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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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Friday, Aug. 19

Pool Hours

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim

5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Lap Swim

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

Pool Hours

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim

5 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Lap Swim

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Constitutional Amendment U

Title: An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution limiting the ability to set statutory interest rates for loans.

Attorney General Explanation

Under this constitutional amendment, there is no limit on the amount of interest a lender may charge for a loan of money if the interest rate is agreed to in writing by the borrower. If there is no written agreement, however, a lender may not charge more than 18% interest per year. A law setting an interest rate for loans is not valid unless the law gives the lender and borrower the ability to agree to a different rate. If an interest rate for loans is established by law, it must apply to every type of lender.

The amendment eliminates the ability to set statutory interest rates that are inconsistent with this amendment.

A vote "Yes" is for adding provisions to the Constitution that limit the ability to set statutory interest rates for loans.

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

Pro –Constitutional Amendment U

VOTE "YES" to Stop Unfair Lending and Protect South Dakotan Families

– Constitutional Amendment U

This measure places a strict 18% cap on interest rates, is far more stringent than that of other measures being proposed, and takes the extra step of amending the South Dakota constitution, which will ensure that the cap placed on interest rates are not undone or weakened by politicians.

This measure takes a balanced approach to protecting poor and middle-class people and families from predatory lending, while also protecting their access to money in cases of emergency.

This measure places greater protections for borrowers in South Dakota by putting an 18% cap on interest rates right in the constitution – making it much more difficult for special interest groups and politicians to undermine or weaken it.

Thanks to the overwhelming support people of South Dakota, as seen by the record number of people that signed the petition to place this measure on the ballot, South Dakotans will have the opportunity to vote on this important issue in November and send a clear message to lobbyists and special interests that in South Dakota, we stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

Lisa Furlong

Chairman

South Dakotans for Fair Lending

Con –Constitutional Amendment U

Payday Lenders and Car Title Companies in South Dakota support Constitutional Amendment U because it provides a large loophole that will continue to allow them to charge unlimited interest rates to low-income South Dakotans who walk through their front doors desperate for a short-term loan.

While Payday Lenders say this will cap interest rates at 18%, the loophole they wrote into the proposed law allows the lender to force a borrower to sign away their rights to an 18% loan and charge them whatever high interest rate the lender wants.

We are encouraging South Dakotans to oppose Constitutional Amendment U because of the large loophole that renders the so-called 18% rate cap useless. This amendment is opposed by all major religious denominations, AARP and other organizations that work to protect low-income families and seniors in South Dakota.

By Steve Hildebrand, Co-Chair of South Dakotans for Responsible Lending

Warm Temperatures & Potentially Wetter Conditions Predicted in Today's Climate Outlook

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Warm temperatures and potentially wetter conditions are forecast for fall in South Dakota, according to the Aug. 18, 2016 seasonal outlook from National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center.

"The update projects a continuing trend of warmer than average temperatures in the months of September through November across most of the United States," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. "Most of the outlooks this year have been consistent in projecting this trend for this fall in South Dakota."

Precipitation outlook

Edwards said the NOAA outlook for precipitation shows western Dakotas and Montana in a region that is more likely to be wetter than average during the fall season through November.

For eastern South Dakota, rainfall has equal chances of being above, below or near average for the three month period.

"The month of September may end warmer than it began," Edwards said. "Currently the month ahead is a mixed bag in the climate models, so equal chances of warmer, cooler and near average temperatures are projected."

She added that the last two weeks of August may end up cooler. "But it is still unclear if that will continue into early September."

Rainfall is also a challenging forecast for the month ahead.

"Wet conditions have dominated in August, with many areas receiving much above average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month," explained Edwards.

This trend, she said, is not likely to continue into September. "The climate outlook does not lean especially wet or dry."

U.S. Drought Monitor

The U.S. Drought Monitor, also released Aug. 18, 2016, shows one category improvement in much of the eastern part of the state and some of the west, reflecting large areas of short term drought relief from recent rains.

"Soybeans are likely to benefit from the ample August rainfall in the state. Unfortunately, the dry mid-summer conditions have already impacted some of the corn crop, and there are many areas around Mitchell that are cutting for silage," said Edwards, reporting from Dakotafest 2016.

In the western part of the state, the substantial impacts from drought earlier this year will linger on, as rainfall at this time of year benefits some grasses but not the crops.

"There has been some green-up in pastures and range areas, which has reduced the number of fire occurrences and the danger of fires overall," she said.

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

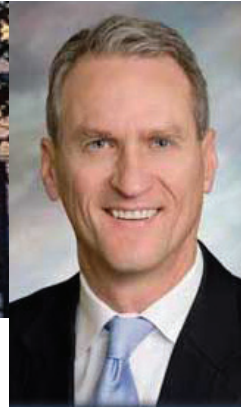
**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Groton, SD 57445**

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Make School Attendance A Priority

Across South Dakota, a new school year is getting underway. Students and families are getting back into the school day routine, reestablishing study habits and juggling activities.

In order to succeed in school, students are often reminded to listen to their teachers, complete homework assignments on time and cooperate with their classmates. There is another simple practice we sometimes overlook that is absolutely critical: consistent school attendance. It seems obvious, but the importance of attendance cannot be overstated.

Some absences cannot be avoided, and that is understandable. Sometimes though, absences can add up without notice. The research indicates that all it takes is missing 10 percent of a school year to negatively impact student achievement. That might sound like a lot, but when you consider that it translates to just two or three days a month, it's easy to see how families can sometimes overlook accumulating absences. It doesn't matter if absences are excused or unexcused, consecutive or non-consecutive. Time out of the classroom is learning time lost.

Attendance is vital from the very beginning. Kindergarten and 1st grade students who are chronically

absent are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Already by 6th grade, chronic absence is an indicator that students are at risk for dropping out of school. And by 9th grade, a student's attendance record is an even better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

In September, we'll be observing Attendance Awareness Month in South Dakota. I encourage you to join with me in this observation.

This school year make attendance a priority in your household. Think of it as your student's first and most important job, and know that the habits they form now will likely stick with them when they enter the workplace. Help your kids understand the importance of showing up. As Woody Allen put it, "Eighty percent of success is showing up."



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.**

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Celebrating 100 Years of National Parks

In South Dakota, we celebrate the great outdoors. Often called the land of “Great Faces and Great Places,” South Dakota’s differing landscapes and abundance of outdoor activities mean there is something for everyone to enjoy—any time of year. Spending time outside with our family and friends when the weather cooperates is one of our favorite pastimes. We go camping and fishing at Lake Oahe and take the grand-kids tubing on the Missouri. We love visiting the Black Hills and exploring all that West River has to offer.

This August marks the 100 year anniversary of the National Park Service. South Dakotans are fortunate to have access to six national parks, located throughout the state. Among them are the desolate but beautiful Badlands, and one of our country’s oldest national parks—Wind Cave. Jewel Cave in Custer, the Lewis & Clark Trail, the Minuteman Missile Site, and of course, Mount Rushmore, are all maintained by the National Park Service as well. The sixth national park may be surprising, but it is actually the Missouri River! A 100-mile stretch of the river is part of both the National Park System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The world’s first national park, Yellowstone, was established by Congress in 1872—before Montana or Wyoming were official states. Following that, the Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service as an agency under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The Organic Act was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. The purpose of the National Park Service was to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The National Park Service has continued to fulfill this mission for the past 100 years.

To celebrate its 100th birthday, the National Park Service is offering discounted or free admission this year at national parks, monuments and sites all across the country. You can visit them for free from August 25-28, 2016. Parks will also be free to visit on National Public Lands Day on September 24 and Veteran’s Day on November 11. You can visit www.nps.gov to get directions, find out about special events or learn more about the history of our parks.

There is no better place to spend quality time with friends and family than the great outdoors of South Dakota. If you haven’t visited our state’s national parks yet, I highly recommend it. When you go, take a moment to appreciate the unique history of where you are standing and the years of hard work that have gone into preserving it for you and your family—and our future generations—to enjoy.

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Today in Weather History

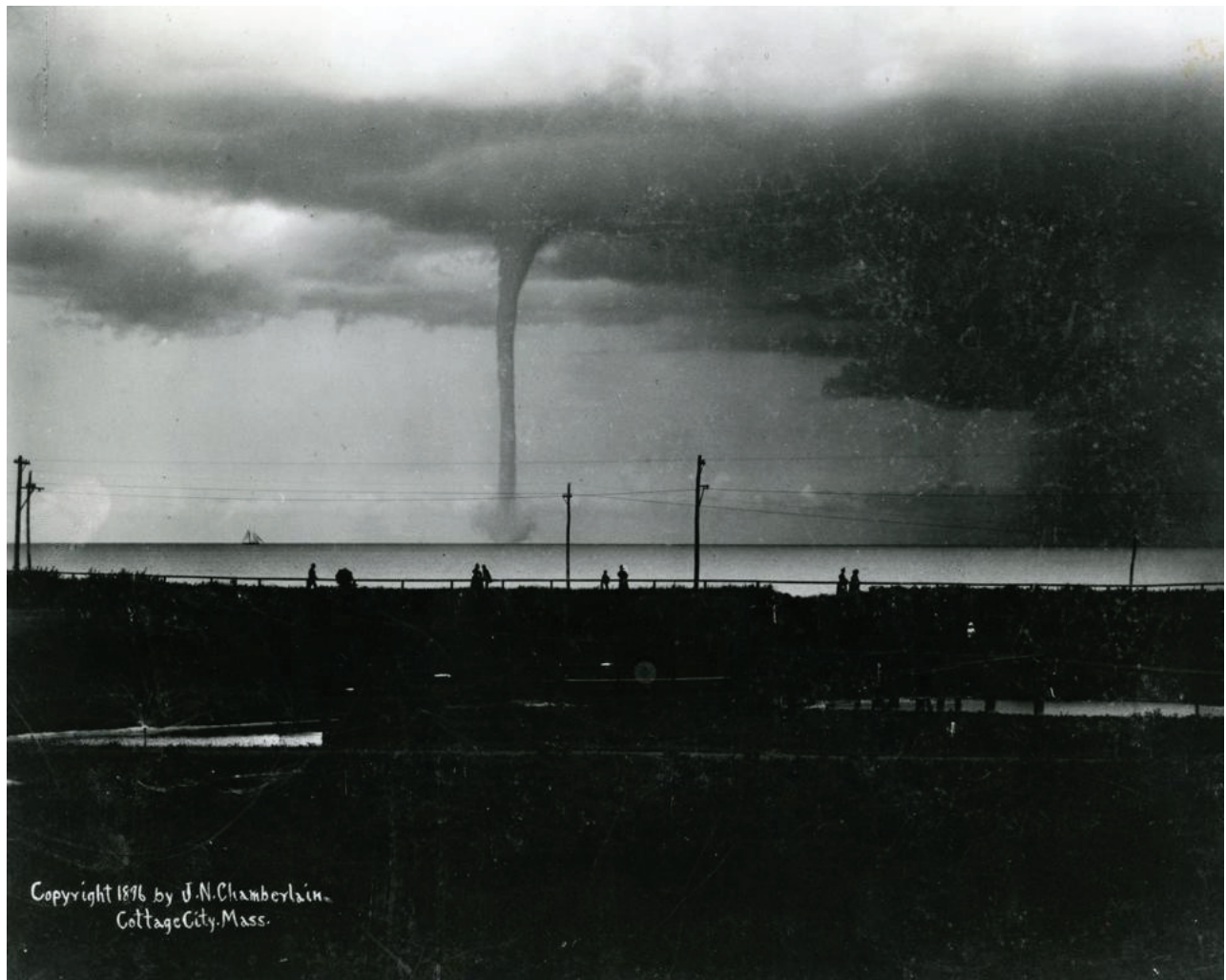
August 19, 1899: An estimated F3 tornado passed 3 miles north of Clear Lake. The tornado killed a man by flying debris as five homes, and many barns were destroyed.

August 19, 1983: Between 0155 and 0330 CST, thunderstorm winds blow through Brown County. At 0155, an estimated 64 mph wind gust was observed on the southeast corner of Warner. A 60 mph wind gust was measured at the Aberdeen Airport at 0218. By 0330 an estimated wind gust of 75 mph was observed in Ordway.

August 19, 1991: A thunderstorm produced about five inches of rain, strong winds, and hail in Ridgeview, Dewey County. Three grain bins were blown over. One of the bins hit a house causing considerable damage. Wind gusts were estimated to be 60 mph. High winds continued into Sully and Hughes Counties.

1890: South Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania was hit by an estimated F3 tornado. About 400 buildings were destroyed in the industrial and poorer residential section of town. The death toll was 16 and damage was estimated at \$400,000.

1896: The famous Cottage City (Oak Bluffs) waterspout occurred off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The vortex was 3,600 feet high, formed three times, and was well photographed.










Copyright 1896 by J.N. Chamberlain.
Cottage City, Mass.

The image is courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
20%	40%	30% 20%				
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers	Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Decreasing Clouds	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 86 °F

Fall-Like Temperatures

Intermittent Showers – Becoming More Widespread This Afternoon

Highs: Upper 60s & Low 70s

Lows: 40s & 50s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen



NWS Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/4/2016 245 pm Central

Published on: 08/19/2016 at 5:14AM

A cool - humid airmass overhead will result in a few showers developing today. A system moving into central South Dakota this afternoon will generate more widespread moisture. This area of rainfall will continue east through the evening and overnight hours. Moisture will linger in eastern South Dakota into Saturday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.0

Low Outside Temp: 66.3

High Gust: 24

Precip: 0.02

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1976

Record Low: 34 in 2004

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.48

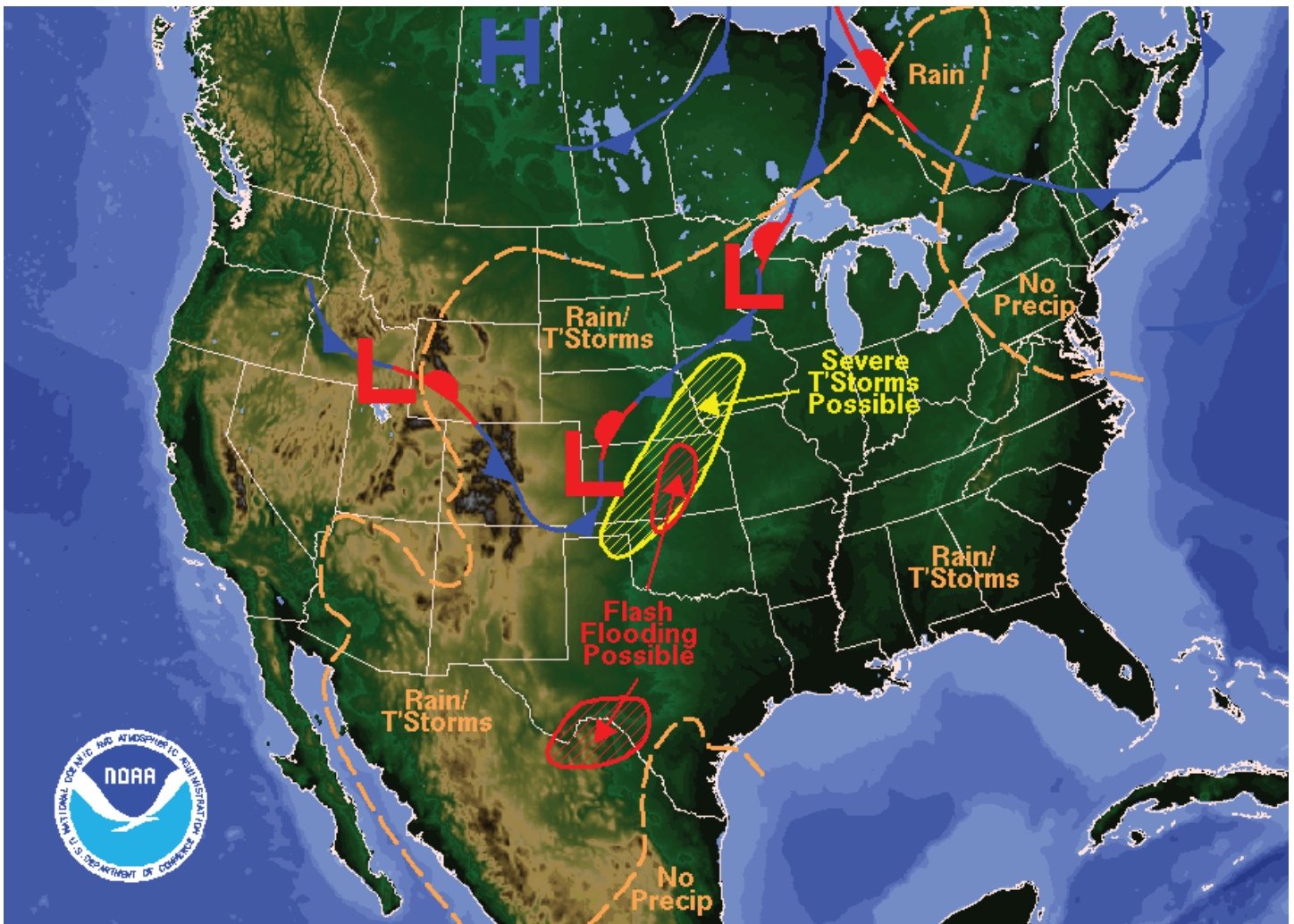
Precip to date in Aug: 1.83

Average Precip to date: 15.34

Precip Year to Date: 12.56

Sunset Tonight: 8:33 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:41 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Aug 19, 2016, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



OBSTACLES CAN BE OPPORTUNITIES

Centuries ago, a king had a group of his soldiers place a large stone in the middle of a road during the night. They worked in silence following his orders because he wanted no one to see them place a sack beneath the stone.

The next day he sat in a balcony where no one could see him and watched as the people passed by. All of them looked at the stone, paused a moment and then walked around it. Some became angry and wanted to know who could possibly have a reason to interrupt their lives with such a horrible inconvenience. Others cursed the stone thinking that their oaths would make a difference and the stone would move under its own power.

Finally an elderly peasant paused, looked at the stone and then summoned all of his strength and pushed it out of the way. To his surprise he discovered a purse beneath the stone. When he opened it he discovered many gold coins and a note from the king. The note read: "Whoever moves this stone is entitled to the coins in this purse."

God works "in everything," according to Paul, "for our good." It does not mean that whatever happens to us is good. But that "good" will come to us if we fulfill His purpose for our lives and grow into His likeness.

Prayer: Give us, Dear Father, the vision to see every obstacle in life as an opportunity to use the strength You have given us to grow into Your likeness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue wave graphic below.

We now accept

The logo for Avera Health Plans, featuring the word "Avera" in white on a blue background, with a white cross symbol to the right and "Health Plans" in white below.

for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

2 teens killed in Atlanta suburb: Man accused due in court

ATLANTA (AP) — A man accused of killing two teenagers near Atlanta is set to appear in court for a preliminary hearing.

Jeffrey Hazelwood is scheduled to appear Friday morning in Fulton County Magistrate Court.

The 20-year-old is charged with murder and theft in the killings of Carter Davis and Natalie Henderson in Roswell. The 17-year-olds were shot in the head. An autopsy report says their bodies were found behind a grocery store and had been placed in distinct poses.

Police have declined to discuss a possible motive for the slayings, or whether Hazelwood knew the teens.

Hazelwood's attorney, Lawrence Zimmerman, has said he'll provide a vigorous defense.

Henderson and Davis, who used to live in Rapid City, South Dakota, would have been seniors this year at their Georgia high schools.

Teacher charged with rape for alleged relationship with teen

HARTFORD, S.D. (AP) — A 29-year-old teacher in Hartford faces several counts of rape for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old student.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office said Thursday that West Central High School teacher Kari Boll is being held at the Minnehaha County Jail.

Authorities say the relationship with the male student began in May 2016 and lasted until recently. The sheriff's office is investigating the case.

The Argus Leader reports that West Central School District Superintendent Jeff Danielsen says all teachers go through background checks.

He says the district takes seriously the safety and welfare of students and does its best to "screen out those who would do harm to our students."

Court records don't list an attorney for Boll.

EPA watchdog says government fails to study ethanol's impact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has failed to study as legally required the impact of requiring ethanol in gasoline and ensuring that new regulations intended to address one problem do not actually make other problems worse, the Environmental Protection Agency inspector general said Thursday.

The conclusion in the new audit confirmed findings of an Associated Press investigation in November 2013. The AP said the administration never conducted studies to determine whether air and water quality benefits from adding corn-based ethanol to gasoline. Such reports to Congress were required every three years under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The AP investigation described the ethanol era as far more damaging to the environment than the government predicted. As farmers rushed to find new places to plant corn, they wiped out millions of acres of conservation land, polluted water supplies and destroyed habitat.

The EPA agreed with the inspector general's findings that it had failed to produce studies as legally required. It said it will produce the first report — on the impacts of biofuels — by December 2017, and investigate whether ethanol requirements made other environmental problems worse by September

2024. That will be 17 years after Congress passed a law requiring oil companies to blend billions of gallons of ethanol into their gasoline.

President George W. Bush signed the law, but it fell to President Barack Obama to implement it.

The EPA said the 2024 study will require investigations about air quality, emissions and how renewable fuels have and might be produced, distributed and used, which it said will be time-consuming and resource-intensive.

The EPA told the inspector general that it produced one congressional report about the effects of ethanol on the environmental and conservation in December 2011, at a cost of \$1.7 million, then ran out of money for future reports. It also said it never received input from Congress on its first report and asserted that three years was too short a period for any significant scientific advances that would have mattered.

Madison's driver exam station to temporarily close

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The driver exam station in Madison is set to be closed Aug. 23 and Aug. 30.

The Department of Public Safety says the exam station, which is only open on Tuesdays, is moving. The new station is tentatively scheduled to open on Sept. 6.

Driver Licensing Director Jane Schrank says people impacted can renew online. Schrank says the Huron exam station will be opened on the two Tuesdays for people who want to come in person to renew their licenses.

Sandusky son: Reporting child sex abuse should be mandatory

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One of the adopted sons of former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky told a group of educators, health care professionals, law enforcement officials and others gathered Thursday in Sioux Falls that more people should be required by law to report to authorities suspected cases of child sexual abuse.

The remarks from Matthew Sandusky came during an annual conference that explores issues of justice, well-being and safety in South Dakota. The focus of this year's conference is child sexual abuse.

Sandusky started a foundation in 2014 to raise awareness about child sexual abuse in local communities after disclosing that his adopted father subjected him to a range of sexual abuse.

"A child's protection should not rely on a person's job or place of employment. For me, every single person, every single person, should be a mandated reporter," Sandusky said. "If you see something happening to a child, if you think you know something happening to a child, then you have to report it."

In South Dakota, physicians, mental health professionals, teachers and law enforcement officials are among those who are mandated by law to report to authorities instances where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected.

South Dakota U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in four girls and one in six boys in the U.S. are abused before they reach the age of 18. Seiler said statistics show that 4,000 children are being sexually abused in the state every year.

"If you woke up tomorrow and the headline was that 4,000 children in South Dakota were infected with some kind of contagious disease, the entire state would be up in arms, and that's how many children are being sexually abused," Seiler told The Associated Press during the conference sponsored by his office, Avera Health and Children's Home Society. "We have to address this."

Seiler added that Matthew Sandusky's case shows that whether in "Pennsylvania with a very famous

father” or in small town South Dakota, predators use the same approach “to groom individuals and then proceed with sexually abusing them.”

Jerry Sandusky was convicted in 2012 of sexually abusing 10 boys and is serving a 30- to 60-year prison term. The former coach, who has filed an appeal, has not been charged with abusing Matthew Sandusky.

On Thursday, Matthew Sandusky told the audience that he decided to speak up about his own abuse after he sat through courtroom testimony by a young man during his adoptive father’s trial.

“I’ve been called a liar. I’ve been called every name in the book. ... I’ve faced it all,” he said. “I hope to empower other survivors to understand that the best message you can get is that it doesn’t matter, what other people think does not matter. The most important thing you can do is speak your truth.”

Matthew Sandusky is among those who have shared \$60 million in civil settlements by Penn State.

North Dakota pipeline construction halted until court date

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Developers of a four-state oil pipeline have agreed to halt construction of the project in southern North Dakota until a federal court hearing next week in Washington, D.C. The temporary construction shutdown comes amid growing protests and increased tension over the Dakota Access Pipeline that is intended to cross the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border.

Some things to know about the pipeline and the protest:

WHAT IS THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE?

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners’ Dakota Access Pipeline is a \$3.8 billion, 1,172-mile project that would carry nearly a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota’s oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

WHY THE PROTEST?

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is suing federal regulators for approving the oil pipeline that would be the largest-capacity one carrying crude out of western North Dakota’s oil patch. The tribes’ lawsuit filed last month in federal court in Washington challenges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings in four states for the pipeline. The tribe argues the pipeline that would be placed less than a mile upstream of the reservation could impact drinking water for the more than 8,000 tribal members and the millions who rely on it further downstream. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of the tribe by environmental group Earthjustice, said the project violates several federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act. The tribe worries the project will disturb ancient sacred sites outside of the 2.3-million acre reservation. The hearing on the tribe’s request for a temporary injunction is slated for Wednesday.

WHO ARE THE PROTESTERS?

Mostly members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, but they’ve been joined by other American Indians and non-Native Americans from across the country. “Divergent” actress Shailene Woodley was part of the protests last week.

ARRESTS

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American Indians have for months been staging a nonviolent protest at a "spirit camp" at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers in the path of the pipeline. More than a dozen young people from the reservation also ran from North Dakota to Washington to deliver 140,000 petition signatures to the Corps to protest the pipeline. The protest took a turn last week when law enforcement was called to keep the peace between protesters and armed security guards hired by the company. Twenty-eight people have been arrested since then and charged with interfering with the pipeline construction, including Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault II. Developers on Monday sued in federal court to stop protesters, alleging the safety of workers and law enforcement is at risk.

IS THE PIPELINE SAFE?

The company said the pipeline would include safeguards such as leak detection equipment, and workers monitoring the pipeline remotely in Texas could close block valves on it within three minutes if a breach is detected.

WHY THE NEED?

Energy Transfer Partners announced the Dakota Access pipeline in 2014, a few days after North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple urged industry and government officials to build more pipelines to keep pace with the state's oil production, which is second only to Texas'. Supporters said the pipeline would create more markets for the state's oil and gas, and reduce truck and oil train traffic, the latter of which has been a growing concern after a spate of fiery derailments of trains carrying North Dakota crude, including one near Dalrymple's hometown of Casselton in 2013, and an explosion in Quebec that same year that killed 47 people.

Survey says economy remains weak in rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of bankers suggests the economy remains weak in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states even though it improved slightly in the past month.

The overall rural economic index remained in negative territory at 41.1 in August even though it was higher than July's 39.8 reading.

Survey officials say any score below 50 on any of the survey's indexes suggests a decline in that area.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey. He says the declines in cattle, grain and farm prices over the past year are weighing down the rural economy because farm income is down.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Aberdeen man shot by police allegedly was armed with knife

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an Aberdeen man who was shot by a police officer was armed. The American News reports (<http://bit.ly/2b3klBt>) that court documents allege 21-year-old Ehkhu Hser Poe was armed with a knife, though they don't indicate if he actually used the weapon.

Poe was shot early Sunday. Authorities haven't released his condition, details of the incident or the name of the officer who shot him. The officer is on administrative leave during an investigation, which is standard procedure.

Poe faces felony aggravated assault and drug charges. His bond was set at \$500,000 cash on Wednesday. He was present for the court hearing via teleconference. It wasn't clear if he has an attorney.

Turkish foreign minister pays surprise visit to Iran

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's foreign minister says he has paid a surprise visit to Iran just days after the two countries agreed to greater cooperation on Syria despite their differences.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told Turkish state media on Friday that he stopped in Tehran on his way to India on Thursday.

The Turkish and Iranian foreign ministers met in Ankara last week and said they would cooperate more on finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Syria.

Turkey and Iran have held opposing positions on Syria, with Iran backing the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Turkey advocating for Assad's departure.

State-run Anadolu Agency quoted Cavusoglu as saying: "We have to increase our efforts. The (Syria) problem grows deeper and more insolvable with time."

177 Indonesians carrying Philippine passports apprehended

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Immigration authorities at Manila's airport intercepted 177 Indonesians carrying Philippine passports before they boarded a flight Friday to Saudi Arabia.

Five Filipinos escorting the Indonesians on a hajj pilgrimage were also apprehended as the passengers were about to leave for Medina, Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said.

The real but fraudulently obtained passports were allegedly provided by the group's Filipino escorts, Morente said. The Indonesians allegedly paid \$6,000 to \$10,000 each to join the pilgrimage under a quota the Saudi government reserves for Filipino pilgrims.

The immigration chief said the passengers' identities were revealed because they could not speak any Philippine language or dialect. They later admitted to be Indonesians who arrived in the country separately as tourists.

Morente ordered the immediate filing of immigration charges against them for misrepresenting themselves as Filipinos and for being undesirable aliens. They are being detained at the bureau's detention center in suburban Taguig City.

The bureau is coordinating with the Indonesian Embassy to establish their identities prior to deportation, and with the Department of Foreign Affairs and other law enforcement agencies in investigating the fraudulent issuance of Philippines passports, he added.

The immigration bureau said it investigated and monitored the group after President Rodrigo Duterte said foreigners were using Philippine passports allegedly provided by corrupt officials handling the pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia applies strict country quotas to manage crowd safety for the hajj, which Islam requires of all-able bodied Muslims at least once. But the quota is far exceeded by demand in Indonesia, which is the world's most populous Muslim country.

Spacewalking astronauts installing new door for visitors

MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts ventured out on a spacewalk Friday to install a new door for visitors at the International Space Station.

The two Americans, Jeffrey Williams and Kate Rubins, quickly began hooking up a docking port that will be used by future commercial crew capsules. SpaceX delivered this new gateway last month.

Americans haven't rocketed into orbit from their home turf since NASA's last shuttle flight in 2011. SpaceX and Boeing expect to resume human launches from Cape Canaveral in another year or two.

SpaceX is shooting for a launch of its supped-up Dragon with two astronauts as early as a year from

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now. Boeing is aiming for a two-person test flight of its Starliner capsule in early 2018. Until then, Russia will keep providing all the rides — at a hefty price for U.S. taxpayers.

NASA divested itself of cargo deliveries a few years back, hiring private U.S. companies to carry out shipments. Commercial crew launches will be an even bigger step. This commercial handoff is freeing up NASA to focus on true outer-space exploration; the space agency is working to get astronauts to Mars in the 2030s.

This is actually NASA's second newfangled docking ring. The first was destroyed in a SpaceX launch accident last summer. NASA ultimately wants two of these 3 1/2-foot-by-5-foot ports at the 250-mile-high lab. Another one — cobbled together from spare parts — should fly up in about a year.

The space station is currently home to two Americans, one Japanese and three Russians. Up there for five months, Williams and two of the Russians will return to Earth in a couple weeks. First, though, Williams will conduct one more spacewalk with Rubins on Sept. 1 to retract a radiator.

Williams, a veteran spacewalker, was the first one through the hatch Friday morning. "Come on out," he urged Rubins. "The view is phenomenal," Rubins marveled before getting straight to work.

Rubins is now part of an exclusive sorority: She is only the 11th American woman to conduct a spacewalk and the 12th woman in the world. The first professional virus-hunter in space, she has been experimenting with a DNA decoder that, along with this new docking port, arrived on a Dragon cargo capsule in mid-July.

SpaceX's crew Dragon — an enhanced version of its cargo ship — will fly from a former shuttle launch pad at Kennedy Space Center and, at mission's end, splash down off the Florida coast. Boeing's Starliner, meanwhile, will launch aboard the United Launch Alliance's trusty Atlas V rocket and parachute down somewhere in the American Southwest, possibly New Mexico. These test flights — intended to go all the way to the space station and dock — will last about two weeks. NASA will provide most if not all of the initial test pilots.

'Diddy' delays tour to recover from shoulder surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs will be kicking off his tour later than expected after undergoing surgery for a shoulder injury.

The rapper and business mogul announced Friday that his Bad Boy Family Reunion Tour will now begin Sept. 1 in Chicago to give him more time to recover from surgery. The tour featuring Combs, Lil' Kim, Faith Evans, French Montana and other Bad Boy Records artists had been scheduled to kick off Aug. 25 in Columbus, Ohio.

A spokeswoman for the "Mo' Money Mo' Problems" rapper says the delay will give Combs "the much needed time he needs in order to recover and give fans the incredible stage experience they have come to expect from a Puff Daddy production."

The Latest: First Trump election ad looks at immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on campaign 2016 (all times Eastern):
8:10 a.m.

Donald Trump's first general election TV ad contrasts his strict approach to immigration with what he calls Hillary Clinton's plan to do "more of the same, only worse."

The Republican presidential nominee's ad is one of two different spots in a \$5 million swing state as buy that begins Friday and runs for the next 10 days.

This first spot employs some of his signature lines, said by a narrator as images of what are supposed

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to be a crowd of Syrian refugees and border crossers being detained by police. It begins: "In Hillary Clinton's America, the system stays rigged against Americans."

It concludes after 30 seconds by saying Trump's plan to crack down on illegal immigration and halt some refugee programs is "change that makes America safe again."

8:00 a.m.

Hillary Clinton says her "heart breaks" for the family of a man from Lebanon living in Oklahoma who police say was fatally shot by his neighbor.

Khalid Jabara's family says the neighbor, Stanley Majors, called them "dirty Arabs," "filthy Lebanese," "Aye-rabs," and "Mooslems." The family is Christian.

Jabara was shot to death on his front porch Aug. 12. Police have arrested Majors on a first-degree murder complaint but prosecutors have yet to file formal charges in the case.

Clinton shared a Facebook post late Thursday from Jabara's family. The Democratic presidential candidate wrote on Facebook that the country must unite "to ensure that no other family loses a beloved son or daughter because of prejudice and bigotry."

7:15 a.m.

Donald Trump's new campaign manager says his expression of remorse for making offensive comments was of his own volition.

"It was not me," Kellyanne Conway told ABC's Good Morning America Friday, saying the Republican nominee's apology Thursday "was all Donald Trump." She added that "perhaps he felt it before," but he chose that moment to express them.

Conway was named Trump's new campaign manager as part of a staff shakeup earlier this week.

Conway said, "I absolutely hope that this campaign pivots to substance," saying that Trump is keen to take on rival Hillary Clinton on issues ranging from health care to national security.

She said that Trump is acting more presidential, pointing to his planned trip to Louisiana later Friday to visit the victims of mass floods there.

3:20 a.m.

In a highly uncharacteristic move aimed at resetting his struggling campaign, Donald Trump says for the first time he regrets some of the caustic comments he's made that may have caused people pain.

Trump told a rally in Charlotte, North Carolina, Thursday night: "Sometimes in the heat of debate and speaking on a multitude of issues, you don't choose the right words or you say the wrong thing. I have done that." He added: "And believe it or not, I regret it — and I do regret it — particularly where it may have caused personal pain."

It was a rare admission for Trump, who has said he prefers "not to regret anything." It underscored the dire situation he finds himself in with just 80 days left until the election.

Crews make major gains against Southern California wildfire

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Lisa Gregory has kept a close eye on the weather since fleeing her home in the woods as a wildfire advanced in Southern California. She doesn't know when she can return or whether her house was still standing.

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The uncertainty "is an awful feeling," Gregory said as she lounged in a lawn chair under a tree outside an evacuation center.

Firefighters made major gains Thursday against the wildfire that broke out Tuesday in the mountains and desert 60 miles east of Los Angeles. Driven by wind and low humidity, the fire chewed through tall grasses and drought-parched shrubs, torching an unknown number of homes and vehicles.

The 59-square-mile blaze was 22 percent contained, and a small number of evacuees on the fire's east side where the containment line was were allowed to return home.

Some 82,000 residents were under evacuation orders at the height of the fire.

Crews fanned out across fire-ravaged zones to begin inspecting the damage, but many places were still too dangerous to enter.

"Right now the fire is just too hot in most of these areas," said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Jake Rodriguez.

Charmy Hartinger said it has been a "rollercoaster" since she got off work and realized she couldn't go home. After staying in a hotel with her sister, she arrived at the evacuation center to join her neighbor.

"I just want to know if I have a house," she said.

Meanwhile, a new fire broke out in rural Santa Barbara County, quickly surging to about 500 acres and prompting the evacuation of a pair of campgrounds.

Another blaze near Lake Isabella in Kern and Tulare counties in the center of the state had burned more than two square miles.

During five years of drought, California's wildlands have seen a continuous streak of destructive and sometimes deadly fires. No deaths have been reported in the latest fire, but crews assessing property damage were using cadaver dogs during searches.

The dry vegetation is like firewood, said fire information officer Sean Collins.

"It burns that much quicker, that much hotter. The rate of travel is extremely fast," he said.

Wildfires across the country in recent years have grown more ferocious and expensive to fight.

Last year's fire season set a record with more than 15,625 square miles of land charred. It was also the costliest on record with \$2.1 billion spent to fight fires from Alaska to Florida.

Experts have blamed several factors including rising temperatures that more quickly dry out forests and vegetation. Decades of aggressively knocking down small fires also have led to the buildup of flammable fuel. On top of that, more people are moving into fire-prone regions, complicating firefighting efforts.

The Southern California fire unleashed its initial fury on a semi-rural landscape dotted with small ranches and homes in Cajon Pass and on the edge of the Mojave Desert before climbing the mountains.

Travel was returning to normal in the pass — a major corridor for trucking, rail and commuter traffic — after Interstate 15 was fully reopened.

In mountains north of San Francisco, a 6-square-mile blaze was 55 percent contained after destroying at least 268 structures, including 175 homes and eight businesses, in the working-class community of Lower Lake.

The equipment manager, or "armorer," of the U.S. Olympic fencing team, was among those who lost their homes. Matthew Porter was in Rio with the medal-winning team when the house burned.

10 Things to Know for Friday The Associated Press

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

1. EMAILS OBTAINED BY AP SHOW TRUMP ADVISERS WAGED COVERT INFLUENCE CAMPAIGN FOR

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FOREIGN PARTY

A firm run by Donald Trump's campaign chairman attempted to sway American public opinion in favor of Ukraine's then pro-Russian government, and never disclosed their work as foreign agents as required under federal law.

2. TRUMP CONCEDES FOR FIRST TIME HE'S MADE COMMENTS THAT 'MAY HAVE CAUSED PAIN'

The GOP nominee offers an extended apology to those who may have been hurt by his caustic remarks, saying he regrets some of what he's said "in the heat of debate."

3. 2 AMERICAN SWIMMERS LEAVE RIO, BUT ROBBERY SCANDAL NOT OVER

As Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger are whisked through airport security and onto a plane, the saga remains the biggest spectacle outside of the Olympic gates.

4. WHO IS BOLTING TOWARD HISTORY

After winning gold in the 200 meters, Friday's 4x100-meter relay final is all that's left now between Usain Bolt and a historic three golds at three straight Olympics.

5. WHERE HUNT FOR MISSING MALAYSIAN PLANE CONTINUES

Investigators are attempting to define a new search area by studying where in the Indian Ocean the first piece of wreckage recovered from the doomed Boeing 777 — a wing flap — most likely drifted.

6. WHAT UN NOW SAYS ABOUT ITS ROLE IN HAITI'S CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

It acknowledges for the first time that it was involved in the outbreak and needs to do "much more" to end the suffering of those affected.

7. WHY OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FACES RENEWED STORM OF REPUBLICAN CRITICISM

The White House acknowledges that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran seven months ago was contingent on the release of a group of American prisoners.

8. WHEN LONG-AWAITED ALBUM COULD DROP

R&B artist and Grammy award-winning singer Frank Ocean releases a music film, "Endless," and a follow-up to his widely acclaimed debut album could come this weekend.

9. BIG DIVORCE SETTLEMENT TURNS INTO BIG DONATION

Amber Heard says she is giving away her entire \$7 million settlement from Johnny Depp to a pair of charities.

10. WHICH LATE-NIGHT TV HOST GETS WARM SEND-OFF FROM JON STEWART

"I just decided to stop by and tell you, I love you," Stewart says to Larry Wilmore, whose "The Nightly Show" ends after a brief 19-month run on Comedy Central.

GOP slams Obama after explanation of \$400M payment to Iran

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is facing a storm of Republican criticism after acknowledging that a \$400 million cash payment to Iran seven months ago was contingent on the release of a group of American prisoners.

Thursday's explanation was the first time the U.S. had so clearly linked the two events, which critics have painted as a hostage-ransom arrangement.

State Department spokesman John Kirby has said the negotiations to return the Iranian money from a 1970s account to buy U.S. military equipment were conducted separately from talks to free four U.S. citizens in Iran. But he recently noted the U.S. withheld the delivery of the cash as leverage until Iran permitted the Americans to leave the country.

Kirby said Friday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program that the U.S. offers "no apologies."

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"First of all, this was Iran's money, OK? It was money that they were going to get back anyway," he said. "The second thing that was going on here ... was that there was a team working to get our American citizens back. That was a separate track. And it's true that with the nuclear deal done these two tracks were kind of converging and coming together, and we took full advantage of that. We make no apologies for that."

Kirby added that "there isn't a lot of trust with Iran, so it would have been foolish and imprudent, in our view, to go ahead and settle the cash payment ... when we didn't have our Americans back."

The hostage release and cash transfer occurred Jan. 17, fueling suspicions from Republican lawmakers and accusations from GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump of a quid pro quo that undermined America's longstanding opposition to ransom payments. Several members of Congress immediately pounced on Thursday's shift.

"If it quacks like a duck, it's a duck. If a cash payment is contingent on a hostage release, it's a ransom. The truth matters and the president owes the American people an explanation," Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said.

"Decisions like these are putting our nation and our allies at risk," added Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman.

In a speech Thursday night in Charlotte, North Carolina, Trump accused President Barack Obama of lying. "He denied it was for the hostages, but it was. He said we don't pay ransom, but he did. He lied about the hostages, openly and blatantly," Trump said.

Kirby spoke a day after The Wall Street Journal reported new details of the crisscrossing planes on that day. U.S. officials wouldn't let Iran bring the cash home from a Geneva airport until a Swiss Air Force plane carrying three of the freed Americans departed from Tehran, the paper reported. The fourth American left on a commercial flight.

Earlier this month, after the revelation the U.S. delivered the money in pallets of cash, the administration flatly denied any connection between the payment and the prisoners.

"Reports of link between prisoner release & payment to Iran are completely false," Kirby tweeted at the time.

The money comes from an account used by the Iranian government to buy American military equipment in the days of the U.S.-backed shah. The equipment was never delivered after the shah's government was overthrown in 1979 and revolutionaries took American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The two sides have wrangled over that account and numerous other financial claims ever since.

Obama has said his negotiators secured the U.S. a good deal on a busy diplomatic weekend that also included finalizing the seven-nation nuclear accord. But he and other officials have consistently denied any linkages.

"We actually had diplomatic negotiations and conversations with Iran for the first time in several decades," Obama said Aug. 5, meaning "our ability to clear accounts on a number of different issues at the same time converged."

"This wasn't some nefarious deal," he said.

The agreement was the return of the \$400 million, plus an additional \$1.3 billion in interest, terms that Obama described as favorable compared to what might have been expected from a tribunal set up in The Hague to rule on pending deals between the two countries. U.S. officials have said they expected an imminent ruling on the claim and settled with Tehran instead.

Some Iranian officials immediately linked the payment to the release of four Americans, including Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, who had been held in Iranian prisons.

Another of the prisoners, pastor Saeed Abedini, also had linked the two events. He said that as the

prisoners waited for hours at an airport to leave Iran, a senior Iranian intelligence official informed them their departure depended on the plane with the cash. U.S. officials had pinned the delays on difficulties finding Rezaian's wife and mother, and ensuring they could depart Iran with him.

"The administration clearly has a lot of explaining to do," Rep. Jeb Hensarling, the House Financial Services Committee chairman, said. Congress, he added, must "fully investigate this outrageous action."

2 US swimmers leave Rio after robbery scandal; 3rd pays fine

PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

LUIS ANDRES HENAO, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Two American Olympic swimmers were on their way home Friday after being pulled off a plane a day earlier to testify about an alleged robbery at the Rio Olympics that Brazilian police said was made up. The lawyer for a third U.S. swimmer said he would make a \$10,800 payment and leave Brazil later in the day.

The drama surrounding the alleged robbery of American swimmers — and their ever-changing descriptions of it — has shocked and deeply angered Brazilians, who said it cast a false negative shadow on their city and their Olympics at a time the country is eager to prove it can host the games safely. The story has also dominated Olympic headlines, overshadowing the worthy accomplishments of athletes who trained for years just to get to Rio and set records during their performances. The saga was an enormous embarrassment for the U.S. Olympic team, which has dominated in the medal count.

The rapid-fire developments early Friday came hours after police announced that Ryan Lochte and three of his teammates had not been held at gunpoint after a night of partying, as Lochte claimed. Instead, Brazilian police said the men, while intoxicated, vandalized a gas station bathroom and were questioned by armed guards before they paid for the damage and left.

"No robbery was committed against these athletes. They were not victims of the crimes they claimed," Civil Police Chief Fernando Veloso told a news conference.

As two of the swimmers, Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger, were whisked through airport security and onto a plane home Thursday night, their attorney insisted they had nothing to do with Lochte's story. Lochte himself left the country earlier this week.

Bentz and Conger "were heard only as witnesses. This has to be made very, very clear," lawyer Sergio Riera told The Associated Press. "They did not make any untruthful testimony. They did not lie in their statements."

A lawyer for another swimmer, James Feigen, said early Friday that the athlete reached an agreement with a judge in which he planned to donate 35,000 Brazilian reals (\$10,800) to an "institution" and leave the country later in the day.

Attorney Breno Melaragno said under the agreement, Feigen will make the donation, get his passport back and depart.

Melaragno did not specify where the money will go, but his use of the term "institution" can be taken to mean a charity. He said that under Brazilian law, a donation can be made to avoid criminal prosecution for minor offenses, but did not say what charge was being contemplated.

Though police appear mostly finished with their probe, the case may be far from settled. Police have said authorities are considering charges of falsely reporting a crime and destruction of property, both of which can carry up to six months in jail or a fine.

Lochte's attorney, Jeff Ostrow, has insisted the story wasn't made up and told the New York Times the

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surveillance video corroborated the “primary elements” of Lochte’s version of events.

“There was a uniformed person with a gun who forced them to hand over their money,” Ostrow told the newspaper.

The saga began when Lochte said he and Conger, Bentz and Feigen were held at gunpoint and robbed several hours after the last Olympic swimming races ended. That claim started unraveling when police said that investigators could not find evidence to substantiate it.

Then security video reviewed by police confirmed the athletes vandalized parts of the gas station, leading to an encounter with station employees.

The video shows one of the swimmers pulling a sign off of a wall and dropping it onto the ground. A gas station worker arrives, and other workers inspect the damage. Veloso said the swimmers broke a door, a soap dispenser and a mirror.

The swimmers eventually talk with station workers and their cab leaves. In another sequence, the swimmers appear to briefly raise their hands while talking to someone and sit down on a curb.

After a few minutes, the swimmers stand up and appear to exchange something — perhaps cash, as police said — with one of the men.

The footage doesn’t show a weapon, but a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing, said two guards pointed guns at the swimmers. Veloso said the guards did not use excessive force and would have been justified in drawing their weapons because the athletes “were conducting themselves in a violent way.”

A station employee called police, and the guards and employees tried to get the swimmers and the taxi driver to stay until authorities arrived, some even offering to help interpret between English and Portuguese, Veloso said. But he said the athletes wanted to leave, so they paid 100 Brazilian reals (about US \$33) and \$20 in U.S. currency and left.

Police said the swimmers had been unable to provide key details in early interviews, saying they had been intoxicated. The police official said officers grew suspicious when video showed the swimmers returning to the athletes village wearing watches, which would have likely been taken in a robbery.

Bentz and Conger told police that they felt Lochte had lied about the situation in media interviews, according to text of the statements released by Rio police.

“We got pulled over, in the taxi, and these guys came out with a badge, a police badge, no lights, no nothing just a police badge and they pulled us over,” Lochte told NBC’s “Today” the morning after the incident. “They pulled out their guns, they told the other swimmers to get down on the ground — they got down on the ground. I refused, I was like we didn’t do anything wrong, so — I’m not getting down on the ground.

“And then the guy pulled out his gun, he cocked it, put it to my forehead and he said, ‘Get down,’ and I put my hands up, I was like ‘whatever.’ He took our money, he took my wallet — he left my cellphone, he left my credentials.”

The debacle prompted both wild speculation and social media mockery, which quickly turned to scorn after the official account went public. #LochteGate trended on Twitter, with users sharing video footage and posting comments about white privilege and rude Americans.

David Fleischer, a political scientist at the University of Brasilia, said the incident touched a nerve in Brazil because of the country’s history and cases of people committing crimes while impersonating police.

“The story did have some sense of validity but it didn’t bear out and it made them look bad worldwide,” he said.

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That outrage was evident Thursday, as onlookers shouted "liars" and "shameful" at Bentz and Conger as they left a police station where they gave statements.

While he's medaled often, Lochte's accomplishments have long been overshadowed by teammate Michael Phelps — the most decorated Olympian in history. Lochte, a 12-time medalist, won a gold in Rio in a relay race alongside Phelps.

Lochte and the other swimmers could face sanctions from USA Swimming, including fines or suspension. The group, as well as Olympic officials, publicly expressed disappointment and said they would further examine the matter.

"We apologize to our hosts in Rio and the people of Brazil for this distracting ordeal in the midst of what should rightly be a celebration of excellence," the U.S. Olympic Committee said.

Philippines frees top communist leaders to join peace talks

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Two top Philippine communist rebel leaders walked out of a maximum-security jail Friday to join next week's resumption of Norway-brokered peace talks aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-raging rebellions.

The underground Communist Party of the Philippines has welcomed the successive releases of 22 detained rebels who are to take part in the Aug. 22- 27 negotiations in Oslo as consultants, saying the move boosts confidence in President Rodrigo Duterte's determination to find peace.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende will open the talks on Monday at an Oslo hotel, Norway's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Benito and Wilma Tiamzon smiled and raised their fists as they stepped out of detention at the national police headquarters, where their supporters greeted them.

In a news conference, they thanked Duterte for their release and for a restart of talks that will tackle wide-ranging reforms in a bid to end the conflict.

"These releases are goodwill measures that will create a positive environment for the progress of the peace talks," Benito Tiamzon said.

His wife called on Filipino youth to become more involved in fighting the "monsters" of society.

"For the Filipino youth and other countrymen now hooked on catching monsters in 'Pokemon Go,' you know, there are so many real monsters in our country," Wilma Tiamzon said to laughter in the room. "Instead of 'Pokemon Go,' what is better is Revolution Go."

The insurgency has left about 150,000 combatants and civilians dead since it broke out in the late 1960s, drawing support from the ranks of those dissatisfied with economic inequality and the Philippines' alliance with the U.S. It also has stunted economic development, especially in the countryside, where the rebels are active.

Benito Tiamzon is the chairman of the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, according to the military. Wilma is said to be the secretary general.

Their release after posting bail on charges including multiple murders comes after an initial setback to the rebels' friendly ties with Duterte, who calls himself a leftist president.

Duterte declared a ceasefire on July 25 but withdrew it five days later after the guerrillas killed a government militiaman and failed to declare their own truce within Duterte's deadline.

There were sharp exchanges in media between Duterte and his former professor, Jose Maria Sison, the Netherlands-based CPP founding chairman who described his former student as volatile and a thug. Duterte warned the rebels to deal with the government in good faith or fight for another generation.

But on Monday, Duterte met with the rebels' lawyers and allies at the presidential palace, smiling for

cameras with linked arms.

“The President said that while he was hurt by the sharp exchanges between him and CPP founding chair Jose Maria Sison... he gave assurances that he will walk the extra mile for peace,” presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said after that meeting.

Under Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, peace talks stalled over the government’s refusal to heed a rebel demand for the release of some captured guerrillas. Duterte, however, has agreed to the release of rebels who would be involved in peace talks, and appointed two allies of the guerrillas to Cabinet posts in concessions aimed at fostering the talks.

Trump advisers waged covert influence campaign

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A firm run by Donald Trump’s campaign chairman directly orchestrated a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine’s then-ruling political party, attempting to sway American public opinion in favor of the country’s pro-Russian government, emails obtained by The Associated Press show. Paul Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, never disclosed their work as foreign agents as required under federal law.

The lobbying included attempts to gain positive press coverage of Ukrainian officials by The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and AP. Another goal: undercutting American public sympathy for the imprisoned rival of Ukraine’s then-president. At the time, European and American leaders were pressuring Ukraine to free her.

Gates, who worked for Manafort’s political consulting firm at the time, personally directed the work of two prominent Washington lobbying firms in the matter, the emails show.

Manafort’s and Gates’ activities carry outsized importance, since they have steered Trump’s campaign since April. The pair also played a formative role building out Trump’s campaign operation after pushing out an early rival. Trump shook up his campaign’s organization again this week, but Manafort and Gates retain their titles and much of their influence. The new disclosures about their work come as Trump faces criticism for his friendly overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Neither Gates nor Manafort commented when reached by the AP on Thursday. The two men have previously said they were not doing work that required them to register as foreign agents.

The emails show Gates directed Washington lobbying firms, Mercury LLC and the Podesta Group Inc., between 2012 and 2014 to set up meetings between a top Ukrainian official and senators and congressman on influential committees involving Ukrainian interests. Gates noted in the emails that the official, the foreign minister, did not want to use his own embassy in the United States to help coordinate the visits.

Gates also told the firms to gather information in the U.S. on a rival lobbying operation, including a review of its public lobbying disclosures, to determine who was behind that effort, the emails show.

And Gates pushed the firms to undercut sympathy for Yulia Tymoshenko, an imprisoned rival of then-President Viktor Yanukovich. The Ukrainian leader eventually fled the country in February 2014 during a popular revolt prompted in part by his government’s crackdown on protesters and close ties to Russia.

The emails do not describe details about the role of Manafort, who was Gates’ boss at the firm, DMP International LLC. Current and former employees at Mercury and the Podesta Group, some of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because they are subject to non-disclosure agreements, told the AP that Manafort oversaw the lobbying efforts and spoke by phone about them. Gates was directing actions and seeking information using an email address at DMP International, which he still uses.

Ukraine's anti-corruption body, meantime, has released entries from once-secret accounting documents that purport to show payments from the pro-Russian political party earmarked for Manafort.

The documents now released show Manafort's name listed as a recipient of funds totaling \$12.7 million in 22 line-item entries. Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau said, however, that it cannot prove that Manafort actually received the money because other people including a prominent Party of the Regions deputy signed for him in those entries.

Manafort did not return phone and email messages Thursday from the AP to discuss the project. Gates said he was busy with Trump campaign focus groups and would review the AP's questions in writing then did not respond.

After AP reported earlier this week that Manafort helped the Ukrainian political party secretly route at least \$2.2 million to the two Washington lobbying firms, Manafort told Yahoo News that AP's account was wrong. "I was not involved in any payment plans," Manafort said.

Gates previously told the AP, "At no time did our firm or members provide any direct lobbying support." Gates has confirmed previously to AP that he did work for Ukraine's ruling party, the Party of Regions.

Under the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act, people who lobby on behalf of foreign political leaders or political parties must provide detailed reports about their actions to the Justice Department. A violation is a felony and can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

None of the firms, nor Manafort or Gates, disclosed their work to the Justice Department counterespionage division responsible for tracking the lobbying by foreign governments.

Manafort and Gates have said that they did not disclose their activities to the Justice Department because they did not oversee lobbying efforts and merely introduced the Washington firms to a Brussels-based nonprofit, the European Center for a Modern Ukraine, which they said ran the project. The center paid Mercury and the Podesta Group a combined \$2.2 million over roughly two years.

In papers filed in the U.S. Senate, Mercury and the Podesta Group listed the European nonprofit as an independent, nonpolitical client. The firms said the center stated in writing that it was not aligned with any foreign political entity.

Ukraine details payments allegedly earmarked for Trump aide

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Once-secret accounting documents of Ukraine's pro-Kremlin party were released on Friday, purporting to show payments of \$12.7 million earmarked for Donald Trump's campaign chairman.

The Associated Press reported earlier this week that Paul Manafort helped Ukraine's Party of Regions secretly route at least \$2.2 million to two Washington lobbying firms. Manafort told Yahoo News that the AP's account was wrong.

Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau, which was set up in 2014 to deal with high-profile corruption cases, is studying the so-called black ledgers of the Party of Regions which investigators believe are essentially logs of under-the-table cash payments that the party made to various individuals.

The bureau on Friday released 19 pages of the logs which contain 22 line-item entries where Manafort is listed as the ultimate recipient of funds totaling \$12.7 million. The bureau said, however, that it cannot prove that Manafort actually received the money because other people including a prominent Party of the Regions deputy signed for him in those entries.

Handwritten notes in a column describe what the payments were used for with entries such as: "Payment for Manafort's services," "contract payment to Manafort" dated between November 2011 and October 2012.

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Manafort and business associate Rick Gates, another top strategist in Trump's campaign, were working in 2012 on behalf of the political party of Ukraine's then-president, Viktor Yanukovich.

People with direct knowledge of Gates' work told the AP that, during the period when Gates and Manafort were consultants to Yanukovich's Party of Regions, Gates was also helping steer the advocacy work done by a pro-Yanukovich nonprofit that hired a pair of Washington lobbying firms.

The nonprofit, the newly created European Centre for a Modern Ukraine, was governed by a board that initially included parliament members from Yanukovich's party. The nonprofit subsequently paid at least \$2.2 million to the lobbying firms to advocate positions generally in line with those of Yanukovich's government.

Two co-founders of the European Centre for a Modern Ukraine, Yevhen Geller and Vitaly Kolyuzhny, both former members of parliament, are listed in the released documents as recipients of funds on Manafort's behalf.

Serhiy Leshchenko, a former investigative journalist turned lawmaker, on Friday published several pages from the ledges in an article in the respectable *Ukrainska Pravda* newspaper.

When asked if he has evidence that Manafort actually received the money that had been earmarked for him, Leshchenko said only investigators can prove that if they question the people named in the ledgers. Leshchenko said Manafort had worked in Ukraine for several years and that the entries in the ledgers are the only explanation of how he could have been paid.

Some Ukrainian politicians who have been mentioned in entries released earlier this year confirmed to local media that the books are genuine.

Leshchenko also said Manafort continued to work in Ukraine after Yanukovich fled and a new pro-European government stepped in and that Manafort consulted the Party of Regions for the 2014 parliamentary election and visited Ukraine last year.

FDA tests confirm hepatitis A in scallops from Philippines

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — U.S. Food and Drug Administration tests found hepatitis A in scallops from the Philippines, which have been identified as the likely source of an outbreak of the virus in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Department of Health announced Thursday the FDA laboratory test results of frozen Sea Port Bay Scallops. They're produced by De Oro Resources Inc. Messages left with the company's main office in the Philippines weren't immediately returned.

The scallops are imported by Sea Port Products Corp. in Washington state.

"I am deeply troubled at the thought that anyone may have become ill from eating product that we shipped," Sea Port owner Bill Dresser said in a statement. "I am also fully committed to trying to find out how this may have happened and to work to prevent it from happening again not only to Sea Port, but to the entire seafood community."

There's a Hawaii-wide embargo on the product, meaning businesses aren't allowed to sell them and consumers are advised not to eat them, the health department said.

Health officials on Monday identified frozen scallops served raw at a sushi chain as the probable source of the outbreak. They ordered 11 Genki Sushi restaurants on Oahu and Kauai to close. The popular restaurants, which serve sushi on conveyor belts, must dispose of their food supply and disposable items like cups and napkins and disinfect the facilities before they reopen.

"This laboratory confirmation is important validation of our investigation findings," state epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park said in a statement Thursday. "We are continuing efforts to end this outbreak by working to assure no other product is left in the state and to monitor for those who unfortunately may

have been infected and do not yet have symptoms.”

The health department confirmed 206 cases of hepatitis A as of earlier this week. The disease can cause fever, loss of appetite, nausea and other ailments.

Undersea surprise: Big-eyed squid looks more toy than animal

ALINA HARTOUNIAN, Associated Press

A team of scientists and technicians scanning the rocky ocean floor off Southern California couldn't contain their excitement when they spotted a bright-purple, googly-eyed stubby squid.

They let out a collective “whoa” on video posted on the Exploration Vessel Nautilus' Facebook page as a camera on a remote-operated vehicle came across the iridescent cephalopod with giant round eyes.

Then the jokes started. “He has weird eyes!” said one enthusiastic observer. “Get close! Get close!” urges another.

One suggested it resembled a child's dropped toy, and another said the creature's eyes appeared to be painted on.

“It looks so fake,” says one member of the Nautilus' team.

The creature looks like a cross between a squid and an octopus but is closely related to a cuttlefish, according to the Nautilus Live website.

The find could be more than just bemusing.

“In addition to the googly-eyed cuteness, there is one thing biologically interesting about this observation,” said cephalopod expert Michael Vecchione of the Smithsonian Institution. The creature could be a new species, he wrote in an email to the expedition.

It was spotted at nearly 3,000 feet deep, which is unusual, but not unheard of. But, on top of that, the stubby squid didn't have chromatophores, cells that allow it to change color, as members of its species do, Vecchione said.

The question can't be answered because this particular stubby squid remains deep in the ocean, out of scientists' reach.

The Nautilus team is part of a four-month Ocean Exploration Trust expedition to map underwater fault zones from Canada to California and understand ecosystems around them.

The team spends hours scanning the barren ocean-scape, “then to come across something adorable like that — it's a real treat,” Exploration Vessel Nautilus spokeswoman Susan Poulton said.

Trump says 'I do regret' some caustic campaign statements

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — In a highly uncharacteristic move aimed at resetting his struggling campaign, Donald Trump has said for the first time that he regrets some of the caustic comments he's made that may have caused people pain.

“Sometimes in the heat of debate and speaking on a multitude of issues, you don't choose the right words or you say the wrong thing. I have done that,” the GOP nominee, reading from prepared text, said at a rally in Charlotte, N.C. Thursday night. “And believe it or not, I regret it — and I do regret it — particularly where it may have caused personal pain.”

Trump didn't specify what comments he was referring to, but he added that, “Too much is at stake for us to be consumed with these issues.”

It was a rare admission for a man who has said that he prefers “not to regret anything” and it underscores the dire situation he finds himself in. With just 80 days left until the election, Trump is trailing

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Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in preference polls of most key battleground states. At the same time, party leaders have conceded they may divert resources away from the presidential contest in favor of vulnerable Senate and House candidates if things don't improve.

The remarks came a day after Trump announced that he was overhauling his campaign operation, bringing in a new chief executive and appointing a new campaign manager. Rarely do presidential campaigns wait to advertise, or undergo such leadership tumult, at such a late stage of the general election.

Yet Trump has struggled badly in recent weeks to offer voters a consistent message, overshadowing formal policy speeches with a steady stream of self-created controversies, including a public feud with an American Muslim family whose son was killed while serving in the U.S. military in Iraq.

Trump's decision to tap Stephen Bannon, a combative conservative media executive, as his new campaign chief suggested to some that he might continue the divisive rhetoric that has angered minorities and alienated large swaths of the general election electorate.

Instead, a new Trump emerged on Thursday: a less combative, more inclusive candidate who said he was running to be the "voice for every forgotten part of this country that has been waiting and hoping for a better future" and for those who "don't hear anyone speaking for them."

And the changes appear to be more than cosmetic. Earlier Thursday, Trump moved to invest nearly \$5 million in battleground state advertising to address daunting challenges in the states that will make or break his White House ambitions.

The New York businessman's campaign reserved television ad space over the coming 10 days in Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania, according to Kantar Media's political ad tracker. While Clinton has spent more than \$75 million on advertising in 10 states since locking up her party's nomination, Trump's new investment marks his first of the general election season.

Trump also made a last-minute scheduling change, scrapping a planned event in New York in order to travel with his running mate Mike Pence to tour the flood damage in Louisiana on Friday morning.

But the visit was met with harsh words from Gov. John Bel Edwards, whose spokesman Richard Carbo said, "We welcome him to LA, but not for a photo-op."

In his remarks, Trump struck a new, inclusive tone and tried to appeal directly to non-white voters, who have so far resisted his candidacy.

"I will not rest until children of every color in this country are fully included in the American Dream," Trump said, urging African-American voters to give him a chance.

"What do you have to lose by trying something new?" he asked.

Clinton's campaign, meanwhile, brushed off the speech off as just words he read from a teleprompter.

"Donald Trump literally started his campaign by insulting people. He has continued to do so through each of the 428 days from then until now, without shame or regret," said spokeswoman Christina Reynolds in a statement.

"We learned tonight that his speechwriter and teleprompter knows he has much for which he should apologize. But that apology tonight is simply a well-written phrase until he tells us which of his many offensive, bullying and divisive comments he regrets and changes his tune altogether," she said.

It remains to be seen whether Trump's reboot comes too late, and whether he has the discipline to maintain it.

But several Trump supporters at the rally applauded the move.

"It takes a lot of strength to say, 'I'm sorry,' to admit — not that he was wrong, but he wished he hadn't done it," said Cindy Ammons, 70, a Trump supporter from Spindale, North Carolina. "I think he's evolving," she said.

Still, some said it was unnecessary.

"I think the regime wanted him to say it. It was damage control," said Jeff Devers, 46, visiting from

Arkansas. "But I personally don't regret anything that he's said. What he has said should have been said, politically correct or not."

Mexico's rights agency says police killed 22 at ranch

LULU OROZCO, Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Federal police killed at least 22 people on a ranch last year, then moved bodies and planted guns to corroborate the official account that the deaths happened in a gunbattle, Mexico's human rights commission said Thursday.

One police officer was killed in the confrontation in the western state of Michoacan on May 22, 2015. The government has said the dead were drug cartel suspects who were hiding out on the ranch in Tanhuato, near the border with Jalisco state.

The National Human Rights Commission said there were also two cases of torture and four more deaths caused by excessive force. It said it could not establish satisfactorily the circumstances of 15 others who were shot to death.

"The investigation confirmed facts that show grave human rights violations attributable to public servants of the federal police," commission President Luis Raul Gonzalez Perez said.

Mexico's national security commissioner, Renato Sales, who oversees the federal police, denied the accusations, holding his own news conference before the rights commission had finished its own.

Sales said federal police ordered the suspects to drop their weapons and surrender, but were answered with gunfire.

"The use of weapons was necessary and proportional against the real and imminent and unlawful aggression," Sales said. "That is to say, in our minds they acted in legitimate defense."

The lopsided death toll had led to suspicions that officers might have arbitrarily killed people during the operation against suspected members of the Jalisco New Generation cartel. The rights commission questioned the government's explanation of what led to the clash in the first place.

Federal police had said they encountered a truck and took fire from its passengers before being led to the ranch.

The commission's report said the government did not produce evidence supporting that account and it said witness statements suggested 41 federal police had sneaked onto the ranch as early as 6 a.m. Officers started their assault at least an hour earlier than they maintained in reporting on the incident, the commission said.

According to the agency's report, after the federal police officer was shot, police called for backup. Fifty-four more federal police officers arrived along with a helicopter.

The helicopter fired some 4,000 rounds at the ranch house and a nearby warehouse, which caught fire. The helicopter was also hit by gunfire, the report said. One victim died of burns that the commission believes came after he was shot but still alive.

In total, five people were killed by the helicopter, the commission found. One victim was hit by a bullet that entered around his left pectoral muscle and exited his groin, but there were no bloodstains on the jeans he was found wearing, the commission said.

Thirteen of the 22 people the commission said were killed had been shot in the back, it said.

Two witnesses interviewed by the commission said federal police officers told one heavily tattooed man to run outside the ranch house and then the witnesses heard gunshots.

By the time investigators from the state Attorney General's Office arrived at the scene, "the Federal

Police had approximately four hours to manipulate the scene,” the report said.

Eighteen of the victims were found barefoot and one just in his underpants, leading the commission to conclude most were asleep when police arrived. The commission’s investigation said 40 civilians were killed by bullets, one died in the fire and one was run over.

The government had initially refused to release autopsy reports on those killed. The commission criticized the autopsies performed by the Michoacan Attorney General’s Office as being sloppy and incomplete and said the morgue turned over the wrong body to one family.

The case is reminiscent of a 2014 incident in which the commission found that soldiers killed at least a dozen suspected criminals after they surrendered in a warehouse in Tlatlaya west of Mexico City.

The army’s version was that 22 suspects died in a gunfight in which only one soldier was wounded. But The Associated Press found evidence at the scene did not match that account. The warehouse wall showed signs that suspects were lined up and shot.

In that case, three women who survived were tortured by agents of the state prosecutor’s office to corroborate the army’s version.

On Thursday, the commission said two survivors of the bloodshed in Tanhuato had been forced to watch three slayings and were then tortured. Police threatened their lives and the lives of their families, it said.

Experts use drift modeling to define new MH370 search zone

ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Experts hunting for the missing Malaysian airliner are attempting to define a new search area by studying where in the Indian Ocean the first piece of wreckage recovered from the lost Boeing 777 — a wing flap — most likely drifted from after the disaster that claimed 239 lives, the new leader of the search said.

Officials are planning the next phase of the deep-sea sonar search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in case the current two-year search of 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) turns up nothing, said Australian Transport Safety Bureau chief commissioner Greg Hood, who took over leadership of the bureau last month.

However, a new search would require a new funding commitment, with Malaysia, Australia and China agreeing in July that the \$160 million search will be suspended once the current stretch of ocean southwest of Australia is exhausted unless new evidence emerges that would pinpoint a specific location of the aircraft.

“If it is not in the area which we defined, it’s going to be somewhere else in the near vicinity,” Hood said in an interview this week.

Further analysis of the wing fragment known as a flaperon found on Reunion Island off the African coast in July last year — 16 months after the plane went missing — will hopefully help narrow a possible next search area outside the current boundary.

Six replicas of the flaperon will be sent to Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization’s oceanography department in the island state of Tasmania where scientists will determine whether it is the wind or the currents that affect how they drift, Hood said. This will enable more accurate drift modeling than is currently available.

If more money becomes available, the Australian bureau, which is conducting the search on Malaysia’s behalf, plans to fit the flaperons with satellite beacons and set them adrift at different points in the southern Indian Ocean around March 8 next year — the third anniversary of the disaster — and

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track their movements.

Meanwhile, barnacles found on the flaperon and an adjacent wing flap that washed up on Tanzania in June are being analyzed for clues to the latitudes they might have come from. The flap is in the Australian bureau's headquarters in Canberra where it has been scoured for clues by accident investigators.

Peter Foley, the bureau's director of Flight 370 search operations since the outset, said the enhanced drift modeling would hopefully narrow the next search area to a band of 5 degrees of latitude, or 550 kilometers (340 miles).

"Even the best drift analysis is not going to narrow it down to X-marks-the-spot," Foley said.

Some critics argue that the international working group that defined the current search area — which includes experts from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch, the plane's manufacturer Boeing, Australia's Defense Science and Technology Group, satellite firm Inmarsat and electronics company Thales — made a crucial mistake by concluding that the most likely scenario was that no one was at the controls when the plane hit the ocean after flying more than five hours.

The airliner veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. What happened to the plane has become one of the biggest mysteries in aviation, with a wide range of theories, including that a hijacker could have killed everyone on board early in the flight by depressurizing the plane.

The current search area was defined by analysis of a final satellite signal from the plane that indicated it had run out of fuel. Scientists have determined how far the plane could have travelled from a height of up to 12,200 meters (40,000 feet) after both engines lost power.

But critics who favor the theory that Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah hijacked the plane argue that he could have glided the plane beyond the current search area. Some say he could have made a controlled ditch at sea in order to minimize debris and make the plane vanish as completely as possible. Officials say Zaharie flew a similar route on his home flight simulator only weeks before the disaster.

Foley said his bureau's analysts were working on the flap to ascertain whether or not it was deployed when the plane hit the water. They will test their hypothesis with the Boeing accident investigation team to validate their findings.

Recent analysis of the final satellite signals also suggest the plane was descending at a rate of between 3,700 meters (12,000 feet) and 6,100 meters (20,000 feet) a minute before it crashed. A rate of 600 meters (2,000 feet) a minute would be typical of a controlled descent.

"The rate of descent combined with the position of the flap — if it's found that it is not deployed — will almost certainly rule out either a controlled ditch or glide," Foley said.

"If it's not in a deployed state, it validates, if you like, where we've been looking," he said.

Crews have not given up hope of finding the plane in the current search area, which because of bad weather and 20-meter (65-foot) swells could take them until December to finish scanning.

Less than 10,000 square kilometers (4,000 square miles) of seabed, which is outside the original 60,000-square-kilometer (23,000-square-mile) high-priority search zone, remain to be searched.

More than 20 sonar contacts require closer examination by a sonar-equipped underwater drone. These are between 2,700 kilometers (1,700 miles) and 1,900 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the Australian port of Fremantle where the search ships are based.

"We are still hopeful and optimistic," said Hood.

Foley said finding the plane was the only chance of the solving the mystery of what happened aboard Flight 370.

"We will never know what happened to that aircraft until we find it," Foley said.

In spite of email controversy, Clinton holds edge over Trump

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

LISA LERER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Clinton can't seem to escape her use of a private email server as she runs for president. But faced with the choice of Donald Trump, voters seem willing to tolerate the questions it raises about Clinton's honesty because of their distaste for the Republican nominee.

This week, it was the FBI's delivery to Congress of notes from its investigation into Clinton's email habits that put one of the most uncomfortable parts of her State Department tenure back in the headlines.

It's an issue unlikely to go away: At hearings planned for next month, Republicans in Congress say they'll ask FBI officials whether those notes indicate she may have lied to lawmakers in response to questions about her handling of classified material.

Yet for all the attention the emails get, recent preference polls show Clinton with a solid and steady lead over Trump in a series of competitive battleground states. Voters also give her higher marks on her readiness for the White House and handling of foreign policy.

Those same polls show that much of the public doesn't like Clinton and find her untrustworthy, and she has acknowledged as much. But it's worse for Trump, and compared with the billionaire, the perceptions of dishonesty the public has of Clinton appears to be an attribute many Americans are willing to live with.

"All of this calculation over the emails will probably be drowned out by the determination that he's not fit to be president," said Matt Bennett, once an aide to former Vice President Al Gore and a senior vice president at the centrist think tank Third Way.

Should Clinton win the election, questions about her honesty are likely to trail her into the White House and could complicate her ability to push through a policy agenda. It's a political challenge that mirrors the one her husband, former President Bill Clinton, faced nearly a quarter century ago.

As a candidate, Bill Clinton was dogged in 1992 by questions about his honesty, but voters ultimately viewed him as a better caretaker of the economy, which had stumbled during President George H.W. Bush's administration.

"It will be a challenge," said Mickey Kantor, a longtime Clinton supporter who chaired his 1992 campaign. "He overcame it and was re-elected. She can overcome it. Not easily, but she can overcome it."

The tone Hillary Clinton sets during a transition and inauguration will likely be key to potentially improving her image, said Chris Lehane, who worked in opposition research in her husband's administration.

"You'll have a moment there where potentially people will be interested in getting what you rarely get in life, a second look," he said.

According to polls conducted by Gallup, her favorability ratings have fallen from a high of around 65 percent during her tenure as secretary of state to just over 40 percent after the Democratic convention, a historic low for a presidential candidate, surpassed only by Trump.

"She will have a significant challenge in persuading the voters of the country that she is indeed honest and trustworthy," said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who worked for GOP primary candidate Marco Rubio's presidential bid. "A great many people will vote for her because they can't stand voting for Donald Trump. But she'll still have work to do."

Old Clinton hands see echoes of their strategy in Hillary Clinton's approach.

In early 1992, voters knew Bill Clinton as an Ivy League graduate who avoided serving in Vietnam and had been accused of extramarital affairs, said Paul Begala, a key strategist for the then candidate who

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now works for the main Democratic super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton's White House bid.

Their goal was to expand public perceptions of Bill Clinton to encompass other, more positive facts, such as his poor upbringing, difficult family life, college scholarships and decision to return to Arkansas as a public servant rather than accept a high-paid corporate job.

In 2016, Clinton's campaign, says Begala, has similarly tried to fill out her public image. It has run ads highlighting her mother's abusive childhood and Clinton's early commitment to helping women and children as a legal advocate, while much of the Democratic convention was devoted to Clinton's personal biography.

"Sure, she has had Secret Service protection since she became first lady in 1993 — she needs it. But she was not born in the White House," Begala said.

Clinton and her campaign attribute much of her low approval ratings to a belief that voters like Clinton more when she's working than campaigning, a view that they say is intertwined with the scandals of her husband's administration, years of relentless GOP attacks and how Americans view female candidates.

But in recent weeks, they've preferred to focus on the failings of their opponent.

"He's been unraveling for weeks, since the convention," Joel Benenson, Clinton's chief strategy said Thursday in an interview with MSNBC. "He's a failed candidate and failing campaign."

But even Clinton admits that fixing her trust problem will take time.

"I've made mistakes. I don't know anyone who hasn't. So I understand people have some questions," Clinton told black voters at a June luncheon in Chicago. "You can't just talk someone into trusting you. You've got to earn it."

Bolt grabs another gold as Lochte saga consumes Rio Games

JOSH HOFFNER, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Usain Bolt and Ryan Lochte commanded the Olympic spotlight Thursday for drastically different reasons.

Bolt completed an unprecedented third consecutive sweep of the 100- and 200-meter sprints, an accomplishment that further elevated his status as the most decorated male sprinter in Olympic history. He won the 200-meter race with a time of 19.78 seconds to defeat Andre de Grasse of Canada. He already claimed gold in the 100 in Rio.

Bolt did a lengthy victory lap around the stadium, proudly carrying a Jamaican flag and even taking a selfie as he jubilantly celebrated the win in what he has long said is his favorite race.

"I've proven to the world I'm the greatest," Bolt said. "This is what I came here for. That's what I'm doing. This is why I said this is my last Olympics — I can't prove anything else."

For all of the Olympic fanfare surrounding Bolt's win, American swimmer Ryan Lochte and three of his teammates attracted attention for all the wrong reasons.

Lochte has been in the news all week over his ever-shifting claim that he and his teammates were robbed in a taxi at gunpoint by men carrying a badge during a night of partying Sunday. Police now say the story was made up, and that the intoxicated athletes vandalized a gas station bathroom and were questioned by guards about the incident before they paid about \$50 for the damage and left.

The episode served as a distraction from several notable events in competition Thursday, including another haul of American medals in track and field, Jordan's first Olympic championship — in men's taekwondo — and the U.S. women's basketball team advancing to the Summer Games final yet again.

The U.S. track and field team is on a magnificent run in Rio. Americans took gold in the men's and women's 400-meter hurdles. They had a 1-2 finish in men's shot put. Ashton Eaton, largely considered

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the world's greatest all-around athlete, won gold in decathlon for the second straight Olympics. The feat may have garnered more attention if he weren't sharing the stage with Bolt.

That's 25 medals for the United States in track and field in Rio, including nine gold.

Brazil picked up two more gold medals, one in sailing and the other in beach volleyball. The men's volleyball team of Alison and Bruno set off a boisterous celebration in the rain on Copacabana Beach when they won the title match. Earlier in the day, the host country claimed gold in sailing after a dramatic finish in the women's 49erFX event. Winners Martine Grael and Kahena Kunze tumbled into the bay as they celebrated the win.

Other highlights from Day 13 of the Rio Games:

SHAKUR FOR GOLD : No American has won a gold in boxing since 2004, but Shakur Stevenson hopes to change that. The 19-year-old phenom who was named after rapper Tupac Shakur advanced to the gold match and has the support of Floyd Mayweather, who has referred to Stevenson as "the next Floyd Mayweather."

SUSPENSIONS : It was a busy day for doping suspensions. Doping officials announced that a weightlifter from Kyrgyzstan, swimmer from China, cyclist from Brazil and canoeist from Moldova all tested positive for drugs. The weightlifter was taking strychnine, best known for its use as rat poison. Athletes use it in small doses to boost muscle recovery.

STILL UNDEFEATED : The U.S. women's basketball team didn't have its starting point guard, Sue Bird, in the semifinals against France after she injured her knee. They still won by 19 points. If the women beat Spain in the final Sunday, it will be six straight golds for the U.S.

BIRDIE FEST : You know it's a good day on the golf course when a player starts losing track of the number of birdies she makes. Such was the case for American Stacy Lewis, who carded 11 birdies and shot a 63. Her round could have been better if not for a double-bogey on the 14th hole. And it still wasn't enough for the lead. Inbee Park of South Korea finished shot a 5-under 66 to lead by one.

DIVING DOMINATION : China has dominated the Olympic diving competition, and the result in the women's 10-meter platform suggests the success might be long-lasting. Ren Qian won gold, and she is only 15 years old.

BMX CRASHES : The BMX competition began on what many riders feared would be a treacherous course. They ended up being right. Several riders crashed in the BMX men's quarterfinals, and two-time defending gold medalist Maris Strombergs of Latvia was eliminated. All three American riders advanced to the semifinals, including Connor Fields, who summed up the day like this: "The best I can describe it is, put 800 lions in a cage, throw out a big steak and open the doors. That's BMX."

BADMINTON : It was a significant day at badminton. Carolina Marin of Spain beat the defending Olympic champion from China to advance to the gold medal singles match. Marin is world No. 1 but her win is significant because China had been badminton's superpower, sweeping all five gold medals at the 2012 London Games. And Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi of Japan won gold in women's badminton doubles.

US appeals court upholds UN immunity from Haiti cholera suit

DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A U.S. federal appeals court has upheld the United Nations' immunity from a damage claim filed on behalf of 5,000 cholera victims who blame the U.N. for an epidemic of the deadly disease in Haiti.

In a decision issued late Thursday, the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York affirmed a lower court's January 2015 dismissal of a lawsuit brought in the worst outbreak of cholera in recent history.

"We have considered all of plaintiffs' arguments on appeal and find them to be without merit," the U.S. appellate judges said.

The ruling came shortly after U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq referred to the United Nations' "own involvement" in the introduction of cholera to Haiti.

It was a significant statement because the U.N. has for years kept silent about allegations its peacekeepers introduced cholera to Haiti. It has answered lawsuits on behalf of victims filed in U.S. courts by claiming immunity under a 1946 convention.

Haq said in a statement that the U.N. needs to do "much more" to end the suffering of those affected and pledged that "a significantly new set of U.N. actions" will be presented publicly within the next two months.

But Haq reiterated that the U.N.'s legal position in claiming immunity hasn't changed.

Brian Concannon, executive director of the Boston-based Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, said advocates for Haitian cholera victims will be watching the U.N.'s actions closely. They have 90 days to decide whether to file an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We will decide how to proceed based on whether the U.N.'s actions fulfill the cholera victims' rights to an effective remedy," Concannon said in a statement.

Since its introduction to Haiti in October 2010, cholera has killed more than 9,300 Haitians and sickened over 800,000. It showed up some 10 months after a devastating earthquake in the south of Haiti, deepening the country's misery at a time when it was ill-equipped to cope with another crisis.

The waterborne disease is now considered "endemic" in Haiti, meaning it's an illness that occurs regularly.

Researchers say there is ample scientific evidence the disease was introduced to Haiti's biggest river by inadequately treated sewage from a base of U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal, one of the units that have rotated in and out of a multinational force in Haiti since 2004.

Tap water bacteria found in New Zealand woman who died

NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Tests in New Zealand confirmed an elderly woman who died last week was suffering from the type of bacteria that tainted local tap water and sickened thousands of people in a small North Island town, officials said Friday.

Coroner Peter Ryan announced he had opened an investigation into the death of the 89-year-old woman in Havelock North. He said an autopsy revealed she had other health problems and it will take further testing to determine if the tainted water was a cause in her death.

An estimated 4,000 people in the town of 13,000 have contracted gastric illnesses since last week's outbreak of campylobacter bacteria. Seventeen people are being treated in a hospital, including two who are in critical condition.

Adding to the problems, one tanker of water that was trucked in to provide fresh water for residents was later found to contain E. coli bacteria, forcing embarrassed officials to ask residents to dump that water as well.

The town has now treated both its tap water and the tanker water with chlorine. It is also requesting that residents boil tap water. Health officials say that new cases of the illness have begun to taper off.

Such outbreaks from tap water are rare in New Zealand, which markets its clean, green image to tourists. Havelock North is located in a picturesque region known for its vineyards.

Officials remain baffled as to how the water supply became contaminated. Campylobacter bacteria

are typically spread from animal feces. The government has launched a wide-ranging inquiry into the problem.

"We've got to make sure that this never happens again," Health Minister Jonathan Coleman told reporters.

He said a government agency would provide emergency payments to people whose income had been affected by the outbreak, and it was considering further financial help.

"We've got to make sure that people can be absolutely confident that the water that comes out of the tap in New Zealand is clean, and clearly something's happened here," Coleman said.

Much of the nation's tap water is treated with chlorine. But in places like Havelock North, where the water comes from underground aquifers, local authorities have often considered it safe without such treatment.

UN says it was involved in introducing cholera to Haiti

EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations is saying for the first time that it was involved in the introduction of cholera to Haiti and needs to do "much more" to end the suffering of those affected, estimated at more than 800,000 people.

Researchers say there is ample evidence that cholera was introduced to Haiti's biggest river in October 2010 by inadequately treated sewage from a U.N. peacekeeping base. The United Nations has never accepted responsibility, and has answered lawsuits on behalf of victims in U.S. courts by claiming diplomatic immunity.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq's statement referring to the U.N.'s "own involvement," which was sent to The Associated Press on Thursday, came a step closer to an admission of at least some responsibility and was welcomed by lawyers for the victims.

"This is a major victory for the thousands of Haitians who have been marching for justice, writing to the U.N. and bringing the U.N. to court," said Mario Joseph, a Haitian human rights attorney whose law firm has led a high-profile claim on behalf of 5,000 cholera victims who blame the U.N. for introducing the disease.

In a decision issued late Thursday, a U.S. federal appeals panel in New York upheld immunity for the UN and affirmed a lower court's 2015 judgment dismissing that case. Cholera victims and their lawyers have 90 days to decide if they will seek an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, Haq said that the United Nations has been considering a series of options, and "a significantly new set of U.N. actions" will be presented publicly within the next two months.

He told reporters later that a U.N.-appointed panel already looked into the U.N.'s involvement. It found that a local contractor failed to properly sanitize the waste at the U.N. base.

"We've been trying to see exactly what we can do about our own particular role as this has been going on" and how "to bring this outbreak to a close," he said.

Haq wouldn't say whether reparations were under consideration.

His statement on U.N. involvement was first reported by The New York Times.

Five U.N. human rights experts criticized the United Nations in a letter to top U.N. officials late last year for its "effective denial of the fundamental right of the victims of cholera to justice."

At least one lawsuit was dismissed because of the U.N.'s diplomatic immunity claim.

Haq reiterated Thursday that the U.N.'s legal position in claiming diplomatic immunity "has not changed."

According to government figures, cholera has sickened more than 800,000 people, or about 7 percent

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of Haiti's population, and has killed more than 9,200. As of March, it was killing an average of 37 people a month.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and only 24 percent of Haitians have access to a toilet. Sewage is rarely treated and safe water remains inaccessible to many.

At a dusty crossroads on the outskirts of Haiti's capital, local residents gathered Thursday at a trash-clogged stream to wash clothes and bathe.

"So now they are going to find a way to clean the disease from the country? It's been here for years and it seems like it is here to stay," said laborer Jhony Nordlius as he pushed a wheelbarrow past a fetid canal where children were splashing and collecting garbage.

Maxcilus Vale, who ekes out a living shining shoes by the trash-clogged waterway, was more hopeful about the UN's statement.

"Maybe now we'll get more sanitation and water treatment to help make cholera go away. I hope so because it has harmed many people," said Vale, as he washed his socks in a roadside pool of stagnant water.

Researchers said cholera was first detected in the central Artibonite Valley and cited evidence that it was introduced to Haiti's biggest river from a U.N. base where Nepalese troops were deployed as part of a peacekeeping operation which has been in the country since 2004. Cholera is endemic in Nepal.

In December 2012, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced a \$2.27 billion initiative to help eradicate cholera in Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic, which share the island of Hispaniola, but the ambitious 10-year plan is underfunded. According to a report last November, only \$307 million has been received.

Haq said the announcement of U.N. plans for new action to address cholera was made in response to a draft report by the U.N. special investigator on extreme poverty and human rights.

Ahead of its release, likely in late September, he said "we wanted to take this opportunity to welcome this vital report."

Haq said its findings and recommendations "will be a valuable contribution to the U.N. as we work towards a significantly new set of U.N. actions."

Naked Donald Trump statues pop up in cities across the US

NEW YORK (AP) — It's Donald Trump like you've never seen him before.

Life-size naked statues of the Republican presidential nominee greeted passers-by in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Cleveland on Thursday. They are the brainchild of an activist collective called INDECLINE, which has spoken out against Trump before.

In a statement, the collective said the hope is that Trump, the former host of "The Apprentice" reality TV series, "is never installed in the most powerful political and military position in the world."

The statues were created by an artist in Cleveland. They are of a stern-faced Trump with his hands folded over a bulging belly. Some parts of male genitalia are visible while others seemingly are missing.

"It is through these sculptures that we leave behind the physical and metaphorical embodiment of the ghastly soul of one of America's most infamous and reviled politicians," INDECLINE said in its statement.

Trump's campaign declined to comment on the statues.

A statue in New York's Union Square quickly drew the attention of people, many of whom posed for photographs with it, before it was removed by the city's parks department.

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"NYC Parks stands firmly against any unpermitted erection in city parks, no matter how small," parks spokesman Sam Biederman joked.

A video posted by DNAInfo showed onlookers booing and groaning as workers snapped the statue off its base, leaving the feet behind, and loaded it face-down into the back of a pickup truck. One woman yelled, "Take his nasty feet, too!"

Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio, when asked about the naked Trump statue, said, "That is a frightening thought. When he's wearing clothes I don't like him."

INDECLINE said statues on the West Coast were still in place.

This wasn't the group's first anti-Trump endeavor. The collective also has spray-painted a U.S.-Mexico border fence in Tijuana, Mexico, with an image of a gagged Trump.

The group's other projects have included putting the names of African-Americans killed by police over the inlaid stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and painting the words "This Land Was Our Land" across an unused airstrip in the Mojave Desert.

Asian stocks lackluster as investors turn focus to Yellen

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Most Asian stock benchmarks drifted lower Friday as investors hunkered down to mull resurgent oil prices and corporate earnings while awaiting a key speech by the Fed chief next week.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1 percent lower to 16,474.67 while South Korea's Kospi dipped 0.1 percent to 2,053.58. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.5 percent to 22,903.57 and the Shanghai Composite Index retreated 0.5 percent to 3,086.77. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.2 percent to 5,518.30. Benchmarks in Taiwan and Thailand fell while in those in Singapore, Indonesia and New Zealand rose.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK: Markets were mostly subdued in the absence of any major economic data releases. Investors were watching for the Fed's next move after meeting minutes this week indicated policymakers felt another interest rates hike was warranted but left out any hint on timing. The next big chance to glean insight from U.S. central bank officials comes in a week's time, with Fed chief Janet Yellen due to speak at an annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on Aug. 26.

QUOTEWORTHY: Yellen is likely to say the process of raising rates will be "cautious and gradual but leave the impression that the Fed is on track to raise interest rates again this year," Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at AMP Capital in Sydney, wrote in a report.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks ended slightly higher. The Dow Jones industrial average ticked up 0.1 percent to 18,597.70. The Standard & Poor's 500 added 0.2 percent to 2,187.02. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.2 percent to 5,240.15.

ENERGY: Oil futures steadied after a big bounce. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 8 cents to \$48.30 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained \$1.43, or 3.1 percent, to settle at \$48.22 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, slipped 3 cents to \$50.92 a barrel in London after jumping 2 percent the day before.

CURRENCIES: The yen stabilized, with the dollar strengthening to 100.31 yen after the Japanese currency broke below the 100-yen mark earlier. Japan's currency has been gradually strengthening since the start of the year, when it was worth about 120, making the country's exports more expensive and complicating efforts to revive growth. The euro slipped to \$1.1330 from \$1.1345.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 19, the 232nd day of 2016. There are 134 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 19, 1991, Soviet hard-liners stunned the world by announcing that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had been removed from power. (The coup attempt collapsed two days later.)

On this date:

In A.D. 14, Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor, died at age 76 after a reign lasting four decades; he was succeeded by his stepson Tiberius.

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of capturing Washington D.C.

In 1918, "Yip! Yip! Yaphank," a musical revue by Irving Berlin featuring Army recruits from Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York, opened on Broadway.

In 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

In 1936, the first of a series of show trials orchestrated by Soviet leader Josef Stalin began in Moscow as 16 defendants faced charges of conspiring against the government (all were convicted and executed).

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties.

In 1955, torrential rains caused by Hurricane Diane resulted in severe flooding in the northeastern U.S., claiming some 200 lives.

In 1964, The Beatles opened their first full-fledged U.S. tour as they performed at San Francisco's Cow Palace.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Kansas City.

In 1980, 301 people aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Riyadh airport.

In 1991, rioting erupted in the Brooklyn, New York, Crown Heights neighborhood after a black 7-year-old, Gavin Cato, was struck and killed by a Jewish driver from the ultra-Orthodox Lubavitch community; three hours later, a gang of blacks fatally stabbed Yankel Rosenbaum, a rabbinical student.

Ten years ago: Israeli commandos raided a Hezbollah stronghold deep in Lebanon. (Israel said the raid was launched to stop arms smuggling from Iran and Syria to the militant Shiite fighters; Lebanon called the operation a "flagrant violation" of a U.N. truce.)

Five years ago: Three men — Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jesse Misskelley — who'd spent nearly two decades in prison for the nightmarish slayings of three Cub Scouts in Arkansas, went free after they agreed to a legal maneuver allowing them to maintain their innocence while acknowledging prosecutors had enough evidence against them. Danell Leyva beat two-time defending champion Jonathan Horton for his first title at the U.S. gymnastics championships in St. Paul, Minnesota.

One year ago: Longtime Subway pitchman Jared Fogle agreed in federal court in Indianapolis to plead guilty to allegations that he'd paid for sex acts with minors and received child pornography. (Fogle pleaded guilty in Nov. 2015 to one count each of distributing and receiving child porn and traveling to

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engage in illicit sexual conduct with a child, and was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison.) Islamic State militants beheaded 81-year-old Khaled al-Asaad, a leading Syrian antiquities scholar who'd spent most of his life looking after the ancient ruins of Palmyra.

Today's Birthdays: Actor L.Q. Jones is 89. Actress Debra Paget is 83. USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Famer Renee Richards is 82. Former MLB All-Star Bobby Richardson is 81. Actress Diana Muldaur is 78. Rock musician Ginger Baker (Cream, Blind Faith) is 77. Singer Johnny Nash is 76. Actress Jill St. John is 76. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 73. Country singer-songwriter Eddy Raven is 72. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 71. Former President Bill Clinton is 70. Actor Gerald McRaney is 69. Tipper Gore, wife of former Vice President Al Gore, is 68. Actor Jim Carter is 68. Rock musician John Deacon (Queen) is 65. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 64. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 63. Actor Peter Gallagher is 61. Actor Adam Arkin is 60. Singer-songwriter Gary Chapman is 59. Actor Martin Donovan is 59. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Anthony Munoz is 58. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ivan Neville is 57. Actor Eric Lutes is 54. Actor John Stamos is 53. Actress Kyra Sedgwick is 51. Actor Kevin Dillon is 51. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 50. TV reporter Tabitha Soren is 49. Country singer-songwriter Mark McGuinn is 48. Actor Matthew Perry is 47. Country singer Clay Walker is 47. Rapper Fat Joe is 46. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 45. Actress Tracie Thoms is 41. Actor Callum Blue is 39. Country singer Rissi (REE'-see) Palmer is 35. Actress Erika Christensen is 34. Actress Melissa Fumero is 34. Pop singer Missy Higgins is 33. Actor Peter Mooney is 33. Actress Tammin Sursok is 33. Country singer Karli Osborn is 32. Olympic silver medal snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis is 31. Actor J. Evan Bonifant is 31. Rapper Romeo is 27.

Thought for Today: "Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats." — Howard H. Aiken, American computer pioneer (1900-1973).