in the online journal Scientific Reports reveals that the long-puzzled-over image concealed behind Degas' "Portrait of a Woman" is, in fact, a portrait of another woman. Australian researchers believe she is Emma Dobigny, one of the painter's favorite models.

For nearly a century, experts have known that Degas painted the famed portrait over another image sometime between 1876 and 1880. As the painting aged, the faint outline of what appeared to be another woman began leaking through the top layers of paint.

Staff at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, where the portrait is housed, wanted to see what was hidden underneath. But traditional X-ray techniques and infrared photography weren't powerful enough to reveal any detail.

So the gallery teamed up with scientists from Australian Synchrotron, who spent 33 hours painstakingly scanning the painting with a high-definition X-ray beam produced by a particle accelerator called a synchrotron. Synchrotrons accelerate electrons to high speeds, creating a source of light a million times brighter than the sun.

The technique was so successful that the scientists could not only see the details of the entire hidden image, but its evolution. Degas, for example, appears to have originally given the woman pixie-like ears, but later reworked them to a more conventional shape.

The quality of the results stunned the scientists.

"We were expecting to image a woman beneath, but nowhere near the detail that we did get in the end," said Daryl Howard, a scientist at Australian Synchrotron and one of the paper's authors.

Howard is among those who believe the image is of Dobigny, a well-known French model in the 1800s.

"Degas has painted her several times before," he said. "Some other people think it's someone else and we'll leave that for them to ultimately decide who it is."

It was not uncommon for artists to paint over their previous work in the 1800s and Howard believes the X-ray technique used to solve the Degas portrait puzzle will be picked up by other museums wondering what lies beneath their paintings.

"I think in the near future we're going to see a lot more of these results coming out," he said.

Obama: Islamic State likely to continue to threaten US

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Islamic State group will probably continue to be a threat to the U.S. even after it is ousted from key strongholds in Iraq and Syria, President Barack Obama said Thursday, warning that lone-wolf believers will still be inspired to launch attacks that are harder to detect and prevent.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with his top national security advisers in the Pentagon, Obama

said the U.S. has to do a better job disrupting terror networks and intercepting the internet messages that can get to troubled individuals and inspire them to act.

"What ISIL has figured out is that if they can convince a handful of people or even one person to carry out an attack on a subway, or at a parade or some other public venue, and kill scores of people as opposed to thousands of people, it still creates the kinds of fear and concern that elevates their profile," Obama said.

He said terrorism likely won't be eliminated by his administration or his successors, and he's always pushing his team to seek out new ideas to battle the problem.

"I haven't gotten numb to it. It bugs me whenever it happens," he said. But, he added, "I do think that because of our extraordinary efforts the homeland is significantly safer than it otherwise would be."

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a number of recent mass killings, including the Bastille Day attack in Nice, France, last month that left more than 80 dead, and the Orlando nightclub shootings that killed 49. While they may not have been directed by the group, the attackers were reportedly inspired by IS.

Obama has beefed up the U.S. military fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, recently authorizing more troops to help Iraqi forces prepare to take back the northern city of Mosul, which has been under IS control since 2014. And this week the U.S. expanded its campaign against the group with a new front of airstrikes in Libya, to help the fledgling government there take back the city of Sirte.

The group, however, still maintains strongholds in the region, and the fight in Syria has bogged down.

On Thursday, however, Obama said the anti-IS campaign is making progress in Iraq and Syria, because the group has not regained the territory it's lost in recent months.

But he noted that ousting the terror group from Mosul, and from its headquarters in Raqqa, Syria, won't eliminate its networks or its ability to encourage the smaller, more individual attacks.

So, he said, "it is so important for us to keep our eye on the ball and not panic, not succumb to fear, because ISIL can't defeat the United States of America or our NATO partners."

The U.S. and its allies, said Obama, must "keep on grinding away" against the group, and take key operatives off the battlefield, and "eventually we will win."

TS Earl drenches southern Mexico after hitting Belize

PATRICK E. JONES, Associated Press

BELMOPAN, Belize (AP) — Tropical Storm Earl pushed over Mexico's southern Gulf coast early Friday after drenching Belize and northern Guatemala.

Earlier forecasts had Earl weakening into a tropical depression overnight but new predictions late Thursday night had it maintaining its strength as a weak tropical storm through most of Friday.

Mexico's government issued a tropical storm warning for its southern Gulf coast from Ciudad del Carmen westward to Laguna Verde.

Earl slammed into the coast of the Caribbean nation of Belize early Thursday morning with winds of 80 mph (130 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

The Center said the storm could leave 8 to 12 inches (up to 30 centimeters) of rain over parts of Belize, Guatemala and southern Mexico. Isolated areas could receive as much as 18 inches (45 centimeters), causing flooding and mudslides.

Much of Belize was without electricity on Thursday as residents began assessing the damage. Around the capital, some roofs were torn off, power lines were down and trees were uprooted.

The country's emergency management agency issued a statement declaring the "all clear" on the

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storm, but warned people near rivers to head to higher ground. It said all of the country's dams were at flood stage.

The statement said there was major infrastructure damage in the offshore cayes, as well as in Belize City and Belmopan. It expected the international airport in Belize City to reopen Thursday.

Late Thursday night, Earl was centered about 40 miles (60 kilometers) south-southeast of Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico and was moving west-northwest at 10 mph (17 kph). It has maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph).

Authorities in the Mexican coastal state of Quintana Roo reported some evacuations. Some people evacuated low-lying coastal areas in nearby Guatemala.

The hurricane center said heavy rains would be a danger in southern Mexico through Saturday as Earl crosses the Yucatan Peninsula into the states of Tabasco and Veracruz.

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.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 5, the 218th day of 2016. There are 148 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 5, 1966, the Beatles' "Revolver" album was released in the United Kingdom on the Parlophone label; it was released in the United States three days later by Capitol Records. (Songs included "Eleanor Rigby" and "Yellow Submarine," which were also issued as a double A-side single on Aug. 5 and 8.)

On this date:

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1924, the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" by Harold Gray made its debut.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the National Labor Board, which was later replaced with the National Labor Relations Board.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1957, the teenage dance show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its network debut on ABC-TV.

In 1962, actress Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning." South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.

In 1969, the U.S. space probe Mariner 7 flew by Mars, sending back photographs and scientific data.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA

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to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 1986, it was revealed by Arts & Antiques magazine that artist Andrew Wyeth had, over a 15-year period, secretly created some 240 drawings and paintings of a woman named Helga Testorf, a neighbor in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Democratic congressional leaders formally launched an investigation into whether the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign had secretly conspired with Iran to delay release of American hostages until after the presidential election, thereby preventing an "October surprise" that supposedly would have benefited President Jimmy Carter. (A task force later concluded there was "no credible evidence" of such a deal.)

Ten years ago: Floyd Landis was fired by his team and the Tour de France no longer considered him its champion after his second doping sample tested positive for higher-than-allowable levels of testosterone. The late Reggie White was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame along with Troy Aikman, Warren Moon, John Madden, Rayfield Wright and Harry Carson. Four-time Iditarod champion Susan Butcher died in Seattle at age 51.

Five years ago: Standard & Poor's lowered the United States' AAA credit rating by one notch to AA-plus. A federal jury convicted three New Orleans police officers, a former officer and a retired sergeant of civil rights violations in the 2005 shooting deaths of a teenager and a mentally disabled man crossing the Danziger Bridge following Hurricane Katrina. (The convictions were overturned because of prosecutorial misconduct, and the former officers pleaded guilty in April 2016 to a reduced number of charges.) The sun-powered robotic explorer Juno rocketed toward Jupiter on a five-year quest to discover the secret recipe for making planets. (Juno reached Jupiter on July 4, 2016.)

One year ago: In a speech at American University in Washington, President Barack Obama assailed critics of his Iran nuclear deal as "selling a fantasy" to the American people, warning Congress that blocking the accord would damage the nation's credibility and increase the likelihood of more war in the Middle East. Actress Jennifer Aniston secretly married actor-director Justin Theroux at their home in Bel Air, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Saxon is 80. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Roman Gabriel is 76. Country songwriter Bobby Braddock is 76. Actress Loni Anderson is 71. Actress Erika Slezak is 70. Rock singer Rick Derringer is 69. Actress Holly Palance is 66. Singer Samantha Sang is 63. Rock musician Eddie Ojeda (Twisted Sister) is 61. Actress-singer Maureen McCormick is 60. Rock musician Pat Smear is 57. Author David Baldacci is 56. Actress Tawney Kitaen (kih-TAYN') is 55. Actress Janet McTeer is 55. Country musician Mark O'Connor is 55. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Patrick Ewing is 54. Actor Mark Strong is 53. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 50. Country singer Terri Clark is 48. Retired MLB All-Star John Olerud is 48. Rock musician Eicca Toppinen (EYE'-kah TAH'-pihn-nehn) (Apocalyptica) is 41. Country musician Will Sellers (Old Dominion) is 38. Actor Jesse Williams is 36. Actor Brendon Ryan Barrett is 30. Actor Albert Tsai is 12.

Thought for Today: "For life: It is rather a determination not to be overwhelmed. For work: The truth can only be recalled, never invented." — Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962).