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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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Tuesday, Aug. 23

Pool Hours:

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

Ride the Wind Day Faculty Inservice

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mixed vegetables, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Lisa Pray • Robin Fliehs • Allerie Loeschke • Ashley Larson • Jeremy Paul • Trista Telkamp • Lorraine Sippel

10:00am: UMC Bible Study 5:00pm: Welcome Back Picnic 6:30pm: PK-6 Open House

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Pool Hours:

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

Vesuvius Day Faculty Inservice

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Mitchell Koens • Bill Stolle • Clint Mortenson • Tanea Clocksene

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study 9:00 am to 11 am: Shooter drill in Groton

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Apts for Rent

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



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Initiated Measure 23

Title: An initiated measure to give certain organizations the right to charge fees

Attorney General Explanation

The measure gives corporate organizations and non-profit organizations the right to charge a fee for any service provided. This measure takes effect on July 1, 2017.

A vote "Yes" is for allowing certain organizations the right to charge fees.

A vote "No" is against the measure.

Pro –Initiated Measure 23

Vote "Yes" on IM23 and Close the Free-rider Loophole!

Is it right for government to force anyone—including unions—to provide services for free?

IM23 reaffirms the right of any business or not-for-profit organization to collect fees for services they provide. Under current law, targeted non-profit membership organizations in South Dakota are required to provide services to non-members, but aren't allowed to charge for those services.

Can you think of any other situation where government forces people to do anything free? A similar "free-rider" law, comparable to what we have in South Dakota, has recently been ruled unconstitutional in Wisconsin.

This law does not inhibit or change in any way a South Dakotan's right to employment or require membership in any organization in order to hold a job. It merely closes the free-rider loophole, now hurting many employee-sponsored organizations.

IM23 will stop government interference into relationships between employers and workers to prevent "free-riders" from getting benefits other individuals are paying for without contributing their fair share. These benefits include pension plans, lifetime medical insurance, training and educational programs, and legal assistance.

Imagine: you and co-workers pool your money to hire a specialist to negotiate a better contract. Several other workers refuse to help pay for maintaining the contract. They get the same raises you paid to negotiate. The same pension and health care benefits. The same legal protection. Without your investments, there wouldn't be raises, a pension and health benefits.

How would you feel? Would you be comfortable if you were not helping?

Companies and employees should work together to create good jobs and improve South Dakota's economy without government interference. State government should not be allowed to stop businesses and non-profit organizations from collecting fees for services that they provide.

Vote Yes on IM23 and close the Free-rider Loophole! Submitted on behalf of South Dakotans for Fairness Ballot Committee, Scott Niles, Newell, SD, Chairman

Con -- Initiated Measure 23

First, read the language of IM-23:

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, an organization, corporate or nonprofit, has the right to charge a fee for any service provided by the organization."

Don't understand it? It's no wonder. Neither does anyone else. Does it really empower any organization to charge a fee for any service? What organizations or service does that include? And what impact will "notwithstanding any other provision of law" have on our existing laws that regulate fees or protect workers from being forced to pay fees to unions?

IM-23 was brought by unions in Minnesota and Illinois to force hard-working South Dakota teachers, police, firefighters, nurses, linemen, city, and state workers to pay fees to labor unions even if those workers choose not to be union members.

Having a job in South Dakota is not dependent on belonging to a labor organization or having to pay money to a union. That freedom is known as your "right to work". South Dakota's Right to Work law

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is in the Bill of Rights of the State Constitution. IM 23 would essentially end that right because it would exist "notwithstanding" any other law, even laws that prohibit forced payments to unions. Your right to work does not, and should not, include being forced to pay fees.

Organized labor claims they provide services including having to represent non-members in grievances at work. There is nothing that keeps unions from negotiating contracts that apply only to union members, leaving other workers to negotiate their own pay and deal with their own grievances. Historically Unions have had value, but workers should not be forced to pay membership fees if they don't want to.

Workers should decide on union membership. Don't let your right to work become pay to work. VOTE NO on IM-23.

David Owen, Chairman of NO on 23 committee

Council gives first reading to \$3.7 million budget
The Groton City Council gave first reading to a \$3.7 million budget at a special meeting held Monday

The Groton City Council gave first reading to a \$3.7 million budget at a special meeting held Monday at the Groton Community Center. The city had to axe about \$300,000 out of the proposed budget which included \$10,000 for gravel (leaving \$30,000), \$30,000 for Sixth Street repair (eliminated), \$50,000 for a backhoe (eliminated), \$20,000 for chip and seal (leaving \$100,000), \$50,000 for transformers (leaving \$50,000), \$40,000 for sewer relining (eliminated), \$45,000 for storm sewer improvements (eliminated) and \$40,000 for wages (leaving 7 percent).

The expected revenue is \$3.9 million.

Added back into the budget was \$20,000 for baseball field light repairs and an additional \$4,000 for curb and gutter repairs.

The wages for the summer recreation programs was tallied up. "It cost \$200,000 to have fun in Groton," said finance officer Anita Lowary. She said that the pool wages alone amounted to \$65,000.

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.

PEN FOUSE

FARTMELL RECEPTION

for

Pastor Elizabeth Johnson

Sunday, August 28

2 - 4 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Groton, SD 57445

National Weather Service to hold Open House September 17

Aberdeen, SD: The National Weather Service in Aberdeen will be holding an open house on Sat. Sept. 17 from 10 am to 4 pm. The office is located at 824 Brown County 14 S, just east of the airport. Come on out and learn about what the National Weather Service does and how they work to educate the public on weather related issues.



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South Dakota Reports First Zika Virus Infection

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota has its first Zika virus infection, a woman who traveled to a country where Zika virus is currently transmitted and later developed symptoms, the Department of Health said today. The infection was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This is a good reminder for anyone who travels to Zika-affected areas that it's important to protect themselves from mosquito bites," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the department.

Zika is a tropical mosquito-borne infection. The virus is not known to be carried by the mosquitoes found in South Dakota.

For most healthy adults the infection is mild and only one in five people who are infected will become ill. Symptoms typically occur two to seven days after a bite and include fever, muscle or eye pain and a rash. However, pregnant women who are infected run the risk of delivering babies born with the birth defect microcephaly. Babies with the defect have heads smaller than expected and often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly.

Pregnant women should avoid traveling to countries with active transmission of Zika, including Miami-Dade County in Florida. Men who live in or have visited Zika transmission areas should abstain from unprotected sex. Individuals who do travel to a Zika-affected area and become ill within two weeks should see their doctor. Pregnant women who travel to Zika transmission areas should be tested two to 12 weeks after their return, whether they are sick or not.

There are no vaccines or treatment for the virus. To avoid infection travelers to Zika-affected areas, particularly pregnant women, should follow strict mosquito control precautions – wear pants and long-sleeved shirts, use an EPA-registered insect repellent and ensure that windows and doors have intact screens.

For more information on the virus and the latest travel advisories check the CDC's Zika site at http://www.cdc.gov/zika/.

Strengthening South Dakota's response to current and emerging public health threats is one objective of the Department of Health's 2015-2020 strategic plan, http://doh.sd.gov/strategicplan.

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South Dakota Farmers Union President, Doug Sombke Wishes Noem Remained on the House Agriculture Committee

I was quite surprised when I read quotes made by Representative Kristi Noem in a recent Watertown Public Opinion article where she attempts to justify her move from the House Agriculture Committee to the powerful Ways and Means Committee. She stated, "all of the ag organizations in the state advocated and supported me getting on the Ways and Means Committee."

I am confused by this comment, because although I knew Noem was making the move, and I understand that for her political career this is a great move for her, as a representative of one of the state's largest agriculture organizations, I did not and do not support her move because it is not in the best interest of South Dakota's number one industry of agriculture.

I want to make it clear that South Dakota, Farmers Union neither advocated nor encouraged Rep. Noem's decision to leave South Dakota without a seat on the Ag. Committee. When I visited with Rep. Noem and her staff I shared with her that although we understand her position, we prefer her serving on the Ag Committee first and foremost.

The importance of the Ag. Committee to our state should be self-explanatory. It sets the agenda and priorities for our nation's agriculture industry. It's a seat South Dakota has held since 1957. Every Farm Bill starts and stops with the Ag. Committee and it should be a privilege to represent South Dakota where it matters the most.

At a time when commodity prices are declining and producers are faced with struggles not seen since the 1980's, an absence from the Committee where the most important decisions are being made for Agriculture is the wrong move agriculture and the families that work hard every single day for South Dakota.

Rep. Noem has stated she wants to go where the work is. It's our opinion at South Dakota Farmers Union that there is plenty of work to be done on the Ag. Committee to fix the Dairy Margin Protection Program which was essentially broken from the outset of the 2014 Farm Bill.

The lack of adequate reimbursement continues to devastate family dairy operations. Unlike problems with the cotton industry which Ag. Committee member Mike Conaway successfully lobbied his fellow members to fix last spring. Rep. Noem isn't on the Agriculture Committee to stand up for South Dakota dairy producers and the problem remains.

We need help right now. She is not on the committee to represent us. These commodity prices are not just stressful for us as family farmers and ranchers, low prices impact Main Street South Dakota. Every day I visit with small business owners experiencing a slow business environment and worried about having to lay off employees.

Rep. Noem also said the Ways and Means Committee is critical to trade; however, since she's been on Ways and Means, Congress repealed Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and continues to relax standards on imported beef into the country hurting consumers and producers alike.

Why hasn't the power from the Ways and Means Committee translated into more influence for South Dakota? In my opinion, there are two approaches to Congress. You either climb the party ladder-hoping you can use your influence to benefit your state despite the strings that come attached to party power. Or you ensure your loyalty is to the people you represent. This means you have the freedom to work with everyone to get results for your constituents.

Whoever we elect this November, South Dakota needs a strong voice on the Ag. Committee. That's what this agriculture organization supports.

Sincerely,

Doug Sombke, President of South Dakota Farmers Union

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Adults Need Vaccines Too

PIERRE, S.D. – Every year, tens of thousands of adults in the United States suffer serious health problems, are hospitalized or even die from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccination.

To raise awareness of the importance of immunizations throughout life – and to help remind adults that they need vaccines, too – the South Dakota Department of Health is recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month. This is the perfect opportunity to make sure adults are protected against diseases like flu, whooping cough, tetanus, shingles and pneumococcal disease.

"There is a misconception among many adults that vaccines are just for children," said Tim Heath, immunization program coordinator for the department. "The truth is, vaccine-preventable diseases affect people of all ages."

The specific vaccines adults need are determined by factors such as age, lifestyle, risk conditions, locations of travel and previous vaccines. All adults should talk to their health care professionals to make sure they are up-to-date on vaccines recommended for them.

One vaccine recommended for everyone over the age of six months is the seasonal flu vaccine. "South Dakota has one of the highest overall flu vaccination rates in the country with nearly 60 percent of adults getting vaccinated in the 2014-2015 season," said Heath. "While that's good news, there are still too many adults who don't get a flu vaccine.

Find out which vaccines you need at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/ or contact your local health care provider.

Improving South Dakota's age-appropriate immunization rate is one objective of the Department of Health's 2015-2020 strategic plan, http://doh.sd.gov/strategicplan.



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Today in Weather History

August 23, 1960: Damaging winds and lightning caused damage to occur from Hand and Sanborn Counties to Marshall and Roberts Counties. A small airplane was destroyed, and windows were broken by the high winds in Miller. Also, roofs, TV antenna, utility lines, and trees were damaged in Kingsbury and Marshall Counties.

August 23, 1998: Winds gusting to 65 mph in and around Milbank, in Grant County, took the roof off a mobile home and wrapped it around a utility pole. The people inside the mobile home were uninjured. The Summit Dairy Barn had sustained significant damage. The high winds also blew a shed and a large tennis court fence down. Several trees along with many large tree branches were downed all over town. Strong winds were also reported in Day and Roberts Counties. Winds of 60 mph also downed many tree branches north of Watertown.

1724: An event is known as the "Great Gust of 1724" occurred on this day. Almost all tobacco and much of the corn crops were destroyed by this violent tropical storm, which struck the Chesapeake Bay. Intense floods of rain and a huge gust of wind were seen upon the James River. Some homes were wrecked, and several vessels were driven ashore. The storm was likely followed by a second hurricane just five days later causing rain for many straight days that caused the Virginia floods of 1724.

1906 - Thunderstorms deluged Kansas City, MO, with six inches of rain during the early morning, including nearly three inches in thirty minutes. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1921 - Denver, CO, was drenched with 2.20 inches of rain in one hour, a record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1933: A hurricane made landfall near Nags Head, North Carolina and tracked up the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk, Virginia, and Washington, DC. A seven-foot tide flooded businesses in Norfolk, Virginia. Described in the American Meteorological Society's August 1933 weather review as "one of the most severe storms that have ever visited the Middle Atlantic Coast."

1970 - Dry thunderstorms ignited more than one hundred fires in the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests of Washington State. Hot, dry, and windy weather spread the fires, a few of which burned out of control through the end of the month. More than 100,000 acres burned. (The Weather Channel) 1987 - A cold front brought autumn-like weather to the Northern and Central Plains Region. Afternoon highs were in the 50s and 60s across parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska that just two days earlier were in the 90s or above 100 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (The National Weather Summary)

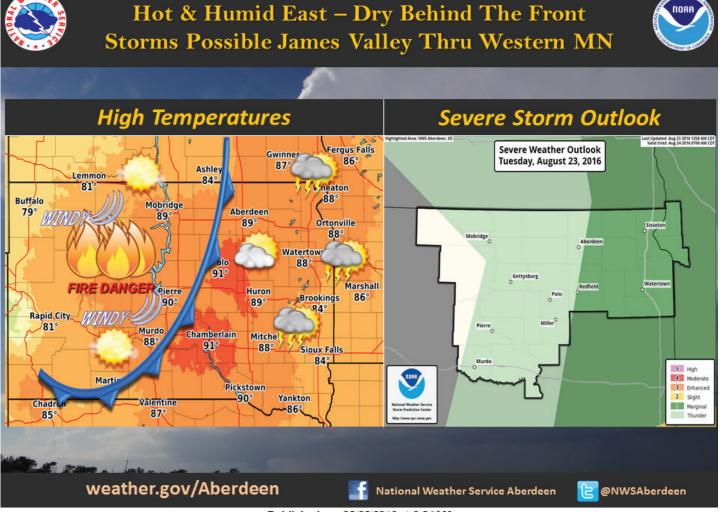
1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail an inch in diameter, wind gusts to 64 mph, and 2.62 inches of rain at Tucson AZ resulting in three million dollars damage. Cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Hartford CT reported a record low of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 1989 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with flash flooding in West Virginia. Pickens, WV, reported 4.80 inches of rain in 24 hours. Evening thunderstorms in Mississippi deluged Alta Woods with 4.25 inches of rain in less than an hour. Thunderstorms also produced heavy rain in southeastern Kentucky, and flooding was reported along Big Creek and along Stinking Creek. The Stinking Creek volunteer fire department reported water levels 12 to 14 feet above bankfull. Fort Worth TX hit the 100 degree mark for the first time all year. Strong winds ushering cool air into northwest Utah gusted to 70 mph, raising clouds of dust in the salt flats. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: While South Florida residents were preparing for Hurricane Andrew, folks in western Montana were dealing with early season snowfall. Some snowfall amounts include 8.3" in Great Falls, 6.2" in Helena, and 5.1" in Cut Bank. This snowfall is the first significant snowfall on record in western Montana in August.

2005: Hurricane Katrina formed from Tropical Depression Twelve over the southeastern Bahamas. Katrina would become the costliest (\$81.2 billion) and one of the most deadly hurricanes (1,836 lives) in U.S. history.

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Tonight Today Wednesday Wednesday Thursday Thursday Friday Night Night 30% Sunny then Slight Chance Sunny Mostly Clear Mostly Sunny Partly Cloudy Chance Slight Chance T-storms then T-storms T-storms Mostly Clear Low: 55 °F High: 88 °F High: 77 °F Low: 49 °F High: 74 °F Low: 45 °F High: 73 °F



Published on: 08/23/2016 at 6:04AM

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 88.6 F at 5:52 PM

Heat Index: 96 at 5:47 PM

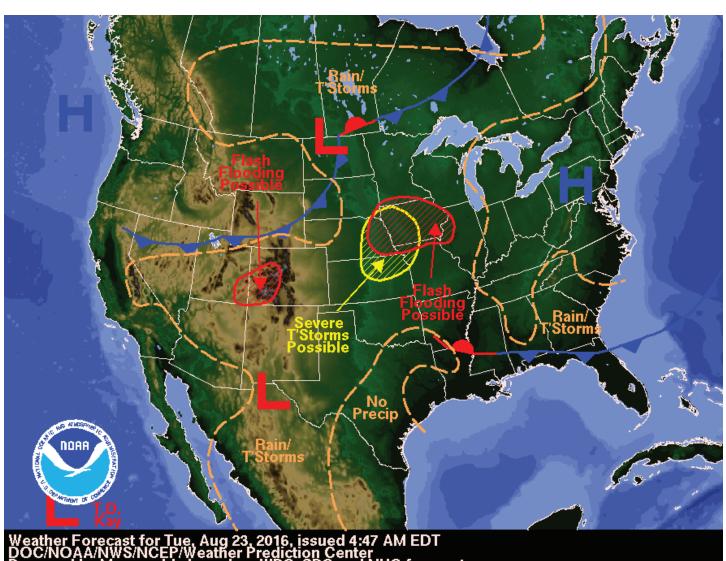
Low Outside Temp: 62.4 F at 6:37 AM High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 10:07 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 106° in 2003

Record Low: 39 in 1942 Average High: 81°F **Average Low:** 55°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.80 Precip to date in Aug: 1.93 **Average Precip to date: 15.66 Precip Year to Date: 12.66** Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46 a.m.



Tue, Aug 23, 2016, issued 4:47 AM EDT EP/Weather Prediction Center Ids based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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SAY WHAT IS!

The editor of the classified ad section of a newspaper noticed the cornerstone of a large cathedral in New York City. She paused to read the words and became intrigued.

Walking into the church she made her way down the aisle, through the halls and finally found the pastor's study. Politely she asked if he had a moment to speak with her.

Seated in front of his desk she introduced herself and said, "I noticed the words on the cornerstone that quoted the words of Jesus: 'Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.' Do you do those things here?"

"Oh no," came the reply. "Years ago they were placed there because the congregation thought they sounded good."

"Well," she replied, "if you don't do those things you shouldn't advertise that you do."

It is one thing to say that we believe the gospel but another thing to show others that we also do believe the gospel. Often we speak the words of the Bible as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven but do not live by its rules. Again, we may verbalize the teachings of Jesus but it is quite another thing to verify the value of His words with our life. If we say it, we ought to do it, and the goal of what we do should be to honor our Savior and Lord!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live our faith. We ask that You give us the courage to do what we ought to do wherever we are to show others we belong to Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.



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News from the App Associated Press

Department of Health: Vaccines aren't just for children

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health is recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month and reminding adults that vaccines aren't just for children.

Tim Heath is the department's immunization program coordinator. He says vaccine-preventable diseases affect people of all ages.

The department says National Immunization Awareness Month is a great opportunity to ensure adults are protected from diseases such as flu, tetanus and shingles.

The agency says that everyone over six months old should get the seasonal flu vaccine.

FBI called over 2 laser beam cases at pipeline protest site

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Authorities in southern North Dakota say the FBI has been contacted after a laser beam was aimed twice at an aircraft doing surveillance of an ongoing oil pipeline protest.

The Morton County Sheriff's Office on Monday said a pilot reported a laser beam entering the cockpit and leaving him temporarily blind Wednesday. Then, on Sunday, the pilot was able to look away in time to avoid the laser.

Morton County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Donnell Preskey says the North Dakota Highway Patrol was flying the state plane.

Directing a laser at an airplane is a federal offense.

Protesters have disrupted construction of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline that's designed to carry North Dakota crude to Illinois.

Construction has been temporarily shut down until a federal court hearing. A federal judge on Monday pushed the hearing to Sept. 8.

Foes: South Dakota ballot measure circumvents right-to-work JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A coalition of business groups recently launched a campaign against a labor-backed ballot measure going before voters in November, arguing that the plan would allow unions to circumvent South Dakota's right-to-work law.

Supporters of Initiated Measure 23, which would give corporate or nonprofit organizations the right to charge fees for services provided, said the ballot measure corrects unfairness in state law. Opponents say people shouldn't be forced to make payments to a union as a condition of a job.

"It's designed to force people who choose not to belong to unions to pay them fees anyway," said opponent David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "We think that's an end-run around right-to-work, and we don't think that's right."

Current South Dakota law says that a person's right to work can't be curtailed because of membership or non-membership in a labor union. It also prohibits requiring the payment of fees in lieu of union membership as a condition of employment.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs determined that supporters turned in 14,861 valid signatures, which exceeded the 13,871-signature requirement to get on the ballot.

The proposed measure would allow a labor union that has a collective bargaining agreement with an employer to charge fees to non-union members covered under the contract for services such as rep-

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resentation during the grievance process, said Mark Anderson, president and financial secretary of the South Dakota State Federation of Labor.

The ballot measure reads: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, an organization, corporate or nonprofit, has the right to charge a fee for any service provided by the organization."

The measure doesn't refer specifically to unions because it's meant to apply to everyone who provides a service, said Marc Poulos, director of Americans for Fairness, a group based in Illinois that's supporting the initiative.

The proposal would improve fairness because it would simply require that non-members pay for services that benefit them, said supporter Jason George, special projects director at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, which is the main backer of the measure and has members in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

"You still don't have to be a member," George said. "You're just going to have to pay for what you get." George said he isn't familiar with any such ballot measures being pursued in other states. If the plan is successful in South Dakota, "we'd definitely want to move elsewhere and do the same thing," Poulos said.

Twenty-five states have right-to-work laws that say workers cannot be compelled to become members of unions as a condition of employment. Among South Dakota's neighbors, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Iowa are right-to-work states while Montana and Minnesota are not, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Supporters of the South Dakota ballot initiative have raised about \$250,000 from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 and Americans for Fairness as of the latest campaign finance disclosure deadline. The opposition camp hopes to raise roughly \$250,000 to fund mailers and a paid media presence including television, Owen said.

If approved by a simple majority in the November election, the measure would go into effect in 2017.

Rapid City resident selected as White House fellow

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City resident who has dedicated her professional life to economic development in Native American communities, including the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is among the 2016-2017 class of White House Fellows.

The White House says Sharice Davids, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin, is one of 16 selected for the program.

Davids served as the deputy director of the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation in Porcupine, a community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The White House says she managed a variety of day-to-day operations, acted as in-house legal counsel and laid the foundation for a social enterprise program.

The White House Fellows Program was created in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson. It gives promising leaders firsthand, high-level experience with the workings of the federal government.

Judge denies Iowa landowners' request to halt pipeline work DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A district court judge on Monday denied a request by Iowa landowners to immediately halt construction of a \$3.8\$ billion oil pipeline on 15 parcels of their land, saying they must first talk to state regulators.

A state law written in 1998 says the Iowa Utilities Board must consider such a request before the court

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can weigh in, District Court Judge Jeffrey Farrell said in his order. The landowners have sued, saying the board does not have the authority to give Texas oil company Dakota Access the right to forcefully condemn private farmland under eminent domain.

The landowners want to stop Dakota Access, a subsidiary of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, from digging trenches on their land until the courts can determine whether the board's application of eminent domain is legal. The planned 1,168-mile pipeline would cut through Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"It's disappointing, but not really unexpected," landowner Richard Lamb said of the judge's decision. Crops have been cut down on Lamb's land near Boone in central Iowa to make way for the pipeline. The next step is grading, which is expected to begin in week or two, and trenching after that.

The company argued in court on Friday that if the board or the court grants the landowners' motion to stop work it would be required to move construction crews and equipment around the 15 parcels at a cost of more than \$500,000 for each move.

The attorney for the landowners, Bill Hannigan, said the request for an emergency stay was filed with the board Monday afternoon.

"Pipeline construction is moving quickly, and our clients hope to have an immediate decision from the board," he said in a statement.

He added it will be refiled with the court if it's rejected. He said the plan is to appeal the decision to the Iowa Supreme Court if necessary.

A spokeswoman for Dakota Access said the company will allow the legal system to work and continue with construction.

Judge moves pipeline protest hearing, says sides should meet

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge has postponed a hearing on whether a preliminary injunction should be issued to prevent protesters in North Dakota from interfering with construction of an oil pipeline.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland moved the hearing scheduled on Thursday to Sept. 8. The judge also extended a restraining order against the protesters until the hearing.

The judge says in his order filed Monday that the two sides are "strongly encouraged to meet and confer in good faith" to try and resolve the dispute out of court.

More than two dozen protesters have been arrested in the last month for interfering with the construction of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline meant to carry North Dakota crude to Illinois.

Developers have agreed to halt construction until court matters are resolved.

White House honors 4 South Dakota math, science teachers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Four South Dakota teachers are among 213 nationwide being recognized by the Obama administration for their efforts in teaching math and sciences.

The White House on Monday announced this year's winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The South Dakota educators receiving the honor are Roby Johnson, science teacher at Holgate Middle School in Aberdeen; Jennifer Fowler, science teacher at South Middle School in Rapid City; and Crystal McMachen and Bjorg Remmers-Seymour, math and science teachers respectively at Rapid City's East Middle School.

Winners represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories and the Defense Department Education Activity schools.

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Winners get a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They will be honored in Washington Sept. 8.

First South Dakota resident tests positive for Zika virus

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Health Department says a state resident has tested positive for the Zika virus — the first such case in the state.

Officials say the case is in a woman who traveled to a country where the virus has been spreading. She later developed symptoms.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the infection. The woman wasn't identified.

The Zika virus causes symptoms including fever, muscle and eye pain, and a rash. It can cause a severe birth defect known as microcephaly, in which babies are born with abnormally small heads. It's spread by mosquitoes and sexual contact.

State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says the confirmation of South Dakota's first case is a good reminder that people who travel to Zika-infected areas should protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Powerball ticket sold in Sioux Falls worth \$50,000

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Powerball ticket sold in Sioux Falls is worth \$50,000 in the latest drawing. The ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball on Saturday to win the game's third prize, at odds of 1 in about 913,000.

The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$127 million for Wednesday's drawing.

Israel uncovers illegal Palestinian weapons making network

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military says it has uncovered an illegal Palestinian weapons manufacturing network during an operation in the West Bank.

The military said on Tuesday that the overnight raid was the largest since Israel began cracking down on weapons' manufacturers and dealers several months ago. The raid found seven weapons factories, 22 weapons-making machines and dozens of arms.

The military says that since January, it uncovered 29 weapons factories and seized 49 weapons-making machines and more than 300 firearms. More than 140 arms dealers and manufacturers have been arrested during that time.

The crackdown comes amid an 11-month wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence which has largely tapered off in recent weeks. Israel says the weapons' crackdown is making it harder for Palestinian assailants to acquire guns.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP'S STAMINA ATTACK ON CLINTON STIRS TALK OF GENDER BIAS

There's little evidence such strategies are effective when it comes to winning over women and they risk turning off older women, who have faced discrimination in the workplace.

2. U.S. IMMIGRATION WOFS ROOTED IN THE PAST

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Blame for the state of immigration may well be attached to an action 30 years ago — Ronald Reagan's approval of a 1986 amnesty bill.

3. WHO IS HEADED TO FLOOD-RAVAGED LOUISIANA

President Obama will make his first visit to the state after it was hit by a natural disaster as he attempts to assure the locals that helping them is a priority.

4. WHAT'S EXPOSED AS WIKILEAKS SPILLS SECRETS

The AP finds that the radical transparency group's crusade is causing collateral damage with the release of private information of hundreds of innocent people, including survivors of sexual abuse.

5. WHERE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP STRUGGLES TO RETAIN GRIP

As IS loses ground in Iraq, the militants are showing the strain in their rule over areas they still control, killing deserters and relying on younger recruits.

6. BRAIN INJURIES SEEN IN DOMESTIC ASSAULTS

Experts believe many cases go undetected and untreated in abused women, making them vulnerable to mental woes, loss of jobs and family, and sometimes homelessness.

7. THOUSANDS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CHILDREN SEEK TO ENTER U.S.

Most are from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, three countries with some of the world's highest murder and poverty rates, UNICEF says.

8. OFF SOUTH AFRICA'S COAST, GREAT WHITE SHARKS THREATENED

Researchers are sounding the alarm, saying that "if you take top predators out of the environment, the rest of the environment will collapse."

9. WHEN MERE PAINT WON'T DO IT

From Boston to Chicago and New York to Tokyo, traditional bike lanes running alongside vehicle traffic are being replaced in favor of "protected" lanes or "cycletracks," where physical barriers come between cyclists and traffic.

10. STANFORD BANS HARD LIQUOR FROM UNDERGRADUATE PARTIES

The change comes after former university swimmer Brock Turner was convicted of sexually assaulting a woman, after both heavily drank on campus.

IS struggles to retain grip as it loses ground in Iraq BALINT SZLANKO, Associated Press

DIBAGA CAMP, Iraq (AP) — As the Islamic State group loses ground in Iraq, the militants are showing strains in their rule over areas they still control, growing more brutal, killing deserters and relying on younger and younger recruits, according to residents who fled battleground territories.

The accounts point to the difficulties the extremist group faces as Iraqi forces, backed by the United States, prepare for an assault on Mosul, the largest city still in the militants' hands. For months, Iraqi troops, militias and Kurdish fighters have been clawing back territory town by town, making their way toward the northern city.

In the latest areas recaptured, Iraqi troops over the past month took a clump of villages near a key military base south of Mosul that they plan to use as a hub for the assault. Residents of the communities, which lie strung along bends in the Tigris River, say that in the preceding weeks, the militants ruling them had seemed to be scrambling to keep control.

In Qayara, which is the main town in the area and remains in IS hands, beheadings and extrajudicial killings that previously were occasional became commonplace in a hunt for spies and deserters, said Jarjis Muhammad Hajaj, who was among thousands of residents who fled fighting in the area and now live in the Dibaga Camp for displaced people in Kurdish-run territory.

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"They started making raids on houses, arresting people and beheading them," he said.

Hajaj said the group's fighters appeared increasingly nervous as they watched news of IS loses elsewhere.

Their ranks also appeared to turn more to younger, less experienced men. At one point, almost all the militants guarding the streets were teenagers, he said. That, Hajaj said, was when he thought, "They're collapsing. They're finished."

The reliance on younger fighters in smaller communities could be a sign of overstretched manpower as the group's more veteran militants redeploy to Mosul or to neighboring Syria. Other factors could also be in play, like difficulties in finding new recruits and the effect of desertions, which Kurdish officials have said are on the rise.

Fighters as young as 13 or 14 were patrolling in the village of Awsaja on the other side of the river, said one resident, who asked to be identified by his nickname Abu Saleh for fear of reprisals against his family in areas still under IS rule. He said the militants killed seven people for trying to flee the village, displaying their bodies on a bridge as an example to others.

As Iraqi troops moved on Awsaja, the militants seemed confused on how to respond.

At one point, some IS fighters decided to retreat and ordered all the residents to come with them as human shields, Abu Saleh said. But that prompted an argument with others in the group who were remaining in the village to fight and wanted the residents to stay for their protection, said the 50-year-old psychologist, who fled with other residents and is now also in Dibaga Camp. Iraqi forces succeeded in retaking Awsaja in mid-July.

The area has been under IS rule for two years, ever since the Sunni militants overran much of western and northern Iraq, joining it to the territory they control in neighboring Syria in a self-declared "caliphate."

Though the group has been notorious for atrocities and its brutality in enforcing its radical vision of Islamic Shariah law, many in these Sunni-dominated regions of Iraq initially welcomed their rule. The Sunnis had long bristled under the rule by majority Shiites who lead the government in Baghdad. At first, IS provided them services the central government had neglected.

"When they first came, they gave the people money and food. And you know, the people are poor, they took it," said Sabha Khal Salih, a mother of two in the village of Hajj Ali, near Qayara. Young unemployed men joined the militants' ranks, she said.

But as time went on, living conditions deteriorated, in part because IS-held territories were cut off economically from the rest of Iraq. Also, the U.S.-led coalition's bombing campaign has strained IS's resources and prompted it to lash out against anyone it suspects of spying.

Abu Abdullatif, who worked in a clinic in Awsaja, said over the past three months, the militants became even more intrusive in enforcing their rules, even peeking into homes to see if women were properly covered there and imposing fines "just to get the money." Over time, he said, the food rations that IS distributed to the poor grew smaller, until finally they were giving only a few kilograms of flour — though members of the group continued to receive full rations.

Fearing residents were trying to escape, IS fighters strictly questioned — and sometimes demanded fees from — anyone trying to cross the river to markets in Qayara, he said, also speaking on condition he be identified by his nickname because he feared for the safety of relatives.

The group's fear of informants has fueled a crackdown in Mosul itself. This month, IS released a video titled "deterring the traitors," where six young men are shown being killed on a city street. In the video, the narration accused the men of being "the eyes of America," suggesting they were spies.

U.S. and Iraqi officials say the final assault on Mosul is still weeks away as forces fight to retake terri-

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tory around the city. From the Qayara military base, Iraqi troops are still some 70 kilometers (40 miles) from the city.

The towns and villages around Qayara recaptured from IS are still too close to the front lines and too rife with booby-traps and explosives for residents to return. When Iraqi forces retook the area, many of the IS fighters changed into civilian clothes and disappeared into the surrounding desert.

Hajaj, the Qayara resident, said people in the area will never allow them to regain a foothold.

"Now we know who they are, we will never let them return," he said.

Private lives are exposed as WikiLeaks spills its secrets RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — WikiLeaks' global crusade to expose government secrets is causing collateral damage to the privacy of hundreds of innocent people, including survivors of sexual abuse, sick children and the mentally ill, The Associated Press has found.

In the past year alone, the radical transparency group has published medical files belonging to scores of ordinary citizens while many hundreds more have had sensitive family, financial or identity records posted to the web. In two particularly egregious cases, WikiLeaks named teenage rape victims. In a third case, the site published the name of a Saudi citizen arrested for being gay, an extraordinary move given that homosexuality is punishable by death in the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom.

"They published everything: my phone, address, name, details," said a Saudi man who told AP he was bewildered that WikiLeaks had revealed the details of a paternity dispute with a former partner. "If the family of my wife saw this ... Publishing personal stuff like that could destroy people."

WikiLeaks' mass publication of personal data is at odds with the site's claim to have championed privacy even as it laid bare the workings of international statecraft, and has drawn criticism from the site's allies.

Attempts to reach WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange were unsuccessful; a set of questions left with his site wasn't immediately answered Tuesday. WikiLeaks' stated mission is to bring censored or restricted material "involving war, spying and corruption" into the public eye, describing the trove amassed thus far as a "giant library of the world's most persecuted documents."

The library is growing quickly, with half a million files from the U.S. Democratic National Committee, Turkey's governing party and the Saudi Foreign Ministry added in the last year or so. But the library is also filling with rogue data, including computer viruses, spam, and a compendium of personal records.

The Saudi diplomatic cables alone hold at least 124 medical files, according to a sample analyzed by AP. Some described patients with psychiatric conditions, seriously ill children or refugees.

"This has nothing to do with politics or corruption," said Dr. Nayef al-Fayez, a consultant in the Jordanian capital of Amman who confirmed that a brain cancer patient of his was among those whose details were published to the web. Dr. Adnan Salhab, a retired practitioner in Jordan who also had a patient named in the files, expressed anger when shown the document.

"This is illegal what has happened," he said in a telephone interview. "It is illegal!"

The AP, which is withholding identifying details of most of those affected, reached 23 people — most in Saudi Arabia — whose personal information was exposed. Some were unaware their data had been published; WikiLeaks is censored in the country. Others shrugged at the news. Several were horrified.

One, a partially disabled Saudi woman who'd secretly gone into debt to support a sick relative, said she was devastated. She'd kept her plight from members of her own family.

"This is a disaster," she said in a phone call. "What if my brothers, neighbors, people I know or even

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don't know have seen it? What is the use of publishing my story?"

Medical records are widely counted among a person's most private information. But the AP found that WikiLeaks also routinely publishes identity records, phone numbers and other information easily exploited by criminals.

The DNC files published last month carried more than two dozen Social Security and credit card numbers, according to an AP analysis assisted by New Hampshire-based compliance firm DataGravity. Two of the people named in the files told AP they were targeted by identity thieves following the leak, including a retired U.S. diplomat who said he also had to change his number after being bombarded by threatening messages.

The number of people affected easily reaches into the hundreds. Paul Dietrich, a transparency activist, said a partial scan of the Saudi cables alone turned up more than 500 passport, identity, academic or employment files.

The AP independently found three dozen records pertaining to family issues in the cables — including messages about marriages, divorces, missing children, elopements and custody battles. Many are very personal, like the marital certificates which reveal whether the bride was a virgin. Others deal with Saudis who are deeply in debt, including one man who says his wife stole his money. One divorce document details a male partner's infertility. Others identify the partners of women suffering from sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and Hepatitis C.

Lisa Lynch, who teaches media and communications at Drew University and has followed WikiLeaks for years, said Assange may not have had the staff or the resources to properly vet what he published. Or maybe he felt that the urgency of his mission trumped privacy concerns.

"For him the ends justify the means," she said.

Initially conceived as a Wikipedia-style platform for leakers, WikiLeaks' initial plan was for a "world-wide community of informed users" to curate the material it released wholesale, according to the site's now defunct question-and-answer page. Prominent transparency advocate Steven Aftergood privately warned Assange a few days before the site's debut that the publish-everything approach was problematic.

"Publication of information is not always an act of freedom," Aftergood said in an email sent in late 2006. "It can also be an act of aggression or oppression."

Those concerns were heightened after WikiLeaks published a series of documents leaked by U.S. Army intelligence analyst Bradley Manning, now known as Chelsea, in 2010. The publication provided explosive evidence of human rights abuses in Iraq and Pakistani cooperation with the Taliban in Afghanistan — among many other revelations — but it also led to allegations that civilians in war zones had been endangered.

Assange insisted WikiLeaks had a system to keep ordinary people's information safe.

"We have a harm minimization policy," the Australian told an audience in Oxford, England in July of 2010. "There are legitimate secrets. Your records with your doctor, that's a legitimate secret."

Assange initially leaned on cooperating journalists, who flagged sensitive material to WikiLeaks which then held them back for closer scrutiny. But Assange was impatient with the process, describing it as time-consuming and expensive.

"We can't sit on material like this for three years with one person to go through the whole lot, lineby-line, to redact," he told London's Frontline Club the month after his talk in Oxford. "We have to take the best road that we can."

Assange's attitude has hardened since. A brief experiment with automatic redactions was aborted.

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The journalist-led redactions were abandoned too after Assange's relationship with the London press corps turned toxic. By 2013 WikiLeaks had written off the redaction efforts as a wrong move.

Withholding any data at all "legitimizes the false propaganda of 'information is dangerous," the group argued on Twitter.

But some private information genuinely is dangerous, courting serious consequences for the people involved.

Three Saudi cables published by the WikiLeaks identified domestic workers who'd been tortured or sexually abused by their employers, giving the women's full names and passport numbers. One cable named a male teenager who was raped by a man while abroad; a second identified another male teenager who was so violently raped his legs were broken; a third outlined the details of a Saudi man detained for "sexual deviation" — a derogatory term for homosexuality.

Scott Long, an LGBT rights activist who has worked in the Middle East, said the names of rape victims were off-limits. And he worried that releasing the names of people persecuted for their sexuality only risked magnifying the harm caused by oppressive officials.

"You're legitimizing their surveillance, not combating it," Long said.

WikiLeaks was criticized last month after it released what it described as "AKP emails," a reference to Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party, known by its Turkish acronym AKP. But dissidents' excitement turned to scorn when they realized the 300,000 documents were little more than a vast collection of junk mail and petitions.

Vural Eroz, 66, was one of many people who'd written to the AKP, complaining in 2013 that his car had been towed from his lawn by authorities in Istanbul. He was startled to find that WikiLeaks had published the message along with his personal number.

"I would like to know for what purpose they exposed me," he said in a phone interview.

Prominent anti-censorship campaigner Yaman Akdeniz, who reviewed hundreds of messages like Eroz's, said there was nothing newsworthy in any of them.

Eroz said he admired WikiLeaks for exposing wrongdoing but said, "they should try to protect innocent civilians. They should screen what they leak."

Experts say WikiLeaks' apparent refusal to do the most minimal screening is putting even its own readers at risk.

Vesselin Bontchev, a researcher at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences' National Laboratory of Computer Virology, said he was startled to find hundreds of pieces of malicious software in WikiLeaks' dumps — suggesting the site doesn't take basic steps to sanitize its publications.

"Their understanding of journalism is finding an interesting document in a trash can and then dumping the can on your front door," he said.

Even Assange's biggest backers are getting uncomfortable. Journalist Glenn Greenwald, one of the site's leading allies in the media world, has distanced himself from WikiLeaks over its publication strategy. National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, whose asylum in Russia WikiLeaks helped broker, recently suggested the site should take more care to curate its work.

Others are disillusioned.

Dietrich, the transparency activist, said he still supported WikiLeaks "in principle" but had been souring on Assange and his colleagues for a while.

"One of the labels that they really don't like is being called 'anti-privacy activists," Dietrich said in a phone interview. "But if you want to live down that label, don't do stuff like this!"

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Trump's stamina attack on Clinton stirs talk of gender bias JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump and his Republican allies say Hillary Clinton is weak, lacks stamina and doesn't look presidential.

Intent on undermining his Democratic rival, Trump and GOP backers are increasingly relying on rhetoric that academics and even some Republican strategists say has an undeniable edge focused on gender. Trump notably belittled his primary rivals, tagging Jeb Bush as "low-energy," and disparaging Ted Cruz as "Lyin' Ted," and Marco Rubio as "Little Marco." His criticism of Clinton goes beyond "Crooked Hillary," and complaints about her use of a private email server as secretary of state and her foreign policy decisions.

Clinton, Trump said in a speech last week, "lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS and all the many adversaries we face."

He has repeatedly called attention to Clinton's voice, saying listening to her gives him a headache. Last December, he mocked her wardrobe. "She puts on her pantsuit in the morning," he told a Las Vegas audience. At rallies and in speeches, the billionaire mogul has also used stereotypes about women to demean Clinton, who stands to become the country's first female president if she wins in November.

A frequent point of criticism: Clinton doesn't look like a typical president.

"Now you tell me she looks presidential, folks," he said at a recent rally in New Hampshire.

"I look presidential," he insisted.

Trump's allies have piled on. Running mate Mike Pence often uses the word "broad-shouldered" to describe Trump's leadership and foreign policy style, a tacit swipe at Clinton. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani argued that all of the miles Clinton logged during her tenure as secretary of state resulted in more harm than benefit.

"Maybe it would've been better if she had stayed home," said Giuliani, who more recently questioned Clinton's health, suggesting an internet search of the words "Hillary Clinton illness."

"She is the first women from a major party running for president, so gender is always at play," said Dianne Bystrom, the director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University.

Clinton pushed back Monday against the insinuations she's in poor health, saying on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" that "I do feel sometimes like this campaign has entered into an alternative universe. I have to step into the alternative reality and, you know, answer questions about, am I alive, how much longer will I be alive, and the like."

Gender has always been tricky for Clinton. Throughout her career, she has struggled with how to confront gender norms, ranging from the extent to which to embrace the historic potential of her candidacy to whether she should be referred to by her given or married name.

Trump, meanwhile, has sought to undermine that advantage, accusing Clinton of "using the woman card" to boost her appeal. The attacks have not helped: A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found Clinton with a 19-percentage-point lead over Trump among women. Trump, meanwhile, has a 12-percentage-point advantage with men.

Katie Packer, a Republican strategist who founded a political consulting firmed aimed at appealing to Republican women, said that Trump has a history of seizing on his rivals' perceived weaknesses. In Clinton's case, she said, that appears to include her sex.

"He clearly views women as sort of the weaker sex so I think he's going to look to exploit that with Hillary," said Packer, who also helped to run an anti-Trump super PAC during the primaries.

His rallies are filled with blatant misogyny. Supporters wear "Trump vs. Tramp" political buttons, and

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have even harsher slogans and signs.

At the same time, Trump has a long history of hiring female executives and last week became the first Republican in the party's history to appoint a woman, pollster Kellyanne Conway, to serve as his campaign manager.

Trump's campaign did not respond to requests for comment Monday, though in the past he has dismissed such charges as "nonsense."

Yet Conway herself has advocated using Clinton's sex against her in the past.

Speaking to The New York Times in April, when she was still backing a Trump rival, Conway said Trump's efforts to turn Clinton's gender against her could prove effective.

"By taking gender head-on, Trump refuses to cede women voters and so-called women's issues to Hillary just because she is a woman," she told the paper. "He is 'Swiftboating' her by throwing shade on what should be a strength." Her mention of "Swiftboating" was referring to widely debunked efforts in 2004 to challenge Democratic nominee John Kerry's war record.

Kelly Dittmar, a scholar at the Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center for American Women and Politics, who has been tracking the gender dynamics in the race, said that, even during the primary season when Trump was competing against a field of largely men, he took on the role of strong man, demeaning his rivals with put-downs.

"His message has been: I'm the manliest candidate, I'm the strongest, I know how to protect women — which is a pretty paternalistic take on it — I'm going to destroy ISIS and be very tough, to the point where he's talking about the size of his own manhood," she said of the candidate. "If you're trying to prove you're the manliest, then you're trying to emasculate your opponent."

But there's little evidence such attacks are effective when it comes to winning over women, Bystrom said., adding that Trump's gender attacks on Clinton risk turning off older women, who have faced discrimination in the workplace.

White House says feds doing their part in flood response KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is making his first visit to flood-ravaged southern Louisiana as he attempts to assure the many thousands who have suffered damage to their homes, schools and businesses that his administration has made their recovery a priority.

The Baton Rouge visit Tuesday is a reminder of the political dangers and opportunities that natural disasters can pose. On top of a competent federal response, it's critical for political leaders to demonstrate compassion and a reassuring sense of engagement.

Obama took some criticism by opting to complete his family's two-week vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, before inspecting the flood damage personally and meeting with local residents. An editorial headline in the Baton Rouge Advocate last week read: "Our Views: Vacation or not, a hurting Louisiana needs you now, President Obama."

The White House said Obama is willing to assume criticism about "optics" as long as the federal response is up to par.

"The survivors of the flooding in Louisiana are not well served by a political discussion; they're well served by a competent, effective, strong, coordinated government response," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday. "And the federal government has certainly done our part in the first eight to 10 days after this disaster, but there's a long road ahead."

GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump visited Baton Rouge on Friday, hugging victims and driving through some of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, where the entire contents of homes were piled on the

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curb.

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton issued a statement Monday saying she would visit the communities affected by the flooding "at a time when the presence of a political campaign will not disrupt the response, to discuss how we can and will rebuild together."

The storm and its flooding have damaged an estimated 60,000 homes and forced thousands to seek temporary housing. More than 106,000 people have registered for federal disaster aid, with the state saying \$20 million has been distributed to individuals so far. At least 40 state highways remained closed.

Nearly 11 years ago, Hurricane Katrina's crippling of New Orleans and the coasts of Mississippi and Alabama demonstrated how political leaders cannot afford to underestimate the gravity of responding to natural disasters with force and immediacy. In 2005, then-President George W. Bush was faulted by critics for flying over but not touching down in Louisiana in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a decision he years later described as a mistake.

In 2012, Obama and GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney wasted no time in heading to Louisiana to see the damage from Hurricane Isaac.

The White House on Monday pointed to praise for the federal government from the state's Democratic governor and Republican lieutenant governor as evidence of an effective response. And it dismissed criticism of Obama's decision to stay away during the first week-and-a-half after the flooding as politically motivated.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat who took office this year, said he suggested to Obama and presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett that they delay a trip to Louisiana until the initial disaster response was over and recovery efforts had started.

Obama signed a disaster declaration on August 14 that makes federal funding available for assistance such as grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and low-cost loans to cover losses for uninsured property. He subsequently dispatched FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to the region.

"I think the effectiveness of the response thus far speaks for itself," Earnest said. "And I think frankly, it's the most effective way to answer any of the politically motivated criticism that the president has faced."

Differences aside, Supreme Court unites Trump, Senate GOP SAM HANANEL, Associated Press MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Differences aside, Donald Trump and Senate Republicans are strongly united on one issue — the balance of the Supreme Court.

While Democrats are pushing the GOP-led Senate to confirm Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland by the end of President Barack Obama's term, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has been resolute in blocking him, saying the next president should fill the high court vacancy. Republicans maintain it's a winning political strategy in a year when some GOP rank and file are struggling with reasons to vote for their nominee.

"I would argue that it's one of the few ties that binds right now in the Republican Party," said Josh Holmes, McConnell's former chief of staff. "It's one of the things that's kept a Republican coalition together that seems to be fraying with Donald Trump."

Trump himself has made the same argument.

"If you really like Donald Trump, that's great, but if you don't, you have to vote for me anyway," Trump

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told supporters at a rally last month. "You know why? Supreme Court judges, Supreme Court judges. Have no choice ... sorry, sorry, sorry."

The billionaire businessman has made the future ideological balance of the high court a key issue in the campaign, promising to nominate a conservative in the mold of former Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in February. He often mentions the issue in campaign speeches, as does his vice presidential nominee, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

Pence often spends several minutes of his standard campaign speech reminding crowds of the importance of the court and conservative values. To loud cheers, he warns that a court in Hillary Clinton's hands could push through amnesty for immigrants living in the country illegally and strip individuals' rights to own guns, a reversal of the Second Amendment that Clinton has rejected.

Democrats had hoped that McConnell's insistence on blocking the nominee would hurt vulnerable Senate incumbents, but the issue of the Supreme Court fails to resonate with voters like jobs or terrorism. At the Democratic convention last month, Clinton never uttered his name.

After Obama nominated Garland in March, Democrats were particularly hopeful that Republican resistance would sway independent voters in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, where Republican Sens. Kelly Ayotte and Pat Toomey are running in tough re-election races. But neither Ayotte's challenger, New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan, nor Toomey's challenger, Katie McGinty, has made the Supreme Court one of their top issues.

In Iowa, Democrat Patty Judge decided to challenge longtime Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley as Democrats targeted the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman over his refusal to hold hearings on Garland. But Grassley is still the favorite to win re-election.

Most of the vulnerable Republican senators have not wavered in their support for McConnell's obstruction.

After an April meeting with Garland, Toomey said that "for something as important as the fundamental balance of the court for a generation, the American people should have the maximum say" by picking the next president.

The only exception among Republicans up for re-election is Sen. Mark Kirk, who is an underdog in his re-election bid in heavily Democratic Illinois. Kirk said he supports a vote on Garland's nomination. Carrie Severino, head of the conservative Judicial Crisis Network, said it's "a wash" in many of the Senate races because the people who care the most about the issue are partisans, not coveted independents.

For Republicans, Garland's nomination "crystallized the importance of the Senate and reminded people that there's so much that rides on these Senate seats."

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid is hoping to bring the issue to the forefront in September, when the Senate returns from a seven-week break. He has suggested he will use procedural maneuvers to try and force a vote on Garland, though those tactics are unlikely to succeed.

Reid told reporters earlier this month that Republicans who are blocking Garland's nomination are "enablers" of Trump. But he was also realistic about McConnell's determination to leave the decision to the next president, predicting that Clinton would pick Garland if she wins the presidency.

Though McConnell has remained resolute, that hasn't quelled speculation that he may do an about face after the election if Clinton wins in November and if Democrats take back the Senate. Garland is seen as more conservative than a potential liberal justice that Clinton could nominate, and at 63, Garland is older than any high court nominee since Lewis Powell in 1971.

If Clinton does win and Garland is not confirmed, some liberal groups are hoping she would try and reshape the court with a new pick.

"We should have four or five women on the court and at least one should be an African-American"

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woman," said Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women.

Friends of Garland point out that he went through another lengthy confirmation delay when his appeals court appointment was held up for 19 months. He was later confirmed in 1997 on a 76-23 vote.

"He has given no sign of being frustrated," said Laurence Tribe, a Harvard Law professor and longtime friend to his former student.

Hunting for the root of immigration woes? Look to the past. ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For more than a decade, lawmakers have been pointing at their counterparts to take the blame for what just about everyone agrees is a broken immigration system.

Republicans say President Barack Obama's immigration enforcement policies encourage more people to sneak into the country. Democrats blame Republicans for blocking legislation that would allow people already here to gain legal status and create a path for future, legal immigration.

But whatever specific policies are being fought over now, immigration experts say the problem took root at least 30 years ago, when President Ronald Reagan signed a 1986 immigration law that has become known as the "Reagan Amnesty" and allowed roughly 3 million people in the country illegally to gain legal status.

Immigration laws were overhauled again in 1990 under Republican President George H.W. Bush and again in 1996 under Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Obama has tried in his eight years in office to overhaul them once again, but nothing has passed.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has said he will fix the system, build a wall along the border with Mexico and perhaps deport many of the estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally. But this week he has indicated he may back off from that idea.

"We're going to build the wall, and we're going to stop it. It's going to end," Trump said earlier this year. "We're going to have a big, beautiful wall."

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, has pledged to push comprehensive immigration reform and to act on her own, as Obama has, if Congress doesn't approve such a measure.

Trump and Clinton have laid the blame for the current state of immigration — and the estimated 11 million people living and, in many cases, working illegally in the United States — on the other party. But experts disagree.

"I think there's a lot of blame to go around and spread around for decades," said Mark Krikorian, executive director for the conservative Center For Immigration Studies. "There isn't one person responsible." Instead, he said, the problem lies in how the Immigration Control and Reform Act of 1986 was implemented. He described the passage of the bill as something of a "con-job" that allowed millions of immigrants in the country illegally to have legal status with a promise of workplace enforcement and other measures to curb future illegal immigration.

But that didn't happen, he said. And there was little incentive to follow through on promises of strict workplace enforcement, he said, once millions of people were legalized.

"I definitely view this as the 30-year problem," said Doris Meissner, who headed the now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service under Bill Clinton and is now a senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington.

The 1986 law was intended to create a new era of enforcement, including strict enforcement of the new law that barred employers from hiring workers who don't have permission to work in the United States.

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Thirty years later that stringent workplace enforcement, and mandated use of the government's E-Verify system for employers to check the legal work status of prospective hires, is still being debated by lawmakers and the business community. Multiple iterations of federal legislation to require employment verification have been defeated in Congress.

Meissner said the ability of people in the country illegally to continue to find work during the economic boom of the 1990s was a significant incentive for more to come.

And while an average of about 1.3 million people a year were caught crossing the border illegally over the decade of the 1990s, the Border Patrol was relatively small, not growing above a force of 10,000 until 2002.

Meissner says part of the problem was the two immigration laws that followed in 1990 and 1996 that she said did very little to create a legal path to the United States for low-skilled workers. The government does have a pair of visa programs for seasonal agriculture workers and others who are considered seasonal, nonagricultural workers, but Meissner and other critics of the program argue that it is not sufficient.

"There is no line to get into," Meissner said. "This is why at the end of the day we need updated laws, we need immigration reform."

Instead, she said, the focus was on enforcement and making it easier to deport immigrants in the country illegally.

As that happened, the estimated population of people living in the country illegally rose from a few million in the late 1980s and early 1990s to today's estimated 11 million people.

The focus on enforcement may also have created an inadvertent incentive for immigrants in the U.S. illegally to stay in the country for fear that it would be harder if not impossible to get back in if they left, said Stuart Anderson, executive director at the non-partisan National Foundation for American Policy.

So, Anderson said, many people made the decision to stay and try to avoid federal law enforcement as long as they could.

"I don't think anyone would say that policy was successful," Anderson said. "No one would have said this is what we want the result to be."

In recent years the debate over immigration reform has focused on enforcement versus what to do with the millions of people already living in the country illegally.

Krikorian said lessons of the past are driving the latest efforts to put security and enforcement priorities first. And building a path to legal immigration for those considered to be low-skilled workers won't likely be a consideration going forward.

"The problem is that (in 1986) the legalization happened first," Krikorian said. "Then the political incentive to roll out the enforcement ... effectively evaporates."

Pakistan seals offices of ethnic party accused of violence

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's paramilitary Rangers have shuttered the offices of an ethnic party accused of violence after overnight clashes in Karachi left one person dead and eight wounded.

Brig. Khurram Shahzad says the troops raided and sealed several offices of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement in the port city of Karachi, Hyderabad and elsewhere in the country on Tuesday. He says some weapons were found and confiscated.

MQM supporters had attacked TV stations and clashed with police in Karachi after their self-exiled leader, Altaf Hussain, broadcast a speech against the Pakistani government from London on Monday night.

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The MQM has a history of violent protests and clashes with police and rival political parties in Karachi. The Rangers, a paramilitary force that polices Karachi, also arrested a number of local MQM leaders and lawmakers.

Counterfeit pain pills likely came to Prince illegally AMY FORLITI, Associated Press MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The disclosure that some pills found at Prince's Paisley Park home and studio were counterfeit and contained the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl strongly suggests the pills came to the superstar musician illegally.

But exactly how Prince obtained the drugs is still unknown, four months after he collapsed in an elevator on April 21 and died of an accidental fentanyl overdose. Authorities have so far revealed little about their investigation, saying it's active and moving forward.

Former prosecutors and defense attorneys who are familiar with drug investigations say it's likely someone will be prosecuted, whether or not Prince knew he was consuming illegal drugs.

"They will not say it was just Prince's fault and let it go at that," said Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor in Chicago now in private practice.

An official close to the investigation told The Associated Press on Sunday that some of the pills found at Paisley Park were falsely labeled as a common generic painkiller similar to Vicodin but actually contained fentanyl. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation, also said that records show Prince did not have a prescription for any controlled substances in Minnesota in the last 12 months.

The only way to get fentanyl — a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more powerful than heroin — is through a legal prescription, or illegally from the black market, said Joe Tamburino, a Minnesota defense attorney.

"When you have weird stamped pills in aspirin bottles, sometimes things are what they seem, which is illegally obtained controlled substances," Tamburino said. "How he got them? Who knows."

Fentanyl has been responsible for a surge in overdose deaths in some parts of the country. When made into counterfeit pills, users don't always know they're taking fentanyl, increasing the risk of fatal overdose.

Tamburino, who is not connected to the Prince case, said investigators will likely talk to those close to Prince, and they'll also search the computers, phones and communications of Prince and his associates, to see whether the pills were purchased online. Those searches would typically involve examining text messages, Instagram messages and other communications.

"This is not to say the people close to him are guilty — we have no idea of that. But that's where it would start," Tamburino said. He also added that investigators are probably looking at security footage from Paisley Park, if any exists, to see who might have been going to and from the studio.

Gal Pissetzky, a defense attorney in Chicago, said there are many ways Prince could have obtained the drugs: from a close adviser or friend, from a dealer on one of the stops he made as he was on tour, or over the Internet. He added that investigators might also use cellphone data to track Prince's whereabouts.

If someone gave Prince the drug that killed him, that person could face a third-degree murder charge, punishable in the state of Minnesota by more than 12 years in prison, Tamburino said.

In addition, any illegal operation that involved making and dealing fentanyl could open many people up to a host of drug charges, from trafficking to conspiracy. Because the sale resulted in Prince's death,

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it would increase the chances that someone could get the maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted, Turner said.

Turner said he believed there was a good chance someone will eventually be charged. Improved forensics tools, including the ability to use narcotics chemical signatures to narrow down possible manufacturers, also increase the chances of arrests.

If China- or Mexico-based producers were involved, American authorities may have to focus on a dealer or doctor in the U.S. who supplied the drugs knowing the substance was illegal, Turner said. But U.S. agents can and do go after suspects based in countries not inclined to closely cooperate with law enforcement here, such as China.

The drugs could also be made by people who are not associated with cartels. Enticed by big profits, small-time drug dealers are buying pill presses online and using low-cost fentanyl powder from China to make fake pills, according to a July 2016 Drug Enforcement Administration intelligence brief.

Dealers unaffiliated with drug cartels can buy a kilogram of fentanyl powder for a few thousand dollars from a Chinese supplier and turn it into hundreds of thousands of counterfeit pills for millions of dollars in profit.

But inexperience has a cost. The small-time operators aren't mixing fentanyl correctly and turning out pills with varying strengths, some containing three times a lethal dose. "Such wide disparity in dosing reveals that the producers were likely new to incorporating fentanyl in pill production, as the fentanyl was not thoroughly mixed with the other powders before binding and pressing into pills," the DEA brief said.

Pissetzky said news of the falsely labeled drugs tells him that the pills did not come from a doctor.

"There's a big, big black market for counterfeit drugs. When people buy these, they don't personally know, many times, that they are not the real thing, and that's when you get overdoses," Pissetzky said.

Was painting by famed living artist? US judge to decide MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge in Chicago is set to issue a verdict in a peculiar civil trial over a celebrated Scottish-born artist's insistence that he did not paint a landscape work that was once valued at more than \$10 million.

Some of Peter Doig's paintings have sold for over \$20 million, and the owner of the disputed painting, a prison official from Canada, sued in U.S. court for millions in damages after its projected sales price tanked following the 57-year-old Doig's disavowal of it.

The owner, Robert Fletcher, of Ontario, Canada, maintains that the painting of a desert landscape with giant red rocks and a receding pond, which he paid \$100 for in the '70s, is by Doig. If it's not, one filing by Fletcher's lawyers says, "it is essentially worthless."

Authenticity disputes typically arise long after an artist dies, not, as in this case, when the artist is still living and flatly denies a work is his. The oddity of such a dispute making it all the way to trial has drawn the interest of the wider art world.

After a week of testimony at the bench trial, U.S. District Judge Gary Feinerman said he would announce his verdict Tuesday. The suit was filed in Chicago because one auctioneer who had expressed interest in selling the painting is based in the city.

Robert Fletcher contends he bought the painting from Doig around 1976 — when he says Doig was serving time on an LSD possession charge in Canada's Thunder Bay Correctional Center, where Fletcher was employed. It was long after he bought it that a friend saw it at Fletcher's home and said it appeared to be by an internationally acclaimed artist.

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Doig, who now lives in Trinidad, said he didn't begin using the type of linen canvas the work in question is painted on until late 1979. He also told the court that he was never been imprisoned in Ontario or anywhere else in Canada.

Such a dispute would seem easily resolved with documentation, though Canadian prison and school records from that era were sometimes imprecise, lawyers in the case have said.

A key witness for Doig was a Canadian woman who told the court the painting is actually by her now-deceased brother, whose name was Peter Doige, with an "e," like the signature on the disputed work.

Meanwhile, Fletcher's lawyers suggest Doig is disavowing the painting because, if Fletcher is right, it would link him to prison in his youth.

Fists not football: Brain injuries seen in domestic assaults LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — There are no bomb blasts or collisions with burly linemen in Susan Contreras' past. Her headaches, memory loss and bouts of confused thinking were a mystery until doctors suggested a probable cause: domestic violence.

A former partner repeatedly beat her, she says.

"He would hit me mainly in the head so that nobody would see the injuries. He'd hit me in the back of the head so the bruises wouldn't show," the Phoenix woman said.

The abuse from her ex-partner took a heavy emotional toll, Contreras says. But even though he sometimes knocked her out, she hadn't considered that her brain might have been as damaged as her psyche.

"Honestly, there's so many holes in my memory, thinking problems," she said. "My memory is really gone."

Brain trauma in domestic violence survivors has been overshadowed by concerns about injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan war vets, and by effects of repeated head blows in football players. Experts believe many cases go undetected and untreated in abused women, making them vulnerable to problems with thinking, mood and behavior.

Advocates say the injuries leave some survivors so impaired that they can't manage their jobs and lives. Some even end up homeless.

About one-quarter of U.S. women and 14 percent of men have experienced severe physical assaults by a partner in their lifetime, including hitting, punching, being slammed against something hard or pushed down stairs, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention . Head and neck injuries are among the most common, and data suggest that domestic assaults may cause traumatic brain injuries in at least 60 percent of survivors, according to a research review published this year in the journal Family & Community Health.

Traumatic brain injuries can result from even a single sudden blow to the head. The symptoms may be short-term or long-lasting, and repeated assaults increase chances for permanent neurological damage. Whether that damage can cause the downward spiral that domestic violence survivors sometimes get caught in is unproven, but studies have found these brain injuries are more common in homeless people than in the general population. And there's no dispute that they can cause life-changing disabilities.

"This population is not unlike that of our athletes," said Dr. Javier Cardenas, director of a brain injury program at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. He's a trauma consultant for the National Football League and also treats domestic violence survivors.

Cardenas cited Baltimore Ravens' running back Ray Rice's 2014 attack on his then-fiancee, caught on an elevator video camera. Much of the public discussion about the incident was about whether brain

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injuries in football players may be linked to violent behavior off the field. It overlooked a far more obvious injury.

"When Janay Rice was knocked out cold in the elevator, attention was all about how Ray Rice had previous concussions. Nobody mentioned that the woman in the elevator suffered a brain injury right in front of everybody's eyes," Cardenas said.

Traumatic brain injuries include concussions and don't always cause loss of consciousness or damage that can be detected on imaging scans. Symptoms may not occur immediately but can develop over time, making it difficult sometimes to link them with previous abuse.

The brain isn't a hard, fixed organ. It's more like jello, surrounded by cerebrospinal fluid that works like a shock absorber when the head is hit. A violent blow — from colliding with a linebacker's helmet, from blast pressure after an explosion, or from a partner's angry fist — can damage brain cells at the point of impact and slam the brain against the skull, sometimes bruising tissue, tearing nerve fibers, or causing bleeding.

Repeated blows have been linked with a degenerative brain disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy. CTE first made headlines several years ago when it was found in the brains of retired NFL players who had killed themselves. Research linking domestic violence with suicide is sparse, although several small studies have suggested that suicide attempts are much more common among battered women than among those who have not experienced partner abuse.

CTE is linked with memory loss, confusion, mood changes including depression and eventually dementia. Some scientists think domestic violence survivors might be at risk.

"I have no doubt that there are many women who have been abused enough that some of them probably have CTE," said Dr. Robert Cantu, a leading expert on football-related brain injuries and co-director of Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy.

He said medical literature contains just one published case about probable CTE linked with domestic violence — a 1990 Lancet report about an autopsy on an abused 76-year-old British woman who had developed dementia. Her brain showed abnormalities resembling those seen in the brains of "punchdrunk" boxers.

Survivors often don't seek immediate medical attention, or when they do, they often fear disclosing what caused their injuries. Some wait years, when troublesome symptoms persist or emerge, and then, many victims and doctors don't connect the problems with domestic abuse, said researcher Jacquelyn Campbell, a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Many physician groups recommend that doctors screen women for domestic violence in emergency rooms or doctor offices, and the Affordable Care Act says insurance plans should cover the screening with no copays. But when screening occurs, questions often don't address traumatic brain injuries, and symptoms are sometimes thought to be a psychological reaction to abuse, so doctors don't probe further, Campbell said.

Jennifer Kershaw, a Columbus, Ohio-area school teacher who won a court victory last year in an abuse lawsuit against her ex-husband, says she doesn't remember doctors ever mentioning traumatic brain injury after her 2013 beating, despite her symptoms.

"He put me in a headlock and punched me in the face I don't know how many times," she said. "Then he kneed me in the face." She said she went to the emergency room with a black eye, broken cheekbone, nausea and dizziness, and still has difficulty concentrating.

Though it's not clear if she did have a concussion or other brain injury, her symptoms are among those many experts say should lead doctors to investigate further.

"If a woman comes in with a black eye" or is otherwise being assessed for domestic violence, "we

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need to provide some good neurological workups like the help that is being provided to our veterans with traumatic brain injury," Campbell said.

That includes detailed questions about symptoms, physical and mental exams, and sometimes imaging scans if more severe brain injury is suspected.

Susan Contreras, 47, didn't get that kind of exam until almost 10 years after her final beating, after she landed in a Phoenix homeless shelter. A therapist there was concerned about her symptoms and sent her last December to the Barrow institute. The neurological center has established an unusual program offering an array of free treatment to homeless domestic violence survivors.

Social worker Ashley Bridwell helped create the program after working with homeless shelters and noticing many women with suspected brain injuries.

Many were hit in the head dozens of times, Bridwell said. "Some were slammed into a wall or down a flight of stairs. These women have lived pretty hard lives," and their brain damage can make it hard to navigate out of homelessness, she said.

Sometimes imaging tests show brain scarring that, in a strange way, can be comforting to survivors. "They feel a sense of relief knowing there is a physical or medical reason for their problems," Dr. Cardenas said.

Clinton: Trump health allegations a 'wacky strategy' LISA LERER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hillary Clinton pushed back Monday against charges that she's physically unfit for the White House.

The Democratic presidential candidate said the accusations are part of a "wacky strategy" by GOP rival Donald Trump and an "alternative reality" that's not focused on the kinds of issues that are most important to voters.

"I do feel sometimes like this campaign has entered into an alternative universe," she said in an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" taped Monday afternoon. "I have to step into the alternative reality and, you know, answer questions about, am I alive, how much longer will I be alive, and the like."

Clinton said she doesn't question Trump's health — she believes he's "healthy as a horse."

"This has become one of their themes," she said. "Make sure I'm alive."

The comments marked the first time Clinton has addressed debunked rumors about her health, which have been encouraged by Trump and his backers.

Much of the speculation stems from a concussion Clinton sustained in December 2012 after fainting, an episode her doctor has attributed to a stomach virus and dehydration.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani urged voters to "go online and put down 'Hillary Clinton illness," in an interview with Fox News on Sunday, saying the next morning that she "looks sick." Trump has questioned her stamina at campaign rallies and speeches, saying in a foreign policy address earlier this month that she "lacks the mental and physical stamina to take on ISIS".

Clinton expressed little concern Monday about the planned release of 15,000 additional State Department emails that went previously undisclosed during an FBI investigation into her use of a private server as secretary of state. The messages could become public in mid-October, just weeks before Election Day.

"My emails are so boring," she told Kimmel. "We've already released 30,000 plus, so what's a few more?"

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She joked about photos showing her husband, former President Bill Clinton, smiling and looking overjoyed to be surrounded by the balloons that fell at the end of the Democratic National Convention.

"We were all pretty excited about the balloons," she said. "That's one of the things I enjoy about my husband is that he enjoys so many things and balloons is one of them."

When asked about her preparations for the three debates with Trump, Clinton said she's taking the match-up seriously but is getting ready for "wacky stuff."

California firefighters stretched thin as blazes sweep state DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's state fire department is stretched thin just as the bone-dry state enters the peak of its wildfire season, with vacancy rates exceeding 15 percent for some firefighters and supervisors. The vacancy rate is more than 10 percent for some fire engine drivers, according to statistics provided to The Associated Press.

A five-year drought and changing weather patterns have transformed what once was a largely summertime job into an intense year-round firefight, said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Janet Upton.

"It's not the old days where we were a seasonal department with a season that lasted a few months," she said. "It's an increasingly challenging job, no thanks to Mother Nature and climate change."

The shortage means that the state firefighting department is forced during weather conditions fanning large blazes to keep firefighters on duty for long hours as they do backbreaking, dangerous work trying to put out massive wildfires that have become bigger and more frequent in recent years.

Nearly 25 percent of departing employees over the last two years have told officials they quit for better-paying jobs with other firefighting agencies, according to the statistics provided to the AP by CalFire.

The union that represents the state firefighters who fight fires outside urban and suburban areas blamed low pay, as more than 100 members, families and representatives of other unions protested in Sacramento on Monday.

Union and department officials said California has enough state firefighters to keep the public safe — at the expense of firefighting men and women who frequently work for weeks without days off without seeing their families.

"We're short-staffed, we're stretched thin, we're in these epidemic fire conditions," said Patrick Walker, 40, a CalFire captain in San Diego County.

He worked 47 straight days fighting one large fire last year and said he worked three weeks with no break this year, most of it fighting a Monterey County fire that has burned more than 134 square miles. "With the pay inequities, the shifts we work and the turnover, we're running less and less people,"

Walker said. "There may be a concern where the public is at risk due to the long hours."

Union members are seeking a mid-contract pay raise that would give compensation above the \$60,000 a typical firefighter is paid each year in salary and overtime. Fire captains typically make more than \$85,000 and the salaries of battalion chiefs exceed \$98,000.

A 2014 study by the state's human resources department found state firefighters receive one-third less in pay and benefits, on average, than their counterparts at fire departments for 18 California cities and two counties surveyed.

The state firefighting department is responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires over terrain that covers about a third of California — more than 48,000 square miles spanning the Sierra Nevada foothills and the coastal mountain ranges from Santa Barbara to the Oregon border.

The federal government primarily handles firefighting at higher elevations, while local agencies are

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responsible for urban and suburban firefighting.

The department's survey of departing employees supports the union's complaint that there is a sizable exodus for better-paying jobs, although state officials could not immediately say if vacancy or departure rates were higher than in previous years.

State firefighter union president Mike Lopez said firefighters received a 4 percent increase last year after the minimum wage paid to entry-level firefighters rose to \$10 an hour.

But the union wants the state to shorten the standard 72-hour work week that includes overtime and increase pay to bring state firefighters closer to the 56-hour standard workweek for urban firefighters.

Negotiations for higher state firefighter pay broke down about four months ago after Gov. Jerry Brown's administration made a last offer that the union rejected as unacceptable. Lopez declined to reveal the offer, which he said was not disclosed to the union's membership.

Administration spokesman Brian Ferguson called firefighters "everyday heroes," but added in a statement that "the state must balance the needs of many different bargaining units and the overall state budget."

State firefighters' duties have changed as they try to protect an increasing number of rural homes built in the midst of tinder-dry brush and trees, a problem that continues to grow, said University of California, Riverside, professor Richard Minnich, who studies fire ecology.

"Maybe people are leaving because it's too damn dangerous," he said. "In urban firefighting, not only are the hours more reasonable but they're also looking mostly at single structure events."

Republicans to query firms that ran Clinton's private server MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) Republicans stepped up their attacks Monday on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server and pointed to newly released messages to allege that foreign donors to the Democratic presidential nominee's family charity got preferential treatment from her department.

Congressional Republicans issued subpoenas to three technology companies that either made or serviced the server located in the basement of Clinton's New York home. The subpoenas were issued Monday by House Science, Space and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith of Texas with the support of Senate Homeland Security Chairman Ron Johnson of Wisconsin.

In a joint statement, Smith and Johnson said the move was necessary after the three companies Platte River Networks, Datto Inc. and SECNAP Network Security Corp. declined to voluntarily answer questions to determine whether Clinton's private server met government standards for record-keeping and security.

The subpoenas were among several developments Monday that showed a new GOP emphasis on Clinton's emails after the FBI recently closed its yearlong probe into whether she and her aides mishandled sensitive government information that flowed through her server. The FBI recommended against criminal charges.

The State Department is now reviewing nearly 15,000 previously undisclosed emails recovered as part of the FBI investigation. Lawyers for the department told U.S. District Court Judge James E. Boasberg on Monday that they anticipate processing and releasing the first batch of these new emails in mid-October, raising the prospect that new messages sent or received by Clinton could become public just before November's election.

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Boasberg is overseeing production of the emails as part of a federal public-records lawsuit filed by the conservative legal advocacy group Judicial Watch. Representing the State Department, Justice Department lawyer Lisa Olson told the judge that officials do not yet know how many of the emails are work-related, rather than personal.

Clinton, who was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013, had claimed she deleted only personal emails prior to returning more than 55,000 pages of her work-related messages to the State Department last year. The department has publicly released most of those emails, although some have been withheld because they contain information considered sensitive to national security.

The thousands of previously undisclosed Clinton emails obtained by the FBI came from the accounts of other people she communicated with or were recovered through the bureau's forensic examination of her old server.

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon reiterated Monday that Clinton provided all the work-related emails she had "in her possession" when the State Department asked for copies in 2014. "If the State Department determines any of them to be work-related, then obviously we support those documents being released publicly as well," he said.

Olson said the department earlier this month received seven discs containing "tens of thousands" of emails Clinton sent or received during her tenure as the nation's top diplomat. The first disc, labeled by the FBI as containing nonclassified emails not previously disclosed by Clinton, contains about 14,900 documents, she said.

She said it was "extremely ambitious" for the agency to complete its review and begin releasing the first batches of emails to Judicial Watch by Oct. 14, given the volume of messages.

Also Monday, Judicial Watch released 20 previously undisclosed email exchanges involving Clinton that were turned over by her former deputy chief of staff, Huma Abedin.

Among them is a June 23, 2009, message to Abedin from Doug Band, a longtime aide to former President Bill Clinton who then was an official at the Clinton family's charitable foundation. Republicans charge that donors to the foundation, including foreign governments and corporations, got preferential treatment from the State Department while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state.

Band sought to arrange for the crown prince of Bahrain to meet with Hillary Clinton while the prince was visiting Washington. "Good friend of ours," Band wrote to Abedin, one of Clinton's closest aides.

Crown Prince Salman had in 2005 made a \$32 million commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative, a program run by the foundation.

In later emails Abedin confirmed that Clinton would meet with the prince. Copies of Clinton's calendar obtained by the AP confirm the meeting occurred in her State Department office on June 26, 2009.

State Department spokesman Matt Toner said Monday there was nothing improper or unusual about the messages with Clinton Foundation staff.

"There was no impropriety," Toner said. "This was simply evidence of the way the process works in that, you know, any secretary of state has aides who are getting emails or contacts by a broad range of individuals and organizations."

In a statement, the government of Bahrain said the \$32 million pledge was in support of a scholarship program for young men and women from the Persian Gulf kingdom who attend universities in Europe and North America. The purpose of Salman's 2009 visit with Secretary Clinton was wholly unrelated, according to the statement.

"As deputy head of state, the crown prince has and will continue to meet with U.S. officials to address matters of mutual interest in the future," the statement said.

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Asian stocks in summer lull as markets await Yellen speech KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Most stock markets in Asia moved sideways on Tuesday as the summer doldrums and a lack of economic data ahead of a widely anticipated speech by the Fed chief kept investors on the sidelines.

KEEPING SCORE: The benchmark Nikkei 225 index in Japan slipped 0.2 percent to 16,566.76 while South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2 percent to 2,045.36. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.4 percent to 22,914.10 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China edged up 0.3 percent to 3,093.81. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.9 percent to 5,565.20. Benchmarks in Taiwan and New Zealand rose. Those in Singapore and Indonesia fell.

SUMMER LULL: Global markets have been subdued as investors and traders took summer holidays and major economic data releases were lacking. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is due to speak Friday at an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Fed is not expected to raise interest rates at its September meeting but Yellen's comments will be dissected for clues on the likelihood and timing of such a hike.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Markets continue to trade eerily quietly in the low-volume low-volatility dog days of the Northern hemisphere summer," said Angus Nicholson if IG Markets in Melbourne. "The markets seem to be already discounting the possibility that Yellen may look to talk up a September rate hike."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks ended slightly lower in quiet trading. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.1 percent to 18,529.42. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 1 percent to 2,182.64 and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.1 percent to 5,244.60.

ENERGY: Oil prices extended losses. U.S. benchmark crude dropped 63 cents to \$46.78 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost \$1.70 to close at \$47.41 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price oil internationally, dropped 56 cents to \$48.60 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 100.33 yen from 100.29 yen in late trading Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1332 from \$1.1319.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 23, the 236th day of 2016. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 23, 1926, legendary silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

On this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1858, "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," a play by Timothy Shay Arthur about the perils of alcohol, opened in New York.

In 1913, Copenhagen's Little Mermaid statue, inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen story, was unveiled in the harbor of the Danish capital.

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1927, amid protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribben-

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trop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1944, Romanian Prime Minister Ion Antonescu was dismissed by King Michael, paving the way for Romania to abandon the Axis in favor of the Allies.

In 1960, Broadway librettist Oscar Hammerstein (HAM'-ur-STYN') II, 65, died in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 1982, Lebanon's parliament elected Christian militia leader Bashir Gemayel president. (However, Gemayel was assassinated some three weeks later.)

In 1989, in a case that inflamed racial tensions in New York, Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black teen, was shot dead after he and his friends were confronted by a group of white youths in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. (Gunman Joey Fama was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison; he will be eligible for parole in 2022.)

Ten years ago: A previously unknown militant group released the first video of two Fox News journalists who'd been kidnapped in Gaza. (Reporter Steve Centanni and cameraman Olaf Wiig were later freed.) The Citadel released the results of a survey in which almost 20 percent of female cadets reported being sexually assaulted since enrolling at the South Carolina military college. Jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson died in Ventura, California, at age 78.

Five years ago: A pair of judges in New York put an end to the sensational sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn, setting him free after prosecutors questioned the credibility of the hotel housekeeper who'd accused the French diplomat. A magnitude 5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged Washington National Cathedral.

One year ago: Islamic State militants destroyed a temple at ancient ruins of Palmyra in Syria, realizing the worst fears of archaeologists had for the fate of the 2,000-year-old Roman-era city after the extremists seized it and beheaded a local scholar. The United Arab Emirates said its military had freed a British hostage, Robert Douglas Semple, who was kidnapped 18 months earlier ago by al-Qaida in Yemen. Ohio State became the first unanimous preseason No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll. Roger Federer remained perfect in Cincinnati finals, winning an unprecedented seventh champion-ship, 7-6 (1), 6-3, while denying Novak Djokovic the one title that had always eluded him.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Vera Miles is 86. Actress Barbara Eden is 85. Political satirist Mark Russell is 84. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 82. Actor Richard Sanders is 76. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 74. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 72. Pro Football Hall of Famer Rayfield Wright is 71. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 69. Actor David Robb is 69. Singer Linda Thompson is 69. Actress Shelley Long is 67. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 67. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 67. Queen Noor of Jordan is 65. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 65. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 60. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Mike Boddicker is 59. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 55. Country musician Ira Dean (Trick Pony) is 47. Actor Jay Mohr is 46. Actor Ray Park is 42. Actor Scott Caan is 40. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 39. Figure skater Nicole Bobek is 39. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 38. Retired NBA player Kobe Bryant is 38. Actress Joanne Froggatt is 36. Neo-soul musician Andy Wild is 35. Actress Annie Ilonzeh is 33. Dance musician Sky Blu is 30. Actress Kimberly Matula is 28. NBA player Jeremy Lin is 28.

Thought for Today: "A wise man without a book is like a workman with no tools." — Moroccan proverb.