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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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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

Monday, Aug. 8

Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

Anniv: Brad & Diann Morehouse • 2008: April and Branden Abeln

Birthdays: Yvonne Lange • Sashia Sombke • Karter Moody

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:00pm: Mandatory athlete parent's meeting in the Arena.

7:00pm: **School Board meeting**

Tuesday, Aug. 9

Book Lover's Day

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Loel Schott • Bradley Clocksene • Kim Yarborough • Lee Thompson • Laurie LaMee • Teresa Lutz

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

Paul's Lawn Care	 <p>Paul, Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel 605/397-7460</p>
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Death Notice: Henry Jondahl

Henry Jondahl, 76, of Keystone and formerly of Langford, passed away Friday, August 5, 2016 at Rapid City Regional Hospital. Memorial services are pending for Thursday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Are you ready?

Being ready for Heaven is no easy task. Jesus told his disciples in Luke 12 that everyone is suppose to be ready, for no one knows when the Master will come. The following is a cute story about a couple going on vacation. While it is a funny story, remember, when our time comes, it will be no mistake.

A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they spent their honeymoon twenty years earlier. Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their schedules, so the husband left Minneapolis and flew to Florida on Thursday with his wife scheduled to fly down the next day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. Accidentally, he left out one letter in her email address and without realizing it, sent the email message to the wrong person.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who was called home to glory following a sudden heart attack.

The widow decided to check her email since she was expecting messages of condolence from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor and was amazed by what he saw on the computer screen.

To: My loving wife
Subject: I've arrived

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. It sure is hot down here!

The widow wasn't ready for that message. It was a mistake. The time will come when we get the message saying that the time has come for us to die. It won't be a mistake. We are called to be ready for this time by having faith and hope in Christ.

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Meth Changes Everything

Over the past several years, South Dakota has seen a rise in the use of methamphetamine, or meth. In our state, 3.8 percent of high school students have tried meth. That is slightly higher than the national average of 3 percent. Approximately 15,000 South Dakotans, age 12 and up, were dependent on or abused illicit drugs in 2015, including meth.

Meth is a powerful and highly addictive stimulant which affects the central nervous system and results in devastating side-effects. It is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder and can be ingested in a variety of ways. No matter what you call it, or how it's used, the effects are all the same.

Meth users experience significant anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mood disturbances, paranoia, hallucinations, delusions and violent behavior. Addicts experience several physical effects as well including weight loss, tooth decay, tooth loss and skin sores. Meth causes mental and physical changes. In most cases, those changes are permanent.

In South Dakota, we are committed to being "smart on crime." We use data-driven, evidence-based practices to protect the public and hold offenders accountable.

We also recognize that we need to be tough on the causes of crime. Using meth is a crime itself, but it can also lead users to commit other crimes. In 2015, there were 2,125 meth related arrests in 46 South Dakota counties. This is a 40 percent increase from meth related arrests in 2014.

South Dakota needs to focus on preventing meth use. This month, the Department of Social Services has created an awareness campaign, "Meth Changes Everything," to promote prevention and provide education to students and South Dakota communities.

In the coming months, communities across the state will have the opportunity to meet with prevention providers to learn more about what can be done to prevent meth use. There is also an opportunity for schools to provide valuable information to students on the effects and dangers of meth, and how this addictive drug can permanently change their lives and the lives of those around them.

Please join me in our effort to end meth use in South Dakota by taking the pledge at www.methchangeeverything.com. The website also provides information about meth use, resources for individuals seeking help and treatment and candid stories from recovering meth addicts. By working together, we can help shape the future of our great state and end meth use in South Dakota.

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An Update on the USS South Dakota

In August 2018, just two years from now, the new USS South Dakota is expected to make its debut in the Navy's fleet. Not only will the next generation, Virginia-Class nuclear submarine play an important role in the mission of our sailors, it will also serve as a new symbolic link forged between our state and the Navy.

I had the honor of representing South Dakota at the keel laying ceremony of the USS South Dakota in Rhode Island earlier this year. Joined by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey, his wife Deanie, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo and members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the ceremony formally marked construction of the submarine. However, the new Virginia-Class attack vessel has been many years in the making. The contract to build the submarine was awarded in December 2008 and construction began in 2013. Once complete, the USS South Dakota will include state-of-the-art technology designed to increase stealth, as well as a revised bow and sonar panels that will allow it to better detect and track other submarines in its area. The 370 foot long submarine, which weighs 7,800 tons, will be manned by 132 crew members and can stay at sea for up to three months at a time. It is armed with four torpedo tubes and can hold six Tomahawk missiles that are capable of hitting targets over 1,000 miles away.

It has been nearly seven decades since the last USS South Dakota, a battleship, was recognized with this honor. I am confident the new USS South Dakota will follow proudly in the tradition of its forebearer, which had such a distinguished history during World War II. The lead ship of her class, the USS South Dakota (BB-57) first served in the Pacific theater, where it fought two battles before returning to the United States for repairs. It later returned to the front lines, first in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and then again to the Pacific in the fall of 1943.

This June, a celebration was held at the USS South Dakota Memorial in Sioux Falls to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the USS South Dakota (BB-57). Seventy-five years ago, in June 1941, then-First Lady Vera Bushfield, wife of South Dakota Governor Harlan Bushfield, christened the battleship and soon after it was sent to war. It retired in 1947 after many noble years of service. South Dakotans can be proud of that history, as well as the history that will be written by the new USS South Dakota when construction is complete. I look forward to following that history far into our Navy's future.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Subcommittee on Seapower, it is truly a privilege to witness the progress being made on the USS South Dakota. As we celebrate this progress, we must also pause to recognize the brave sailors who served on the USS South Dakota in decades past, as well as those who will serve on her in the years and decades to come.

In two short years, the USS South Dakota will play a significant role in our national security efforts. It will also serve as a tribute to South Dakotans' long history of service in our armed forces, to include service which continues today throughout our Navy. I look forward to tracking its successes.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

Building on Lincoln's Promise Today and in the Future

Over 150 years ago, during his second inaugural address in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln articulated what would become the nation's obligation to veterans: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

Today, there are more than 21 million veterans – two-thirds of the 31 million total U.S. population in 1860. Caring for their particular needs, and their dependents' needs, requires more innovation and collaboration between local, state and federal governments than even a visionary like Lincoln could have foreseen.

Our team at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs partners with political leaders, businesses, associations, organizations, and government agencies at all levels. These partnerships are vital as we work through the ever-changing federal programs and benefits for our veterans.

As our state's veteran population and their needs continue to change and evolve, so will our team of advocates and our delivery of service.

In fact, just this past month, we launched a new program, "South Dakota Joining Forces Initiative." The goal of this initiative is to enhance and synchronize community-based networks of support to all current and former service members and their families. We want to ensure that they receive the support they have earned. Dr. Bill Meirose has been hired to move our mission forward and he has already begun his travels across South Dakota.

One of the greatest benefits that our department receives is from our partners who volunteer for us. Volunteers are an important part of the daily routine in the lives of residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. In 2015 we had 121 volunteers who donated 5,952 volunteer hours to assist our veterans and our staff.

From individual bedside visits, to group activities and sponsored outings, to raising money and purchasing gifts for residents, to paying for or providing entertainment at the home, volunteers and volunteer groups are an integral part of the daily living for our heroes. I can't imagine serving our resident heroes without the generous contributions of time and money from our corps of volunteers.

In many cases, due to the absence of family members, our volunteers constitute the primary source of social interaction for our heroes. Thanks volunteers. Your time and talents are priceless.

Always remember, a sincere thank you -- means more to most veterans than any other reward.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Name Released in Hand County Fatal Crash

What: One vehicle rollover

Where: 349th Avenue, five miles south of Ree Heights, S.D.

When: 4:09 p.m., Friday, Aug. 5, 2016

Driver: Tucker Easton, 16, Wessington Springs, S.D., Fatal Injuries

Vehicle: 1994 Mazda B4000 Pickup

REE HEIGHTS, S.D. – A 16-year-old male from Wessington Springs, S.D., has been identified as the person who died Friday in a one-vehicle crash that occurred south of Ree Heights.

Tucker Easton was driving a 1994 Mazda B4000 pickup northbound on 349th Avenue when he failed to negotiate a curve after coming over a hill. The vehicle went into the west ditch and rolled.

Easton, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. Other agencies on scene were the Hand County Sheriff's Office, Hand County Emergency Management and Hand County Ambulance.

Names Released in Roberts County Fatal Crash

What: One-vehicle rollover

Where: 473rd Avenue and 113th Street, seven miles south of Rosholt, S.D.

When: 2:36 p.m., Friday, Aug. 5, 2016

Driver: Brandon Painter, 16, Watertown, S.D., Minor Injuries

Passenger: Jon Zubke, 69, Waubay, S.D., Fatal Injuries

Vehicle: 2007 Chevy Silverado 2500HD pickup

ROSHOLT, S.D. – Jon Zubke, 69, of Waubay, S.D., has been identified as the person who died in a one-vehicle crash that occurred Friday south of Rosholt.

A 2007 Chevy Silverado 2500HD pickup was southbound on 473rd Avenue when the driver, Brandon Painter, 16, lost control. The vehicle entered the ditch and rolled multiple times.

Zubke was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Painter, who was wearing a seatbelt, suffered minor injuries.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. Other agencies on scene were the Roberts County Sheriff's Office.

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.



golden living

We now accept

Avera Health Plans

for out patient therapy.

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

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Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.










We often think of tornado tracks being a straight line when in fact they are not. The image above shows the tornado curving and bending through farm land.

The images above are courtesy of the Richland County Emergency Manager and the NWS Office in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

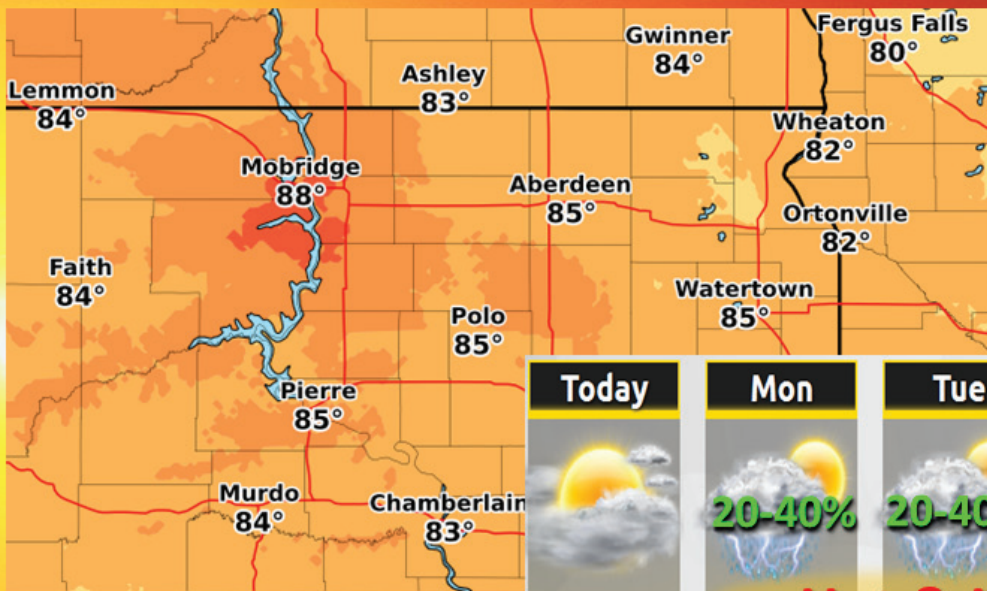
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This Afternoon	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Slight Chance T-storms 20%	Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms 40%	Chance T-storms 30%
High: 83 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 89 °F



Mild Today Chances For Moisture This Week



Today	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
				
	20-40%	20-40%	30-50%	30-40%
Hot & Humid				
79-88°	84-92°	88-98°	87-97°	81-85°
58-65°	62-68°	65-71°	64-70°	



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 08/07/2016 at 4:53AM

Dry with seasonally average temperatures are expected across the region today. The heat and humidity returns for the first half of next week. This return of humid air will also bring opportunities for much needed moisture.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 84.2 F at 2:45 PM

Heat Index: 85.0 at 2:40 PM

Low Outside Temp: 55.0 F at 6:14 AM

High Gust: 11 Mph at 3:37 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1949

Record Low: 42 in 1921

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.55

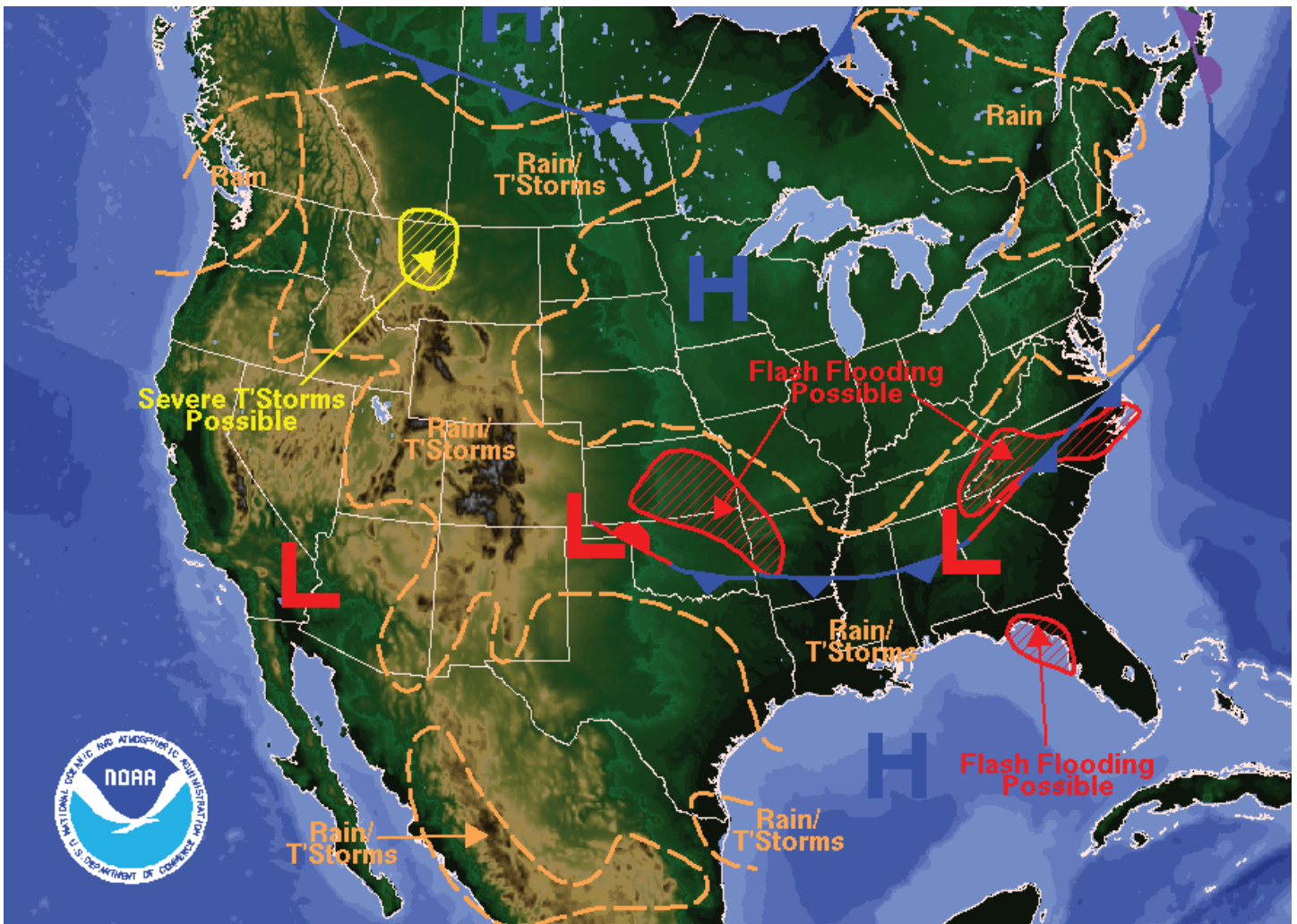
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.41

Precip Year to Date: 10.58

Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:26 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Aug 07, 2016, issued 4:31 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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COMMITMENT

One story of the Church in Russia has been relayed from one generation to the next. It occurred one Sunday as believers met in a house church. The small fellowship gathered together and began to sing their favorite hymns quietly but fervently. Suddenly, two soldiers walked into their midst with loaded weapons. "If you wish to renounce your commitment to Christ," shouted one, "leave now!"

Two left. Then another. Finally, two more.

Closing the door the officer snapped with the voice of a commanding officer, "Keep your hands up – but this time in praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We too are Christians."

The other officer then added, "We've learned by our experiences that unless people are willing to die for their faith, they cannot be fully trusted."

Nearing the end of his life Paul often spoke of his loyalty and commitment to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through shipwrecks and imprisonments, disappointments and being abandoned by his friends and followers – even when facing death – he remained focused. He had achieved great status in the world but one day realized that it offered nothing in comparison to what he discovered in Christ. He was willing to suffer and die for Christ because he knew what awaited him. That's faith.

Prayer: Our Father, we may never be called upon to suffer for You, nor we may never be asked to sacrifice anything we value for You, but help us to be willing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

News from the Associated Press

Prehistoric Indian Village sees record-high attendance

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's only active archaeological site that's open to the public saw a record-high attendance in July.

More than 4,030 people visited the Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell last month. Officials are crediting the attendance record to the renovation of the Boehnen Memorial Museum, special events including the Archaeology Awareness Days, and the ongoing excavation at the site conducted by college students.

Cindy Gregg is the executive director of the village. She says the increased attendance not only helps support the museum, but also benefits businesses on the north side of Mitchell.

The village was occupied more than 1,000 years ago by Native Americans who lived in earthen lodges. The village's occupants were skilled farmers, growing crops such as corn, beans, squashes, sunflower and tobacco.

Sioux Falls drug store to open location downtown

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls retail store that was founded more than 70 years ago will soon open a new downtown location.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2b1Id7u>) reports that the new Lewis Drug store is planned to open next spring about a block from where it was originally founded.

CEO Mark Griffin says the new location will be different than the company's other 50 stores because it is being designed with a retro feel and will focus on customers who live and work in the area.

Griffin says company officials like the idea of returning to the location where it first opened. He says he believes the business has shaped the downtown area and that he hopes it can continue to do so in the future.

US Senators: Selection process for Youth Program now open

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds say the selection process for the state's representatives to the annual U.S. Senate Youth Program is now open.

Two South Dakota high school juniors or seniors will be chosen to be among the 104 delegates — two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Activity — to travel to the nation's capital in March to participate in the program.

Interested South Dakota students can apply through Sept. 23.

The program aims to teach students about the American political process and inspire a lifelong commitment to public service. Each student delegate also gets a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship.

Thune says the program gives students access to leaders who help run the government.

2 contracts awarded for Lewis and Clark pipeline projects

TEA, S.D. (AP) — The organization responsible for a system that delivers Missouri River water to towns and rural water systems in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota has granted two contracts to expand its network.

The Lewis and Clark Regional Water System says a \$2.9 million contract awarded to Winter Brothers

Underground, of Sioux Falls, will result in the construction of two segments of the line serving the city of Madison. This project is part of a plan that will allow Madison to access up to one million gallons of water a day.

The system's board of directors also awarded a \$9.2 million contract to Carstensen Contracting, of Pipestone, Minnesota. The project involves the construction of a line from Magnolia, Minnesota, to the Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System connection east of Adrian, Minnesota.

Rapid City man gets 30 years for producing child pornography

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison for producing child pornography.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Viken has also ordered 53-year-old Wallace Arthur Beane to remain on supervised release for the rest of his life after he completes his prison time.

The office of U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Beane pleaded guilty in January to the charge of production of child pornography. Court records show Beane used his cellphone in 2014 and 2015 to produce inappropriate images of multiple girls he had lured to his apartment and provided them candy, alcohol, cigarettes, clothing, allergy medication and money.

Beane is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. Records filed in federal court on Thursday show he is appealing his sentence.

Rollover crash kills man who was passenger in pickup truck

ROSHOLT, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a 69-year-old man died in a one-vehicle crash south of Rosholt.

The patrol says a 16-year-old male was driving a pickup Friday when he lost control of the vehicle, which entered the ditch and rolled several times.

Authorities say the victim was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver, who was wearing a seatbelt, suffered minor injuries.

The names of the two people have not been released.

Teenager dies in one-vehicle rollover near Ree Heights

REE HIEGHTS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a 16-year-old boy died in a one-vehicle crash south of Ree Heights.

The accident happened Friday afternoon. The patrol says the victim failed to negotiate a curve after coming over a hill, and the pickup he was driving went into the ditch and rolled.

Authorities say the driver was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The name of the victim has not been released.

Entire Russian team banned from competing in Rio Paralympics

ROB HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — After escaping a blanket ban from the Olympics, Russia was kicked out of the upcoming Paralympics on Sunday as the ultimate punishment for the state running a doping operation that polluted sports by prioritizing "medals over morals."

Paralympic leaders expelled one of its most significant members as the IOC announced that 278 Rus-

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sians have been given clearance to compete at the Olympics after their eligibility in Rio de Janeiro was left to individual sports.

Russia's years of doping deception, including tampering with samples at the 2014 Olympics and Paralympics in Sochi, were outlined last month by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.

"The facts really do hurt," IPC President Philip Craven said. "They are an unprecedented attack on every clean athlete who competes in sport. The anti-doping system in Russia is broken, corrupted and entirely compromised."

In contrast to IOC President Thomas Bach, who opposed the "nuclear option" of banning Russia ahead of Friday's Olympic opening ceremony, Craven directly condemned the Russian state's involvement in doping but stopped short of blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Tragically, this situation is not about athletes cheating a system, but about a state-run system that is cheating the athletes," Craven said. "The doping culture that is polluting Russian sport stems from the Russian government and has now been uncovered in not one, but two independent reports commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency."

While expressing sympathy for the clean athletes who will suffer by missing out on the chance to compete, Craven denounced Russia for still not complying with anti-doping rules.

"I believe the Russian government has catastrophically failed its Para athletes," Craven said. "Their medals over morals mentality disgusts me."

Russia finished second in the medal standings at the 2012 London Paralympics and had 267 athlete slots for Rio in 18 sports, which will only now be filled in September if an appeal is successful.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said banning Russia from the Paralympics means "a large number of athletes will suffer — disabled people."

"We will fight for our Paralympians," Mutko, who the IOC banned from attending the Olympics, told the Tass news agency.

Mikhail Terentyev, head of Russian Paralympic Committee, said the IPC decision was a "huge injustice."

"The Paralympic Games without Russians are games in a cut-down form," Terentyev told Tass. "Our team is one of the best in the world and its results are proof. We were first at the games in 2014 and second at the games in London. What the IPC is doing is a breach of all possible rights of clean athletes."

The Paralympic movement is anticipating further evidence of positive tests being covered up that McLaren did not uncover in his initial 76-day investigation. The IPC said it has evidence of manipulated doping tests relating to 44 athletes, including 27 from samples from competitors in eight sports that are part of the Paralympic program.

"It shows a blatant disregard for the health and well-being of athletes and, quite simply, has no place in Paralympic sport," Craven said. "Their thirst for glory at all costs has severely damaged the integrity and image of all sport."

Unlike the IOC, which doesn't run any sports federations, the IPC does govern some disciplines.

"There are clearly very, very different circumstances from them to us," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said.

'Suicide Squad' sets August opening record with \$135.1M

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The supervillain romp "Suicide Squad" shrugged off scathing reviews to open with an estimated \$135.1 million in North American ticket sales, scoring one of the year's biggest box-office debuts.

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Pressure had risen on the performance of the Warner Bros. film, directed by David Ayer, following the studio's previous poorly received DC Comics film, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." But "Suicide Squad" proved a massive draw despite its much-derided lead-in. It set a record for an August opening, easily besting Marvel's 2014 hit "Guardians of the Galaxy."

Though the Warner Bros.-DC Comics alliance was again battered by bad reviews, "Suicide Squad" delivered at the box office.

"We learn as we go," said Jeff Goldstein, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "We've fine-tuned our strategy in terms of who's in charge and how we're approaching all our DC films. We're modifying it in an exciting way to make all the subsequent films as great as possible."

Not everything was roses for "Suicide Squad," though, despite dominating the weekend. (The other new wide release, the feline animated release "Nine Lives," debuted in sixth with a mere \$6.5 million.) After fans flocked to theaters on Thursday night and Friday, audiences dropped steeply on Saturday. That could forecast further sharp declines in coming weeks for the \$175 million film, which also came with a massive marketing budget.

That was the trajectory for "Batman v Superman," which bowed with \$166 million in March but didn't make that much in its entire remaining run in North American theaters. "Suicide Squad," the last tent-pole of the summer, won't have much competition in the coming weeks, but it will need better word of mouth than "Batman v Superman" to keep luring audiences.

"Suicide Squad," starring Margot Robbie, Will Smith and Jared Leto, went into reshoots after the disappointment of "Batman v Superman," and its marketing got a more comic, punk vibe that clicked with fans. But the film was derided as a mess by critics and others questioned the movie's PG-13 rating considering its high degree of violence.

Audiences liked it better. Opening weekend crowds gave it a B-plus CinemaScore.

"The elephant in the room is that the reviews were harsh," said Goldstein. "Clearly there's disconnect between audiences and critics."

But in franchise building, leaving fans thirsting for more is nearly as important as box office. In that regard, the jury remains out on "Suicide Squad." The coming weeks will show if crowds still materialize or quickly dissipate as they did for "Batman v Superman." The film also opened with \$132 million internationally where it will likely go without a release in China, the world's second largest movie market.

Warner Bros., with years of DC films in the works, has a lot riding on its comic movie rival to Marvel. Next up is Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" in June.

"You can't put reviews in the bank. You can put money in the bank," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "The long-term success of any movie is predicated on positive sentiment from the fans. For any movie, that's the most important aspect."

Warners could on Sunday celebrate crossing \$1 billion in 2016 domestic revenue, a mark it has achieved 16 years straight. The "Suicide Squad" debut also gave Smith, long one of the movies' top draws, the biggest opening of his career. (Second is 2007's "I Am Legend" with \$77.2 million.)

The top five for the weekend box office was otherwise filled with holdovers. The Matt Damon spy sequel "Jason Bourne" grossed \$22.7 million in its second weekend. It's made \$103.4 million in two weeks for Universal. SXT Entertainment's "Bad Moms" also continued solid business with \$14.2 million in its second week, bringing the cumulative gross for the comedy to \$51 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Suicide Squad," \$135.1 million (\$132 million international).

2. "Jason Bourne," \$22.7 million.
3. "Bad Moms," \$14.2 million.
4. "The Secret Life of Pets," \$11.6 million.
5. "Star Trek Beyond," \$10.2 million.
6. "Nine Lives," \$6.5 million.
7. "Lights Out," \$6 million.
8. "Nerve," \$4.9 million.
9. "Ghostbusters," \$4.8 million.
10. "Ice Age: Collision Course," \$4.3 million.

The Latest: Champion swimmer booed after doping suspension

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Latest on the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro (all times local):

2:50 p.m.

Yulia Efimova of Russia was greeted by some booing after winning her heat in the 100-meter breast-stroke preliminaries.

The reigning world champion was allowed to compete at the Rio Games after serving a 16-month suspension for doping and again testing positive this year for the now-banned substance meldonium.

The IOC initially banned Efimova, along with six other Russian swimmers who either had positive tests on their record or were named in an investigation of the massive, state-sanctioned doping.

Efimova had the second-fastest time of 1 minute, 5.79 seconds. Lilly King of the U.S. was the leading qualifier in 1:05.78.

Also advancing to the semifinals on Sunday night was Katie Meili of the U.S., world record holder Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania and Shi Jinglin of China.

Efimova also is expected to swim in the 200 breast and possibly the 4x100 medley relay.

2:45 p.m.

Kosovo may be two matches away from its first-ever Olympic medal, thanks to judo fighter Majlinda Kelmendi.

Kelmendi advanced to the semifinals of the women's 52-kilogram division Sunday.

She first exacted some revenge by defeating the Mauritian judoka Christianne Legentil, who knocked her out of the London Games four years ago. The top-ranked Kelmendi won her other match with an automatic win after throwing her opponent for an ippon.

Next up for Kelmendi is third-ranked Misato Nakamura of Japan. If she wins, Kelmendi is guaranteed at least a silver in the final. And if she loses, she will have the chance to fight for a bronze in the repechage competition.

2:40 p.m.

China's Sun Yang is the top qualifier for the 200-meter freestyle a day after the Chinese star earned a silver medal in the 400 free.

Sun's time of 1 minute, 45.75 seconds moved him into the 16-man semifinals on Sunday night.

Paul Biedermann of Germany, the world record holder, was second quickest in 1:45.78. Chad le Clos of South Africa moved on in third. Americans Conor Dwyer and Townley Haas were fourth and fifth.

Kosuke Hagino of Japan, the 400 individual medley winner on Saturday, also advanced in seventh.

2:20 p.m.

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Serena Williams opened defense of her Olympic singles gold medal with a patchy-at-times 6-4, 6-2 victory over Australia's Daria Gavrilova.

Sunday's match at the Rio de Janeiro games was Williams' first since she won her Open-era record-tying 22nd Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last month.

The American, seeded No. 1, was hardly at her best in the 91-minute contest, compiling 37 unforced errors to 27 winners, and she got broken at love while serving for the first set at 5-3. But Williams broke right back in the next game.

Williams is scheduled to play doubles with her older sister Venus later Sunday.

The younger Williams owns four gold medals — in singles at London four years ago, and in doubles in 2000, 2008 and 2012.

2:15 p.m.

Australia's Olympic delegation is calling for tighter beach security after two rowing coaches were robbed at knifepoint near Rio's iconic Ipanema beach.

Two teenagers, one of them brandishing a long knife, grabbed the coaches by their throats in the Friday incident and pushed them against the wall. Australian Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Tancred says the coaches followed security protocol, didn't offer any resistance and quickly handed over their wallets and mobile phones. One had an official Australian delegation blazer taken.

Neither coach was seriously hurt and Tancred says they kept the incident quiet until late Saturday so as not to disturb the athletes in the first day of competition.

The incident, combined with the theft of \$40,000 worth of equipment belonging to an Australian photographer covering the games, again heightened security concerns.

2 p.m.

The Iron Lady is back in the pool.

Fresh off winning the first Olympic medal of her career, Katinka Hosszu of Hungary swam the preliminaries of the 100-meter backstroke Sunday. She advanced to the evening semifinals in a tie for fourth with Mie Nielsen of Denmark with a time of 59.13 seconds.

Hosszu won the 400 individual medley Saturday with a world-record time.

Leading the way in the 100 back was American Kathleen Baker, who had the fastest time of 58.84. Also moving on were Emily Seebohm of Australia in second and Kylie Masse of Canada in third.

Olivia Smoliga of the U.S. advanced in sixth. Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, silver medalist four years ago in London, made the semifinals in 11th place.

2 p.m.

The IOC says a total of 278 Russians have now been cleared to compete in the Rio de Janeiro Games.

The number is seven higher than the original figure announced Thursday. The new total takes into account Russian athletes who have since been entered after appeals.

The IOC let international sports federations decide which individual athletes could compete in the wake of evidence of state-sponsored doping. The IOC set up a three-person review panel to make the final call.

Among those reinstated for the games were several Russian swimmers, including world champion Yulia Efimova.

Thirty-five Russian swimmers are in Rio, the highest number of Russian athletes competing in a specific sport.

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The Russian track team already had been banned by the IAAF. The entire weightlifting team also has been excluded.

2 p.m.

First-time American Olympians Lauren Fendrick and Brooke Sweat took a loss in their Rio beach volleyball debut.

The loss broke a streak of 19 consecutive pool play victories for the American women's teams, which went unbeaten through the preliminaries in Athens, Beijing and London.

Fendrick and Sweat won the first set but fell far behind in the second and again in the decisive third set, losing 14-21, 21-13, 15-7 to Poland.

They play next on Tuesday against the top-rated Brazilian team of Larissa and Talita, then meet Russia in the final match of pool play Thursday.

1:40 p.m.

The United States is going with Jimmy Feigen, Ryan Held, Blake Pieroni and Anthony Ervin in the preliminaries of the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay at the Rio Olympics.

The Americans are resting Nathan Adrian and Caeleb Dressel, who finished 1-2 in the 100 free at the U.S. Olympic trials. Presumably, they will also add 18-time gold medalist Michael Phelps for the late-night final Sunday, with the final spot on the team likely going to whoever posts the fastest time in the prelims.

Defending Olympic champion France is sending out Clement Mignon, William Meynard, Fabien Gilot and Mehdy Metella in the prelims.

Another top contender is Australia, which picked a prelims team of James Magnussen, Kyle Chalmers, James Roberts and Matthew Abood.

1:40 p.m.

Rio Games organizers say long lines at airport-style security checkpoints prevented fans from getting into events, with scores of empty seats at some venues.

Organizing committee spokesman Mario Andrada says the problem is being addressed. He's hopeful that lines will move quicker.

There were plenty of empty seats during the first couple days of competition at events like equestrian, handball and rugby.

There were scattered seats open early during the basketball game Saturday night between China and star-studded Team USA, usually one of the biggest draws of the Olympics.

Andrada said Sunday that 82 percent of tickets have been sold for the Games. He's hopeful lines will move quicker, and that they'll keep monitoring for problems.

He also says Brazilians are learning to appreciate sports other than soccer and football.

1:40 p.m.

There was plenty of wind at Marina da Gloria on Sunday, which was great for Olympic sailors but not so much for journalists.

Gusts of wind kept blowing roof panels off the media center to the point that the temporary building was closed in the early afternoon.

No worries, though. There's a covered patio next door with tables and chairs, and a view of the marina.

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Sunday was the final practice day before racing starts Monday in men's and women's windsurfing, men's Laser and women's Laser Radial.

1:40 p.m.

German tennis player Dustin Brown has had to retire from his first-round match against Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci after he twisted his ankle.

Brown won the first set 6-4. The second was even at 4-all when he stumbled while approaching the net and rolled his left ankle. He dropped to the court, writhing in pain, and Bellucci climbed over the net to check on his sobbing friend.

Brown was eventually able to gingerly put weight on his ankle as he hobbled to his chair, where trainers retaped it. Brown tried to play two more points, but once Bellucci hit a winner that he couldn't even take a step toward, the German tossed away his racket and trudged toward the net.

Brown, ranked 86th, has represented both Germany and Jamaica. The popular player is best known for upsetting Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon last year.

1:40 p.m.

The NBC commentator criticized for calling the coach of Hungarian swimmer Katinka Hosszu "the guy responsible" for her turnaround says it is impossible to tell Hosszu's story without crediting him.

Dan Hicks did not back down Sunday from commentary on NBC's broadcast the night before that some online critics suggested was sexist.

Hicks said that Hosszu has told him that she credits coach Shane Tusup, who is also her husband, for improving her strength training, intensity and confidence.

Hosszu won the gold medal in the 400-meter individual medley Saturday in a rout, shaving two seconds off the world record.

1:10 p.m.

Venus Williams will play doubles with her sister at the Olympics, after all.

U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Tom LaDue tells The Associated Press that Williams will be available for her doubles match Sunday despite being sick.

LaDue says Williams is feeling better, a day after U.S. women's tennis coach Mary Joe Fernandez said the four-time gold medalist and seven-time Grand Slam champion had cramping, dehydration and an upset stomach following a first-round loss in singles.

After that match Saturday night, Williams did not speak to reporters. Fernandez did, and she said Williams was still hoping to play doubles but had been ill since before arriving in Brazil.

Williams and her younger sister Serena have won three golds in doubles — at the 2000, 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

1 p.m.

Olympic organizers say Kenya is sending a track and field official home from the Rio Games over "very serious allegations" that he offered to protect cheating athletes from drug testing.

IOC spokesman Mark Adams said the Kenya team feels that Michael Rotich's continued presence in Rio de Janeiro would be "distracting."

Kenya's delegation "has asked that he leaves," Adams said. "They are clearly very serious allegations"

The Sunday Times in London said the Kenyan track and field manager was secretly filmed offering to protect cheating athletes from drug testing authorities. It said he offered to provide advance warning

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of drugs tests in return for a 10,000-pound (\$13,000) bribe during a Sunday Times undercover investigation.

12:40 p.m.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes is pleading with locals to share car rides until Aug. 21 so the city's already heavy traffic doesn't get worse during the Olympic Games.

Paes, who was silent since before the opening ceremony on Friday, went to Twitter to ask cariocas to avoid long distances on Monday, especially on public transportation.

Monday is the first working day in the city with the Games ongoing.

The mayor said that cariocas should join their friends and share rides. He insisted that without the collaboration of residents traffic will be difficult.

Last Friday was a public holiday and classes have been suspended citywide in the beginning of the month.

Despite his outspoken profile, Paes did not comment on the organization problems experienced by fans, journalists and residents on Saturday.

12:35 p.m.

The youngest boxer at the Rio Olympics gave the Brazilian fans a thrill in defeat.

Papua New Guinea lightweight Thadius Katua lost an entertaining decision to Russia's Adlan Abdu-rashidov on Saturday. The 18-year-old islander gave his veteran opponent plenty of difficulty, even winning the third round on two judges' scorecards.

Katua has been boxing for only four years, but he built on his Youth Commonwealth Games gold medal from 2015 with a reputable effort in Rio. His big punches definitely won over the crowd, which cheered wildly for Papua New Guinea's first Olympic boxer since Jack Willie in 2008.

12:35 p.m.

Spanish cyclist Joaquim Rodriguez has announced his retirement after the Olympic road race.

Rodriguez said during the Tour de France that this would be his last season, but he confirmed on Twitter that the race through Rio De Janeiro was his last as a professional.

Rodriguez said he fulfilled a lifelong ambition by taking part in the Summer Games.

The 37-year-old Rodriguez won three stages of the Tour de France, twice reached the podium at the world championships and won several major one-day races, including La Fleche Wallonne in 2012.

Rodriguez finished fifth in Saturday's Olympic road race.

12:30 p.m.

There's no stopping 41-year-old gymnast Oksana Chusovitina.

Competing in her seventh Olympics — a record for a gymnast — Chusovitina put herself in position to make the vault final after averaging 14.999 during her two vaults at women's preliminaries on Sunday. The top eight qualifiers will advance to the event finals later in the games.

Chusovitina's first appearance in the games came 24 years ago in Barcelona, when she competed for the Russian Federated team. She now competes for her native Uzbekistan against girls the age of her 17-year-old son Alisher. Chusovitina says she tries not to think about the ever-growing age gap between herself and the rest of the field.

"Well, when I compete on the podium, if they gave a few more marks for the age, it would have been great," Chusovitina said. "Otherwise, well, we're all equal and we just have to compete against each

other as equals.”

Chusovitina said she would retire after failing to medal in London four years ago but kept on going. Even Alisher is wondering if his mom will ever stop. When he asked her recently if this was her final go-round, she joked “wait and see honey.”

Thai voters overwhelmingly approve junta-backed constitution

VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press

NATNICHU CHUWIRUCH, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai voters on Sunday overwhelmingly approved a new junta-backed constitution that lays the foundation for a civilian government influenced by the military and controlled by appointed — rather than elected — officials.

Although near-final results showed that more than 60 percent of voters in a referendum called by the military government approved of the constitution, the vote is likely to be met by some skepticism, with the junta imposing severe restrictions on public discussion of the charter.

Ahead of the referendum, the junta — led by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a retired army general who has severely curtailed dissent since coming to power in a 2014 coup — banned political rallies and open discussion about the constitution, and criticism of the draft was made punishable by 10 years in jail. Critics say the restrictions ensured that most people were unaware of the pitfalls of the charter, and were probably anxious to get the long-drawn process over with so they could move on.

The “yes” vote “adds that touch of legitimacy to the coup makers,” Pavin Chachavalpongpun, an associate professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of Kyoto University in Japan, told The Associated Press.

“It gives them the green light for the next few steps they want to take. They will say the opposition cannot say anything now,” said Pavin, who is Thai and a vocal critic of the junta.

Prayuth’s office, however, said in a statement late Sunday that the referendum “was conducted with a high degree of transparency and openness on part of the government.”

Despite the curbs on civil liberties, Prayuth’s rule has brought a measure of stability and ended the frequent street violence and divisive politics that had frayed Thailand’s social fabric for years. That veneer of stability could help explain the “yes” vote for the new constitution.

There was also the allure of new elections that Prayuth has promised to hold in 2017, after the approval of the new constitution, although he had said he would call the vote even if the referendum was defeated.

The charter “speaks to a lot of worries and concerns that a majority of Thai people have,” Gotham Areeya, a professor at Thailand’s Mahidol University, told the AP. “Many Thais want to see an end to corruption and the return of peace and development. Even though experts like me may criticize it a lot, our message just didn’t reach a lot of the people.”

With 91 percent of the ballots counted, 62 percent of the voters said they approved of the constitution, while 38 percent rejected it, Election Commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn told reporters. He said the result was not expected to change much after all of the votes are counted.

Only about 55 percent of Thailand’s roughly 50 million registered voters cast ballots in the referendum.

In addition to asking for an opinion on the constitution, the referendum also asked a supplementary question on whether voters wanted an appointed Senate to choose a prime minister. That question elicited a less enthusiastic approval — 58 percent “yes” and 42 percent “no.”

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Analysts have said that a “yes” vote on the constitution would be a setback for democracy in Thailand. Pavin, the Kyoto University professor, said that even when the military is no longer in power and a civilian government is in place after the 2017 elections, the military “will have the constitution as a remote control. The constitution can be used as a device to hold onto political power.”

The main criticisms of the draft constitution are:

- A transition period of at least five years to civilian rule.
- A 250-member appointed Senate that includes the commanders of the army and other security services.
- A deadlock in the 500-member elected lower house could trigger a selection of a prime minister who is not an elected member of parliament. Under the abolished 2007 constitution, half the Senate was elected, and the prime minister had to come from the lower house.

— Emergency decrees enacted by the junta without any parliamentary consent remain valid.

Jatuporn Prompan, a leader of the Red Shirt movement that supported the elected government overthrown by the 2014 coup, said that despite being repressed by the junta, opponents of the new constitution put up a good fight.

“But the people have spoken and we respect that choice,” he said. “We just hope that the government can do its best in the days to come.”

Thailand has endured 13 successful military coups and 11 attempted takeovers since it replaced an absolute monarchy with a constitutional one in 1932. This would be Thailand’s 20th constitution.

Leaders of the latest coup say frequent political conflicts had made the country ungovernable and that military rule was necessary for stability. The junta set up hand-picked committees to draft a charter that would enshrine its declared goal of reforming politics by eliminating corruption.

But others believe the new constitution has a different aim: to weaken allies of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the central figure in the roiling of Thai politics.

Thaksin’s political machine has easily won every national election since 2001, mainly due to the support of working-class and rural voters who benefited from his populist policies. Leading the other side is Thailand’s traditional ruling class and royalists — known as the Yellow Shirts — unnerved by Thaksin’s support, especially as it contemplates the country’s future. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, whose righteous rule has anchored the kingdom since 1946, is 88 and ailing.

The army ousted Thaksin in a 2006 coup, after Yellow Shirt protesters took to the streets and accused him of abuse of power, corruption and disrespecting the king. He has lived abroad since 2008 to avoid prison for a corruption conviction that he says was politically motivated. The 2014 coup ousted his sister Yingluck Shinawatra, who was elected prime minister in 2011.

Those who brought Thaksin down now seek to weaken major political parties, which would ensure that real power stays in the hands of what is dubbed the permanent bureaucracy: the military, the courts and other unelected guardians of the conservative bloc.

Gothom, the Mahidol professor, said that Thailand may see peace now, but that it will likely be a peace enforced by military power.

“How much or how little freedom of expression will be allowed to the people, we will just have to wait and see,” he said.

Philippine leader links 150 judges, politicians to drugs

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte publicly linked more than 150 judges, mayors, lawmakers, police and military personnel to illegal drugs Sunday, ordering them to surren-

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der for investigation as he ratcheted up his bloody war against what he calls a "pandemic."

Duterte promptly relieved members of the military and police he named from their current posts and ordered government security personnel to be withdrawn from politicians he identified in a nationally televised speech. He also ordered gun licenses of those named revoked.

"All military and police who are attached to these people, I'm giving you 24 hours to report to your mother unit or I will whack you. I'll dismiss you from the service," Duterte said in the speech at a military camp in southern Davao city.

He said that the list of politicians, judges and law enforcers given to him by the military and police might or might not be true, but that he had a duty to disclose to the public how the drug problem had become so pervasive.

"There is no due process in my mouth," Duterte said. "You can't stop me and I'm not afraid even if you say that I can end up in jail."

The list of names, which Duterte said included some friends, has been validated by authorities but did not contain details of the officials' alleged involvement to the drug trade or offer any evidence. Some names were incomplete, while others had no rank or government position.

They included eight judges, one of whom was reported to have been killed by a gunman in 2008, as well as five retired and current generals. The rest were mostly town mayors and police officers. One retired general, Vicente Loot, has been previously named in public by Duterte and has denied any wrongdoing.

"It's a pandemic," said Duterte, a former mayor of Davao, where he built a reputation for his crime-busting style that allegedly involved extrajudicial killings.

Duterte's latest salvo ups the ante in his war on drugs, which has already left more than 400 suspected dealers and pushers dead and more than 4,400 arrested in more than a month since he took office. Nearly 600,000 people have surrendered to authorities, hoping to avoid getting killed.

The crackdown has been one of the biggest and bloodiest in the Philippines' recent history and has alarmed human rights groups and the dominant Roman Catholic Church. But Duterte has dismissed their concerns and has openly threatened to kill crime suspects, assuring law enforcers that he would defend them if they face lawsuits while battling criminality.

Church leader Archbishop Socrates Villegas issued a statement, read in churches Sunday in his northern district, expressing deep concerns over the killings of drugs suspects and lamenting a lack of widespread outrage over the deaths.

"Is not humanity going down to the dregs when bloodthirsty humans encourage the killers and ask for more blood?" Villegas said. "Will you kill me again and again on social media for saying this?"

Vice President Leni Robredo, who is on a trip to the U.S., said media can do a lot to help raise awareness on the need to stop the killings.

"There have been a few voices already out there against extrajudicial killings, but I think that public outcry is not there yet," Robredo said. "I think all of us should do our share in making sure that this has to stop."

Duterte also attended the wake of four soldiers who were killed in two clashes with communist rebels last week in the gold-mining town of Monkayo in southern Compostela Valley. Three of the soldiers were killed by a land mine blast, the military said.

Duterte criticized the rebels for using land mines, which have also killed civilians. He warned that if anyone else dies from a rebel land mine attack, he would call off peace talks that are scheduled to start Aug. 20 in Norway.

Philippine leader links 150 judges, politicians to drugs

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

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anyone else dies from a rebel land mine attack, he would call off peace talks that are scheduled to start Aug. 20 in Norway.

Clinton's 'Moscow Spring' ended as Putin returned to power

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton basked in a diplomatic "Moscow Spring," seizing on Vladimir Putin's break from the presidency to help seal a nuclear arms-control treaty and secure Russia's acquiescence to a NATO-led military intervention in Libya. When Putin returned to the top job, things changed.

Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, has vowed to stand up to Putin if elected, drawing on her four years of ups and downs as the public face of President Barack Obama's first-term "reset" with Russia. By comparison, her Republican opponent, Donald Trump, has rung alarm bells in Washington and Europe with his overtures to the authoritarian Russian leader.

But Clinton's wrangles with Russia led to mixed results. Her fortunes dipped dramatically after Putin replaced Dmitry Medvedev as president in May 2012.

Just weeks later, Russia outmaneuvered her in negotiations over a complicated Syria peace plan, dealing her what was arguably her worst diplomatic defeat. While Clinton hailed it as a triumph, the war only escalated. And while her aides still insist she came out on top, the blueprint effectively gave Syria's Moscow-backed president, Bashar Assad, a veto over any transition government, hampering all mediation efforts still.

"There is no doubt that when Putin came back in and said he was going to be president, that did change the relationship," Clinton said in a Democratic debate last year. "We have to stand up to his bullying and specifically, in Syria it is important."

Clinton's history with Russia is significant given the surprising role Russia has played in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Clinton and her supporters say she would be far tougher on Moscow than Trump, whose unusual foreign policy statements include musings about NATO's relevance and suggestions that he could accept Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region. Russia's reported hacking of Democratic Party email accounts also has led to charges that Putin's intelligence services are meddling in the election, and Trump aided that perception by publicly encouraging Russia to find and release more of her emails.

Clinton's first encounters in Russian diplomacy began on much more hopeful note. Meeting Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in 2009, Clinton initiated the effort to repair years of bitter relations, punctuated by a Russian war with neighboring Georgia a year earlier. Offering a large red reset button, Clinton outlined a broad agenda of cooperation.

The new policy paid dividends.

With Putin focused on domestic matters during a four-year stint as prime minister, Medvedev opened up a new corridor for U.S. forces and materiel heading to Afghanistan as part of the U.S. surge in the war. After missile defense concessions by Obama, the two nations sealed their most ambitious arms control pact in a generation. Washington and Moscow united on new Iran sanctions. Years of trade negotiations culminated in Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization.

But it was perhaps Clinton's unlikeliest diplomatic breakthrough that began the downward spiral: Libya. Even before Putin's first two terms as president, Russia had always opposed U.N. Security Council action that might lead to a leadership change.

As America's European allies sought a military intervention against Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi,

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Clinton played the role of skeptic, refusing to jump aboard. When she finally did, it proved critical in persuading Russia to abstain. The rebels overthrew Gadhafi five months later.

"It was the first time that Putin publicly criticized Medvedev," said Michael McFaul, Obama's main Russia adviser at the time and later U.S. ambassador in Moscow. "When things went poorly and not according to plan as we had promised, I think that was the beginning of the end for the reset."

Relations soured further by the end of the year as Putin won a new, six-year presidential term. Evidence of election fraud led to the largest protests since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Clinton issued a sharply worded statement; Putin accused Clinton of sending the "signal" to undermine his country.

If Libya destroyed trust, McFaul said the demonstrations were the reset's "body blow."

"Putin got paranoid," he said, and "believed we were behind them, really believed it. We never gained traction after that."

Returning as president in May 2012, Putin was immediately confronted with Syria's Libya-like escalation from Arab Spring protests to full-scale civil war. He played his cards differently than Medvedev, hinting to Obama that he could drop his support for the Syrian leader while shielding Assad from any U.N. pressure or foreign action that might chase him from power.

"Putin claimed that he had no particular love for Assad," Clinton wrote in her memoir "Hard Choices," recalling a meeting between the U.S. and Russian presidents in June 2012. "He also professed to have no real leverage with Damascus."

Seeking Russia's cooperation, Obama and Clinton avoided any talk that might threaten Russian equities in Syria, including a large naval base there. Their message was clear: The U.S. wouldn't try to pull a future post-Assad government out of Moscow's orbit.

It didn't matter. When the U.N. proposed a peace plan that involved ushering Assad out of power and included penalties for noncompliance, the Russians balked. Faced with stalemate, the U.S. and Russia arrived at a formula for a new government comprised of individuals chosen by the "mutual consent" of Assad and the opposition.

Although Clinton claimed credit for the June 30, 2012, compromise in Geneva, it appeared to be Russia's objective all along.

"There was no way Assad would pass such a test," Clinton said. "The opposition would never consent to him."

Russia didn't read the deal that way. Neither did Assad. And Assad is still president.

"Putin doesn't do favors," said Stephen Sestanovich, a Russia specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations and a senior diplomat under Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. "If we had had a robust policy in Syria and said, 'This is what we're going to do; what are you going to do?' — that's one thing. But we didn't. We asked for help and the chances of that working were zero."

The Geneva deal has had long-term repercussions. The U.S. and Russia both say it must be the basis of any settlement to the five-year civil war. But their interpretations still differ, contributing to a standstill that keeps Assad in power.

At the time Clinton negotiated the Geneva deal, some 8,000 people had been killed in Syria. Since then, the death toll has risen to perhaps 500,000, with millions of refugees and the Islamic State group emerging.

"I doubt they could have gotten more out of Russia," said Robert Ford, who was U.S. ambassador to Syria at the time and is now a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute.

Clinton's deal could have proved viable, if backed up by American military pressure, he said. But Obama didn't see it that way. "The tactics were not in sync with the strategy," Ford said.

Frederic Hof, a senior member of Clinton's delegation to the talks, called the document a "roadmap to peaceful regime change." But others in the U.S. government were unwilling to do anything to realize

the plan, he said, adding: "This is why Syria continues to hemorrhage internally and externally."

Clinton, in any case, was mistaken if she believed Obama was prepared to act militarily in Syria.

With her plan doomed to fail otherwise, she joined Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and CIA Director David Petraeus later that year in urging Obama to authorize military support for vetted, moderate rebels and U.S. enforcement of a no-fly zone over opposition-held areas of the country.

Obama refused.

Clinton has acknowledged her frustration with an increasingly hostile Russia on Syria and other matters as her time in office wound down.

In her final months, Russia ordered the end of all U.S. Agency for International Development programs in the country. It approved a new law constraining the work of Russian and foreign non-governmental organizations. It banned U.S. adoptions of Russian children.

In December 2012, Clinton accused Putin of trying to "re-Sovietize" its region. And just before leaving, she wrote a memo to Obama urging him to finally suspend a reset that ended once and for all with Russia's military incursions in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea in 2014 — well after Clinton had left government.

"Strength and resolve were the only language Putin would understand," Clinton wrote in her book, published shortly afterward.

It was a lesson she could say she learned firsthand.

As US housing recovers, low incomes keep Detroit far behind

COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Ann and Oscar Mack had fallen behind on property taxes and knew they faced foreclosure on their home of 20 years. But they didn't know their house on Maiden Street, in a blighted east side Detroit neighborhood, was already listed for auction.

No one "let us know we were about to lose our house," Ann Mack said. "Nobody ever came out and knocked on our door."

The United Community Housing Coalition stepped in and bought the home for \$1,000 at a foreclosure auction, then returned the deed to the family. It and other nonprofits are the final options for hundreds of Detroit residents fighting foreclosures, auctions and evictions.

"Complete strangers helped us get our house back," said Ann Mack, 48. "We would have been out in the street."

A decade after the nation's housing bubble peaked before bursting in a ruinous crash, much of America's residential real estate has rebounded. Many owners have enjoyed rising equity and lower housing bills as mortgage rates have sunk. Yet Detroit is a glaring exception. Despite efforts by the mayor's office, lenders and community groups, home values remain depressingly low.

A big reason has been oppressively low incomes in the city. Even as home prices have dropped, too few can afford to buy. Only a sliver of the population — better-paid and relatively new residents moving into downtown-area condos, apartments and rehabbed Victorian-style homes — has been able to capitalize on modest purchase prices. Most of the rest have been thwarted by stagnant incomes.

Nearly 40 percent of residents are impoverished, compared with about 15 percent of Americans overall. Detroit's median household income was about \$28,100 the year before the housing collapse. It's since shrunk to \$26,095 — not even half the median for the nation, according to the Census.

Contrast that with the gains some other cities have experienced. The median household income in San Francisco rose from \$68,000 in 2007 to about \$78,000 by 2014. Seattle's climbed from \$58,000 to over \$67,000, Pittsburgh's from \$32,300 to \$40,000.

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"Like most pre-crash markets, the Detroit housing market was very strong," said Douglass Diggs, chief executive of The Diggs Group Heritage economic development consulting firm and former Detroit Planning and Development director.

"There were plans for approximately 7,000 new housing units," Diggs said. "There was a strong demand for existing for-sale housing in our stronger neighborhoods."

Much of that dried up after 2008 in the aftermath of the housing bust. Even Dave Bing — a pro basketball Hall of Famer, businessman and future mayor — put off plans for a \$60 million riverfront residential development because banks were slow to release construction funds.

A 60-year population dive in which Detroit lost 1.1 million residents appears to be slowing. But the exodus has left portions of the city abandoned and desolate, even with nearly 700,000 residents remaining.

On many blocks where lived-in homes once stood, vacant houses and lots abound. A task force survey in 2014 found that 40,000 vacant structures needed demolition. Under Mayor Mike Duggan blight eradication plan, the city has torn down more than 10,000 houses and other structures in 2½ years.

"But we still have 30,000 to go," Duggan told reporters recently. "The magnitude of the blight problem in this city is enormous."

The task force survey also concluded that 38,000 additional houses were in such poor shape that they were edging toward blight. The value of the city's owner-occupied housing stock also plunged from about \$88,000 in 2005 to \$45,000.

"Leading up to the collapse, we saw a huge increase in property values, which made it harder for low-income people to buy or rent," said Ted Phillips, United Community Housing Coalition director. "There are a lot of stories — and they are true — of people getting mortgages that they did not qualify for based on doctored income statements, bad appraisals."

Many homeowners have said the assessment of their properties haven't dropped enough to keep pace with the lower home values. Assessed values help set tax rates.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have sued to bar a county auction of tax-foreclosed homes in Detroit and Wayne County. About 90 percent of the 15,170 county properties in foreclosure from the 2013 tax year are in Detroit. Many are vacant lots or empty houses. The lawsuit contends that properties were over-assessed by the city, making it hard for the owners to make tax payments.

City and county officials got the state legislature in recent years to permit the Wayne County treasurer's office to offer payment plans to homeowners in foreclosure. That allowed about 27,000 Detroiters who were in foreclosure a year ago to stay in their homes, said Melvin Hollowell, Detroit's corporation counsel.

The city has said that residential property tax assessments have been cut each year since 2008.

Online auction bids on city-owned houses needing work start as low as \$500. But even shabby often is out of reach.

"They can't afford the living arrangements," said Ishmail Terry, director of operations for the Detroit Non-Profit Housing Corp. "We get calls from families who have seven kids and are struggling to keep the lights on and the gas on. They are trying to pay the taxes, and they're behind three years."

Earlier this year, about 30,000 residential and commercial water customers were on payment plans. An additional 20,000 faced shutoffs after defaulting on agreements to pay overdue bills.

Entire neighborhoods are filled with poor people, according to a 2015 report on segregation by The Century Foundation. The New York City-based think tank said Detroit had 184 high-poverty census tracts by the end of 2013, compared with just 51 in 2000.

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About 50,000 city households had annual incomes under \$10,000. An additional 28,000 earned between \$10,000 and \$15,000, while fewer than 2,000 households had incomes topping \$200,000.

The number of jobs in the city rose by more than 6,000 between December and May, according to Duggan's office. But of the nearly 540,000 residents 16 or older, only about 210,000 had jobs, according to 2014 Census data.

Ann Mack is a cashier at a big box retail store, but her 48-year-old husband was laid off years ago from a property maintenance job and still is without steady work.

Though they bought their small bungalow for about \$52,000, it's now worth only \$11,000, Ann Mack said, adding that "a lot of people can't really afford to move and pay another mortgage."

They depend on her to pay off the property taxes on the house. They were able to cobble together a few hundred dollars in 2014 to add to money fundraised by the United Community Housing Coalition to buy their home at auction.

"We bid for them at the auction," Phillips said of the Macks. "They were short having enough to buy by a few hundred dollars. We paid for them. They paid us back, and we deeded them the home."

He called the Macks' situation "pretty typical" and said the nonprofit bought about 360 other homes that way.

"We have purchased over 2,000 homes in the last six years," Phillips said. "Most of these have been in the tax-foreclosure auctions. Our average price has been about \$1,200."

The straight story: Bow and arrow advances lift other sports

PAT GRAHAM, AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky's slap shot was always precise and straight as an arrow. Give archery an assist for that.

The Great One's aluminum stick, with a wood and fiberglass blade, was constructed in part using innovations derived from bow and arrow technology. So were the shafts on many a golf driver, the bike frame used by an Ironman triathlete, the drumsticks used by rockers. Cutting-edge advances in archery have even influenced the plastic components on dental chairs.

It's all because researchers discovered: Getting an arrow to fly with accuracy is anything but straightforward.

"Ultimately, if you can make a really good set of arrows, everything else is comparatively easy," said George Tekmitchov, target archery manager and senior engineer for Easton Technical Products, a leading bow and arrow manufacturer with a special claim to fame: An Easton arrow has been used to capture every gold medal in the men's and women's individual Olympic event since archery's return to the modern games in 1972.

Long before the arrival of Katniss Everdeen — the arrow-brandishing heroine in "The Hunger Games" played by Jennifer Lawrence — arrows were typically made from Port Orford cedar wood. Making an accurate set of those was complex and costly.

See, every imperfection in an arrow gets magnified over a long distance. Take the archery competition at the Olympics this week: An arrow will travel about 200 feet per second, and if the stiffness is off by even a ten-thousandth of an inch, it can cause the arrow to deviate by as much as two rings on the target at 70 meters. That can be the difference between going for gold or going home.

"We have really high demands for our equipment, because small imperfections make huge differences," said Zach Garrett, who helped the Americans to an Olympic silver medal in the men's team competition on Saturday. "It does take a material scientist to work through these things."

Researchers constantly have to think straight, in other words, and Easton has been among those at the forefront of innovation.

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As the story goes, the company's founder, Doug Easton, was duck hunting one fall day in 1921 when he leaned his shotgun against a car. It fell over and discharged; he was struck in the legs. As he recovered in the hospital, Easton devoured a book by Saxton Pope called "Hunting with the Bow and Arrow." It hit the mark.

Easton's interest in archery shaped the direction of his company, which has taken arrow technology from wood to aluminum alloy to carbon fiber. One of the biggest breakthroughs was the process of bonding carbon to aluminum, which allows arrows to be strengthened through the aluminum core and stiffened by the presence of carbon fiber. This became revolutionary for other sports, too.

Easton innovation expert Gary Filice designed an even more proficient hockey stick — just what the NHL wanted in the hands of Gretzky, who was already virtually unstoppable. The bike frame of Ironman triathlete Paula Newby-Fraser went from aluminum to carbon fiber as she captured numerous world titles. Golf drivers have been made out of similar material, allowing everyone from the pros to the weekend player to crush the ball farther.

The bonded-carbon process was also applied inside of aluminum bats and engineered in such a way that when under pressure from contact, the bat can give a higher rebound. Slugger Darryl Strawberry tested different models for Easton, which built a robot to mimic Strawberry's swing.

This particular package of specialized carbon bonding also improved windsurfing booms, tennis rackets, lacrosse sticks and even led to aluminum drumsticks like the ones used by rock icon Tommy Lee of Motley Crue, according to Tekmitchov.

Space technology developed by Easton found its way into archery, as well. Remember a project from the early 1990s called the National Aero-Space Plane, a "spaceliner" with an ultimate goal of shuttling passengers from New York to Tokyo in 90 minutes? The project was scrapped, but it led to a breakthrough in arrows. Easton developed hydrogen-fueled tubing for the project, and it went into the company's X10 arrow line. The model features an ultra-thin profile for minimal wind drift, and will be used by most of the archers in Rio.

A German plastics company was an innovator in the field of micro-plastic engineering for years before dabbling in archery in the 1980s. Its founder, Werner Beiter, was a big supporter of the sport and made small plastic accessories like the nocking point, which provides an accurate connection between the arrow and the string.

Research into archery equipment affected other products, too, including the part of the dental chair that attaches to cables containing the air for the drills.

As for the bow, it certainly doesn't take a backseat to the arrow in technological progression. The dawn of a carbon-fiber limb helped American Darrell Pace capture gold at the 1976 Olympics and again in '84. It's still the industry standard — with a few modern tweaks, of course.

The next wave of bows went to a whole new depth: submarine technology. A bow manufacturer called Hoyt, owned by Easton since the 1980s, developed a new core for bow limbs using syntactic foam. Originally designed so submarine control surfaces could be kept hollow without being crushed by sea pressure, the foam makes bows limbs lighter and much stronger.

"We're always looking for ways to make something better," said Easton's Tekmitchov. "If someone goes, 'Hmm, maybe that would work for this?' We'll try it."

Storm in Macedonia leaves 17 dead, 60 injured; many flee

KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES, Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — The Macedonian capital of Skopje has been hit by torrential rain and floods

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that left at least 17 people dead, six missing and sent 60 others to the hospital, authorities said Sunday as police and army helicopters searched for the missing and evacuated hundreds from the flood zone.

Heavy rain, strong winds and thunderstorms hit the city and its northern suburbs late Saturday. Special police, army units and firefighters were sent to the worst-hit areas as well as the nearby villages of Stajkovci, Aracinovo and Smiljkovci. Hundreds of homes and vehicles were destroyed by the floods, roads are still impassable and several areas are without electricity. Authorities said more than 1,000 people had been evacuated so far.

Skopje mayor Koce Trajanovski described the damage as "the worst Skopje has ever seen."

After a meeting of the National Crisis Management Center, Health Minister Nikola Todorov said the death toll could soon rise. He said the government plans to declare a state of emergency shortly for two weeks in the most affected region.

"We can officially report 17 people dead and just while ago we have received the reports of three more deaths, so the total number will be probably 20 victims," Todorov told reporters, adding that many of the injured had fractures and contusions.

Local media reported that most victims drowned in their houses when torrents swept through the area. Meteorologists said more torrential rain and strong winds are expecting later Sunday.

Authorities urged people to stay at home and to only drink bottled water.

Further north in Croatia, stormy winds have disrupted road and sea traffic at the height of the tourist season.

The state news agency HINA says parts of the main highway connecting the capital of Zagreb with the Adriatic coast remained closed on Sunday. Only cars were allowed down the sections of a highway and a regional road further north near the port of Rijeka.

Disruptions created by the bad weather have clogged the roads, creating traffic backups among cars carrying tourists toward Croatia's coastal resorts along the Adriatic Sea.

Traffic has been limited on the bridges connecting the islands of Pag and Krk with the coast, while some ferry lines have been halted services with the islands of Pag and Rab.

The Latest: Kasich: Trump must 'operate in the light'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 presidential campaign (all times EDT):

9:48 a.m.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has no idea how he'll vote come November because he doesn't support Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton. He also says he isn't sure whether Trump can win Ohio if he remains so divisive.

Kasich, who lost the GOP primary to Trump and shunned the Republican National Convention, tells CNN's "State of the Union" that four years of Hillary Clinton would mean "total gridlock."

But Kasich says he can't swing behind Trump either, and that any candidate who wants to win his support has to "operate in the light," and not on the "dark side of the street."

8:59 a.m.

As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton basked in a diplomatic "Moscow Spring," seizing on Vladimir Putin's break from the presidency to help seal a nuclear arms-control treaty and secure Russia's acquiescence to a NATO-led military intervention in Libya.

But when Putin returned to the top job, things changed.

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Now the Democratic presidential nominee, Clinton has vowed to stand up to Putin if elected, drawing on her four years of ups and downs as the public face of President Barack Obama's first-term "reset" with Russia. By comparison, her Republican opponent, Donald Trump, has rung alarm bells in Washington and Europe with his overtures to the authoritarian Russian leader.

But Clinton's wrangles with Russia led to mixed results.

8:38 a.m.

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton will deliver what aides are billing as a major economic speech on Thursday in Detroit.

Clinton's appearance is set to follow a speech planned by Republican rival Donald Trump on what he would do to improve economic growth. Trump's speech is set for Monday in the same city.

The dueling Detroit addresses come as new polls show Clinton gaining ground on economic issues.

Aides say Clinton will outline her economic plans and argue that Trump is only focused on the wealthiest Americans.

At campaign events last week, Clinton questioned Trump's commitment to creating American jobs by highlighting his use of outsourcing at his companies.

Trump's populist economic message includes a vow to revive manufacturing jobs and renegotiate trade deals to benefit American workers.

Phelps eager to get started on 5th Olympics, likely in relay

PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Now that his flag-carrying duties are out of the way, Michael Phelps is eager to get started on his fifth Olympics.

That will likely come Sunday in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay, a title the Americans are gunning to reclaim after getting chased down by the French in 2012.

Phelps' expected debut would be one of the highlights on the second day of swimming at the Rio Games, though he'd have to share the spotlight with Katie Ledecky.

She'll be seeking the first of an expected three individual gold medals, going in as a heavy favorite in the 400 freestyle. The only suspense seems to be whether she'll break her own world record.

Ledecky already picked up her first medal of the games, anchoring the women's 4x100 free relay to a silver-medal finish behind Australia on Saturday.

Phelps, the most decorated athlete in Olympic history, wants to do his part for the men's relay team.

"That's something I've had the privilege to be a part of since 2004, and I'm hoping to have the opportunity again," Phelps said. "It's always super-fast and there are always some wild, crazy splits that take place."

In 2008, the Americans memorably defeated the French when Jason Lezak rallied against Alain Bernard with the fastest 100 split in history, a victory that kept Phelps on course to win a record eight gold medals in Beijing.

Four years ago, the French got their revenge when Yannick Agnel caught Ryan Lochte on the anchor leg.

This time, it's hardly a two-country race.

The Australians figure to be in the mix, especially riding the momentum of an impressive opening night at the pool. They captured two gold medals, also taking the men's 400 free when Mack Horton held off defending Olympic champion Sun Yang of China, doubling up on the one gold medal they managed during their disappointing performance at the 2012 London Games.

"You can probably pick three or four teams that are going to have a chance to win that relay," Phelps

said. "The Australians made a significant charge over the past couple of years with their men's and women's teams combined. A lot of younger guys really stepped up, and that brings more excitement to the sport."

The Americans are eager for gold after getting shut out on the first night of swimming, settling for three silvers. It was a first time they failed to win at least one race during an Olympic finals session at the pool since Aug. 14, 2008 — the lone day Phelps didn't go for gold in Beijing.

Phelps has been part of the 4x100 free relay at the last three Olympics, even though the 100 free has never been one of his individual specialties. It's unfathomable that the Americans would leave off a swimmer with 18 golds and 22 medals overall, especially after a dismal performance at last year's worlds when the U.S. didn't even qualify for the final — a performance that was especially galling to Phelps, who had to sit out the meet as part of his punishment for a second drunken-driving arrest.

"I do know that the coaching staff will put out the four fastest guys, whoever that is," Phelps said coyly. "I'm looking forward to either watching or being in that race."

Also on tap for the second day of swimming: finals in the women's 100 butterfly, in which Sweden's Sarah Sjöström is favored to take down defending champion Dana Vollmer of the U.S., and the men's 100 breaststroke, where Adam Peaty of Britain already took down his own world record during the preliminaries.

Lin Emery, 90, making monumental art in delicate motion

JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — At 90, sculptor Lin Emery is still inspired by nature and designing huge sculptures of mirror-bright aluminum welded into delicately balanced forms which dance to the lightest breeze.

Her earlier kinetic sculptures were moved by water and then magnets. Emery says air is more reliable and easier to work with.

Her kinetic sculptures are in museums, private collections and out in public around the U.S., in Europe and the Far East.

Asked whether there's any one piece, commission or honor of which she's particularly proud, she says, "Not really. I'm always hoping to do better."

Clinton to follow Trump with economic speech in Detroit

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After shock, Japan warms up to emperor's possible abdication

MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese will tune in to Emperor Akihito's rare video message Monday following reports that he would abdicate in the next few years, which initially came as shock but was welcomed by many as a deserved rest for the 82-year-old beloved monarch.

In the pre-recorded message, Akihito will talk about his duties as a "symbol emperor" as stipulated by the constitution, palace officials said. He will most likely avoid the explicit expression of abdication, which would involve political and legal procedures that he is not allowed to discuss.

Akihito still works, though his aides have shifted some of his duties to Crown Prince Naruhito — the elder of his two sons and most likely successor. Yet, Akihito has referred to his old age in recent years, admitting to making small mistakes at ceremonies. During the Aug. 15, 2015, anniversary of the end of World War II, Akihito started reading a statement when he was supposed to observe a moment of silence.

After the initial surprise, the public warmly welcomed the reported abdication plan, saying the hard-working emperor deserves to enjoy his long-overdue retirement. Lifting the abdication ban, a practice inherited from the prewar constitution, would also bring the imperial life closer to the public.

"Changing that will reflect the reality of Japanese society first of all, the way that almost all people here feel about working and life and career building," said Robert Campbell, a University of Tokyo professor and expert on Japanese history and culture.

According to a nationwide telephone survey by Kyodo News agency this month, nearly 90 percent of the respondents said Akihito is given too much work, while more than 85 percent said an abdication should be legalized as an option to Akihito and his successors.

Akihito has reportedly told palace officials and his families that he doesn't wish to cling to his title with drastically reduced responsibility or by arranging a substitute, and his two sons have accepted the idea. The quiet discussion reportedly started about five years ago, around the time he had health problems — he was hospitalized for bronchitis in 2011, and had heart bypass surgery in 2012.

Palace officials quickly denied the report, because the emperor is not supposed to say anything that would cause a change to the existing system, including his constitutional status.

Experts and media have speculated that Akihito will seek to abdicate while he is still in good health so he can monitor Naruhito, who is seen not quite ready for succession.

"If he does decide to abdicate, I believe that one of the reasons may be that he wants to oversee the change in reign ... in peaceful and successful way," Campbell said.

Akihito ascended to the throne in 1989 after the death of his father, Hirohito, who was considered a deity until Japan's defeat in the World War II, fought in the name of the emperor.

Akihito brought the cloistered imperial family closer to the public and broke with other traditions, including his marriage to a commoner. He has repeatedly said he respects Japan's postwar pacifist constitution and is committed to his status as the symbol and the unity of the people, not the sovereign.

Some speculate that Akihito's abdication may be an attempt to put a break on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plan to rewrite the constitution. Abe and his ultra-conservative supporters want to scrap a part of the war-renouncing article and upgrade the emperor to the sovereign again.

Majority rule: Women lead the way for Team USA

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Serena. Simone. Solo.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that some of the best-recognized names on the U.S. Olympic team belong to women. The Americans brought 292 women to Rio de Janeiro, an Olympic record for a single country. Their first gold medal of the games — won Saturday by a woman, of course: Ginny Thrasher in shooting. Reporters from The Associated Press predicted the United States would capture 128 medals — 69 by women and 59 by men.

Among those winners could be:

—Serena Williams, who already has four gold medals and could win two more — one in singles and another in doubles, along with her sister, Venus.

—Simone Biles, who has a legitimate chance to pull in a record five gold medals from gymnastics.

—Hope Solo, the goalkeeper for the soccer team, which is trying for its fourth straight Olympic gold medal.

—Katie Ledecky, a medal contender in five swimming events.

This is the second straight Summer Games in which women have outnumbered men on Team USA. But when the number reached 292 for this Olympics, the Americans had a record. It was three more than China entered into the Beijing Games eight years ago.

It's a surge that has peaked this decade, now 44 years since the passage of Title IX, the law that opened doors for women in college sports around the country. Many competing in the Olympics are either in, or about to become part of, the third generation of women to compete at the college level since the law was passed.

"We got a great head start in the U.S. because of the support they had in their schools and their colleges growing up," said Scott Blackmun, CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee. "You look at 10, 15 years after the passage of Title IX, how great an impact that started having. You combine it with the collegiate structure we have and that helps define the success."

No women's sport has become more high profile than basketball since Title IX. The U.S. has won six of seven gold medals since 1984 — about the time the true impact of the law started being felt. Another win this year would strike a poignant note in the wake of the recent passing of Pat Summitt, the longtime Tennessee coach who pioneered the surge in women's hoops over decades.

"I look at the younger generation of women's basketball players and there is such a tremendous boat load of talent from, say, 10 years ago," said Geno Auriemma of UConn, who is coaching the U.S. team.

He said Title IX led to the full funding of college sports across the board, which has led to the U.S. catching up in a few sports, like volleyball, and dominating in others.

"We've talked about water polo, and how much we've had players before us pioneer our sport," said Maggie Steffens of the defending-champion U.S. team. "Women's water polo wasn't even in the Olympics until 2000. And we had women who, in '76 and the '80s and '90s, dreamed of being in the Olympics and never got that opportunity, but made sure it happened for us. We want to make sure we do the best we can to represent those women."

Women's soccer has enjoyed far more success than the men's game in the United States. The men didn't qualify for the Olympics. The women are favored to win gold for the fifth time since they were brought onto the Olympic program in 1996. On Saturday, Solo became the first goalkeeper to appear in 200 games in international play.

Medal-contending women fill the U.S. roster — young and old and in sports ranging from archery to weightlifting.

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At 16, hurdler Sydney McLaughlin will be the youngest to compete for the U.S. Olympic track team since 1972.

At 30, Natasha Hastings is making her second Olympic appearance and could factor into the 400-meter mix, as well as the relay team. Though plenty of amazing women have run for the U.S. over the years, when Hastings looks for inspiration, she has plenty of choices. Hers happens to be a tennis player.

"Serena Williams is my sports female hero," Hastings said. "I've watched her and her sister play tennis since they were 12 or 13 and just change the game. What they've done for women's sports, to me, is just amazing."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 7, the 220th day of 2016. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 7, 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

On this date:

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1927, the already opened Peace Bridge connecting Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, was officially dedicated.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1974, French stuntman Philippe Petit (fee-LEEP' peh-TEET') repeatedly walked a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jewish candidate on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2005, ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: Oil prices jumped after BP said it had discovered corrosion so severe it would have to replace 16 miles of pipeline at the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska. Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe (oo-REE'-bay) was sworn in for an unprecedented second term.

Five years ago: The Treasury Department announced that Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur)

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had told President Barack Obama he would remain on the job, ending speculation he would leave the administration. Four adults and three children were killed by a gunman in Copley Township, Ohio; the shooter died in a gunfight with police. Former New York Governor Hugh Carey, 92, died on Shelter Island, New York. Former Oregon Governor and U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield, 89, died in Portland.

One year ago: Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was spared the death penalty in favor of life in prison after a jury in Centennial failed to agree on whether he should be executed for his murderous attack on a packed movie premiere that left 12 people dead. Former Food and Drug Administration employee Dr. Frances Kelsey, credited with preventing the U.S. distribution of thalidomide, a drug blamed for serious birth defects in the early 1960s, died in London, Ontario, Canada at age 101. Louise Suggs, 91, an LPGA founder and Hall of Famer, died in Sarasota, Florida.

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 88. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 87. Actress Verna Bloom is 78. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 74. Singer B.J. Thomas is 74. Singer Lana Cantrell is 73. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 72. Actor John Glover is 72. Actor David Rasche is 72. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 66. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 66. Actress Caroline Aaron is 64. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 64. Actor Wayne Knight is 61. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 58. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 58. Actor David Duchovny is 56. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 55. Actress Delane Matthews is 55. Actor Harold Perrineau is 53. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 53. Country singer Raul Malo is 51. Actor David Mann is 50. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 49. Actress Sydney Penny is 45. Actor Michael Shannon is 42. Actress Charlize Theron (shahr-LEES' THAYR'-ehn) is 41. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 40. Actor Randy Wayne is 35. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 34. Actor Liam James is 20.

Thought for Today: "Civilization is a movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbor." — Arnold Toynbee, English historian (1889-1975).