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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

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!

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, Sept. 6

Fight Procrastination Day

Read a Book Day

School Breakfast: Mini pancake, fruit, juice or milk.

School Lunch: BBQ, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Herbed roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, lemon buttered broccoli, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Samantha Bonn • Trey Gengerke • Justin Olson • Nick Olson • Perryn Dobbins

10:00am: Boys golf at Madison

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

4:00pm: Cross Country at Britton Golf Course

4:30pm: VB: host Webster Area (7th/C at 4:30, 8th/JV at 6:00, varsity to follow)

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 7

National Salami Day

Neither Rain nor Snow Day

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice or milk

School Lunch: Soft shell taco, tater tot, lettuce and tomato, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Alana White • Dannielle Dobberpuhl • Faye Berndt • Kris Ferrington • Crystal Waage

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

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Friendly Fellows and Daisies

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met on June 15th at the Aberdeen aquatic center. The meeting was called to order by Madilyn Wright. The American pledge was led by Logan Warrington and the 4-H pledge was led by Madilyn Wright. The roll call topic was favorite summer activity. The Treasurer's report and Secretaries reports we approved as given. For old business we discussed rocket launching which was held at the May 4-H Club meeting.. Old business was approved by Tucker Miller and 2nd by Logan Warrington. For new business, leader Mike Frey discussed the Newshound. Other business was the 4-H er's in attendance enjoyed a night at the Aberdeen Aquatic Center. The meeting was adjourned by Logan Warrington and 2nd by Andrew Marzahn.

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met on August 7th at Wylie Park in Aberdeen. The meeting was called to order by Hannah Sumption. The American pledge was led by Kamryn Fleihs and the 4-H pledge was led by Kaitlin Ringgingberg. 25 members answered the roll call topic which was "favorite type of shoe". The Treasurer report and Secretary reports were approved as given. For old business we discussed State 4-H Horse Show held in Huron last month, discussed last month's meeting at the Waterpark. Old business was approved by Kaitlin Ringginberg and 2nd by Nicole Marzahn. For new business leader Mike Frey discussed the Newshound, Bo peep Bingo cards, and a variety of County and State Fair Information. We also launched 7 rockets at the meeting. The 4-H Club members were treated to some go-kart, bumper boat and mini-golf action after the meeting. New business was approved by Trey Wright sand 2nd by Hanna Miller. The meeting was adjourned by Braden Boe and 2nd by Clay Crawford. The club also held their annual Wylie Park potluck picnic with over 40 4-H club families in attendance.

Submitted by Colin Frey- club reporter

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.

Grenz, Kroll married

Julia Grenz and Jordan Kroll were married on August 20th at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Groton. Parents of the couple are Dale and Joyce Grenz of Groton and Terry and Wanda Kroll of Kalispell, Montana. The couple is residing in China.



South Dakota Has 2016's 3rd Best Health Care – WalletHub Study

Major insurers such as Aetna, Humana and UnitedHealthcare recently announced their exit from state-sponsored insurance exchanges while the uninsured rate has fallen to a historic low, bringing into question the cost and quality of health care in America. With such developments in mind, the personal-finance website WalletHub conducted an in-depth analysis of 2016's States with the Best & Worst Health Care.

In order to determine which states offer the most cost-effective and highest-quality care, WalletHub's analysts compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 29 key metrics. Our data set ranges from "average monthly insurance premium" to "number of physicians per capita" to "percentage of adults and children with health-insurance coverage."

Health Care in South Dakota (1=Best; 25=Avg.):

2nd – Number of Hospital Beds per Capita

5th – Number of Dentists per Capita

5th – Physician Medicare Acceptance Rate

19th – % of Adults Aged 18 to 64 with Health Insurance

29th – % of Children Aged 0 to 17 with Health Insurance

4th – % of At-Risk Adults Without a Routine Doctor Visit in Past Two Years

6th – % of Adults Without a Dental Visit in Past Year

28th – % of Medical Residents Retained

Breck art on display at Threshing Show

The Andover Threshing Show will feature an exhibit of "Rural Art" by Myrle Newman Breck, presented by her daughters Betty Breck, Groton, and Kate Kelly, Andover.

Myrle's grandparents settled north of Ferney in the 1880's, when South Dakota was still Dakota Territory. Myrle was born in the same sod house on the Newman homestead as was her father, Earl Newman. She earned her teaching degree from Black Hills Teachers College (now Black Hills State University), and taught school at various places throughout the United States. In the 1960's she returned to the Groton area, where she served as Superintendent of Schools in Andover. She was the first female superintendent of city schools in the state of South Dakota. She lived in Groton until her death in 2007.

At an early age, Myrle developed her talent for drawing as a student at Plainview Academy and later at BHSU. Her works of art, going back to her teenage years, run the gamut from still life drawings to wildlife scenes, floral arrangements, portraits and South Dakota landscapes. She worked in a variety of media, including pastel, charcoal, watercolors, pencil, oil, crayon and clay. The most unusual work in the exhibit is a hand-tooled leather depiction of the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead

The exhibit will be on display in the Heritage Crafts Building at Threshermens Park in Andover during the James Valley Threshing Show September 9 – 11.



29 Governors including Governor Daugaard proclaim state blood donation days to fight the blood shortage crisis

In response to the blood shortage crisis, governors across the United States have honored the request of Dr. Daliah Wachs, syndicated radio personality and the American Red Cross, United Blood Services, and blood banks across the country to proclaim a state Blood Donation Day, designated September 10th, 2016.

South Dakota Blood Donation Day will be September 10th. National Blood Donation Week is September 4th - September 10th.

States with Blood Donation Days now include:

Oklahoma
Mississippi
New Mexico
Connecticut
North Dakota
North Carolina
Rhode Island
Indiana
Arkansas
Vermont
Utah
Montana
Louisiana
Alabama
Missouri
Massachusetts
Maryland
Maine
Oregon
Iowa
Florida
Nevada
Michigan
New Hampshire
Pennsylvania
Alaska
Minnesota
South Dakota

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Enriching Your Education

When our four kids were growing up, the last days of summer were always bittersweet. They marked the end of the boating and camping season, but they also meant that a new school year was about to begin. No matter what age

our kids were, they'd always get excited to compare class schedules with their friends or go to that first football game of the season. Making sure all kids get a great education in South Dakota has always been important to me—as a dad, a governor, a senator and now a grandfather. I'm fortunate to be able to offer a number of educational opportunities to South Dakota students through my Senate office.

For college students, we offer internship opportunities year-round in both my Washington, D.C., and South Dakota offices. Interns in the Washington office may work on tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Duties in the South Dakota offices include researching constituent inquiries and requests, participation in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail. In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office. We offer college credit, as well. If you think this may be an experience you're interested in, I encourage you to visit my website at www.rounds.senate.gov/internships to learn more about the program.

For high school students thinking about applying to one of our nation's service academies, my office holds a number of Academy Day events throughout the state so students and parents can learn more about the enrollment process at the academies. These include the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Stay tuned for an announcement about our next Academy Day!

Another opportunity that the Senate offers high school students is the U.S. Senate Page Program. Senate Pages live and go to school in D.C., and spend their days both in the classroom and working on the Senate floor. Some of the Page duties include carrying messages for senators, transporting bills and amendments in the Capitol and preparing the Senate chamber for business. To apply to the Page program, you must be a high school junior and at least 16 years old. To learn more, visit www.senate.gov/reference/page.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is yet another educational opportunity for high school students. Its focus is on developing leadership skills for students interested in pursuing a career in public service. Each year, two students are chosen from each state for this prestigious program, and spend one week in Washington learning the ins and outs of the federal government. Each delegate to the program is awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship. To apply, visit www.ussenateyouth.org.

If you're interested in government, politics or public service, I hope you take advantage of these excellent opportunities to further enrich your education. If you have questions about any of these programs, or want to learn more, contact my office at (202) 224-5842. Jean and I wish all South Dakota students a great school year!

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Today in Weather History

September 6, 2000:

Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes to ever strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Approximately 10,000 houses were blown over. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.

1776: Called the Pointe-à-Pitre hurricane, this storm is one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes on record. While the intensity and complete track are unknown, this storm struck Guadeloupe on this day, killing 6,000.

1881: Forest fires in "The Thumb" of Michigan and Ontario resulted in "Yellow Day" over the New England states. Twenty villages and over a million acres burned in Michigan. The smoke from these fires caused the sky to appear yellow over several New England cities. Twilight appeared at noon on this day.

1929 - Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Chance T-storms and Patchy Fog then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 74 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 70 °F



Morning Showers & Storms

**Partial Clearing
Highs: 70s**

**Wet Conditions Returning
For Wednesday**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 9/6/2016 4:32 AM Central

Published on: 09/06/2016 at 4:36AM

An area of thunderstorms will continue to weaken as it moves along the South Dakota/Minnesota state line, with a broad area of rain with embedded thunder extending to the Missouri valley will also dissipate through the morning hours. Expect a mix of sun and clouds today with highs in the 70s. Wednesday will feature another round of wet weather.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 73.8 F at 2:50 PM

Low Outside Temp: 61.7 F at 8:58 AM

High Gust: 24.0 Mph at 12:48 AM

Precip: 0.04

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1970

Record Low: 32° in 1956

Average High: 76°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.45

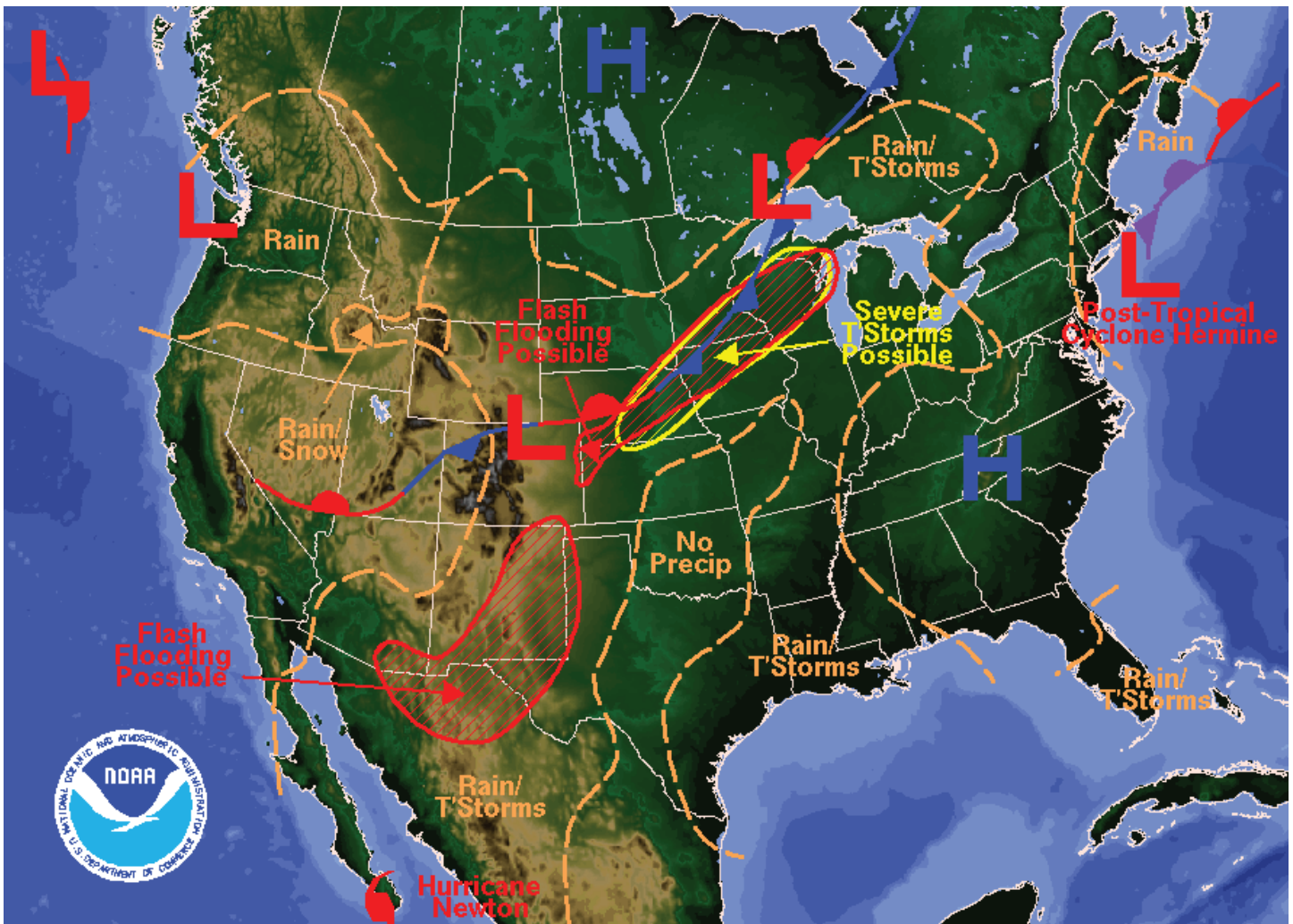
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 16.74

Precip Year to Date: 12.81

Sunset Tonight: 8:00 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Sep 06, 2016, issued 4:59 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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A DISCOURAGING DAY

It began with a toaster that didn't work. Then the washing machine stopped in the middle of a large load of soiled clothes and dirty water. The garbage disposal quit and the sink backed up. Deciding to take a walk outside to get the mail, Bev looked up at the clouds and shook her head.

Opening the one letter she found in the mail box, she was overwhelmed when she discovered a bill that she could not pay. Her husband hadn't worked for two months. He was laid-off when work slowed down at the factory.

Walking back into the house she picked up her young toddler, placed him on her lap, hugged him tightly and began to cry. Suddenly he struggled in her arms and when he got loose and without saying a word, took the pacifier from his mouth and placed it in hers.

He felt her pain and reached out, giving her all that he had.

If a child can feel our sorrow, how much more can our Heavenly Father feel our pain? Whatever concerns us concerned Him first. Certainly, then, our problems become His priorities.

That is why Jesus said, "You can ask for anything in My name, and I will do it." Need a toaster or washer, a plumber or job, God is bigger than any of them. No wonder, then, that Jesus said "ask for anything."

Prayer: We ask, Lord, that You will increase our faith to exceed the size of our problems. May we take You at Your Word – in faith, believing in Your promises. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 14:13-14 "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it."



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

2-vehicle crash in Boulder Canyon near Sturgis kills man

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A crash involving a car and a pickup truck in Boulder Canyon near Sturgis killed the driver of the car.

The Highway Patrol says the 72-year-old man failed to negotiate a turn on U.S. Highway 14A, crossed the center line and collided with the pickup that was pulling a camper and a small trailer.

The crash happened about 9:45 a.m. Monday. The driver of the car was pronounced dead at the scene, about 3 ½ miles west of Sturgis. His name wasn't immediately released.

The two people in the pickup weren't hurt.

Tribe asks federal judge to block work on parts of pipeline

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is asking a federal judge to temporarily stop work on parts of the Dakota Access Pipeline to prevent the destruction of sacred and culturally significant sites near Lake Oahe.

A hearing on the tribe's motion for a temporary restraining order is Tuesday before U.S. District Judge James Boasberg. The tribe wants construction stopped on the pipeline route for a length of about two miles west of Highway 1806 and within 20 miles on either side of Lake Oahe.

If granted, the order would stop construction there while Boasberg weighs a broader request to halt construction on the pipeline. He will rule on that request by Friday.

The tribe is challenging federal regulators' decision to grant permits for the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which would cross the Dakotas and Iowa to Illinois.

Governor proclaims state Direct Support Professionals week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has named a week to recognize those who work closely with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Direct Support Professionals week in South Dakota begins Sept. 11.

Direct Support Professionals are the main providers of publicly financed long-term supports and services for people with disabilities.

Department of Human Services Secretary Gloria Pearson says direct support professionals form the backbone of the state's community supports and services.

Officials search Missouri River for missing 23-year-old man

ELK POINT, S.D. (AP) — Officials are searching the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota for a missing 23-year-old man.

KELO-TV reports that Tom Patterson was swimming with friends Sunday when he disappeared.

The Argus Leader reports that rescue officials searched until dark and then resumed their work early Monday morning.

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Hermine expected to weaken as it lingers offshore

AMY ANTHONY, Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Hermine is expected to begin weakening as it churns hundreds of miles offshore in the Atlantic Ocean, but forecasters warn it could continue to impact areas from New York to southern New England with pounding waves, coastal flooding and beach erosion before it moves out to sea.

A tropical storm warning remained in effect Tuesday morning from New York's Long Island to Massachusetts.

New York officials extended beach closures beyond Labor Day because of continued deadly rip currents, but some ignored the warnings.

The New York Post said police issued \$80 tickets to at least four surfers at Rockaway Beach. An emergency worker who dived into the Atlantic Ocean at Coney Island to save a swimmer who violated the ban told the Post that the current felt like a "300-pound guy pulling me back out to sea."

In New Jersey, big waves and churning surf up to the base of dunes were reported in some areas of the state hit hard by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, including the Ocean County communities of Point Pleasant Beach, Bay Head, Mantoloking and Brick. But no flooding or other damage was reported.

The National Hurricane Center said Hermine was expected to become nearly stationary by Tuesday night before turning toward the northeast Wednesday.

As of 5 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Hermine's top sustained winds were steady at 65 mph (104 kph) as it moved west at 8 mph (13 kph). The storm was centered about 140 miles (225 kilometers) southwest of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Much of southern New England remained under a tropical storm warning with scattered showers, high surf and dangerous rip currents forecast.

While many communities felt like they dodged a bullet, the threat of Hermine caused many vacationers to cancel their holiday plans.

MD Mahabub Khan has worked as a taxi cart pusher at the shore for 27 years and said he still attracted some business over the weekend, but the smaller crowds were noticeable.

"People from New York and New Jersey are kind of stuck here (during bad weather), so they can still come," if forecasts don't play out as predicted, Khan said.

Hermine rose over the Gulf of Mexico and hit Florida on Friday as a Category 1 hurricane before weakening to a tropical storm across Georgia. It has caused at least three deaths, inflicted widespread property damage and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people from Florida to Virginia.

The Latest: Trump says Mexican president broke ground rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on campaign 2016 (all times Eastern):

7:10 a.m.

Donald Trump says the Mexican president violated some "ground rules" by admitting that the two did actually discuss payment of his proposed border wall between the two countries, but he adds, "that's ok."

In an interview aired Tuesday on ABC's Good Morning America, Trump said, "the fact is Mexico will pay for the wall," adding, "it was discussed that it wouldn't be discussed, but they know my stance and I know their stance."

Trump made a last minute trip to Mexico last week to meet with President Enrique Pena Nieto. At a joint press conference, Trump told reporters that payment of his proposed border wall was not discussed. Pena Nieto later tweeted that it was discussed and he "made it clear" that Mexico would not pay.

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"See who wins in the end, who will win," Trump told ABC. "A hundred percent, they will pay for the wall."

7:05 a.m.

Michelle Obama is preparing for her first campaign appearance for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Clinton's campaign says the first lady will rally voters behind the former secretary of state during a Sept. 16 event in Northern Virginia. The location was not announced.

Mrs. Obama's task will be to urge all voters, but especially young people, in hotly contested Virginia to support Clinton and running mate Tim Kaine in the Nov. 8 election.

She'll also urge people not to miss the state's Oct. 17 deadline to register to vote.

A few days before Mrs. Obama hits the trail, her husband, President Barack Obama, is scheduled to hold his first solo campaign event for Clinton on Sept. 13 in Philadelphia.

3:05 a.m.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are pushing ahead in top presidential battlegrounds with Labor Day behind them.

Trump, the Republican nominee, is set to campaign in Virginia and North Carolina on Tuesday, two critical states in his path to the presidency.

Clinton, the Democrat, is campaigning in Florida in search of an advantage in the nation's largest swing state. A Clinton victory in Florida would make it virtually impossible for Trump to overcome her advantage in the race for 270 electoral votes.

The day before in swing state Ohio, Trump softened his stance on immigration while Clinton blasted Russia for suspected tampering in the U.S. electoral process.

Obama vows to work to tighten sanction on North Korea

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — In the wake of another missile launch, President Barack Obama vowed Tuesday to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against North Korea, but added that the U.S. was still open to dialogue if the government changes its course.

Obama said the latest round of ballistic missile launches were "provocations" that flouted international law and would only lead to further isolation.

"We are going to work diligently together with the most recent U.N. sanctions," Obama told reporters after meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. "We are going to work together to make sure we're closing loopholes and make them even more effective."

North Korea fired three ballistic missiles off its east coast Monday. The launch was widely viewed as a show of force timed to get the attention of world leaders visiting the region for a series of summits. Obama and other heads of state gathered in China over the weekend for the Group of 20 economic summit. Obama went on to Laos for a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The U.N. Security Council in late August strongly condemned four North Korean ballistic missile launches in July and August. It called them "grave violations" of a ban on all ballistic missile activity. Despite the heavy sanctions, North Korea says the programs are justified because of the threat posed by the U.S. and South Korea.

Park told reporters North Korea's move was "fundamentally threatening the security" of the Korean Peninsula. Both leaders suggested they would continue to push China, North Korea's only ally in the

region, to use its influence to intervene.

"President Park and I agreed that the entire international community needs to implement these sanctions fully and hold North Korea accountable," Obama said.

Obama added that the U.S. had not closed off the possibility for dialogue with North Korea, if it were to change course.

"If it is willing to recognize its international obligations and enforce the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the opportunities for us to dialogue with them are there," Obama said. "We do not have any interest in an offensive approach to North Korea."

Germany: driver rams through car park wall, falls 10 feet

BERLIN (AP) — An 80-year-old woman took an unintended short cut as she tried to drive her car out of a multistory car park in western Germany, breaking through the building's wall and landing on a convertible parked 3 meters (10 feet) below.

Police said that neither the driver nor her 85-year-old husband, who was standing next to the car at the time, was hurt in the accident in Bottrop late Monday.

It happened as the driver was trying to maneuver her car out of a parking space. For reasons that remain unclear, she hit the building's outside wall and broke through it.

The fire service used a ladder to free the woman from her car. Police say the accident caused damage of about 25,000 euros (\$27,900).

Low taxes at dozens of firms in spotlight after Apple ruling

BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It turns out some wealthy companies are just like some wealthy hedge fund managers: They're taxed at far lower rates than nearly everyone else.

Whether or not Apple used illegal breaks to pay virtually no taxes in Europe over 11 years, as regulators there contend and the company denies, the order last week that it pay billions in back taxes highlights a worrisome divide among the world's biggest corporations: Some pay relatively little taxes, others a lot.

Taxes paid in the U.S. and abroad by tech companies like Apple amounted to 24 percent of their profits in the 10 years through 2014, according to a Credit Suisse report. Energy companies paid 41 percent, nearly double.

Experts say a tax system that divides companies so starkly into winners and losers raises issues of fairness, along with questions about the wisdom of using tax codes to shape corporate behavior. It may also pose a danger to investors: Are companies that have boosted earnings by shifting headquarters abroad and other maneuvers vulnerable to a tax-collector crackdown?

Just which ones are vulnerable is difficult to know because tax rules are so complicated, but there is a lot of money at stake.

According to a May report by the research firm R.G. Associates, 78 of the biggest U.S. companies — from tech stars Facebook and eBay to glass maker Corning and food giant Kraft Heinz — would have earned at least 15 percent less last year without the benefit of overseas tax rates far below that in the U.S. Stocks of each of those four companies are up more than 20 percent in the past year.

"If you have a company that moves profits and operations around the world in a snake-like fashion, you don't know if they're going to wind up in the regulatory cross hairs," says Jack Ciesielski, head of R.G. Associates. "The European Union is getting much better at policing this."

The 28-nation bloc has launched investigations into deals struck by McDonald's and Amazon. They

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have ordered Starbucks to pay millions of dollars in back taxes. And in the U.S., the Treasury Department has been tightening rules to make it more difficult to relocate to low-tax countries.

In Apple's case, the European Union says it was so skilled at using illegal breaks offered in Ireland, that the taxes it ended up paying on every 1 million euros in profits amounted to just 50 euros — not enough to buy even two bottles of Jameson whiskey. The company was ordered to fork over nearly \$15 billion in back taxes, plus billions more in interest.

Apple says it never asked or received "special deals" on taxes and did nothing illegal. The company says it will appeal the ruling and expects to prevail.

Whatever the outcome, studies show Apple isn't the only company adept at cutting its tax bill, which is why officials are cracking down.

— NO TAXES: Nearly a fifth of profitable U.S. companies paid no corporate taxes in 2012, the latest year tracked in a March report by the General Accounting Office. Many eliminated taxes by getting credit for big losses in previous years, a common move, but others took advantage of the kinds of overseas tax maneuvers that Apple uses.

— BIGGEST WINNERS: Drug maker Pfizer benefited the most from paying low foreign taxes last year, according to an R.G. Associates study. If it had to pay the U.S. rate of 35 percent on its overseas earnings, profits would have been \$3.1 billion lower, or 55 percent less.

The top 10 tax "winners" last year also included PayPal Holdings, whose profit would have been 41 percent lower, and Expedia, facing a potential profit cut of 36 percent.

— INDUSTRY DIVIDE: Industries easily able to shift valuable assets abroad — think intangible stuff like patents on drugs — got the biggest boosts, according to a study by Credit Suisse. Health care and technology companies added \$266 billion to their profits over 10 years, an increase of 35 percent, by taking advantage of lower rates abroad. Utilities, stuck with power plants in the U.S., got zero benefit.

Steven Rosenthal, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, thinks a tax code that treats companies so vastly different is troubling if you believe markets should decide which ones will thrive and attract the most investment dollars.

"When governments put their tax thumb on the scales," he says, "too much capital flows to the companies in favor, and too little to companies that are not."

U.S. companies have been taking advantage of various foreign incentives and holidays for years now to avoid the U.S. corporate rate of 35 percent, the highest in the industrialized world.

The difference is that they have benefited more from the moves in recent years.

Companies in the Standard and Poor's 500 index paid 26.6 percent in taxes in the 12 months through March, according to Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices. That number can jump from one period to the next, but it's been generally falling, and is down sharply from 20 years ago.

Back then, the average rate paid for all taxes — federal, state, local and foreign — was 32.8 percent. Will the tailwind to earnings keep blowing?

Perhaps not much longer, according to the report from Credit Suisse, which suggests that investor ignorance about the issue could make for a nasty surprise in some stock portfolios.

The report was written in December, before the political environment got even more perilous. In addition to Europe's crackdown on Apple, the U.S. Treasury recently announced rules limiting "inversions" that have allowed U.S. companies to slash taxes by moving their headquarters overseas.

Ciesielski of R.G. Associates isn't sure companies taxed at low rates will soon be facing higher ones, but he's concerned.

"It's a good thing," he says of the boost low rates give to profits. "But too much of good thing can backfire."

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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. OBAMA MAKES HISTORIC TRIP TO LAOS

The U.S. president is on a mission to heal war wounds and reinvigorate relations with a country with rising strategic importance to the U.S.

2. PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT REGRETS PROFANE REMARK

Rodrigo Duterte shows some contrition for his "son of a bitch" comment while referring to Obama, which led the U.S. president to postpone a meeting with him at an Asian regional summit.

3. CANDIDATES TO WOO VOTERS IN THE SOUTH

With Labor Day behind them, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are pushing ahead in top presidential battlegrounds Virginia, North Carolina and Florida.

4. IN RECOVERY, MANY POOR SCHOOLS LEFT BEHIND

In the years following the 2008 financial crisis, school districts serving poor communities generally have been hit harder than more affluent districts, an AP analysis finds.

5. A SIGN BLACK LIVES MATTER IS GROWING

A San Francisco-based charity has been acting as a financial arm of the protest-borne movement, with the ability to receive grants and tax-deductible donations, the AP learns.

6. 9/11 UNITY BECOMING A FAINT MEMORY

For a time, it felt like the attack that shattered America had also brought it together. That cohesion feels distant as the 15th anniversary of the attacks arrives Sunday.

7. WHAT TO EXPECT ON CAPITOL HILL

Election-year politics will rule the congressional calendar when lawmakers return from a seven-week recess.

8. HURRICANE HURTLES TOWARD MEXICO'S BAJA CALIFORNIA PENINSULA

Schools have been closed and emergency shelters opened as Newton gains strength while bearing down on the twin resorts of Los Cabos.

9. CHEVY CHASE ENTERS REHAB

The 72-year-old former star of "Saturday Night Live" and the "Vacation" movies enters a facility in Minnesota for a "tuneup" on alcohol problem.

10. SEMINOLES RALLY FOR BIG WIN

Deondre Francois throws for 419 yards and two touchdowns, leading No. 4 Florida State to its largest comeback victory ever, 45-34 over No. 11 Ole Miss.

Probe finds crashed Emirates airliner tried to go around

ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A preliminary report released Tuesday into last month's Emirates airliner crash landing in Dubai found that the pilot attempted to take off again after briefly touching down, and that the plane ultimately hit the runway as it tried to climb with its landing gear retracting.

One firefighter was killed responding to the accident, which destroyed the Boeing 777-300, but all 300 people onboard Flight EK521 managed to escape.

The accident was the most serious in Emirates' more than three decades of operations, and was the second major air disaster for a Dubai government-backed airline in less than five months.

The findings released Tuesday in a 28-page report by the United Arab Emirates' General Civil Aviation

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Authority were broadly in line with an Associated Press analysis a day after the crash that was based on flight data, air traffic control communications and interviews with aviation experts.

Investigators found that the crew received a warning indicating wind shear — a sudden change in wind speed or direction — as the plane approached Dubai on its return from Thiruvananthapuram, India. As it neared the ground, a headwind started to shift to a tailwind and then back again.

The right landing gear hit the ground first, with the left following only three seconds later, according to the report. The nose gear stayed in the air.

A warning system alerted the crew of a “long landing,” indicating that the plane had not touched down where it was supposed to, and the plane took to the air again as the crew tried to make a second landing attempt.

Six seconds into the air, the crew began to retract the landing gear.

After making it only about 85 feet off the ground, the twin-engine plane began to lose altitude. Three seconds before impact, the crew tried to push the jet engines all the way from an idle to full power.

Cockpit warnings blared “Don’t sink, don’t sink!” as the engines began to throttle up.

It was too late.

With the landing gear still retracting, the back of the plane and then the engines hit the runway at 125 knots (144 mile per hour).

A fuel-fed fire broke out as the right engine was ripped off and the plane skidded on its belly before coming to a rest.

Southeast Asian summit opens, overshadowed by Duterte flap

VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — A summit of Southeast Asian leaders to discuss issues ranging from terrorism to South China Sea tensions opened Tuesday, overshadowed by the Philippine president’s intemperate comments in his debut appearance at the annual meeting. The insult was made more egregious because of who the target was — President Barack Obama.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte occupied center stage on the eve of the summit Monday when he made comments about Obama that included a “son of a bitch” remark.

He was again in the spotlight Tuesday when he trooped into a conference hall in the Laotian capital of Vientiane wearing a traditional Filipino shirt with sleeves rolled up, and hands in pant pockets. The other male Southeast Asian leaders were dressed in dark business suits. Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi wore a mauve traditional dress.

Filipinos wear the “barong” shirt on formal occasions too, but with sleeves buttoned down at the wrists. Rolled-up sleeves are considered too casual for any formal setting, let alone a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. Duterte rolled his sleeves down and buttoned them when Laotian President Bounnhang Vorachith gave a speech to open the summit.

“Multifaceted security challenges have occurred in many parts of the world, such as terrorism and extremism, natural disasters, climate change, migration crisis, trafficking in people, territorial disputes and armed conflicts,” Bounnhang said. “At the same time, although the global economy has gradually recovered, growth remains slow and fragile.”

“There is a need for us to closely follow these developments and continue to enhance ASEAN cooperation and collaboration with the international community,” he said.

The 10-nation ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The summit will be followed by a series of other meetings on

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Wednesday and a summit Thursday between leaders from ASEAN and other countries, including the United States, China, Russia, India, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Obama arrived in Vientiane on Monday night and will attend Thursday's summit. Duterte also arrived Monday night.

But hours before his arrival, Duterte dropped a diplomatic bombshell by saying he doesn't want Obama to ask him questions about extrajudicial killings that have occurred amid an ongoing crackdown on drug dealers in the Philippines. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the crackdown since he took office on June 30.

In his typical loose-tongued style, Duterte said: "I do not have any master except the Filipino people, nobody but nobody. You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions. Putang ina, I will swear at you in that forum," he said, using the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bitch."

Obama later canceled a bilateral meeting he was scheduled to have with Duterte in Vientiane. On Tuesday, Duterte expressed regret over the remarks, but the damage was already done.

Duterte is also planning to ask China's premier at the Vientiane meetings whether China is trying to develop a disputed reef, Scarborough Shoal, off the Philippines' northwestern coast, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

The shoal is part of the larger dispute in the South China Sea between China and some ASEAN countries. An international arbitration panel recently ruled that China's expansive claims in the sea are illegal. Beijing has rejected the ruling as a sham.

Although ASEAN has the power of the ruling behind it, its summit is unlikely to mention it in its final declaration, a reflection of Beijing's diplomatic clout.

But according to a draft of the final statement ASEAN is scheduled to release on Thursday, the region's leaders will express strong concern about Beijing's construction of man-made islands in the South China Sea, which Southeast Asian countries fear could destabilize the region.

Duterte said last week that the Philippine coast guard has sighted Chinese barges at Scarborough, which he said could presage the transformation of the Chinese-held reef into another man-made island. One of the Chinese vessels had what appeared to be a crane, according to a Philippine official who did not want to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss classified intelligence.

China sparked widespread alarm when it converted seven reefs in the Spratly Islands into islands that the United States says could be transformed into military bases to reinforce Beijing's territorial claims and intimidate rival claimant countries.

Duterte has taken a more conciliatory stance toward China than his predecessor. But a confirmation of Chinese reclamation activities at Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground where Filipino fishermen have been forced away by Beijing's coast guard, could impede relations.

U.S. officials have also expressed deep concern over the possibility of China developing Scarborough into an island or starting to erect concrete structures there, which could reinforce Beijing's control over a swath of the South China Sea.

On historic trip to Laos, Obama aims to heal war wounds

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Acknowledging the scars of a secret war, President Barack Obama on Tuesday said the United States has a "moral obligation" to help this isolated Southeast Asian nation heal and vowed to reinvigorate relations with a country with rising strategic importance to the U.S.

Making the first visit for a sitting U.S. president, Obama said too few Americans know of the United

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States' covert bombing of Laos during the Vietnam War. He offered no apologies, calling the campaign and its aftermath reminders that "whatever the cause, whatever our intentions, war inflicts a terrible toll."

"Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal," Obama said, as he addressed an audience of more than 1,000 students, business people and officials.

For nine years, the U.S. conducted a punishing, covert bombing campaign on landlocked Laos in an effort to cut off communist forces in neighboring Vietnam. The bombardment dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on the small nation, more than "we dropped on Germany and Japan, combined, in all of World War II," Obama said.

The bombing left behind deep scars, millions of unexploded cluster bombs across the countryside and decades-worth of cleanup.

Obama is one of several world leaders arriving for a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Taking its turn as the chair of the regional forum, the Laos' communist government is seizing a rare moment in the spotlight.

For Obama, the visit serves as a capstone to his yearslong effort to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries long overlooked by the United States. The outreach is a core element of Obama's attempt to shift U.S. diplomatic and military resources away from the Middle East and into Asia in order to counter China's dominance in the region and ensure a foothold in growing markets.

Obama's project — dubbed his Asia pivot — has yielded uneven results, as conflict in the Middle East has continued to demand attention and China has bristled at what it views as meddling in its backyard.

Obama said America's interest in the Asia-Pacific isn't new and is not a passing fad.

"The United States is more deeply engaged across the Asia-Pacific than we have been in decades," Obama said. "Our position is stronger and we've sent a clear message that as a Pacific nation, we are here to stay."

With just four months left in office and eyeing his legacy, Obama used the moment to reassert his aims. He touted new military aid and U.S. support for regional cooperation in addressing maritime disputes. He made a plug for the massive Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement, the policy's central economic component that is now stuck in Congress. He sought to address worries that United States' new focus on Asia will leave smaller nations as pawns in a chess match between the U.S. and China.

"We believe that bigger nations should not dictate to smaller nations and that all nations should play by the same rules," he said.

As a first sign of a new relationship with Laos, Obama said his administration would address the legacy of war. Obama announced he would double spending for unexploded ordnance, committing \$90 million over the three years. The U.S. has contributed \$100 million to the effort in the last 20 years, as annual deaths have fallen from more than 300 to fewer than 50, the White House said.

The Lao government said it would increase efforts to recover remains and account for Americans missing since the Vietnam War.

As he opened a day of ceremony and diplomacy, Obama was greeted by a military band, traditional dancers and a warm, tropical rain. He met with Lao President Bounnhang Vorachit, was feted at a welcome banquet, where he toasted to a relationship he said would "mean greater progress and opportunity for the people of Laos."

Obama's outreach to those regional powers hit a snag just as he arrived in the region from China. The White House called off a planned meeting Tuesday with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, after the brash new leader referred to Obama as a "son of a bitch."

Duterte, who had been expecting Obama to criticize his deadly, extrajudicial crackdown on drug deal-

ers, later said he regretted the personal attack on the president.

In a statement read out Tuesday by his spokesman, Duterte said his "strong comments" to certain questions by a reporter "elicited concern and distress."

"We look forward to ironing out differences arising out of national priorities and perceptions, and working in mutually responsible ways for both countries," the statement said.

Trump and Clinton turn to battleground states in the South

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — With Labor Day behind them, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are pushing ahead in top presidential battlegrounds in the South.

Trump, the Republican nominee, is set to campaign in Virginia and North Carolina on Tuesday, two critical states in his path to the presidency. Clinton, the Democrat, is campaigning in Florida in search of an advantage in the nation's largest swing state. A Clinton victory in Florida would make it virtually impossible for Trump to overcome her advantage in the race for 270 electoral votes.

The day before in swing state Ohio, Trump softened his stance on immigration while Clinton blasted Russia for suspected tampering in the U.S. electoral process.

In a rare news conference aboard her new campaign plane, Clinton said she is concerned about "credible reports about Russian government interference in our elections."

"We are going to have to take those threats and attacks seriously," Clinton told reporters traveling with her from Ohio to Illinois.

Clinton's comments follow reports that the Russian government may have been involved in the hacking of Democratic National Committee emails just days before the party's national convention. The emails, later revealed by WikiLeaks, showed some DNC officials favoring Clinton over her primary opponent, Bernie Sanders — who has since endorsed Clinton for president.

She said Russian President Vladimir Putin appears "quite satisfied with himself" and said Trump "has generally parroted what is a Putin-Kremlin line."

Meanwhile, Trump extended a rare invitation to journalists to accompany him on his private plane from Cleveland to Youngstown, Ohio. The billionaire businessman appeared to shy away from his hard-line vow to block "amnesty" for immigrants in the country illegally.

Any immigrants who want full citizenship must return to their countries of origin and get in line, he told reporters — but he would not rule out a pathway to legal status for the millions living in the U.S. illegally, as he did in a long-awaited policy speech last week.

"We're going to make that decision into the future," Trump said.

Clinton powered through a coughing fit at a Labor Day festival at a Cleveland park, sharply criticizing Trump's recent trip to Mexico as "an embarrassing international incident." Unwilling to allow Trump to modify his immigration stances, she said his address later that night in Arizona amounted to a "doubling down on his absurd plan to send a deportation force to round up 16 million people."

"He can try to fool voters into thinking somehow he's not as harsh and inhumane as he seems, but it's too late," Clinton said.

The former secretary of state flatly said "No," when asked in an ABC News interview whether she'd be willing to accept the Mexican president's invitation to visit the country, as Trump did last week.

"I'm going to continue to focus on what we're doing to create jobs here at home," Clinton said.

Earlier in the day, Trump attacked Clinton's energy level, noting she hasn't followed his aggressive

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traveling schedule and questioning whether she had the stamina to help bring jobs back to America.

"She doesn't have the energy to bring 'em back. You need energy, man," Trump told reporters.

He added, "She didn't have the energy to go to Louisiana. And she didn't have the energy to go to Mexico."

Clinton's 25-minute question-and-answer session was her first extensive availability with reporters since early December. Beyond Russia, she answered questions about the ongoing controversy surrounding her use of a private email server while secretary of state, which Trump has used to cast doubt over her ability to protect classified information.

"I take classification seriously," she said.

While Labor Day has traditionally been the kickoff to the fall campaign, both Clinton and Trump have been locked in an intense back-and-forth throughout the summer.

The start of full-fledged campaigning opens a pivotal month, culminating in the first presidential debate Sept. 26 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. Polls show Trump trailing Clinton in a series of must-win battleground states, meaning the debates could be his best chance at reorienting the race.

Trump told reporters he does plan to take part in all three presidential debates, joking that only a "hurricane" or "natural disaster" would prevent him from attending.

Forte, RGIII, Weddle among familiar faces in new places

DENNIS WASZAK Jr., AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At first glance, the new jersey just looks plain strange.

The different colors and team names probably even cause a few double-takes.

When NFL players switch from teams with which they had long been associated to new destinations, either through trades or free agency, it often takes a little getting used to for fans and sometimes the players themselves.

Some, however, completely embrace the wardrobe makeover.

"I look good in red and blue," said a smiling Damon Harrison, the New York Giants nose tackle who spent his first four NFL season in the Jets' green and white.

Here's a look at some other familiar faces in new places — and colors:

RYAN CLADY, LT, JETS

The four-time Pro Bowl selection was a fixture on Denver's offensive line, but injuries limited him to just 30 games over the last three seasons. When the Broncos signed former Seattle left tackle Russell Okung in March, Clady became expendable. Denver traded him to the Jets, who were in need of a left tackle after the durable D'Brickshaw Ferguson suddenly retired in April. Clady, who has recovered from the torn knee ligament that kept him out all last season, will be in charge of protecting Ryan Fitzpatrick's blind side. Career stats: 98 games played, 98 starts.

MATT FORTE, RB, JETS

A workhorse for eight years in Chicago, the 30-year-old running back was signed by the Jets to add a versatile element to New York's backfield. He dealt with a hamstring injury through the first half of training camp, but played in the Jets' third preseason game and should be ready to start in Week 1. Career stats: 8,602 yards rushing, 45 TDs; 487 catches, 4,116 yards, 19 TDs.

ARIAN FOSTER, RB, DOLPHINS

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Retirement appeared to be an option for Foster, who has missed significant parts of two of the last three seasons with major injuries. He played seven seasons for Houston, where he set franchise marks for yards rushing and TD runs, but was released in March. Foster signed a one-year deal with Miami, where he could complement Jay Ajayi. Career stats: 6,472 yards rushing, 54 TDs; 249 catches, 2,268 yards, 14 TDs.

ROBERT GRIFFIN III, QB, BROWNS

The No. 2 overall pick in the 2012 draft got his career with Washington off to an eye-popping start that was capped by a playoff appearance and being selected Offensive Rookie of the Year. Injuries and inconsistency marked the rest of his tenure, eventually losing his starting job to Kirk Cousins. After being cut in March by the Redskins, Griffin will try to resurrect his career in quarterback-starved Cleveland. Career stats: 8,097 yards passing, 40 TDs, 23 INTs; 1,480 yards rushing, 8 TDs.

CHRIS IVORY, RB, JAGUARS

After being buried on New Orleans' depth chart his first three seasons, Ivory was traded to the Jets in 2013 and became one of the AFC's top backs. Known for his bruising running style and his braids flying out from under the back of his helmet, Ivory became a fan favorite and set a career best with 1,070 yards rushing last season. New York allowed him to become a free agent and Ivory will team with T.J. Yeldon to form one of the league's top running back duos. Career stats: 4,031 yards rushing, 24 TDs; 53 catches, 382 yards, 2 TDs.

MALIK JACKSON, DL, JAGUARS

A key player on Denver's Super Bowl-winning defense, Jackson was in high demand in free agency this offseason after five sacks, a safety and seven passes defended last season. He signed a six-year, \$90 million deal with Jacksonville, making him one of the NFL's highest-paid defensive linemen. Career stats: 134 total tackles, 14 sacks, 15 passes defended, 2 forced fumbles.

LAMAR MILLER, RB, TEXANS

After a successful four-year run in Miami that included nearly 2,000 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns the last two seasons, Miller signed with Houston for four years in March. The 25-year-old running back showed good versatility while with the Dolphins and is expected to carry much of the workload in the Texans' backfield. Career stats: 2,930 yards, 19 TDs; 117 catches, 887 yards, 3 TDs.

DeMARCO MURRAY, RB, TITANS

Murray went from being the NFL's rushing leader in 2014 with Dallas to becoming a frustrated and sometimes-forgotten part of Philadelphia's backfield under Chip Kelly last season. The two-time Pro Bowl selection had just one 100-yard game with the Eagles, who traded him to Tennessee in March. He'll try to revive his career while teaming with rookie Derrick Henry in the Titans' powerful backfield. Career stats: 5,228 yards, 34 TDs; 215 catches, 1,522 yards, 2 TDs.

JOSH NORMAN, CB, REDSKINS

The chatty, opinionated and extremely talented cornerback is coming off a career breakthrough with Carolina that was capped by a Super Bowl appearance, his first Pro Bowl selection and included an on-field back-and-forth with the Giants' Odell Beckham Jr. during a game. The Panthers placed the

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franchise tag on him in the offseason, but then rescinded it when they couldn't come to a long-term agreement. He became an unrestricted free agent and signed a five-year, \$75 million deal with Washington. Career stats: 7 INTs (2 for TDs), 181 total tackles, 37 passes defensed, 4 forced fumbles.

OLIVIER VERNON, DE, GIANTS

Vernon has never made a Pro Bowl, but he established himself as a promising pass rusher in four seasons with Miami, and he parlayed that into an eye-popping five-year, \$85 million contract, the richest for a defensive end in NFL history at that time. He'll be expected to provide a big boost to a pass rush that has no one returning with more than two sacks last season. Career stats: 29 sacks, 196 total tackles, 3 forced fumbles.

ERIC WEDDLE, S, RAVENS

The three-time Pro Bowl pick and two-time first-team All-Pro was known for his bushy beard and ballhawking skills in nine seasons with San Diego. He was the glue of the Chargers' defense and led them in tackles five times, but friction between Weddle and the team led to a bitter divorce — and the 31-year-old safety signing a four-year deal with Baltimore. Career stats: 19 INTs (3 TDs), 850 total tackles, 6 1/2 sacks, 71 passes defensed, 5 forced fumbles.

Philippine president regrets 'son of a bitch' remark

VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte expressed regret Tuesday over his "son of a bitch" remark while referring to President Barack Obama, in a rare display of contrition by a politician whose wide arc of profanities has unabashedly targeted world figures including the pope and the U.N. chief.

In a statement read out by his spokesman, Duterte said that while his "strong comments" in response to questions by a reporter "elicited concern and distress, we also regret it came across as a personal attack on the U.S. president."

Duterte had made the intemperate remarks Monday before flying to Laos, where he is attending a regional summit. He had been scheduled to meet Obama separately in Laos, but Obama indicated he had second thoughts, and the White House announced that the meeting had been canceled.

The Philippines did not comment publicly on the cancellation until about nine hours later, when Duterte's statement said that both sides had "mutually agreed to postpone" the meeting.

Even though Duterte's latest comment does not amount to an apology, the expression of regret is unusual for the tough-talking former mayor, who is unapologetic about his manner of speech and liberally peppers casual statements with profanities such as "son of a bitch" and "son of a whore."

But perhaps Duterte's aides realized it would be unwise to take on the most powerful official in the world, and that there would be a price to pay for insulting the president of the United States.

The U.S. is one of the Philippines' largest trading partners and a key security ally in its fight against terrorism in the country's south. Manila also needs Washington's help in dealing with a more assertive China in the disputed South China Sea. The U.S. also provides hundreds of millions of dollars in annual financial assistance to the Philippine military.

Duterte likely had realized his folly by the time he arrived in the Laotian capital of Vientiane on Monday night.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "I do not want to quarrel with the most powerful country on

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the planet," but immediately took his typical combative approach by saying: "Washington has been so liberal about criticizing human rights, human rights and human rights. How about you? I have so many questions also about human rights to ask you. So ... people who live in glass houses should not" throw stones at others.

He said if the White House had problems with him, it could have sent him a diplomatic note and let him respond. "There's a protocol for that," Duterte said. "You just cannot shoot a statement against the president of any country."

But by Tuesday, he had done a complete U-turn in the tone of his statement.

"We look forward to ironing out differences arising out of national priorities and perceptions, and working in mutually responsible ways for both countries," the statement said.

The flap over Duterte's remarks started when a reporter asked him how he intends to explain the extrajudicial killings of drug dealers to Obama. More than 2,000 suspected drug dealers and users have been killed since Duterte launched a war on drugs after taking office on June 30.

In his typical foul-mouthed style, Duterte responded: "I am a president of a sovereign state and we have long ceased to be a colony. I do not have any master except the Filipino people, nobody but nobody. You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions. Putang ina, I will swear at you in that forum," he said, using the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bitch."

Duterte has previously cursed Pope Francis and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

"Who is he (Obama) to confront me?" Duterte said, adding that the Philippines had not received an apology from the United States for misdeeds committed during its colonization of the country.

He pointed to the killing of Muslim Moros more than a century ago during a U.S. pacification campaign in the southern Philippines, blaming the wounds of the past as "the reason why (the south) continues to boil" with separatist insurgencies.

Last week, Duterte said he was ready to defend his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, which has sparked concern from the U.S. and other countries.

Duterte said he would demand that Obama allow him to first explain the context of his crackdown before engaging the U.S. president in a discussion about the deaths.

Duterte has had a troublesome relation with the United States, questioning its inability to stop genocidal killings in the Middle East and Africa, and citing U.S. police shootings of black Americans that have set off protests.

He has also taken on a more conciliatory position with U.S. rival China. Philippines-China ties were strained under Duterte's predecessors due to territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. Duterte proclaimed early in his presidency that he would pursue a foreign policy not dependent on the United States.

Former Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, under whose watch U.S.-Philippine relations blossomed, expressed disappointment over the aborted meeting with the U.S.

"An invaluable occasion to have our leaders meet for the purpose of discussing how to strengthen our comprehensive areas of cooperation would have been a golden opportunity," del Rosario said.

Black Lives Matter partners with charity in sign of growth

MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Black Lives Matter, which two years ago grew out of street protests and a social-media hashtag, has quietly established a legal partnership with a California charity in a sign of the movement's growth and expanding ambition, The Associated Press has learned.

The formal relationship between the national Black Lives Matter network and the San Francisco-based

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International Development Exchange represents another side of the loosely knit group that many Americans recognize for its sometimes-disruptive demonstrations against police shootings of unarmed black men.

Since November, the nonprofit charity also known as IDEX has been acting as a mostly unseen financial arm of Black Lives Matter, with the ability to receive grants and tax-deductible donations on the group's behalf. More recently, the relationship evolved into a contractual partnership that will run through at least mid-2017.

IDEX is managing the group's financial affairs, allowing Black Lives Matter to focus on its mission, including building local chapters and experimenting with its organizational structure.

"We completely understand the network is in its baby stages, and it's going to take some years" to develop, IDEX Executive Director Rajasvini Bhansali said in an interview.

The goal, leaders say, is to jointly seek social change in struggling communities in the U.S., as well as in Asia, South America and Africa, where the charity has operated for years.

The partnership links the national protest movement, which has chapters in nearly 40 U.S. cities and several more abroad, with a small charity that has worked with the needy on several continents. IDEX collected about \$2 million in contributions and grants in the year ending June 2015, according to federal tax records.

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A key aspect of the agreement involves exchanging information and building potential alliances between Black Lives Matter and IDEX's partners overseas. The idea is for the groups and movements to learn from each other.

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Part of the tie between the groups is personal: Bhansali has known Garza and fellow Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors for about a decade through their work, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area.

She said Black Lives Matter has a strong interest in learning from social and cultural movements around the globe, which makes it a natural fit with IDEX and its work in needy communities in Africa, Asia and South America, where IDEX has supported more than 500 projects since 1985.

The charity's projects have ranged widely, from helping Nepalese women establish a credit system through so-called microfinancing to working with a group to alleviate industrial pollution in South Africa.

In addition to its agreement with the charity, Black Lives Matter appears to be taking steps to answer criticism that it is little more than noise on the street, lacking direction and purpose. It is part of a recently established coalition of dozens of organizations known as the Movement for Black Lives, which has published a detailed agenda of goals.

Many of the proposals are familiar, such as channeling more money into poverty programs and raising taxes on the wealthy. Other ideas include obtaining reparations for past racial injustices and spending as much as \$4 trillion to create government jobs for black workers and subsidizing businesses to hire black workers.

"Things like racism just can't be fixed by this or that single policy," Hunt-Hendrix said. "It requires massive cultural change."

Far-right activist, author Phyllis Schlafly dies at 92

JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Phyllis Schlafly, the outspoken conservative activist who helped defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s and founded the Eagle Forum political group, has died. She was 92.

Schlafly's family was with her when she died Monday afternoon of cancer at her home in St. Louis, her son John Schlafly said. Funeral arrangements are pending, he said.

Schlafly rose to national attention in 1964 with her self-published book, "A Choice Not an Echo," that became a manifesto for the far right. The book, which sold three million copies, chronicled the history of the Republican National Convention and is credited for helping conservative Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona earn the 1964 GOP nomination.

She later helped lead efforts to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment that would have outlawed gender discrimination, galvanizing the party's right. She'd graduated from college while working overnight at a factory during World War II, her newspaper column appeared in dozens of newspapers and she was politically active into her 90s — including attending every convention since her first in 1952. She attended this year's convention as a Donald Trump delegate.

Yet she told The Associated Press in 2007 that perhaps her greatest legacy was the Eagle Forum, which she founded in 1972 in suburban St. Louis, where she lived. The ultraconservative group has chapters in several states and claims 80,000 members.

"I've taught literally millions of people how to participate in self-government," Schlafly said. "I think I've built a wonderful organization of volunteers, mostly women but some men, willing to spend their time to get good laws and good politicians."

The Eagle Forum pushes for low taxes, a strong military and English-only education. The group is against efforts it says are pushed by radical feminists or encroach on U.S. sovereignty, such as guest-worker visas, according to its website, which describes the Equal Rights Amendment as having had a "hidden agenda of tax-funded abortions and same-sex marriages."

The group said in a statement on its website announcing Schlafly's death that her "focus from her earliest days until her final ones was protecting the family, which she understood as the building block of life."

As momentum grew in the 1970s for the Equal Rights Amendment, Schlafly became its most outspoken critic — and was vilified by its supporters. She had a pie smashed into her face and pig's blood thrown on her, and feminist Betty Friedan once told Schlafly, "I'd like to burn you at the stake." She was chastised in a 1970s "Doodlesbury" — a framed copy of which hung on her office wall.

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"What I am defending is the real rights of women," Schlafly said at the time. "A woman should have the right to be in the home as a wife and mother."

Thirty-five states ratified the amendment, three short of the necessary 38. Schlafly said amendment supporters couldn't prove it was needed.

"They were never able to show women would get any benefit out of it," she told the AP in 2007. "It (the U.S. Constitution) is already sex-neutral. Women already have all the rights that men have."

Saint Louis University history professor Donald Critchlow, who profiled Schlafly in his 2005 book, "Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman's Crusade," said the defeat of the amendment helped revive conservatism and helped pave the way for Ronald Reagan's election in 1980.

"What the ERA (defeat) did was show the right, and especially Reagan strategists, that a new constituency could be tapped to revitalize the right. It allowed the right to take over the party," Critchlow told the AP shortly after his book was written.

Schlafly was born Aug. 15, 1924, and grew up in Depression-era St. Louis. Her parents were Republican but not politically involved.

Her own activism was born partly out of convenience. With the country involved in World War II during her college years, Schlafly worked the graveyard shift at the St. Louis Ordnance Plant. Her job included testing ammunition by firing machine guns. She would get off work at 8 a.m., attend morning classes, then sleep in the middle of the day before doing it all over again.

The schedule limited her options for a major. "In order to pick classes to fit my schedule I picked political science," Schlafly recalled in the 2007 interview.

She graduated from Washington University in 1944, when she was 19. Her first taste of real politics came at age 22, when she guided the 1946 campaign of Republican congressional candidate Claude Bakewell, helping him to a major upset win.

In 1952, with her young family living in nearby Alton, Illinois, Schlafly's husband, attorney John Schlafly Jr., was approached about running for Congress. He declined, but she ran and narrowly lost in a predominantly Democratic district. She also ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1970.

Schlafly earned a master's degree in government from Harvard in 1945. She enrolled in Washington University School of Law in 1976, and at age 51, graduated 27th in a class of 204.

Schlafly received an honorary degree at Washington University's commencement in 2008. Though some students and faculty silently protested by getting up from their seats and turning their backs to the stage, Schlafly called it "a happy day. I'm just sorry for those who tried to rain on a happy day."

Citing Schlafly's views about homosexuals, women and immigrants — she was an outspoken opponent of same-sex marriage, abortion rights and loosening U.S. border restrictions — protesters said she went against the most fundamental principles for which the university stood.

Schlafly remained active in conservative politics well into her later years, when she was still writing a column that appeared in 100 newspapers, doing radio commentaries on more than 460 stations and publishing a monthly newsletter.

Schlafly endorsed Trump in early March and introduced the then-GOP front-runner at a St. Louis rally.

"Phyllis Schlafly is a conservative icon who led millions to action, reshaped the conservative movement, and fearlessly battled globalism and the 'kingmakers' on behalf of America's workers and families," Trump said in a statement Monday. "I was honored to spend time with her during this campaign."

Schlafly's husband died in 1993. She is survived by six children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Black Lives Matter partners with charity in sign of growth

MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Black Lives Matter, which two years ago grew out of street protests and a social-media hashtag, has quietly established a legal partnership with a California charity in a sign of the movement's growth and expanding ambition, The Associated Press has learned.

The formal relationship between the national Black Lives Matter network and the San Francisco-based International Development Exchange represents another side of the loosely knit group that many Americans recognize for its sometimes-disruptive demonstrations against police shootings of unarmed black men.

Since November, the nonprofit charity also known as IDEX has been acting as a mostly unseen financial arm of Black Lives Matter, with the ability to receive grants and tax-deductible donations on the group's behalf. More recently, the relationship evolved into a contractual partnership that will run through at least mid-2017.

IDEX is managing the group's financial affairs, allowing Black Lives Matter to focus on its mission, including building local chapters and experimenting with its organizational structure.

"We completely understand the network is in its baby stages, and it's going to take some years" to develop, IDEX Executive Director Rajasvini Bhansali said in an interview.

The goal, leaders say, is to jointly seek social change in struggling communities in the U.S., as well as in Asia, South America and Africa, where the charity has operated for years.

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Bristol speedway hosts Virginia Tech-Tennessee football game

STEVE MEGARGEE, AP Sports Writer

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — The speedway that calls itself the "last great Colosseum" now will be temporarily transformed into the world's largest football stadium.

Tennessee and Virginia Tech meet Saturday night at the Bristol Motor Speedway, located approximately halfway between the two campuses. The showdown dubbed the "Battle at Bristol" is expected to draw over 150,000 fans, which would shatter the current NCAA single-game record of 115,109 at Michigan Stadium when the Wolverines beat Notre Dame in 2013.

"It's something that will live with these individuals for the rest of their lives," Tennessee coach Butch Jones said.

A Tennessee-Virginia Tech matchup at Bristol had been discussed for about 20 years and finally was announced in 2013. Jerry Caldwell, the speedway's general manager, said the facility's unique characteristics made it ideal for this transformation.

"We jokingly say we're a football stadium on steroids," Caldwell said. "When you walk into the place, that's what you see. That's what it feels like. You walk in and you're completely surrounded by stands just like you would be at a football stadium."

Caldwell declined to disclose the costs of temporarily converting the speedway into a football stadium. Tennessee and Virginia Tech are both guaranteed \$4 million because each school sold over 40,000 tickets. According to the game contract, each school also may receive an additional \$300,000 because the grandstand seats sold out.

This will be the speedway's first football game since the Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles played a 1961 exhibition game here that drew 10,000 fans to a facility that seated 20,000. Saturday night's event will have an entirely different atmosphere and feel.

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"I'm curious to see how the field will be and how far the stands and everything will be from the field," Virginia Tech receiver Isaiah Ford said.

The speedway is hosting the football game less than three weeks after a Sprint Cup race.

The morning after the race, 450 truckloads of rock and manufactured sand evened out the speedway's bowl-shaped infield, which had a natural drop of about 3 feet from the edge to the middle. More than 100,000 square feet of AstroTurf were brought in to form the actual field, a process that was completed in about a week. Over 5,000 seats also were added.

Sydney Stahlbaum of AstroTurf noted the company was part of similarly rapid installations before. NRG Stadium, home of the Houston Texans, was converted from a grass surface to turf in four days in September 2015. Three years earlier, the company needed nine days to install turf in StubHub Center in Los Angeles for the 2012 NFLPA Collegiate Bowl.

A drivers' meeting room was reconfigured into a locker room for Tennessee. A tire mounting area now is Virginia Tech's locker room. The coaches' boxes and radio booths are where NASCAR officials generally monitor races. Technology was installed to allow instant replay and communication between coaches.

"It's a bit surreal," Caldwell said. "It's been a lot of fun to take people in who haven't seen it. The common word they use is 'breathtaking' to walk in and see this place completely converted. It feels like a football stadium."

But of course, it's not.

Rather than having video scoreboards at each end zone, Bristol has Colossus — a 700-ton overhead scoreboard with four high-resolution screens that is suspended above the infield. The seats and coaches' boxes are much farther away from the field here than at a typical football stadium. Tennessee assistant athletic director for events management David Elliott said, "We're telling both teams to have a ton of binoculars up in the coaches' booth so they can see better there."

Both teams plan to visit the field for a walkthrough Friday. Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said he doesn't do that for all road games but feels it's essential this week so his players get acclimated to this unique environment and coaches can get a sense of their perspective from the boxes. Jones said the biggest challenge is making sure players focus on football and not the atmosphere.

All this work isn't just for one football game.

A week after Tennessee-Virginia Tech, Football Championship Subdivision programs East Tennessee State and Western Carolina will play here in front of a significantly smaller crowd. ETSU athletic director Richard Sander says it's still "a once-in-a-lifetime situation to play in that venue."

It's certainly a step up for an ETSU program currently playing home games on a high school field while waiting for its new on-campus stadium to be completed.

After that game, Bristol will be converted back into a racetrack. Stahlbaum said the stone base used to even out the infield will be reused around the property, while the field will be rolled up and stored.

In the meantime, speedway officials will look for the next opportunity for this type of event.

"Our hope is that this will lead to other things," Caldwell said. "Motorsports will remain our core business, it's who we are, but we really think this will open us up to new opportunities, other football games, possibly other sports or other entertainment events."

How the American unity forged after Sept. 11 broke apart

JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For a time, it felt like the attack that shattered America had also brought it together.

After Sept. 11, signs of newfound unity seemed to well up everywhere, from the homes where American flags appeared virtually overnight to the Capitol steps where lawmakers pushed aside party lines to sing “God Bless America” together.

That cohesion feels vanishingly distant as the 15th anniversary of the attacks arrives Sunday. Gallup’s 15-year-old poll of Americans’ national pride hit its lowest-ever point this year. In a country that now seems carved up by door-slamming disputes over race, immigration, national security, policing and politics, people impelled by the spirit of common purpose after Sept. 11 rue how much it has slipped away.

Jon Hile figured he could help the ground zero cleanup because he worked in industrial air pollution control. So he traveled from Louisville, Kentucky, to volunteer, and it is not exaggerating to say the experience changed his life. He came home and became a firefighter.

Hile, who now runs a risk management firm, remembers it as a time of communal kindness, when “everybody understood how quickly things could change ... and how quickly you could feel vulnerable.”

A decade and a half later, he sees a nation where economic stress has pushed many people to look out for themselves. Where people stick to their comfort zones.

“I wish that we truly remembered,” he says, “like we said we’d never forget.”

Terrorism barely registered among Americans’ top worries in early September 2001, but amid economic concerns, a Gallup poll around then found only 43 percent of Americans were satisfied with how things were going.

Then, in under two hours on Sept. 11, the nation lost nearly 3,000 people, two of its tallest buildings and its sense of impregnability. But out of the shock, fear and sorrow rose a feeling of regaining some things, too — a shared identity, a heartfelt commitment to the nation indivisible.

Stores ran out of flags. Americans from coast to coast cupped candle flames and prayed at vigils, gave blood and billions of dollars, cheered firefighters and police. Military recruits cited the attacks as they signed up.

Congress scrubbed partisanship to pass a \$40 billion anti-terrorism and victim aid measure three days after the attacks, and approval ratings for lawmakers and the president sped to historic highs. A special postage stamp declared “United We Stand,” and Americans agreed: A Newsweek poll found 79 percent felt 9/11 would make the country stronger and more unified.

“I really saw people stand up for America. ... And I was very proud of that,” recalls Maria Medrano-Nehls, a retired state library agency worker in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her foster daughter and niece, Army National Guard Master Sgt. Linda Tarango-Griess, was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2004.

Now, Medrano-Nehls thinks weariness from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and combative politics have pried Americans apart, and it pains her to think of the military serving a country so torn.

Larry Brook can still picture the crowd at a post-9/11 interfaith vigil at an amphitheater in Pelham, Alabama. The numbers seemed a tangible measure of an urge to come together.

Now? “I don’t think we’re anywhere close,” says Brook, who publishes Southern Jewish Life magazine. To him, political partisanship and clashes over Middle East policy are walling off middle ground.

Three days after 9/11, Joseph Esposito was at smoldering ground zero as Republican President George W. Bush grabbed a bullhorn and vowed the attackers “will hear all of us soon.” The moment became an emblem of American strength and resolve, and Esposito, then the New York Police Depart-

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ment's top uniformed officer, was struck by "the camaraderie, the unity" of those days.

He remembers the support police enjoyed then, and how much the tone had changed by the time of the Occupy Wall Street protests in 2011, when police arrested hundreds of demonstrators, many of whom said cops unjustly rounded and roughed them up. Now the city's emergency management commissioner, Esposito has watched from the sidelines as a national protest movement has erupted in recent years from police killings of unarmed black men, and as police themselves have been killed by gunmen claiming vengeance.

These days, Esposito hopes his job can be unifying. He wants people to feel that the city helps neighborhoods equally to handle disaster. "The 1 percenters should not be better prepared than the 99 percent," he says.

"If everyone feels they're getting their fair share," he adds, "it fosters better feelings toward one another."

For all the signs of kinship after Sept. 11, the first retribution attack came just four days later, authorities said.

Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot dead while placing flowers on a memorial at his Mesa, Arizona, gas station. Prosecutors said the gunman mistook Sodhi, an Indian Sikh immigrant, for an Arab Muslim.

Seeing hundreds of people gather in solidarity on the night of his brother's death showed me "the greatness of unity," says Rana Singh Sodhi, of Gilbert, Arizona. But in the last two years, he's felt a "change toward hatred again." He worries politicians are stirring animosity toward immigrants and minorities.

So does Imam Abdur-Rahim Ali.

After 9/11, he invited first responders for tea and coffee at the Northeast Denver Islamic Center to show appreciation and emphasize that Muslims "are regular Americans." Now, Ali, who is African-American, believes Muslims and people of color are being demonized with "incendiary and divisive" remarks.

"We can't act like racism hasn't been a part of all this," he says.

Can the United States feel united again?

Some Americans fear it will take another catastrophe, if even that can shift the climate. Others are looking to political leaders to set a more collaborative tone, or to Americans themselves to make an effort to understand and respect one another.

When Sonia Shah thinks about the push and pull of American unity since the attacks that killed her father, Jayesh, at the World Trade Center, she pictures a rock hitting a pond.

The innermost ripple, that's the tight circle of support that came together around the people most directly affected by tragedy. Outside it, bigger and more diffuse, are bands of debate over policies and politics in the wake of 9/11.

"We usually see the outer rings of the arguments," says the Baylor University senior. "But I think there always is a current of unity that goes underneath things."

Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists P. Solomon Banda in Denver; Nati Harnik in Lincoln, Nebraska; Mike Householder in Farmington Hills, Michigan; Dylan Lovan in Louisville, Kentucky; David R. Martin in New York; Jay Reeves in Pelham, Alabama; and Brian Skoloff in Gilbert, Arizona.

1,000 in Myanmar protest Annan examining religious conflict

ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

SITTWE, Myanmar (AP) — More than 1,000 Buddhists in a Myanmar state wracked by religious and ethnic strife protested Tuesday's arrival of former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, saying the Ghanaian is meddling in the country's affairs by leading a government-appointed commission to find solutions to the conflict.

The Southeast Asian country set up the commission last month to help find solutions to "protracted issues" in western Rakhine state, where human rights groups have documented widespread abuses by majority Rakhine Buddhists against minority Rohingya Muslims.

The state's dominant Arakan National Party and the Rakhine Women Network led the protest about 300 meters (yards) from the airport in Sittwe, the Rakhine capital, where Annan and other members of the Rakhine Advisory Commission arrived Tuesday morning. As Annan's car passed, the crowd shouted, "Dismiss the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine Advisory Commission now."

"We came here because we don't want that foreigner coming to our state," said May Phyu, a local Rakhine Buddhist resident. "I don't know exactly what this group is and what they are doing, but I came here to protest as I don't like them to come here.

"I cannot accept them talking about the Rakhine and kalar case in our state," said protester Soe Thein. "Kalar" is a derogatory word used in Myanmar to refer to Muslims.

Many Buddhists in Rakhine and across Myanmar consider Rohingya to be Bangladeshis living in the country illegally, though the ethnic group has been in Myanmar for generations. Hundreds of Rohingya were killed and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes in 2012 unrest in Rakhine state, and many continue to be confined to squalid camps there.

"We are here to help provide ideas and advice," Annan said at the Rakhine state government office, where he met government and police officials, community leaders and members of nongovernmental organizations.

"To build the future, the two major communities have to move beyond decades of mistrust and find ways to embrace, share values of justice, fairness and equity," he said. "Ultimately, the people of Rakhine state must charge their own way forward."

Before Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government created the commission, her international reputation as a Nobel Peace Prize-winning democracy icon had been diminished by what some have viewed as her inaction on the Rohingya issue. Her government still does not even use the word "Rohingya."

"You will see for yourself all the problems on the ground now," Suu Kyi, officially Myanmar state counselor and foreign minister, told Annan and other commission members at a news conference Monday. "You will be able to assess for yourself the roots of the problems itself, not in one day, not in one week. But I am confident that you will get there, that you will find the answers because you are truly intent on looking for them."

The commission is to address human rights, ensuring humanitarian assistance, rights and reconciliation, establishing basic infrastructure and promoting long-term development plans.

During their six-day Rakhine trip, the commission will visit the Rohingya camps and meet members of political and religious groups. But the Arakan National Party said it will not meet or work with the commission.

"Rakhine state is in Myanmar and our country has its own sovereignty and there is no way we can accept a commission that is formed by foreigners," ANP official Aung Than Wai said Tuesday.

DIVIDED AMERICA: In recovery, many poor schools left behind

SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

LARRY FENN, Associated Press

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP) — Consider Waukegan and Stevenson, two Illinois school districts separated by 20 miles — and an enormous financial gulf.

Stevenson, mostly white, is flush with resources. The high school has five different spaces for theater performances, two gyms, an Olympic-size pool and an espresso bar.

Meanwhile Waukegan, with its mostly minority student body, is struggling. At one school, the band is forced to practice in a hallway, and as many as 28 students share a single computer.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This is part of Divided America, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

Last year, Stevenson spent close to \$18,800 per student. Waukegan's expenditure? About \$12,600.

And the gap has only been getting wider — here in the suburbs north of Chicago, and in many places across the nation. In the years following the 2008 financial crisis, school districts serving poor communities generally have been hit harder than more affluent districts, according to an Associated Press analysis of local, state and federal education spending.

The result has been a worsening of America's rich schools, poor schools divide — and its racial divide, because many poor districts are also heavily minority. It also perpetuates the perception that the system is rigged in favor of the haves, at the expense of the have-nots — a major driver of America's angst in this election year.

The AP found that aid to local districts from the federal government surged after the economic downturn, as part of the stimulus, but then receded. Schools were left to rely more on state funding that has not bounced back to pre-recession levels. And poorer districts that cannot draw on healthy property tax bases have been left in the lurch.

The effects vary widely across the 50 states. Each has its own unique funding formula.

For example, per-pupil spending in poorer Missouri districts fell behind richer districts in 2013 — the first time in a well over decade.

Most rich districts have seen a steady increase in revenue while poorer districts — such as Louisiana RII, a predominantly white district 80 miles northwest of St. Louis — have seen cuts since 2010. That rural district has started waiting longer to replace textbooks, and it will likely abandon initiatives to distribute new computers and to bring wireless internet into classrooms. Todd Smith, the superintendent, said the district will likely seek a tax increase or a bond sale because there isn't enough money for basic maintenance.

"We find ourselves more and more dipping into our reserves," Smith said.

In Connecticut's largest city, Bridgeport, schools have struggled with cuts in state and federal grants, Superintendent Frances Rabinowitz said. And the gap widens between her district and neighboring, affluent Fairfield County towns with smaller class sizes and students with far fewer needs.

The result? No aides for kindergarten classrooms, or guidance counselors for elementary schools.

"I feel like I am cutting the lifeblood of the system," said Rabinowitz, whose schools are more than 80 percent black or Hispanic.

The impact can be long-lasting, researchers say. A study for the nonprofit and non-partisan National Bureau of Economic Research tracked students enrolled in districts where there was a prolonged increase in school funding.

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Students educated in flush times finished more years of school, were less likely to live in poverty as adults, and made about 7.25 percent more in wages.

The widening funding gap that favors richer schools in Illinois is an extreme example.

For schools in the poorest 25 percent of Illinois districts, as measured by child poverty rates, per-pupil funding stalled at around \$13,500 in 2014, the most recent year for which full data are available. Meanwhile, per-pupil funding climbed to over \$15,000 in the wealthiest 25 percent.

Alejandra Ocampo, last year's senior class president at Waukegan High School, said the disparities are plain to see.

When her athletic teams would travel to other schools for competitions, the affluence was clear from the minute they pulled up, Ocampo says. And sometimes when those opposing teams would show up to Waukegan, they would hear the chatter: "This is it?" or "Why is their locker room like a dungeon?"

Over the past five years, Waukegan District 60 lost \$43 million in state aid because Illinois cut education funding, according to Gwendolyn Polk, associate superintendent of business and financial services. The district did its best to keep the cuts from affecting the classroom, which meant putting off regular maintenance and cobbling together funds to deal with emergencies.

Stevenson District 125, in contrast, educates students in an area northwest of Chicago that's home to upper-class professionals and corporate headquarters, the kind of districts parents move into in hopes of giving their children a leg up. Stevenson has felt minimal impact from state budget cuts, spokesman Jim Conrey said.

Ocampo plans to study education and Spanish in college this fall. She's proud of where she comes from, but she says some more money would be helpful in ways that go beyond better facilities or more teachers.

"I feel like funding is more of a motivational gift than an actual physical gift," she said. "It's how it makes you feel about yourself."

There she is: Out of the closet, and ready for Miss America

WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — After competing in pageants for generations in the closet or working behind the scenes, gays and lesbians finally get to see one of their own take one of pageantry's biggest stages.

Miss Missouri, Erin O' Flaherty, will compete for the Miss America crown this weekend as the first openly lesbian contestant.

"Behind the scenes, we've been well-represented, but I'm the first openly gay title holder, so I'm very excited," she told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "I knew going in that I had the opportunity to make history. Now I get to be more visible to the community and meet more people."

Rich Helfant, executive director of the Greater Atlantic City GLBT Alliance, helps run the Miss'd America pageant, a drag spoof of the Miss America pageant that has become popular in Atlantic City as an entertainment and fundraising event. He said he'll watch the Miss America pageant finals Sept. 11 with extra interest this year.

Miss'd America took its name from the fact that many gay pageant workers toiled behind the scenes during Miss America and never got to see what was happening onstage.

"They literally missed Miss America," Helfant said.

Robert Hitchen of Philadelphia appears regularly in the Miss'd America pageant under the stage name Sandy Beach and recalled decades of behind-the-scenes work on pageants, including designing floats, and later riding on them in Miss America parades.

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The "Show Us Your Shoes" parade that has become a fixture of Miss America, in which contestants ride in vehicles on the Boardwalk and show off their state-themed footwear, sprang from the interest of gay spectators, he said.

"We would watch the parade from the deck of a hotel and we'd look down into the cars and see some of the women wearing slippers or being barefoot, and we started calling out, 'Show us your shoes!'" he recalled. "We sort of embarrassed them into wearing these big elaborate shoes, which are the highlight of the parade now."

Antwan Lee, who won the Miss Gay America 2016 pageant under the stage name Asia O'Hara, would excitedly watch Miss America every year as a child and a young man, imagining what it would be like onstage.

"I would always gravitate toward celebrities and singers and actresses that had a high level of glam: beautiful, poised people who would live their life with a high degree of dignity," he said. "To see that on TV with 50 women, as a young gay boy, that's the first place you see such a concentration of that. I was like, 'Wow, look at all those beautiful women, all the class, all the glamor!' It's very alluring."

Lesbians have been more visible in pageants lately. Djuan Trent competed in the Miss America pageant as Miss Kentucky in 2011, when she finished in the top 10. She came out as a lesbian in 2014.

Patricia Yurena, two-time winner of the Miss Spain contest and a runner up in the 2013 Miss Universe competition, announced in 2014 that she is a lesbian, posting a photo of her and her girlfriend cuddling, titling it "Romeo and Juliet."

In 2012, two openly lesbian contestants, Jenelle Hutcherson and Mollie Thomas, competed in the Miss California USA pageant but did not advance to the national Miss USA pageant competition.

O'Flaherty is the first Miss America contestant to win a state title after coming out; Trent came out after competing.

Hitchen said the social activism of many Miss America contestants resonates with the gay community; the Miss'd America drag queen parody pageant raises \$300,000 a year for local and national charities and has become the top social event of the year in Atlantic City's gay community.

Josh Randle, chief operating officer of the Miss America Organization, said the pageant reflects an evolving America.

"Through every major milestone of our nation's evolution, Miss America has provided a voice for women from all walks of life, and, this year, we welcome our first openly gay contestant," he said. "Miss America contestants continue to be the best and brightest in the country, and we proudly support each and every young woman who competes in our national program."

Hurricane Newton takes aim at Mexico's Los Cabos resorts

IGNACIO MARTINEZ, Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico (AP) — Authorities in the southern portion of Mexico's Baja California peninsula ordered schools closed and set up emergency shelters as Hurricane Newton gained strength while bearing down on the twin resorts of Los Cabos for a predicted arrival Tuesday morning.

Boat owners pulled fishing craft in from the water and business owners nailed boards and sheets of plywood over windows in Cabo San Lucas, the resort that was hammered by Category 3 Hurricane Odile in 2014. Officials warned that Newton might cause torrential rainfalls.

About 14,000 tourists remained in Los Cabos as of Monday night as airlines cancelled flights out as the storm approached, said Genaro Ruiz, the state tourism secretary. Ruiz said tourists had been advised to remain in their hotels.

"The most important thing is to stay at home," said Carlos Godinez, a civil defense official for Baja

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California Sur state. "If there is nothing that requires you to be outside, take shelter with your family."

Newton's maximum sustained winds increased to 90 mph (150 kph) by Monday night, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The Category 1 storm was centered about 125 miles (200 kilometers) south-southeast of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo and was moving northwest at 16 mph (26 kph) on a forecast path that would bring it near or over the area Tuesday morning.

Officials began evacuating residents from low-lying areas and opened 18 shelters at schools in the two resorts and 38 more in other parts of the state, while warning people against panic buying.

"There is no need for mass buying," Los Cabos Mayor Arturo de la Rosa Escalante said. "There is enough food and fuel for the next 20 days."

Los Cabos police were stationed at shopping malls to guard against the kind of looting that occurred after Hurricane Odile.

Foreign tourists were still strolling around in Cabo San Lucas on Monday as workers began boarding over windows of businesses. Some boat owners took their small fishing boats out of the water.

Earlier Monday, as a tropical storm, Newton dumped torrential rains that prompted some 100 people to evacuate their homes and damaged residences in Uruapan in the Pacific coast state of Michoacan, the city government reported. Some roads were blocked by flooding and mudslides in the neighboring state of Guerrero, where some people were evacuated by helicopter. No deaths were reported in either state.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Cabo San Lucas and the nearby coastline. Coastal portions of five Mexican states could see 5 to 10 inches of rain, with isolated maximums of 15 inches, the hurricane center said.

Newton was expected to move up the peninsula and enter the Gulf of California by Tuesday night. The hurricane center said the storm was likely to continue north and cross into southern Arizona as a tropical depression Wednesday night.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 6, the 250th day of 2016. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 6, 1916, the first self-serve grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, was opened in Memphis, Tennessee, by Clarence Saunders. (The store was set up to allow customers to hand-pick their groceries from shelves, rather than request them from a clerk standing behind a counter.)

On this date:

In 1861, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant occupied Paducah, Kentucky, during the Civil War.

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on October 29.)

In 1925, the silent film horror classic "The Phantom of the Opera," starring Lon Chaney, had its world premiere at the Astor Theater in New York.

In 1939, the Union of South Africa declared war on Germany.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1954, groundbreaking took place for the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in western Pennsylv-

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nia.

In 1966, birth control advocate Margaret Sanger died in Tucson, Arizona, at age 86, eight days before her birthday. South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd (fehr-FOORT') was stabbed to death by an apparently deranged page during a parliamentary session in Cape Town.

In 1970, Palestinian guerrillas seized control of three U.S.-bound jetliners. (Two were later blown up on the ground in Jordan, along with a London-bound plane hijacked on Sept. 9; the fourth plane was destroyed on the ground in Egypt. No hostages were harmed.)

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1985, all 31 people aboard a Midwest Express Airlines DC-9 were killed when the Atlanta-bound jetliner crashed just after takeoff from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field.

In 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Russian lawmakers upheld a decision by residents of Leningrad to restore the city's pre-revolutionary name, St. Petersburg.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies. Japan's Princess Kiko gave birth to a boy (later named Hisahito), providing the centuries-old Chrysanthemum Throne with its first male heir in more than 40 years. Anibal Sanchez threw a no-hitter in his 13th career start as the Florida Marlins beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 2-0.

Five years ago: A man with a rifle opened fire in an IHOP restaurant in Carson City, Nevada, killing three of five uniformed National Guard members and a woman having breakfast with her husband; gunman Eduardo Sencion also shot himself and died in the parking lot. Convoys of Moammar Gadhafi loyalists, including his security chief, fled Libya, crossing the Sahara into Niger.

One year ago: Guatemala held its general election; with no presidential candidate winning more than 50 percent of the vote, there was a runoff the following October between Jimmy Morales (who won) and Sandra Torres.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 81. Country singer David Allan Coe is 77. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 73. Actress Swoosie Kurtz is 72. Comedian-actress Jane Curtin is 69. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 64. Actor James Martin Kelly is 62. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 59. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 58. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 58. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 56. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 55. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 55. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 55. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 54. Rock musician Kevin Miller is 54. ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas is 54. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 53. Actress Betsy Russell is 53. Actress Rosie Perez is 52. Rhythm and blues singer Macy Gray is 49. Singer CeCe Peniston is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 47. Actress Daniele Gaither is 46. Rock singer Dolores O'Riordan (The Cranberries) is 45. Actor Dylan Bruno is 44. Actor Idris Elba is 44. Actress Justina Machado is 44. Actress Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 44. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 42. Actor Justin Whalin is 42. Actress Naomie Harris is 40. Rapper Noreaga is 39. Actress Natalia Cigliuti is 38. Rapper Foxy Brown is 38. Actor Howard Charles (TV: "The Musketeers") is 33. Actress Lauren Lapkus is 31. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 28.

Thought for Today: "I never make a trip to the United States without visiting a supermarket. To me they are more fascinating than any fashion salon." — Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor (1896-1986).