

Groton Daily Independent

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Flea Market

Flea Market for 12 days, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 26-Sept. 7. Vintage, Crocks, Fishing, Jewelry, Cream Cans, Marbles, Buttons, Lanterns, Oil Lamps, Yard Ornaments, Bookcases, Antiques, and Much More. 201 Hwy 25, across from Community Oil Co., Roslyn. New items added daily. 5 (10'x20') Canopys full!

Bus Driver Wanted

The Groton Area School District has openings for a part time (morning) bus route and for a full-time bus route driver. Assistance in obtaining the proper licensure is available. Please contact Transportation Supervisor, Loren Bahr, at 397-8117 for more details.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Thursday, Aug. 18

Bad Poetry Day

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, fruit.

Birthdays: • Jason Osterman

10:00am: Boys golf at Milbank

1:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WECLA "Do Day" Election of Officers

Friday, Aug. 19

Aviation Day

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Sherwin & Christine Nyberg

Birthdays: Michelle Leonhardt • Pat Nehls • Blake Anderson

4:00pm: Soccer at Belle Fourche (Girls at 4 pm, Boys at 6 pm MT)

Saturday, Aug. 20

National Radio Day

Anniv: Bob & Laurie Pray • Doug & Heidi Krueger

Birthdays: Marc Sippel • Megan Unzen • Marie Loutsch • Beve Farmen • Kim Evans • Kim Claussen

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

11:00am: Soccer at St. Thomas More (Boys and girls at 11 am MT)

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

Apts for Rent

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



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GENERAL CONTRACTOR

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Constitutional Amendment T

Title: An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to provide for state legislative redistricting by a commission

Attorney General Explanation

State senators and representatives are elected from within legislative districts.

The South Dakota Constitution currently requires the Legislature to establish these legislative districts every ten years.

This measure removes that authority from the Legislature and grants it to a redistricting commission.

The commission is made up of nine registered voters selected each redistricting year by the State Board of Elections from a pool of up to 30 applicants. This pool consists of applicants registered with South Dakota's two largest political parties (ten from each), and ten not registered with either of those parties.

A commission member must have the same party registration, or be registered as unaffiliated with a party, for three continuous years immediately prior to appointment.

No more than three commission members may belong to the same political party.

For three years immediately prior to and three years immediately after appointment, commission members may not hold office in certain state or local public offices, or in a political party organization.

The commission will redistrict in 2017, in 2021, and every ten years thereafter.

The commission must produce a draft map and allow for public comment.

The districts must be drawn in compliance with state and federal law.

A vote "Yes" is for changing the Constitution to provide for state legislative redistricting by a commission.

A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is

Pro –Constitutional Amendment T

Voting YES on Amendment T will improve the way voting maps are drawn in South Dakota. It puts VOTERS back in charge of our elections because VOTERS should choose their legislators, legislators should not choose their VOTERS.

How voting maps are drawn matters. Currently, the Legislature is responsible for re-drawing voting maps in South Dakota. Politicians choosing voters. Amendment T changes that by putting redistricting in the hands of an impartial committee of registered voters. Voters choosing politicians. Amendment T is not about politicians or political parties, it is about voters' rights.

Voting YES on Amendment T will:

- Replace the previous committee of 15 LEGISLATORS with a balanced 9 member committee of VOTERS, saving taxpayer dollars.
- Require committee members not hold public office 3 years before or after being selected.
- Establish constitutional guidelines to ban the use of political party identification and incumbency to manipulate voter maps.
- Establish constitutional guidelines to protect counties and neighborhoods by requiring they be kept in the same voting district whenever possible.
- Give South Dakotans a 30 day public comment period to express their concerns and comments on potential voter maps.

Amendment T is more efficient, provides more safeguards, is partisan balanced and encourages voter participation. It curbs corruption and holds politicians accountable by pulling back the curtain of secrecy on the process of drawing voting maps. It creates a fair system so that voters are choosing politicians instead of politicians choosing voters.

Amendment T uses South Dakota common sense to establish fair elections for all South Dakotans.

VOTE YES ON T!

Doug Sombke, Chairman of #SDRtThing2Do

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Con – Constitutional Amendment T

Amendment T takes the power of creating legislative districts away from the elected 105 members of the Legislature and gives it to nine unelected people appointed to a new board.

Proponents claim the current system is unfair.

But, that's not true. Both Republican and Democrat legislators have worked very hard to be fair by adhering to state and federal constitutions, laws and court decisions. In the last five redistrictings, Democrats won a total of nine more Senate seats and three more House seats in the next elections after redistricting. In two of those, Democrats won enough additional elections to become the majority party in the State Senate.

SDRtThing2Do, the proponent group, claims Amendment T provides "clarity," but it doesn't. It copies much of the current constitutional and SDCL 2-2-41 language without additional details. It also creates confusion by using two different phrases-- "equal population" and "equal population to the extent possible"-- in instructions for creating districts.

SDRtThing2Do claims Amendment T will prevent boundary drawing that might hurt a candidate's chances for winning. However, the new system could cause more broken up, divided counties. Under the current system in 2011, the number of divided rural counties was reduced from seven to three.

SDRtThing2Do claims Amendment T promotes "biparti-

sanship" because commission members are from two major parties and everyone else in equal proportion. The Legislature already includes members of different parties, but in proportion to what the people decide with their votes.

Amendment T mandates equal membership in three groups.

That's not bipartisan. It's an imposed quota system. It is certainly not democracy.

SDRtThing2Do, claims Amendment T "empowers voters," but it doesn't because it takes redistricting away from 105 legislators elected by the voters and gives it to nine people not elected by the voters.

Please vote "NO" on proposed Amendment T.

Submitted by Representative Jim Bolin, Canton

Soup, Sandwich and Pie Luncheon

\$2 Each

Thursday, Sept. 8

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Groton

Craft and Bake Sale
Supplemental funds have been applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

OPEN HOUSE FAREWELL RECEPTION

for

Pastor Elizabeth Johnson

Sunday, August 28

2 – 4 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Groton, SD 57445



Customer Appreciation and Check-R-Board Days

Aug. 22 through Aug. 25

Different happenings everyday

Monday is cookies and coffee

On Tuesday all attendees receive a Purina cap

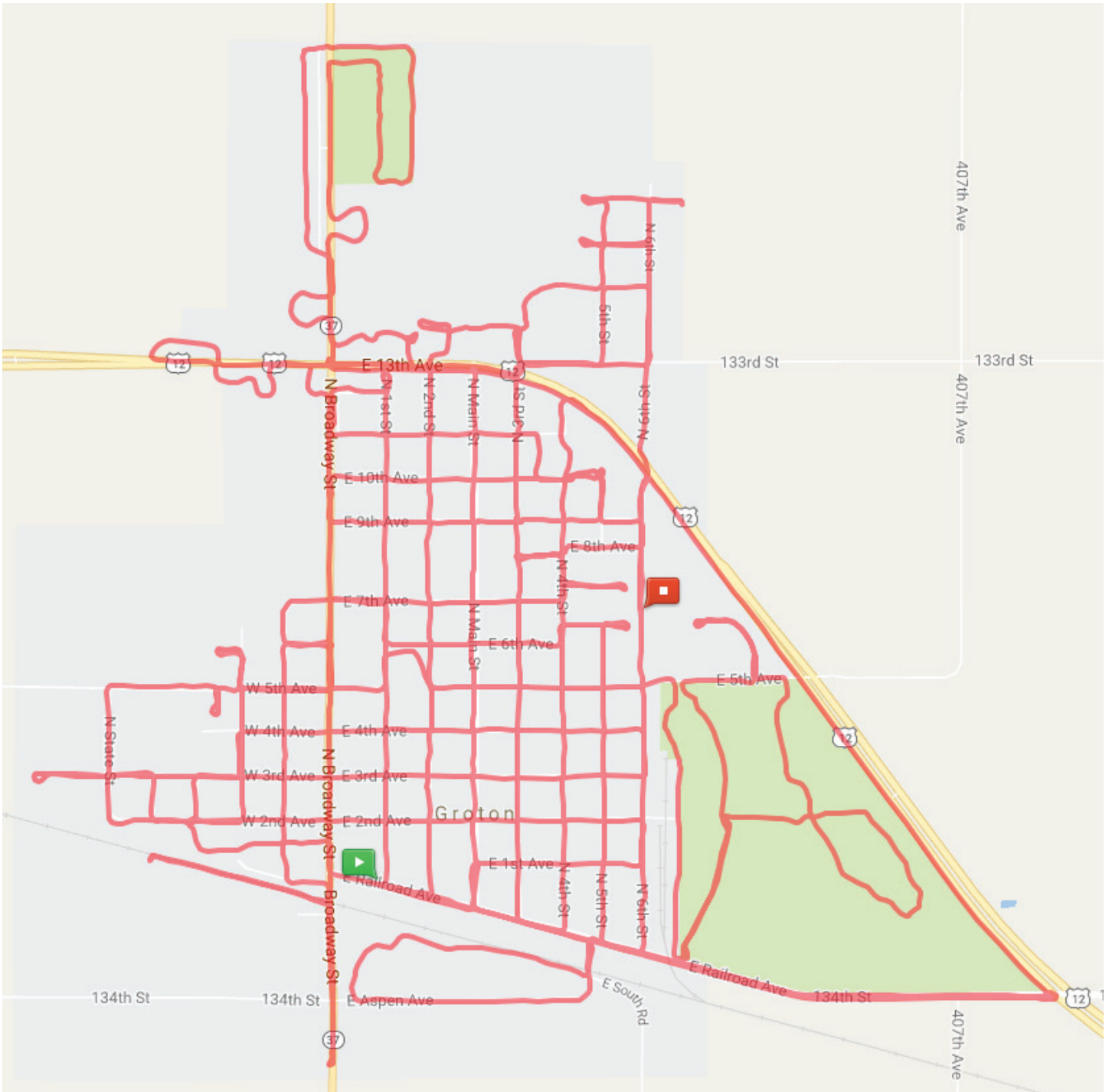
Wednesday is bring your pet in for a treat

Thursday is roast beef sandwiches, beans and drink served from noon to 7 pm.

Be sure to wear your checker board clothing to be eligible to win \$500.

Mosquito Control

The City of Groton did mosquito control Wednesday evening. The wind was S-SE at 3-5 mph with a temperature of 70 degrees. Thirty-one and one-half miles was covered, using 8.9 gallons of chemical. The map below shows the route that was done last night.



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Pool Hours

Thursday, Aug. 18

1: p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Lap Swim

Friday-Saturday, Aug. 19-20

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Lap Swim

Sunday & Monday, Aug. 21 & 22

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim
6:40 p.m. to 8 p.m., Open Swim

Tuesday, Aug. 23

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim

Wed., Aug. 24

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim
6:40 p.m. to 8 p.m., Open Swim

Thursday & Friday, Aug. 25 & 26

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Open Swim

Saturday, Aug. 27 & Sunday, Aug. 28

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim
6:40 p.m. to 8 p.m., Open Swim

Monday, Aug. 29 through Friday, Sept. 2

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Open Swim

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 3-4:

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim
6:40 p.m. to 8 p.m., Open Swim
Last day is Sept. 4th

Two golfers place at first meet

The boys golf team went to Volga on Tuesday where Landon Marzahn and Cade Guthmiller both placed in the top 15. Marzahn placed seventh with a score of 83 and Guthmiller placed 11th with a score of 87.

Groton Area placed fourth as a team with Roncalli taking first with 320 points followed by Sisseton with 334, Sioux Valley 346, Groton Area 358, Milbank Area 396, Brookings JV 418 and Redfield-Doland 457.

Others participating for Groton Area were Sean Schuring with a score of 93 and Hunter Schaller with a score of 95

Coming up this week

Soccer teams at Belle Fourche on Friday and at St. Thomas More on Saturday. Monday is MS/HS schedule change day. Tuesday is the faculty inservice with a picnic at the GHS Gym at 5 p.m. followed by the elementary open house at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday is faculty in-service with the first day of school on Thursday, Aug. 25. The NEC boys golf will be held at Sisseton on Aug. 25 at 10 a.m. with the first volleyball match at Deuel that same night. The football team kicks off its season on Aug. 26 at Oakes.

Dollar General to open in December

According to Tyler Oliver of Colby Capital, the developer for the building, the expected opening date for the Dollar General Store in Groton is December 20, 2016. Oliver said that the only change to the original plans is to have a white vinyl fence instead of a wood one.

Red Alert in Groton!

You could say that there will be a big Red Alert in Groton on Wednesday morning, Aug. 24. The Brown County Emergency Management Office, in cooperation with the Groton Area School District, will be having a mock drill for a full scale active shooter exercise.

According to Scott Meints, director of Brown County Emergency Management, the exercise will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 24th. The agencies involved are the Groton Area School District, Groton Police Dept., Groton Fire and Rescue, BC Emergency Management, BC Sheriff and the SD Highway Patrol.

Meints said the purpose of the exercise is, "to familiarize appropriate agencies: with the community, intent to conduct an interagency exercise, their roles, and responsibilities in planning and execution, and the capabilities of the community to respond to an incident.

"Evaluators will be on hand from other school districts, law enforcement, and fire/rescue to provide feedback on items that were executed correctly or items that need improvement."

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Today in Weather History

August 18, 1936: A tornado moved east, ending southeast of Gettysburg. A farm house and four barns were destroyed near Gorman, in Potter County. Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

August 18, 1938: A tornado destroyed a barn, unroofed a gym, and damaged other buildings near Stephen, in Hyde County. The funnel moved northeast then curved to the northwest. There were two other tornadoes on this day. One moved northeast from near Worsey and Broadland in Beadle County producing estimated F3 damage. The other was an estimated F2 and also started off in Beadle County and moved northeast into Kingsbury County. This storm injured three people.

August 18, 1983: High winds up to 80 mph caused extensive damage to trees, structures, and cars, in Lyman, Hyde, Faulk, and Brown Counties. In Presho, several homes lost their roofs. Hay bales were scattered, metal siding was ripped from outbuildings, and a ballpark lost three large fence sections. Gusty winds up to 75 mph were recorded at Ordway, in Brown County, causing damage to a mobile home. Two hangers at the Aberdeen airport received extensive damage, with roofs and doors torn off.

August 18, 2009: Numerous thunderstorms developed along a stationary front and trained over the same locations producing very heavy rains along with large hail. Nickel size hail falling for several minutes piled up to 6 to 8 inches deep near Harrold in Hughes County. Massive rains of 2 to nearly 5 inches resulted in the flash flooding of numerous roads. Several of the roads were washed out. Some rainfall amounts included 3.05 inches at Warner, 3.15 inches southwest of Bristol, 4.40 inches in Webster, and 4.50 inches east of Warner.

1925: During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa completely destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work.

1931: The Yangtze River in China peaks during a horrible flood that kills 3.7 million people directly and indirectly over the next several months. This flood was perhaps the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. Just thirteen persons were killed, but 1800 others were injured. The hurricane packed winds to 130 mph as it crossed Galveston Island, and spawned twenty-two tornadoes in less than 24 hours as it made landfall. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)








1987 - Thirteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Orlando FL with a reading of 98 degrees, and Portland ME with a high of 94 degrees. Newark NJ reached 90 degrees for the thirty-sixth time of the year, their second highest total of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-two cities, from the Carolinas to the Upper Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date, pushing the total number of daily record highs since the first of June above the 1100 mark. Afternoon highs of 102 degrees at Greensboro NC and 105 degrees at Raleigh NC equalled all-time records. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Scobey. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced torrential rains in eastern Virginia during the late morning and afternoon hours. Totals ranged up to twelve inches at Yorktown. Williamsburg VA was deluged with 10.78 inches of rain between 6 AM and 10 AM, with 6.72 inches reported in just two hours. Flash flooding caused nearly twelve million dollars damage in Accomack County VA. Early evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced walnut size hail and wind gusts to 80 mph around Casper WY. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the Yellowstone Park area, causing fifteen mudslides. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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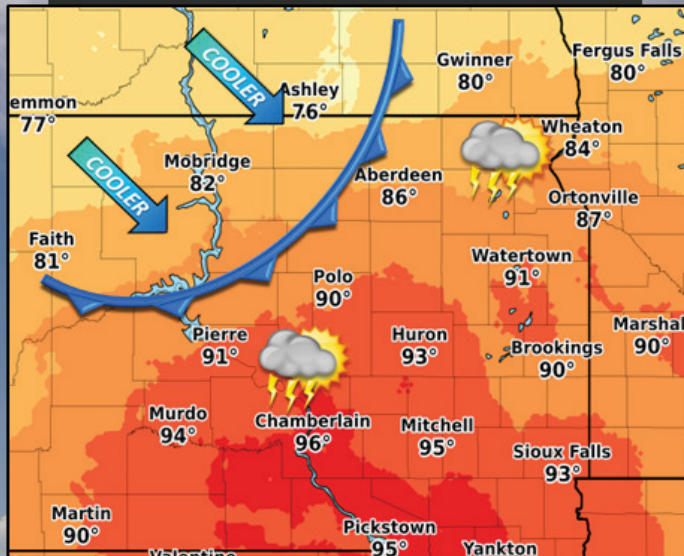
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
40%	60%	30%				
Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 85 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 74 °F



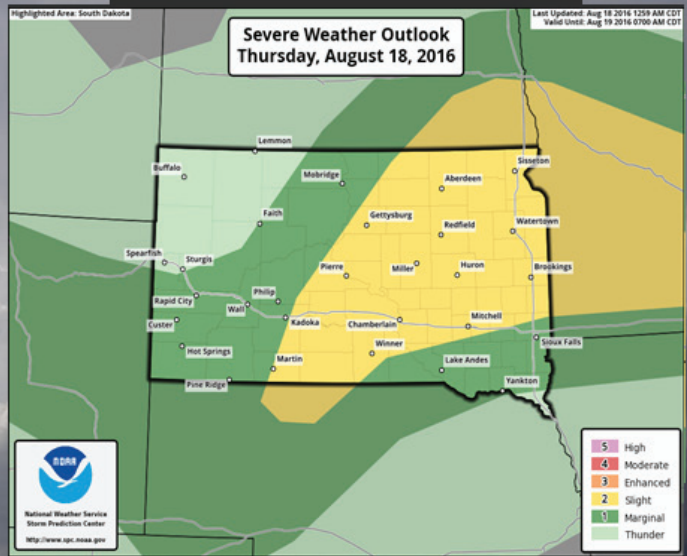
Warm Temperatures Again, But Cooler Air Coming Strong to Severe Storms Possible Today



Today's High Temperatures



Severe Storm Outlook



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 08/18/2016 at 5:52AM

High pressure over the region today will bring mostly sunny skies and generally light winds, especially for eastern areas. Temperatures will remain on the warm side, with highs ranging from the mid 80s to mid 90s. Showers and thunderstorms are possible beginning this evening, with strong to severe storms becoming increasingly likely by late Thursday afternoon and Thursday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 88.5 F at 5:35 PM

Heat Index: 92.0 at 5:30 PM

Low Outside Temp: 59.1 F at 6:00 AM

High Gust: 11.0 Mph at 2:00 PM

Precip: 0.36

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1959

Record Low: 38 in 2002

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.40

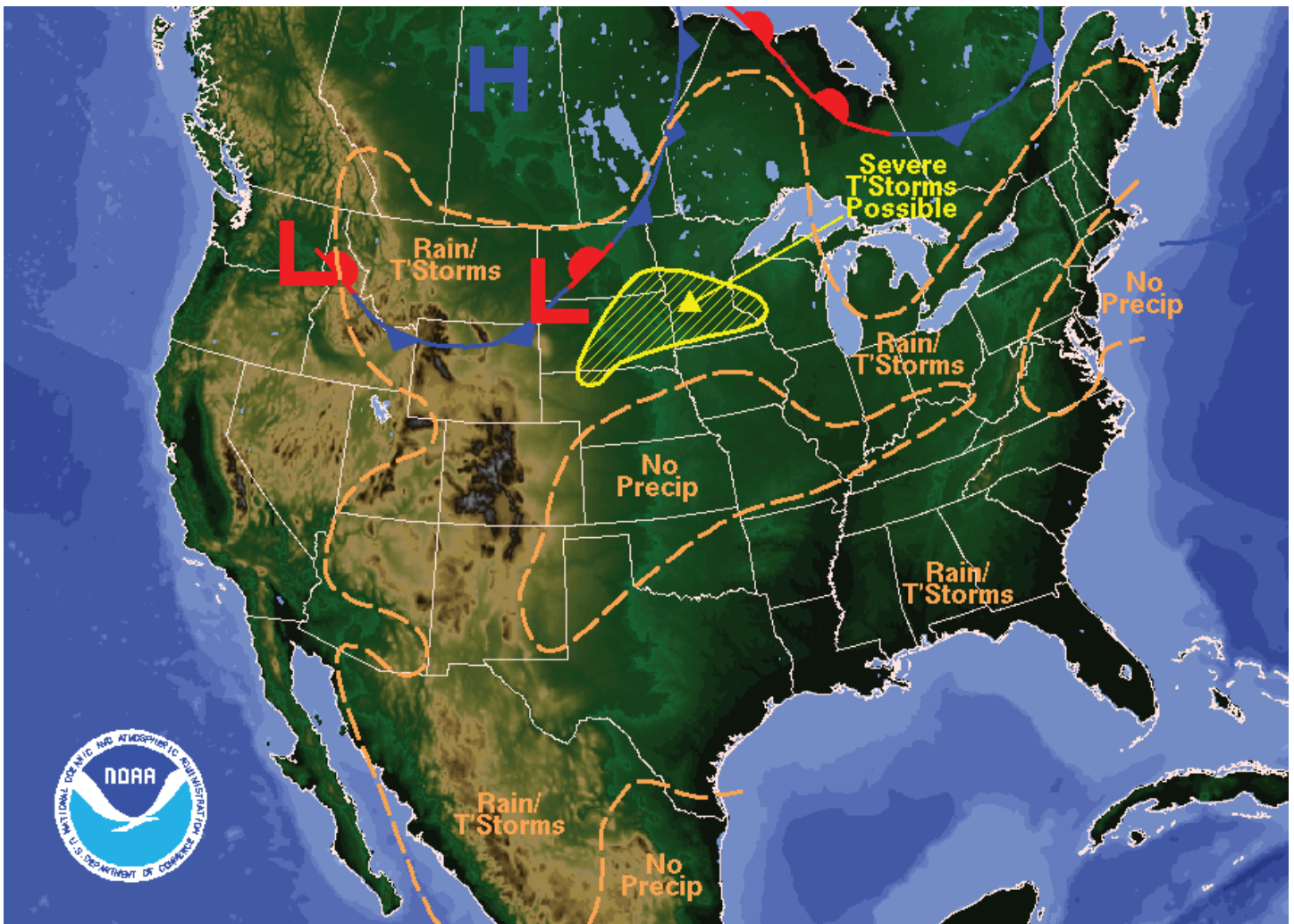
Precip to date in Aug: 1.81

Average Precip to date: 15.62

Precip Year to Date: 12.53

Sunset Tonight: 8:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Aug 18, 2016, issued 4:27 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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"LUCKY LINDY"

Everyone called him "Lucky Lindy" but not those who knew him. When he made his historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean, Charles Lindbergh left absolutely nothing to "luck." During his preparation he was careful and cautious, thoughtful and thorough. He never hoped things would go right. He made certain that everything would be right. Nothing was left to chance. Everything relating to his flight was the result of a deliberate choice.

A few days prior to his historic solo transatlantic flight, Lindbergh and his copilot, Frank Samuels, completed a hard day's work. They spent endless hours examining every detail of what he would do, why and how he would do it and the possibilities of something going wrong.

That night they checked into a motel. Shortly after midnight Samuels was awakened and saw Lindbergh at the window. "Why are you sitting there awake when you should be sleeping?" asked Samuels.

"I'm studying the stars," he answered "and practicing staying awake."

Paying attention to details and leaving nothing to chance is a God-honoring character trait. It is a reflection of our dependence upon God to give insight and wisdom to do everything to honor Him for His gifts.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that whatever we do as Christians is a reflection of You. May whatever we do in word or deed be done to glorify You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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605/397-2365**

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally traffic down 40 percent from 2015

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Traffic at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was down nearly 40 percent from last year's landmark 75th anniversary event.

Data from the state Transportation Department show 508,610 vehicles attended the Aug. 3-14 event, down from 830,503 last year.

It is the lowest traffic count in 26 years of tracking Sturgis data, although the numbers from three years in the 1990s are incomplete due to faulty traffic counters, according to KOTA-TV.

"Nothing matches up to last year," vendor Deborah Youker told KEVN-TV.

Traffic-related injuries, non-injury accidents and fatalities at this year's rally all were down dramatically from a year ago, and this eased law enforcement efforts.

"When we have a down year, our officers are able to patrol better and do traffic monitoring," Sturgis Assistant Police Chief Sean Briscoe told the Rapid City Journal.

There were 1,413 citations issued during this year's rally, up 17 percent from 2015, according to the state data.

"It was a pretty good year overall for law enforcement, and all of our officers were tired by the end of the week," Briscoe said. "But they held up well."

Highway Patrol, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe partner for powwow

FORT THOMPSON, S.D. (AP) — The state Highway Patrol is joining with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe for the fourth consecutive year for joint enforcement during the Dakota Nation powwow.

The event starts Friday and goes through the weekend in Fort Thompson.

Tribal Chairman Brandon Sazue says the troopers help make sure the powwow is safe and fun for everyone. The Highway Patrol says some troopers will have drug detection dogs while assisting tribal police at the event.

The Highway Patrol estimates 14 troopers will be involved in this year's joint enforcement effort.

Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the Highway Patrol, says troopers who have participated in the powwow have learned more about the culture and traditions of the Crow Creek people.

State's first freestanding ER on track to open in October

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's first freestanding emergency room, which is expected to primarily serve a concentration of residents large enough that it could be the state's third-largest city, is on track to see its first patients this October.

Avera Health on Wednesday offered the first glimpse inside the emergency room it will manage west of Interstate 29 in Sioux Falls. The health care system has estimated that the facility will serve a population of roughly 45,000 who currently lack nearby access to an emergency room — that's more than a fourth of Sioux Falls' total residents.

"If you took that population and annexed it from Sioux Falls, that would be the third-largest city in the state of South Dakota," said Mark Vortherms, vice president of primary care at Avera Health. "So when you think of that, there's a shortage of medical services for that size of a community. ... We'll provide services closer to their home."

The two other emergency rooms in Sioux Falls are nine to 16 minutes away without traffic from where the new facility is located, but around the evening rush hour, that time can change to 11 to 19 minutes.

The 24/7 emergency room, with a planned opening date of Oct. 12, will not be attached to a hospital. If patients require hospitalization or greater attention, such as intervention for a heart attack or stroke or trauma surgery, they will be triaged and transferred to a hospital at Avera's cost.

The three-story, 85,000-square-foot building will also offer other services, including family and occupational medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology, during typical business hours. Urgent care services will be offered in the evenings and on weekends.

Vortherms said all patients who show up at the emergency room will receive an appropriate medical screening exam as required by federal law, but if their condition is minor, they will be given the option to be transferred within the building to urgent care. Such a move could result in cost savings for patients.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that Sioux Falls has added about 17,000 residents since 2010 and reached an estimated population of more than 171,000 as of July 2015. Jeffrey Schmitt, the city's chief planning and zoning official, said people of all ages, demographics and geographic locations will benefit from the new facility.

"Having additional patient care access points allows for an increase in patient care in this new clinic as well as the existing clinics based upon the patient volume they have been experiencing," Schmitt said. "This is another example of dispersing services, meeting our citizens' needs, and allowing for less travel time when our citizens are looking for these services."

Bureau of Administration: Progress visible at Hilger's Gulch

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Bureau of Administration says work to re-establish the native landscape at Hilger's Gulch park on the state Capitol grounds is yielding visible progress.

The bureau said Wednesday that staff has sown grass seed consisting of Buffalo and Blue Grama, as well as grasses such as Needlegrass and Little Bluestem near the bull rushes.

The bureau has also added Martin houses and planted wildflowers, shrubs and Apricot trees. Commissioner Jeff Holden says new developments underway include walking paths, concrete benches and a GIS mapping app.

South Dakota delegation denounces federal rules at farm show

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The growth of expensive regulations from unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. is costing American families and burdening farmers, South Dakota's Republican congressional delegation said Wednesday at an agricultural forum.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds spoke at Dakotafest, Mitchell's annual farm show. Lauding agriculture as a top industry in the state, Noem said lawmakers need to make sure federal regulations in areas such as clean water and power-plant emissions aren't slowing down economic growth.

"The regulations we face coming out of Washington, D.C. are a threat to our way of life," Noem said. "That is a weight around your neck."

Agriculture is a difficult and unpredictable way to make a living, and lawmakers in Washington need to make sure policies are in place to encourage a strong farm economy, Thune said, praising provisions in the federal Farm Bill passed in 2014.

Acknowledging low grain and livestock prices that are dragging down farm income, Rounds said farmers have to be able count on a safety net and pledged to fight attempts to cut to crop insurance.

Thune and Noem are up for re-election in 2016. Noem faces Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks, while Yankton businessman Jay Williams is challenging Thune.

Hawks campaign spokesman Michael Ewald said Hawks would be an effective and committed advocate for agriculture, which has been a centerpiece of her campaign. Hawks has said she'll demand a spot on the House Agriculture Committee, if elected.

An audience member said she couldn't vote for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, and asked the delegation what South Dakota residents should do in the November election. Thune, in part, made his argument for Trump based on the possibility of future appointments tilting the partisan leaning of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Politicians come and go. Presidents come and go. Members of Congress come and go," Thune said. "The Supreme Court is a permanent, lifetime appointment that will be generational in terms of its impact on this country."

Sioux tribe leader wants political help to halt oil pipeline

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A tribal leader Wednesday said he contacted the White House and met with North Dakota's senators in an effort to halt construction of a \$3.8 billion, four-state oil pipeline that crosses the Missouri River near an American Indian reservation in southern North Dakota.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault II, in a teleconference with reporters, stressed that the he and the tribe are working to ensure peace among those protesting the Dakota Access pipeline.

"There is no place for threats, violence or criminal activity," Archambault said.

North Dakota transportation officials, meanwhile, closed a several-mile stretch of Highway 1806 on Wednesday because of the protest along the road.

The 1,172-mile pipeline planned by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners is passing through the Dakotas and Iowa on its way to Illinois. Construction crews with armed private security guards arrived last week just north of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers, where native Americans have been staging a protest for months at a "spirit camp."

Archambault and more than two dozen others have been arrested in the past week for interfering with construction of the project.

On Monday, developers of the project sued in federal court to stop protesters — including Archambault — from interfering with the project, alleging the safety of workers and law enforcement is at risk.

U.S. District Court Judge Daniel Hovland granted the developer's motion for a temporary restraining order Tuesday.

Archambault said he met Wednesday with North Dakota Sens. John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp to "express concerns" about the pipeline.

The tribe sued federal regulators late last month for approving the pipeline. The tribe argues the pipeline would disturb sacred sites and affect drinking water for the thousands of residents on the reservation and the millions who rely on it downstream.

Archambault told reporters he also has urged President Barack Obama to step in. The president and First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in 2014 to get a firsthand look at the impoverished living conditions on the reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border.

Archambault said he asked nothing of the president then but is doing so now.

"I believe both he and Michelle Obama were touched," Archambault said. "So now if there's any way he can intervene and move this pipeline off our treaty lands, I'm asking him."

The White House did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Western Governors plan workshops on forest management

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Western Governors' Association plans five workshops to discuss forest and rangeland management practices and develop a compromise that could include more logging while also preserving forest and rangeland for tourism and recreation.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, chairman of the WGA, said Tuesday the first workshop will be held Sept. 20-21 in Missoula. The dates for workshops in Idaho and South Dakota, as well as the details on two others have not been announced.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber chief operating officer Loren Rose and Jim Stone, chairman of the Blackfoot Challenge conservation group, say people on all sides will need to collaborate to reach a compromise.

The WGA hopes to make a management recommendation to Congress.

Small grains harvest nearing completion in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The small grains harvest is nearing completion in South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 75 percent of the barley, 84 percent of the spring wheat and 95 percent of the oats are in the bin. The harvest of all three crops is well ahead of the average pace.

The report also says widespread rain over the week brought much-needed precipitation to the state.

Pasture and range conditions in South Dakota are rated 38 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 67 percent adequate to surplus.

Pierre starts work on last 2011 flood-related repair project

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Pierre is starting work on the last major project in the city's recovery from Missouri River flooding in 2011.

Commissioners on Tuesday awarded a bid for repairs to a park amphitheater parking lot. The project funded by a federal grant will restore the lot to its pre-flood condition, and should be done by mid-September, according to City Administrator Leon Schochenmaier.

"This is our last flood-related project," he said.

The small project is a symbol of the much larger five-year effort to rebound from the flood caused by heavy spring snow runoff and rain, Mayor Laurie Gill said.

Flood-related damage to city infrastructure totaled about \$9.5 million, less than initial estimates that reached \$16 million, according to the Capital Journal. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has reimbursed Pierre about \$5 million, with the rest of the repair money coming from city reserves.

With flood-related work wrapping up, city officials are focusing on rebuilding the reserves, which have fallen below \$3 million. The goal is to build up the fund to \$8 million in a year or two.

Lawmakers studying drug abuse prevention to meet at Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of lawmakers looking at how to prevent drug abuse in South Dakota is meeting at the state Capitol.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Interim Study Committee meets Wednesday. The committee is hear-

ing from former U.S. attorney from North Dakota Timothy Purdon.

Purdon is discussing the challenges of fighting meth and problems from drugs on Native American reservations.

The study committee is also taking input from the public about meth use on reservations, as well as opioid use. Republican Sen. Jim White is chairing the group.

Looking beyond the home team in Olympic basketball coverage

DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In Rio and any other Olympics, broadcasters are frequently criticized for a concentration on a home nation's athletes that causes it to miss interesting stories involving others. Some of it is fair, much of it isn't.

So it's worth noting the time and care NBC took to acknowledge the core of the Argentine men's basketball team that has been together since winning gold in 2004 and will now split up.

That team got off to a fast start in a quarterfinal game Wednesday, taking a 10-point lead against the United States. But the U.S. team overwhelmed the Argentines with depth and defensive intensity, going on a 27-2 run. The game wasn't competitive thereafter.

"This may be the last run for what has been a magnificent group," NBC's Marv Albert said of an aging team led by San Antonio Spurs star Manu Ginobili.

Albert and Doug Collins spent considerable time on that team's history during an otherwise uneventful fourth quarter, and cameras kept with an emotional Ginobili and his teammates at the end.

SEER: NBC analyst Ato Boldon didn't hesitate when colleague Tom Hammond asked him prior to the women's 100-meter hurdles about the chance that U.S. women could sweep the medals. "I think it's highly likely," he said. Brianna Rollins, Nia Ali and Kristi Catlin then made the prediction come true.

STAR TIME: Usain Bolt seems to understand the responsibility of being a star, doesn't he? Bolt had only a semifinal race to run Wednesday, but made even that seem entertaining in his by-play with Canadian competitor Andre de Grasse.

SAFE IN BROADCAST BOOTH: Play briefly stopped in Wednesday's handball match between Brazil and France, with Brazil's goalie woozy from being smacked in the head by a shot. The goalies wear no protection as the ball comes whizzing by, or at, them. "He's just dinged a little bit," NBC analyst Dawn Lewis said. "He'll have to gain his composure again." Replied her partner, Chris Carrino, "that's easy for you to say!"

QUOTE: "The samba party is on in Rio de Janeiro." — NBC soccer announcer Steve Cangialosi as a goal gave Brazil a 3-0 lead in its men's soccer match against Honduras that it won 6-0. Brazil will now play for gold.

FAKED OUT: Any rec league basketball player could identify with Collins as he watched American guard Kyrie Irving score on a brilliant shake-and-bake move against Argentina. "My knees are hurting and I didn't even guard him on that play," Collins said.

LOCHTE: NBC devoted 10 minutes of its prime-time broadcast to the murky story of American swimmer Ryan Lochte and his teammates, who said they were robbed at gunpoint during their time in Rio. Two of Lochte's teammates were removed from their plane to the U.S. on Wednesday as authorities continue their investigation of the case. NBC's Matt Lauer reported on a phone interview with Lochte.

YOUR DEVICE MATTERS: NBCOlympics.com is the place to go for DVR-like controls such as forwarding, rewinding and a 15-second instant replay button. On the NBC Sports app on phones and tablets, you're limited to a pause button for live events, with no ability to start from the beginning or create your own instant replay. For pre-taped events, you get a slider that isn't easy to control. Also, live isn't

really live: Because of the constraints of streaming, it takes time for video to turn into data and travel to your phone or computer — about a minute behind one recent night. For Bolt's 200-meter run, the race was over on television by the time the stream started.

RATINGS: NBC reached 24.1 million viewers on Tuesday for a telecast that featured Simone Biles and Aly Raisman taking the top two medals for the gymnastics floor exercise. The prime-time viewership increases by 6 percent to 25.6 million when cable and streaming are added in. Consistent with every other night of the Olympics, that lags behind the 2012 London Games, which had 30.1 million viewers in prime time for the corresponding night.

Bee rescue mounted after hospital breaks out in hives

LONDON (AP) — It was a sticky situation.

A British hospital discovered it had become home to more than 100,000 bees when patients noticed honey dripping down the walls.

Beekeepers were summoned to Rockwood Hospital in Cardiff, Wales, after the discovery last month, and found a large colony of bees in the roof above a ward.

Abigail Reade of the Tree Bee Society charity said Thursday that honey was "dripping through the ceiling tiles, it was dripping down the walls."

She said the hive had gone unnoticed for up to five years. It's thought warm summer weather melted some of the wax, releasing the honey.

Beekeepers from the society removed some 70,000 bees by cutting a hole in the roof. A second colony was removed from another part of the hospital this week.

Lochte's swim teammates to meet with authorities on robbery

MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

BETH HARRIS, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Three American Olympic swimmers planned to meet with Brazilian law enforcement Thursday to discuss a reported robbery targeting 12-time medalist Ryan Lochte and his teammates, a U.S. Olympic Committee official said.

USOC spokesperson Patrick Sandusky said Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz were released by local authorities after being pulled from a flight at the Rio de Janeiro airport, with the understanding that discussions would continue amid uncertainty over what truly took place during a late outing the night Olympic swimming wrapped up at the Rio Games.

Fellow teammate Jimmy Feigen also plans to talk to officials, Sandusky said, as he navigates a judge's order that keeps him in Brazil. The order similarly called for Lochte's passport to be seized, but the star swimmer had already returned to the United States before authorities could enforce the decision.

A lawyer for Conger and Bentz said Thursday that they won't be allowed to leave Brazil until they provide testimony to investigators. The swimmers didn't speak to reporters as they left the airport, shuttled away by a black car waiting outside. They departed for an unspecified location in Brazil and had yet to testify, said attorney Sergio Viegas.

Representatives from the U.S. consulate arrived at the airport shortly after the swimmers were stopped from leaving the country.

The action comes amid increasing tension between Brazilian authorities and the American swimmers over the ever-changing account of the robbery. Police say they have found little evidence so far to support the claims, and that the swimmers were unable to provide key details in interviews. The office of

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Judge Keyla Blanc, who ordered the passports seized, said that there were discrepancies in the statements by the swimmers.

Lochte has said he was with Conger, Bentz and Jimmy Feigen when they were robbed at gunpoint in a taxi by men with a police badge as they returned to the athletes village from a party, several hours after the final Olympic swimming events.

NBC reported Wednesday night that Lochte backed off some of his earlier claims about the robbery. He now says the taxi wasn't pulled over by men with a badge, but that they were robbed after stopping at a gas station, NBC reported. Lochte also said the assailant pointed a gun at him rather than putting it to his head.

The U.S. Olympic Committee said police went to the athletes village to try to collect the passports, but the swim team had already moved out.

Lochte's father told The Associated Press by phone from his Florida home that his son called him Tuesday after arriving in the United States. The 32-year-old swimmer was going to pick up his car and buy a new wallet to replace the one that he said was stolen.

"I'm just happy he's safe," Steve Lochte said. "It was an unfortunate experience for him and the other three. I don't know what all the controversy is. They were basically taken out of the taxi and robbed. The main thing is he's very lucky that he's safe and that all they got was his cash and wallet."

While he's medaled often in the Olympic pool, Lochte's accomplishments have long been overshadowed by teammate Michael Phelps — the most decorated Olympian in history. He won a gold in Rio in a relay race alongside Phelps.

The group did not call police, authorities said, and officers began investigating once they saw media reports in which Lochte's mother spoke about the robbery.

A police official with knowledge of the investigation told the AP that police cannot find their taxi driver or witnesses from the robbery. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Police interviewed Lochte and one other swimmer, who said they had been intoxicated and could not remember what type and color of taxi they rode in or where the robbery happened, the police official said. The swimmers also could not say what time the events occurred.

Lochte's attorney, Jeff Ostrow, has said there is no question the robbery occurred.

"Why would anybody fabricate anything?" Steve Lochte said. "It's just ridiculous."

Lochte told USA Today that he and his teammates didn't initially tell the U.S. Olympic officials about the robbery because "we were afraid we'd get in trouble."

Steve Bentz, father of Gunnar Bentz, when reached by phone late Wednesday night, said: "I really don't want to say anything," and hung up.

Louisiana flooding victims now struggling with where to live

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

MELINDA DESLATTE, Associated Press

KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. (AP) — Keisha Taylor, a 37-year-old mother of four, has spent three nights in two different shelters since her family fled the flooding at their Baton Rouge apartment complex. And she doesn't know how many more nights they will be sleeping on cots inside the downtown arena where hundreds sought shelter.

Taylor probably could stay with relatives in White Castle, a town about 30 miles west of Louisiana's

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capital city, but three of her kids are enrolled in Baton Rouge schools that could reopen next week.

"This is where I live. I need to be home," she said.

Taylor is one of thousands of people across southern Louisiana displaced by catastrophic flooding and now struggling with where to live.

An additional evacuation recommendation was made in Vermilion Parish. Gueydan Fire Chief Evans Bourque told The Associated Press early Thursday that residents in about 60 to 70 homes in an area outside the levee system there were being urged to evacuate amid rising water. Bourque said he did not know how many people the evacuation included but said it was less than 100.

With an estimated 40,000 homes damaged by deadly flooding, Louisiana could be looking at its biggest housing crunch since the miserable, bumbling aftermath of Hurricane Katrina a decade ago.

For the Baton Rouge area, it was a blow on top of what has already been a tough summer starting with the shooting death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling on July 5. The death of Sterling, a black man, at the hands of two white police officers incited widespread protests in which nearly 200 people were arrested.

Then on July 17, a lone gunman shot and killed three law enforcement officers and wounded three others outside a Baton Rouge convenience store. The suspect, Gavin Long, an Army veteran from Kansas City, Missouri, was killed by police. The dead officers all had lived in the area of Denham Springs, a quiet bedroom community near Baton Rouge.

Then the rains hit.

People now are staying in shelters, bunking with friends or relatives, or sleeping in trailers on their front lawns. Others unable or unwilling to leave their homes are living amid mud and the ever-present risk of mold in the steamy August heat.

Many victims will need an extended place to stay while they rebuild. Countless others didn't have flood insurance and may not have the means to repair their homes.

"I got nowhere else to go," said Thomas Lee, 56, who ekes out a living as a drywall hanger — a skill that will come in handy. His sodden furniture is piled curbside and the drywall in his rented house is puckering, but Thomas still plans to keep living there, sleeping on an air mattress.

Exactly how many will need temporary housing is unclear, but state officials are already urging landlords to allow short-term leases and encouraging people to rent out any empty space available.

Terri Ricks, deputy secretary for the Department of Children and Family Services, which helps organize sheltering efforts in parishes, said the state is talking with parishes about possibly running a long-term shelter in the region if needed to give people a place to stay while they repair and rebuild.

"Nobody wants to do a long-term shelter," she said. "We want to get people in a more permanent situation."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, whose very name became a punchline during Katrina, said it will look into lining up rental properties for those left homeless and will consider using temporary housing units.

But FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate gave assurances that the temporary units won't be the old FEMA travel trailers — a reference to the ones brought in after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that were found to have toxic levels of formaldehyde.

The flooding that struck the Baton Rouge and Lafayette areas left at least 13 people dead. More than 30,000 have been rescued, and at least 70,000 have registered for federal disaster assistance. At the height, 11,000 people were in shelters, though that figured dropped to 6,000 by Wednesday.

Those with flood insurance will be in a much better place to begin rebuilding — but there won't be many of them.

Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon said it was shocking that only 12 percent of the homes in hard-hit Baton Rouge were covered by flood insurance, and only 14 percent in Lafayette. Donelon, however, said he understands why the state's "large population of working poor folks" wouldn't pay for flood coverage when lenders tell them it's not a requirement.

Many flood victims said they weren't required to have flood insurance and didn't have it, since nothing remotely like this had ever happened before. One of those people was David Ellis.

He and his wife closed on their new house in a Livingston Parish subdivision last Thursday afternoon. It started flooding the very next day, water ultimately rising above three feet inside his home. Like many of his neighbors, Ellis didn't have flood insurance. He said he was told he didn't need it.

Friends have launched an online fundraising campaign to help repair the new home.

"I hate asking for help, but having somebody do that for us is awesome," he said.

Prominent German historian Ernst Nolte dies at 93

BERLIN (AP) — Ernst Nolte, a German historian who set off a dispute among his peers by arguing three decades ago that Nazism was a reaction to an "existential threat" to Germany from the Russian revolution, has died. He was 93.

Nolte's family confirmed that he died Thursday at a Berlin hospital, the news agency dpa reported, following a report in the city's Tagesspiegel daily.

Nolte, an author of respected histories of fascism, in 1986 published an essay titled "The Past That Won't Go Away." It suggested that Stalin's forced-labor camps and the killing of millions of peasants in the Soviet Union were in a sense a forerunner of the Nazis' genocide program.

Opponents argued that he and other conservative historians were trying to lessen the magnitude of Nazi crimes through such comparisons.

Haunting image of Syrian boy rescued from Aleppo rubble

ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition activists have released haunting footage showing a young boy rescued from the rubble in the aftermath of a devastating airstrike in Aleppo.

The image of the stunned and weary looking boy, sitting in an orange chair inside an ambulance covered in dust and with blood on his face, encapsulates the horrors inflicted on the war-ravaged northern city and is being widely shared on social media.

A doctor in Aleppo on Thursday identified the boy as 5-year-old Omran Daqneesh. Osama Abu al-Ezz confirmed he was brought to the hospital known as "M10" Wednesday night following an airstrike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Qaterji with head wounds, but no brain injury, and was later discharged.

Rescue workers and journalists arrived at Qaterji shortly after the strike and began pulling victims from the rubble.

"We were passing them from one balcony to the other," said photojournalist Mahmoud Raslan, who took the iconic photo. He said he had passed along three lifeless bodies before receiving the wounded boy.

A doctor at M10 later reported eight dead, among them five children.

The strike occurred during the sunset call to prayer, around 7:20 p.m, said Raslan, a correspondent for Al Jazeera Mubashir.

Omran was rescued along with his three siblings, ages 1, 6, and 11, and his mother and father from

the rubble of their partially destroyed apartment building, according to Raslan. None sustained major injuries, but the building collapsed shortly after the family was rescued.

"We sent the younger children immediately to the ambulance, but the 11-year-old girl waited for her mother to be rescued. Her ankle was pinned beneath the rubble," Raslan said.

In the video posted late Wednesday by the Aleppo Media Center, a man is seen plucking the boy away from a chaotic nighttime scene and carrying him inside the ambulance, looking dazed and flat-eyed.

The boy then runs his hand over his blood-covered face, looks at his hands and wipes them on the ambulance chair.

Doctors in Aleppo use code names for hospitals, which they say have been systematically targeted by government airstrikes. Abu al-Ezz said they do that "because we are afraid security forces will infiltrate their medical network and target ambulances as they transfer patients from one hospital to another."

Activists living in opposition areas rely on informers in the government-controlled Latakia province to warn residents of impending airstrikes. On Wednesday evening, an informant in Latakia informed activist networks that a jet had taken off from the Russian air base at Hmeimim.

"We expected the plane to arrive in Aleppo airspace in two minutes, and sure enough it did," said Raslan. "It struck twice."

No one was injured in the first strike, said Raslan. The second one turned Omran's life upside down.

The horror generated by the image of Omran in the orange chair echoes the anguished global response to the pictures of Aylan Kurdi, the drowned Syrian boy whose body was found on a beach in Turkey and came to encapsulate the horrific toll of Syria's civil war.

10 Things to Know for Today **The Associated Press**

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

1. HAUNTING IMAGE OF SYRIAN BOY RESCUED FROM ALEPPO RUBBLE

The picture of the stunned and wounded boy, sitting inside an ambulance covered in dust and with blood on his face, is being widely shared on social media and captures the horror of the daily bombardment of the city.

2. GOP PLANNING CONTINGENCY IF TRUMP FALTERS

The Republican National Committee concedes it may divert resources away from the presidential contest in favor of vulnerable Senate and House candidates if his standing does not improve.

3. WHAT TREND IS TROUBLING FOR THE NATION

The rich keep getting richer while more Americans are getting left behind financially, leading to a thinning of the middle class.

4. FEDS TO VISIT FLOOD-WRACKED LOUISIANA

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is slated to visit the devastated state to review the U.S. government's response to the flooding, which has damaged tens of thousands of homes and businesses.

5. CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE BRINGS DESTRUCTION, UNCERTAINTY

As a ferocious wildfire swallows up many homes east of Los Angeles, officials are faced with the difficult task of tallying the damage while still fighting the blaze.

6. US SWIMMING TEAMMATES PULLED OFF RIO PLANE

A lawyer for Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz says they will not be allowed to leave Brazil until they

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provide testimony to authorities, who are investigating how the athletes got robbed along with star teammate, Ryan Lochte.

7. NORTH KOREA FACING PR CRISIS

The defection of a North Korean senior diplomat in London poses a major problem for Pyongyang on a number of fronts — not least of which is how to publicly respond.

8. AFTER DECADES OF WAR, AFGHANS WARY TO TALK OF MENTAL HEALTH

Experts say the vast majority of the Afghan population suffers from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder, yet societal attitudes on mental health hold many back from seeking help.

9. WHO IS MILWAUKEE OFFICER AT CENTER OF PROTESTS

Dominique Heaggan, 24, attended grade school in the city, joined the police force as a teenage aide and has lived near the shooting scene since at least 2012.

10. WHO'S HOPING FOR MORE GOOD FORTUNE IN WILLIAMSPORT

Tokyo teams have won four of the last five Little League World Series titles — and the city's Chofu squad wants to be the next champ.

2 Indonesians make rare, daring escape from Filipino captors

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Threatened with beheadings, two Indonesian sailors made a daring escape from Abu Sayyaf militants in the southern Philippines after almost two months of captivity. One was rescued by villagers who found him entangled in fishnets and the other picked up by Philippine troops on a village road, officials said Thursday.

Their flights were a rare bright spot in a long and bloody military campaign to root out the militants who have gained notoriety with ransom kidnappings and beheadings. Indonesia's senior security minister Wiranto welcomed the escapes as gifts for the country's 71st Independence Day celebrations on Wednesday.

Ismail and Mohammad Safyan were among seven tugboat crewmen who were abducted near Philippine waters in June, part of the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping spree that captured some two dozen Indonesian sailors, Westerners and other Asians.

Ten of the hostages were freed earlier this year reportedly after ransoms were paid, but others remained in the hands of the militants who beheaded two Canadians in April and June.

On Wednesday, the two Indonesians escaped together on Jolo Island, an Abu Sayyaf jungle stronghold, but fled in separate direction as their captors chased them, said Maj. Filemon Tan, a regional military spokesman.

"They said they were fired upon when they escaped but were not hit," Tan said.

Safyan, a sailor, was found by villagers floating and trapped in fishnets. Troops looking for other Indonesians saw Ismail, the chief officer of the tugboat Charles, on a nearby road, Tan said. He identified himself as a kidnap victim.

Photos released by the Philippine military showed the two men appearing in good health and being debriefed by army officials.

It is not uncommon for hostages to try to escape, but very few succeed because they are unfamiliar with terrain and don't speak the local language.

"Hopefully the progress will be better in coming days since the Philippine government has seriously threatened the kidnappers through military and psychological pressures," Wiranto, who uses a single name, told reporters at the state palace in Jakarta.

He called for prayers for the other hostages to gain freedom soon.

The Philippines says it has stepped up a military offensive against the militants after the beheadings of the two Canadians.

Sixteen other foreign hostages — nine Indonesians, five Malaysians, one Norwegian, and a Dutchman — are still held by the Muslim extremist group in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south, where Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades. At least five Filipinos are also being held.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed in May to carry out coordinated patrols following a series of kidnappings and piracy attacks that have undermined commerce in the Celebes Sea, where their sea borders overlap.

UN Syria envoy pauses humanitarian task force amid fighting

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. envoy for Syria has cut short a meeting of its humanitarian aid task force amid continued fighting that has prevented aid deliveries to besieged areas for at least a month.

Staffan de Mistura said he halted the weekly meeting after only eight minutes Thursday saying there was "no sense" in having one because of the delay in aid deliveries.

De Mistura reiterated his call for a 48-hour pause in the fighting, notably in the northern city of Aleppo, to help allow for deliveries and asked for a "gesture of humanity from both sides."

The envoy said he plans to reconvene the humanitarian task force next week and believes the task force's co-chairs — Russia and the United States — still want a nonmilitary solution to Syria's conflict.

Chinese admiral visits Syria in show of support

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A top Chinese military officer visited Syria this week in a show of support for President Bashar Assad's embattled regime, official media reported Thursday, underscoring Beijing's backing of fellow authoritarian governments and concerns about the spread of religious militancy.

Rear Adm. Guan Youfei met on Sunday with Syrian Defense Minister Fahd Jassem al-Frej in Damascus, the Xinhua News Agency said. He also met the following day with a Russian general who is coordinating his country's military assistance to Assad's fight against armed opposition groups, the agency said.

Xinhua said Guan expressed China's willingness to boost military cooperation with Syria, while the newspaper Global Times cited the Chinese Defense Ministry as saying that both sides agreed to expand personnel training and humanitarian aid via the Chinese military.

The Chinese military "is willing to strengthen cooperation with its Syrian counterparts," it quoted the ministry as saying.

Guan is head of the Office for International Military Cooperation under the Central Military Commission that oversees China's 2.3 million-member armed forces.

While China has followed Russia's approach in backing Assad, it hasn't directly contributed forces in keeping with its policy of opposing outside intervention in domestic conflicts. During the early months of the 5-year-old civil war, China joined Russia in blocking motions at the United Nations calling for Assad to work for a resolution of the conflict.

Despite that, Chinese military advisers are on the ground in Syria helping train soldiers in the use of weapons purchased from China, including sniper rifles, rocket launchers and machine guns, reported the Global Times, which is published by the ruling Communist Party's flagship newspaper People's Daily.

Guan's visit illustrates Beijing's enduring recognition of the Syrian government and insistence that the

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warring parties reach a resolution among themselves, said Wang Lian of the School of International Studies at Peking University.

Although China wants to expand government-to-government and military-to-military cooperation, it's unlikely to provide substantial military support, much less send personnel to fight on behalf of the regime, Wang said.

"More likely, the Chinese military wanted to use Guan's trip to better understand the current state of the turmoil in Syria," Wang said. "In developing a closer relationship with Syria, one has to take into account the changes at hand in Syria and the region, including the fast recovering relations between Turkey and Russia."

China's ruling Communist Party brooks no political opposition and is constantly on alert for signs of popular uprisings of the sort that flared across the Middle East during the "Arab Spring" that ultimately led to Syria's fragmentation.

The government has also warned of the potential threat posed by Chinese Muslims returning to the country after fighting alongside radical groups such as the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Those allegedly include members of the Uighur ethnic minority, some of whom have waged a yearslong campaign against Chinese rule in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

WHY IT MATTERS: Income inequality

JOSH BOAK, Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE _ One in an AP series examining issues at stake in the presidential election and how they affect people

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE ISSUE: The rich keep getting richer while more Americans are getting left behind financially.

Income inequality has surged near levels last seen before the Great Depression. The average income for the top 1 percent of households climbed 7.7 percent last year to \$1.36 million, according to tax data tracked by Emmanuel Saez, an economics professor at the University of California, Berkeley. That privileged sliver of the population saw pay climb at almost twice the rate of income growth for the other 99 percent, whose pay averaged a humble \$48,768.

But why care how much the wealthy are making? What counts the most to any family is how much that family is bringing in. And that goes to the heart of the income-inequality debate: Most Americans still have yet to recover from the Great Recession, even though that downturn ended seven years ago. The average income for the 99 percent is still lower than it was back in 1998 after adjusting for inflation.

Meanwhile, incomes for the executives, bankers, hedge fund managers, entertainers and doctors who make up the top 1 percent have steadily improved. These one-percenters account for roughly 22 percent of all personal income, more than double the post-World War II era level of roughly 10 percent. One reason the income disparity is troubling for the nation is that it's thinning out the ranks of the middle class.

WHERE THEY STAND

Hillary Clinton has highlighted inequality in multiple speeches, with her positions evolving somewhat over the past year. Bernie Sanders held her feet to the fire on that subject in the primaries. Clinton hopes to redirect more money to the middle class and impoverished. Clinton would raise taxes on the wealthy, increase the federal minimum wage, boost infrastructure spending, provide universal pre-K

and offer the prospect of tuition-free college.

Donald Trump offers a blunter message about a hollowed-out middle class and a system “rigged” against average Americans. Still, he has yet to emphasize income inequality in the campaign. To bring back the factory jobs long associated with the rise of the middle class, Trump has promised new trade deals and infrastructure spending. But Trump has also proposed a tax plan that would allow the wealthiest Americans to keep more of their earnings.

WHY IT MATTERS

President Barack Obama has called rising inequality “the defining challenge of our time.” And experts warn that it may be slowing overall economic growth. Greater inequality has created a festering distrust of government and of corporate leaders whose promises of better times ahead never fully materialized.

The result has been a backlash against globalization that many Americans feel tilted the economy against them. For the top 1 percent, the ability to move money overseas and reach markets worldwide concentrated pay for “superstars,” according to economists. At the same time, factory workers now compete with 3 billion people in China, India, Eastern Europe and elsewhere who weren’t working for multinational corporations 20 years ago. Many now make products for Apple, Intel, General Motors and others at low wages. This has depressed middle-class pay. These trends have contributed to a “hollowed out” labor market in the United States, with more jobs at the higher and lower ends of the pay scale and fewer in the middle.

Social factors have amplified the trend as well. Single-parent families are more likely to be poor than other families and less likely to ascend the income ladder. Finally, men and women with college degrees and high pay are more likely to marry each other and amplify income gaps.

This story is part of AP’s “Why It Matters” series, which will examine three dozen issues at stake in the presidential election between now and Election Day. You can find them at: <http://apnews.com/tag/WhyItMatters>

California wildfire brings destruction and uncertainty

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — A ferocious wildfire had swallowed up many homes as it spread across 40 square miles of mountain and desert east of Los Angeles. Exactly how many, however, and to whom they belonged, remained uncertain.

Firefighters were faced with the difficult task of tallying that damage while still battling the huge, unruly blaze.

That left evacuees in a cruel limbo, forced to spend another night wondering whether anything they owned was still intact.

They included Shawn Brady, who had been told by a neighbor that flames had raged down their street. But he was waiting for official word.

“What I’ve been told is that flames are currently ripping through my house,” said Brady, a dockworker who lives on the outskirts of the evacuated town of Wrightwood with his mother, sister and a dog.

“I’m trying to remain optimistic,” Brady said as he sat outside a shelter for evacuees in Fontana. “It’s the not knowing that’s the worst.”

San Bernardino County fire officials could only confirm that dozens of structures had burned, and that big numbers are likely.

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"There will be a lot of families that come home to nothing," county Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said Wednesday after flying over a fire scene he described as "devastating."

"It hit hard. It hit fast. It hit with an intensity that we hadn't seen before," he said.

Firefighters had at least established a foothold of control of the blaze the day after it broke out for unknown reasons in the Cajon Pass near Interstate 15, the vital artery between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The fire was 4 percent contained on Wednesday.

The California Highway Patrol reopened I-15 late Wednesday night, while the southbound side remained closed.

Those assessing damage were also looking for dead and injured, but none had been reported yet. Cadaver dogs were searching the ruins for anyone who was overrun by the flames.

Five years of drought have turned the state's wildlands into a tinder box, with eight fires currently burning from Shasta County in the far north to Camp Pendleton just north of San Diego.

Residents like Vi Delgado and her daughter April Christy were also among those wondering whether their home was intact, though they had found out that their pets and the shelter animals they take care of had been saved. They had been through earlier wildfires, but nothing like this one.

"No joke, we were literally being chased by the fire," Christy said in a voice choked with emotion in a minivan outside the Fontana evacuation center. "You've got flames on the side of you. You've got flames behind you."

More than 34,000 homes and about 82,000 people were under evacuation warnings as firefighters concentrated their efforts on saving homes in the mountain communities of Lytle Creek, Wrightwood and Phelan. They implored residents not to think twice if told to leave, but it appears many were staying.

"From reports that we were hearing, possibly up to half didn't leave," said Lyn Sieliet, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman.

"It does change the way that we can fight fire," she added, "Now we have to worry about the people in there as well as trying to protect the structures and trying to build a line of defense as the fire comes toward that area."

A fleet of 10 air tankers and 15 helicopters and an army of 1,500 firefighters took on the blaze, many of them coming fresh from other wildfires around the state.

Another large fire, north of San Francisco, was fading. The 6-square-mile blaze was 50 percent contained after destroying 268 structures, including 175 homes and eight businesses, in the working-class community of Lower Lake over the weekend.

Damin Pashilk, 40, is charged with starting the blaze along with more than a dozen other counts of arson and one of attempted arson in connection with fires dating back to July 2015. He appeared in court on Wednesday, but he did not enter a plea.

Officer in Milwaukee shooting joined force as teenage aide

TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Dominique Heaggan attended grade school in Milwaukee and joined the city's police force as a teenage aide through a program that aims to recruit young people into law enforcement, including minorities.

Heaggan, identified by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as the black officer at the center of a fatal shooting that sparked two nights of violence, has lived near the shooting scene since at least 2012 and was assigned to patrol that area after becoming a sworn officer.

A relative of the man who was killed said Heaggan went to the same high school as Sylville Smith,

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who was shot Saturday after fleeing from a traffic stop. Authorities have said Smith turned toward the officer with a gun in his hand. A few hours later, violence erupted on the city's largely black north side, with protesters hurling rocks at police and burning six businesses.

An alumni invitation shows Heaggan attended grade school about 10 minutes away from the scene. It's unclear whether he spent his entire childhood in the area.

Now 24, he joined the Milwaukee Police Department in July 2010 as an aide — essentially an apprentice. As an aide, his responsibilities would have included mostly administrative and clerical duties. Aides are required to complete a college curriculum and a physical fitness program before becoming officers.

Police agencies across the country offer similar programs as a way to recruit future officers and expose minorities to police work in hopes of increasing diversity.

"They may not come into the occupation in the same way people in the majority do," said Mike Scott, an Arizona State University criminology professor who helped develop the New York City Police Department's cadet program in the mid-1980s.

MaryNell Regan, executive director of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission, said the program does not specifically seek minorities but has a goal of "diversity in recruitment." An online recruiting video linked to a Milwaukee police aide job posting is dominated by images of minority and female aides.

Neither the police department nor Regan would confirm that Heaggan was the officer involved in the shooting.

The department did not respond to a request from The Associated Press for Heaggan's service record. Regan said the commission has not received any complaints about him during his career.

A letter from Chief Ed Flynn to the commission showed Heaggan was promoted to officer in August 2013 and was initially assigned to recruit trainees at the agency's academy. Flynn asked in the letter that commissioners extend Heaggan's 16-month probation for 97 days, equivalent to a period Heaggan was placed on limited duty. The letter did not say why. Commission minutes show the panel unanimously approved the extension.

Heaggan, also known as Heaggan-Brown, was assigned to District 7 on the city's predominantly black northwest side. He and another officer were recognized in 2014 for buying a homeless woman dinner at a diner and finding shelter for her on a cold February day. Their good deed had been praised in a letter to the editor of another newspaper.

On Saturday, Heaggan stopped the 23-year-old Smith in a rental car that police said was behaving suspiciously. At some point, Smith turned toward Heaggan and ignored orders to drop the gun, police said. The officer opened fire, hitting Smith in the chest and arm.

Footage from Heaggan's body camera confirmed that account, Flynn said, although authorities have yet to release the video.

After the first night of violence, protesters clashed with police again Sunday in the street, hurling chunks of concrete and bricks at them. More than 30 people were arrested during the unrest and multiple officers were hurt. One man was shot, but his wounds were not life-threatening. Flynn said no officers fired a shot.

A man who answered a cellphone listed for Heaggan declined to comment when reached Tuesday by The Associated Press. The voicemail box for the phone was full on Wednesday and would not accept new messages.

Smith's sister Sherelle told Milwaukee television station WITI that her brother and the officer had both attended Pulaski High School on the city's southwest side. A 2008 article in the Journal Sentinel named Heaggan, then a sophomore at Marshall High School, as one of 24 students honored in a program for improved behavior or academic excellence.

A Milwaukee Public Schools spokesman declined Wednesday to discuss the school attendance of either man, citing the investigation.

Posters on social media have threatened Heaggan's life. On Wednesday, officers were stationed in two squad cars outside the north side home where Heaggan is believed to live.

Lava from Hawaii volcano cascades into sea in vivid display

CALEB JONES, Associated Press

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, Hawaii (AP) — For the first time in three years, lava from a volcano on Hawaii's Big Island has crept down miles of mountainside and is dripping into the Pacific Ocean — where it's creating new land and a stunning show for visitors.

Thousands of people from around the world have swarmed Volcanoes National Park by land, sea and air to view the lava. They're also hearing and smelling it.

The billowy, bright-orange lava crackles and hisses, and reeks of sulfur and scorched earth, as it oozes across the rugged landscape and eventually off steep, seaside cliffs. When the hot rocks hit the water, they expel plumes of steam and gas — and sometimes explode, sending chunks of searing debris flying through the air.

The 2,000-degree molten rock is from Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes. Its Puu Oo vent began erupting in the 1980s and periodically pushes enough lava seaward that people can access it.

Reaching the flow requires a boat, a helicopter or strong legs — the hike to the entry point, where the lava meets the sea, is 10 miles roundtrip on a gravel road surrounded by miles of treacherous, hard lava rock.

Pablo Aguayo, of Santiago, Chile, took a sunrise boat tour of the flow earlier this month.

"It's pretty amazing," he said. "You start in the middle of the ocean in the darkness, and you end up in this beautiful lava falls."

Aguayo said he could feel the lava's heat, and it smelled "super funny."

"It's like welding something," he said. "We have many volcanoes back home in Chile. We have plenty. But nothing like this."

His tour boat was a 42-foot aluminum catamaran operated by Lava Ocean Tours owner Shane Turpin, who said he navigates to within a few yards of the entry point for the best view.

On Aug. 9, a second branch of lava started to spill into the ocean, giving Turpin's passengers a look at two lava flows about 200 yards apart.

"Just to have one drip (of lava) touching the ocean is awesome," Turpin said as people snapped photos of the dual flows. "But to get a show like you're getting this morning, well, it sets the bar pretty high for a second trip."

Volcanoes National Park has seen an increase of about 1,000 to 1,500 visitors per day since the current lava flow reached the sea, boosting attendance to about 6,000 people daily, officials said.

Park spokeswoman Jessica Ferracane warns the area can be dangerous.

Hikers can get close enough that the soles of their shoes get hot. Also, the area is flanked by hardened lava rock as sharp as glass. Many people have suffered lacerations while trying to cross the jagged landscape, Ferracane said.

"Everybody wants to see the lava flow, but not everybody should be hiking out there," she said.

Additionally, when the lava reaches the ocean, it reacts with the saltwater and produces harmful hydrochloric acid, which wafts into the air, said Janet Babb, a U.S. Geological Survey geologist at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

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As it streams into the water, the lava creates a new landscape in a matter of moments. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the Puu Oo flow alone has created about 500 acres of new land since it began erupting. The flow that began in May has created about 8 new acres.

Most of Kilauea's activity has been nonexplosive, but a 1924 eruption hurled ash and 10-ton rocks into the sky and left a man dead.

The 1983 Puu Oo vent eruption resulted in lava fountains soaring over 1,500 feet high. In the decades since, the lava flow has buried 48 square miles of land and destroyed many homes.

In 2008, after a series of small earthquakes rattled the island, Kilauea's summit crater opened and spewed lava and rock over 75 acres of the mountain, damaging the nearby visitor overlook.

It's hard to predict when the volcano will inflate or when the current flow will stop, Babb said. It could slow down any day or keep cascading into the sea for months.

American swimmers released, will talk to police Thursday

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro (all times local): 2:10 a.m.

The U.S. Olympic Committee says the two American swimmers who were detained by Brazilian authorities before their U.S.-bound flight departed have been released with the understanding they will continue to cooperate with police.

The USOC also says a third swimmer who was involved in a supposed robbery along with Ryan Lochte also plans to speak to the police on Thursday.

Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz were heading home to the United States when authorities stopped them from leaving Wednesday. Authorities are still seeking answers about how the four swimmers robbed Sunday morning.

The USOC says Conger and Bentz "were released by local authorities with the understanding that they would continue their discussions about the incident on Thursday."

The third swimmer, James Feigan, "intends to make further statements regarding the incident on Thursday as well."

1:45 a.m.

An attorney for two American swimmers who were taken off a U.S.-bound flight says they will not be allowed to leave Brazil until they provide testimony about a robbery.

Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz were heading home to the United States when authorities stopped them from leaving Wednesday. Authorities are still seeking answers about how they got robbed Sunday morning along with teammate Ryan Lochte.

Attorney Sergio Viegas says Conger and Bentz have left the Rio de Janeiro airport for an unspecified location in Brazil and had yet to testify. The swimmers did not speak to reporters upon leaving.

The athletes said they were robbed at gunpoint in a taxi as they returned to the athletes village from a party, several hours after the last Olympic swimming events were held. Police have found little evidence so far to support their accounts.

12:50 a.m.

Germany's Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst have won the beach volleyball gold medal, handing the host nation its second straight medal-round setback on the Copacabana sand.

The 21-18, 21-14 victory gave Germany its first medal in women's beach volleyball, just four years after the German men took the top spot on the Olympic podium in London. Brazil's Agatha and Barbara,

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the reigning world champions, took silver.

The game followed a bronze medal match in which Americans Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross beat Brazil's other women's team, Larissa and Talita.

The hosts still have a chance for a gold medal when Alison and Bruno play Italy in the men's championship on Thursday.

12:45 a.m.

NBC reports that U.S. swimmer Ryan Lochte has offered some differing details from his earlier descriptions of a reported robbery involving him and his teammates in Rio de Janeiro.

Lochte has said he was with Jack Conger, Gunnar Bentz and Jimmy Feigen early Sunday morning when they were robbed at gunpoint in a taxi as they returned to the Olympic athletes village from a party.

NBC reports that during a Wednesday telephone interview, Lochte said the swimmers' taxi wasn't pulled over, but that they were robbed after making a stop at a gas station. He also said the assailant pointed a gun at him, rather than putting it to his forehead.

12:40 a.m.

MEDAL ALERT: Germany's Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst defeat Brazil to win the gold medal in women's beach volleyball.

11:10 p.m.

American Brianna Rollins started out fast and never looked back.

Rollins lead the U.S. sweep of the 100-meter hurdles at the Rio Games on Wednesday night, winning with 12.48 seconds.

Though Rollins was unreachable, it came down to hundredths of seconds for the other two medals.

Nia Ali had silver with 12.59 and Kristi Castlin had 12.61 for bronze.

The United States had such strength in depth this year that they could leave world record holder Kendra Harrison at home and still sweep the race.

11:05 p.m.

Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross have won the beach volleyball bronze medal, coming back after losing the first set to beat the host Brazilians at Copacabana.

The win comes less than 24 hours after Walsh Jennings lost on the Olympic beach for the first time in 27 matches over four Summer Games.

Walsh Jennings, a three-time gold medalist, delivered a pair of blocks for the final two points on Wednesday night to win 17-21, 21-17, 15-9.

Brazil's loss still leaves the home country with two beach volleyball medals at the games.

Agatha and Barbara were scheduled to play Germany in the women's championship later Wednesday night. Alison and Bruno were in the men's gold medal match on Thursday.

10:55 p.m.

MEDAL ALERT: The United States has swept the medals in the 100-meter hurdles at the Olympics. Brianna Rollins, the 2013 world champion, won with 12.48 seconds. Nia Ali had silver with 12.59 and Kristi Castlin had 12.61 for bronze.

10:45 p.m.

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MEDAL ALERT: Elaine Thompson got another sprint double for Jamaica at the Olympics. She blasted out of the blocks and never gave Dutch sprinter Dafne Schippers a chance to catch her on the straight-away of the 200 meters.

After winning the 100 on Saturday, Thompson now has a double that her compatriot has specialized in. She can make it a triple during the relay races Thursday and Friday.

Schippers said she had a groin injury that pushed her back into fifth place in the 100. And her final push in the 200 was not enough to play catch up.

Thompson ended in a season's best 21.78 seconds, for an edge of .10 over Schippers. Tori Bowie of the United States had bronze in Wednesday's race with 22.15.

10:40 p.m.

The U.S. Olympic Committee says two American swimmers were taken off their flight from Brazil by local authorities amid an investigation into a reported robbery involving Ryan Lochte and his teammates.

USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said Wednesday night that "Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz were removed from their flight to the United States by Brazilian authorities. We are gathering further information."

Lochte said he was with Conger, Bentz and another teammate when they were robbed at gunpoint in a taxi as they returned to the athletes village from a party, several hours after the last Olympic swimming events were held. Police have found little evidence so far to support their accounts.

Lochte's father told The Associated Press that his son had arrived back in the United States

10:35 p.m.

MEDAL ALERT: Two-time world champion Tianna Bartoletta finally has an Olympic gold medal, winning the long jump final with a life-time best 7.17 meters.

The 30-year-old American, who won her world titles a decade apart in 2005 and '15, responded to two big jumps from Ivana Spanovic and Brittney Reese on the fifth attempt to regain the lead with one round remaining. The lead stood.

Defending Olympic champion Brittney Reese of the United States, after three fouls on her first four attempts, took silver Wednesday with a best of 7.15 on her last go.

Spanovic, bronze medalist at the last two world championships, won the Olympic bronze with a Serbian national record of 7.08.

10:30 p.m.

FAILED TO QUALIFY: Justin Gatlin has failed to qualify for the final of the 200 meters after placing third in his semifinal heat the Olympics.

Gatlin, who took the silver medal behind Usain Bolt in the 100 meters, finished in 20.13 seconds on Wednesday.

Alonso Edward of Panama won the last of the three semifinal heats in 20.07, followed by Churandy Martina of Netherlands in 20.10.

Bolt was the fastest qualifier in a season-leading 19.78 and is on track for his eighth Olympic gold medal. He is aiming for a third straight sprint double at the Olympics.

10:25 p.m.

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MEDAL ALERT: For the third straight Olympics, China has taken home every table tennis gold medal. The Chinese men's team on Wednesday beat Japan 3-1 in the best-of-five-set match. China's team consisted of the gold and silver medalists in Rio — Ma Long and Zhang Jike — and the world No. 3, Xu Xin.

Germany earlier beat South Korea for bronze.

A day earlier the Chinese women's team demolished Germany for gold, 3-0. The three-member Chinese women's team lost only a single game during the three sets. On the team were the gold and silver medalists from Rio — Ding Ning and Li Xiaoxia — and the No. 1 player in the world, Liu Shiwen.

The Japanese women took team bronze over Singapore.

China won gold and silver in both men's and women's singles.

10:10 p.m.

Usain Bolt advanced to the final for the 200 meters with the fastest time of the year and is one win away from his eighth Olympic gold medal.

Bolt ran 19.78 seconds, pushed all the way by Canada's Andre de Grasse in the lane beside him, in the second of two semifinal heats at Rio. He earns an automatic place in Thursday's final. De Grasse finished in 19.80 seconds to advance.

After winning the 100 meters to clinch his third consecutive Olympic title in that event, Bolt set his sights on a third straight sprint double and added another challenge: He wants to lower his world record in the process.

Bolt set the world record of 19.19 at the 2009 world championships in Berlin. He set the Olympic record in Beijing in 2008.

10:15 p.m.

MEDAL ALERT: South Korea's Sohui Kim has won a women's taekwondo gold medal in the 49-kilogram division at the Rio Olympics, after defeating Serbia's Tijana Bogdanovic 7-6 in a closely contested final where both fighters struggled to get their distance and timing right.

To chants of "Korea," Kim scored first with a roundhouse kick before cementing her lead in the second round with a head shot.

The 22-year-old was ranked seventh and only just squeaked into the final after beating France's Yasmina Aziez by a single point in a nearly scoreless fight that went into overtime. Kim won the German Open earlier this year.

Bogdanovic dominated most of her fights Wednesday and also knocked out the double Olympic defending champion, China's Jingyu in a surprisingly lopsided fight.

The women's bronze medals were won by Azerbaijan's Patimat Abakorova and Thailand's Panipak Wongpattanakit.

10:05 p.m.

Halfway home in the decathlon, and reigning Olympic and world champion Ashton Eaton of the U.S. is in the lead.

The world-record holder won the 400 meters Wednesday night to give him 4,621 points after five events.

Kai Kazmirek of Germany moved into second place with a good 400 meters, trailing Eaton by 121 points.

Damian Warner, who beat Eaton in the 100 meters to take the early lead, was in bronze medal position with 4,489 points.

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The sprint hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 meters complete the program Thursday.

9:50 p.m.

The one-woman track team from Russia is out of medal contention at the Rio Olympics.

Darya Klishina, the only person from her country allowed to compete in track and field at the Rio Olympics, reached the long jump final but was eliminated after three attempts.

Her best jump of 6.63 meters in three attempts wasn't good enough to advance on Wednesday with the top eight jumpers, who all get three more jumps.

The sport's governing body originally cleared her to compete, but then tried to backtrack by citing supposed new information in the ongoing doping scandal in Russia.

Klishina appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and won. She was reinstated early Monday and started competition on Tuesday.

9.15 p.m.

American women have won all three semifinals ahead of Wednesday night's 100-meter hurdles final.

2013 world champion Brianna Rollins won the first semi in 12.47 seconds, and Nia Ali followed it up with a second-semi win in 12.65 seconds. Kristi Castlin finished the final semi in 12.63 seconds.

Only Pedrya Seymour of the Bahamas broke into the American string of best times, finishing second in Rollins' race with a time of 12.64 seconds.

The U.S. team's depth is such that world-record holder Kendra Harrison failed to make it through the U.S. trials.

8:45 p.m.

The U.S. men's basketball team powered into the semifinals of the Olympics, beating Argentina 105-78 on Wednesday night.

The Americans turned a slow start into an early ending with a 27-2 run in the first half.

They will meet Spain on Friday in a rematch of the last two gold-medal games. Spain beat France 92-67 earlier Wednesday.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Americans.

Luis Scola scored 15 points and Manu Ginobili had 14 for Argentina in what's expected to be the final time the remaining core members of its Golden Generation play together.

Ginobili was taken out in the last few minutes of the game and saluted by the fans, then embraced by each of his teammates on the bench. After the teams headed to their locker rooms, Ginobili returned and was presented the game ball by an Olympic official.

7:55 p.m.

Japan has swept the gold medals on the first day of the Olympic women's wrestling tournament in Rio.

Sara Dosho rallied to beat fourth-ranked Natalia Vorobeva of Russia in the 69 kilograms on a take-down with 30 seconds to go in the last match of the day.

Dosho's teammates Icho and Eri Tosaka claimed titles earlier Wednesday, with Icho winning a wrestling-record fourth gold medal.

7:15 p.m.

Alex Danson scored two goals as Britain defeated New Zealand 3-0 in the women's field hockey semi-

finals.

Wednesday's win means Britain will advance to the final for the first time.

Britain, which placed third in 1992 and 2012, will play the Netherlands for the gold on Friday. The Dutch defeated Germany in a shootout earlier in the day after a 1-1 draw in regulation. The Netherlands seeks a record third consecutive gold medal.

Britain had plenty of scoring opportunities early and finally cashed in when Danson scored on a penalty corner with 8:48 remaining in the second period. New Zealand possessed the ball more in the second quarter but couldn't break through, and Britain maintained its 1-0 lead at the break.

In the fourth period, New Zealand's Kayla Whitelock was issued a yellow card after contact inside the circle, and Britain was awarded a penalty stroke. Helen Richardson-Walsh converted to make the score 2-0. Danson scored on a penalty stroke four minutes later.

Diplomat's defection poses major PR problem for Pyongyang

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The defection of a North Korean senior diplomat in London poses a major problem for Pyongyang on a number of fronts — not least of which is how to publicly respond.

As of Thursday, Pyongyang hadn't made a public statement about the defection. But when — or if — it does, its response will likely be ferocious and accusatory.

Seoul's Unification Ministry announced Wednesday that Thae Yong Ho, minister at the North Korean Embassy in London, has arrived in South Korea with his family and is under the protection of the South Korean government. Thae was the second-highest official in North Korea's embassy and is the most senior North Korean diplomat to defect to the South.

Seoul, which doesn't always divulge defections, was quick to seize on this one as evidence of growing dissent within the North's ruling elite.

Its Unification Ministry claimed Thae defected because of his disgust with the Kim Jong Un regime and worries about the future of his children. A spokesman for the ministry further said that the defection is a sign of weakening unity within the North's ruling class.

Extrapolations about the bigger significance of individual defections should be taken with a grain of salt.

Seoul and Pyongyang have strong political and propaganda motivations for the way they handle announcements about defections. Analysts generally agree there are no significant signs Kim Jong Un's regime is weakening. Moreover, previous defections of officials from the North have by and large been isolated incidents that did not lead to a chain of more choosing to flee.

Thae himself has not yet spoken in public about his motives and details about the context of his defection remain sketchy.

Defectors are referred to by the North in the harshest of terms. "Human scum" is a common epithet, along with "criminals" or "traitors." Pyongyang often accuses the South of tricking or paying its citizens to defect, or claims that they have simply been kidnapped.

In April, 13 North Koreans working at a North Korean-operated restaurant in China defected to South Korea in the largest group defection since Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011.

The North responded furiously to the South's account of the flight of the restaurant workers, alleging repeatedly that the women — 12 waitresses and their manager — were tricked into thinking they were being transferred to work at another restaurant in Malaysia. It has also presented the colleagues and parents of the waitresses to North Korean and international media in Pyongyang to appeal for their

release.

Seoul categorically denies any wrongdoing.

Thae's case presents a more difficult conundrum for Pyongyang.

Though South Korea doesn't always make high-level defection cases public, its announcement of Thae's flight comes as ties between the rivals are at one of their lowest points in decades. North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and Seoul been working hard to apply more international pressure on the North.

Thae, 55, is a veteran diplomat who is experienced in dealing with countries in Western Europe. He led a North Korean delegation that held talks with European Union representatives over the North's human rights situation in Brussels in 2001, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

He had worked at the London embassy for about 10 years, Yonhap said. Previously, he worked at the now-closed embassy in Denmark and spent a short period of time at the embassy in Sweden, it said.

In 1997, the North Korean ambassador to Egypt fled, but he resettled in the United States.

Asian stocks climb on signs US rate hike off table for now

JOE McDONALD, AP Markets Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks rose Wednesday after Wall Street edged higher on news the U.S. Federal Reserve is in no hurry to raise interest rates. Japan's benchmark fell after the country reported declines in both exports and imports in July.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 1.7 percent to 23,191.49 points and the Shanghai Composite Index advanced 0.2 percent to 3,114.57 and Seoul's Kospi added 0.4 percent to 2,052.46. Benchmarks in New Zealand and the Philippines also rose. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.5 percent to 16,664.13, Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 lost 0.6 percent to 5,503.50 and Taiwan and Singapore also declined.

WALL STREET: Stocks closed higher as big gains for utilities offset losses for retailers. After falling in early trading, indexes reversed course and gained after the Fed released notes of its July meeting that showed officials said a rate hike might be warranted but gave no indication of timing. Low rates have pushed up stock prices and any change might cool investor enthusiasm. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.1 percent to 18,573.94, the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.2 percent to 2,182.22 and the Nasdaq composite inched up 0.03 percent to 5,228.66.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "There is clearly strong disagreement within the Fed with regards to the timing of further rate hikes," said Angus Nicholson of IG in a report. "Despite some members saying that an immediate hike is appropriate and some saying one would soon be warranted, the more cautious members of the Fed said that they would have 'ample time' to react to a rise in inflation. This does seem to be a noticeable a change from the previous concern that the Fed may 'overshoot' the inflation target."

JAPANESE TRADE: Both exports and imports in July suffered their biggest one-day decline since the aftermath of the global crisis in 2009. Exports sank 14 percent from a year earlier while imports plunged 25 percent in a sign of persistent weak domestic demand. The rise in the yen to about 99 to the dollar has made imports cheaper but Japanese goods more expensive for foreign customers, hurting an economic recovery. The trade decline by volume was milder, with exports falling 2.5 percent while imports declined 4 percent.

US RETAIL BLUES: Consumer companies reported weak results and cut profit forecasts. Home improvement retailer Lowe's reported a smaller-than-expected profit. That company and Target both lowered profit forecasts. Office supply retailer Staples disappointed analysts with forecasts of sales declines. Barnes & Noble tumbled after the book seller said CEO Ronald Boire is leaving after less than a year in the job.

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ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude shed 8 cents to \$46.71 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract climbed 21 cents on Wednesday to close at \$46.79. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 20 cents to \$49.65 in London. It jumped 62 cents the previous session.

CURRENCY: The dollar edged up to 100.07 yen from Wednesday's 99.84 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1314 from \$1.1298.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 18, the 231st day of 2016. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 18, 1846, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny occupied Santa Fe in present-day New Mexico.

On this date:

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, Assistant Secretary of Labor James Ernest Wilkins became the first black official to attend a meeting of the president's Cabinet as he sat in for Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell.

In 1958, the novel "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov was first published in New York by G.P. Putnam's Sons, almost three years after it was originally published in Paris.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage. The Kansas City Royals defeated the New York Yankees, 5-4, in the completion of the "pine-tar" game in just 12 minutes.

In 1988, Vice President George H.W. Bush accepted the presidential nomination of his party at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush criticized a federal court ruling the day before that his warrantless wiretapping program was unconstitutional, declaring that opponents did not understand "the nature of the world in which we live." Financially struggling Ford Motor Co. said it would temporarily halt production at ten assembly plants.

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Five years ago: President Barack Obama and European leaders demanded that Syrian President Bashar Assad resign, saying his brutal suppression of his people made him unfit to lead. Vice President Joe Biden met with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping in Beijing. A storm swept through a popular open-air music festival in Hasselt, Belgium, killing five people.

One year ago: The Food and Drug Administration approved Addyi, the world's first prescription drug designed to boost sexual desire in women. Bud Yorkin, a director and producer who helped forge a new brand of topical TV comedy with the 1970s hit "All in the Family," died in Los Angeles at age 89.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 89. Movie director Roman Polanski is 83. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 81. Actor-director Robert Redford is 80. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 74. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 71. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 66. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 66. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 64. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 61. Actor Denis Leary is 59. Actor Reg E. Cathey is 58. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 58. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur) is 55. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 55. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 54. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 54. Actor Adam Storke is 54. Actor Craig Bierko (BEER'-koh) is 52. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 48. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 47. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 47. Actor Christian Slater is 47. Actor Edward Norton is 47. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 46. Actress Kaitlin Olson is 41. Actor-writer-director Hadji is 40. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 40. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 38. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 37. Actress Mika Boorem is 29. Actress Maia Mitchell is 23. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 21.

Thought for Today: "In the end it is worse to suppress dissent than to run the risk of heresy." — Learned Hand, American jurist (born 1872, died this date in 1961).