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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

Girls Soccer

West Central 2, Groton Area 1

Goal-Harliegh Stange
Devan Howard 10 saves
Harliegh 4 shots on goal
Emily Locke 2 shots on goal
Kaylin Kucker 1 shot on goal

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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Saturday, Sept. 10

Sewing Machine Day

Swap Ideas Day

Birthdays: • Debbie Tollifson • Tami Herron • Robin Loeschke • Hannah Gustafson

9:30am: Cross Country at Milbank Golf Course

9:30 am: Groton Black 3rd-4th FB at Britton

9:30 am: Groton Gold 3rd-4th FB at Milbank Black

Groton 5th-6th FB at Whetsone Valley Tourney

10:00am: Boys Golf Meet at Olive Grove in Groton (Aberdeen Central, Roncalli, Milbank, Moberidge-Pollock, Redfield-Doland, Sisseton)

1:00pm: Soccer hosts SF Christian (Girls at 1 p.m., boys at 3 pm)

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

11

911 Remembrance

Grandparent's Day

Make Your Bed Day

National Pet Memorial Day

No News is Good News Day

10 am: Sunflower Couples Golf Tourney

Birthdays: Audrey Jacobson • Derrick Dobberpuhl

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship / Rally

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

9:30am: Presbyterian Bible Study

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Bible Study and School

10:15am: Emmanuel Sunday School

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Groton Area shuts out Redfield/Doland



Peyton Johnson sets the ball for a kickoff. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area's football team is now 3-0 on the season after posting a 40-0 win over the Redfield/Doland Pheasants. The game was played in Doland Friday night as part of Doland's homecoming week.

Seric Shabazz scored two touchdowns in the first quarter on runs of one and six yards. Peyton Johnson kicked one PAT and the two-point run attempt failed as Groton Area took a 13-0 lead after the first quarter.

Bennett Shabazz scored twice in the second quarter on runs of 58 yards and six yards. One two-point PAT failed and the second was good on a Bennett Shabazz run as Groton Area took a 27-0 lead at half time.

Bennett Shabazz opened the second half with a 90 yard kickoff return. The two-point conversion failed and Groton held a 33-0 lead after three quarters.

Groton Area would score once in the fourth quarter when Jonathon Doeden had a fumble recovery in the endzone. Peyton Johnson kicked the PAT and the final score was 40-0.

Groton Area had 14 first downs with six of them coming on a single drive in the first quarter. Redfield-Doland had eight first downs.

The Tigers had 32 carries for 170 yards. Bennett Shabazz was 13 for 102 yards, Seric Shabazz had 11 carries for 34 yards, Lucas Hinman had five for 25 yards, Brandon Keith had one for eight yards and Trevor Pray had two carries for one yard. The Pheasants had 35 carries for 74 yards. Cooper Baloon had 17 carries for 46 yards.

Bennett Shabazz completed five of nine passes for 102 yards with Trevor Pray having two catches for 37 yards, Brandon Keith having one for 14 yards, Jackson Oliver had one catch for 42 yards and Seric Shabazz had one catch for nine yards. Redfield/Doland's Alan Masat completed eight of 22 passes for 45 yards with one interception (that by Trevor Pray when he dove for the catch). Kevin Krumm caught three passes for 25 yards.

Groton had fumbles and recovered them both. Redfield-Doland one two fumbles and lost one (Doeden recovered one fumble in the endzone for a touchdown).

Groton Area had six penalties for 50 yards while Redfield-Doland had two for 16 yards.

Leading tacklers for Groton Area were Brandon Keith with 11 while Luke Thorson and Patrick Gengerke each had nine.

Groton Area, now 3-0, will host Milbank Area on Friday in a key Northeast Conference matchup in Groton. The Bulldogs defeated Aberdeen Roncalli Friday night, 19-0. Redfield/Doland, now 1-2, will host Parkston on Friday.

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Shane Simon brings down Redfield/Doland's Alan Masat. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

This GDILIVE.COM Football Livestream is sponsored by

Groton Dairy Queen ~ Simon Insurance and Auction Service
Harry Implement of Ferney ~ Olson Backhoe & Trenching of Groton
James Valley Telecommunications ~ Groton Ford
James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson of Groton
Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls of Groton
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc. of Groton ~ Subway of Groton
Leading Edge Industries with Shawn Gengerke
Bahr Spray Foam of Groton ~ Dakota Tree Company
Doug Abeln Seed Company of Groton ~ McKiver Collision of Groton
Blocker Construction ~ Pro Ag Supply of Aberdeen
Ken's Food Fair of Groton ~ Harr Motors of Aberdeen
Make sure you say "Thank You" to these great sponsors!



Dacotah Prairie Museum's

Living History Fall Festival

Saturday, September 24, 2016

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Granary Rural Cultural Center

40161 128th St., Groton, SD

See The Past Come Alive!

THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS & TASTES OF HISTORY...

Live Music • Dacotah Territory Muzzleloaders • Spelling Bee for Kids at 1 p.m.
Prairie Fiber Arts Guild • Native American Culture • Prairie Flora & Fauna • Apple Press
Fort Sisseton History • Pioneer Home Life • One Room School • Museum Gift Shop
Old Fashioned Entertainment • Pie Social 1 - 4 p.m. • Kid's Activities & Much More!

Concessions by: **THE BRASS KETTLE**

**COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER
COSTUME—GET A PRIZE!**

FREE ADMISSION

Find the Granary:

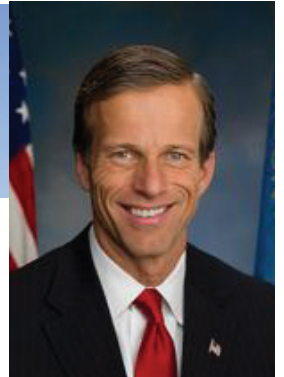
5 Mi. North of US Hwy 12—Between Aberdeen & Groton.
Near Tacoma Park. Printable driving directions online.

Sponsored by Dacotah Prairie Museum

www.dacotahpraiiemuseum.com
Granary Website: granaryfinearts.org



John Thune U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Still Looking for “Affordable” in the Affordable Care Act

While President Obama is just a few short months away from leaving office, there are a few items he won't be able to leave behind – like the legacy of his health care law. The president's Democratic allies in Washington would still like to view this bill as President Obama's top legislative achievement, but the truth is, this law has become a disaster. Thanks to Obamacare, South Dakotans have been saddled with higher premiums and fewer choices, and they're still struggling to understand what happened to the president's bold promise that Obamacare would be the cure-all for what ailed our nation's health care system.

South Dakotans have been feeling the Obamacare pain since the law was first implemented, and for many, 2017 offers no reprieve. Let's say for example that an Obamacare silver plan for a non-smoking, 40-year-old male in South Dakota cost \$4,000 in 2016. If that same person signs up for that same plan in 2017, he would have to pony up an additional \$1,400 next year alone. And that's just for his premiums. He may also be facing thousands of dollars in deductibles on top of that. I don't know many South Dakotans who can afford a 36 percent increase in health care premiums for themselves, let alone a large increase for their entire family. The cost of health care has gotten so bad that I've heard from multiple South Dakotans whose health care payments were more than their mortgage payments.

The increasingly high cost of care under Obamacare has become the law's hallmark, but unfortunately the law's problems don't end there. Countless Americans this year are once again discovering the hollowness of the president's “If you like your plan, you can keep it” promise. Health insurance companies are dropping out of the exchanges in droves, which means countless consumers around the country are facing the loss of their health plan. And they may have very few options for replacing it.

Remember when the president promised that choosing a health insurance plan would be like buying a TV on Amazon? Well, for many people nowadays, going on healthcare.gov is like choosing a TV on Amazon – if Amazon only offered one or two TVs. According to a report released in August, one-third of the country – one-third – may have just one insurer to pick from on the exchanges for next year.

Republicans, myself included, sounded the alarm for our Democrat colleagues in 2009 and 2010 about

what we saw as the future of Obamacare. But this isn't a matter of “I told you so” – far from it. This is a matter of acknowledging the reality of where we are, so that we can move forward. If we're going to move toward a future with the high-quality, affordable health care that South Dakotans deserve, we're going to have to start over, and Republicans are ready to go, with a lot of ideas to bring to the table. My hope is that Democrats and the next president will join us.

2016 Groton Area Elementary

Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

September 19 and 22

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 6. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the arena.

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Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains were helpful in reducing the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most serious damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1919 - A hurricane struck the Florida Keys drowning more than 500 persons. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys, with winds gusting to 180 mph and a thirteen foot storm surge. The hurricane then moved north along the eastern coast of Florida and inundated Naples before moving out to sea. Hurricane Donna claimed fifty lives, injured 1800 others, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. The Marathon/Tavernier area was almost completely destroyed, and in the Citrus Belt, most of the avacado crop was blown from the trees. Hurricane Donna wreaked havoc from Florida to Maine, with wind gusts to 100 mph along much of the coast. Hurricane Donna produced wind gusts to 121 mph at Charleston SC on the 11th, and wind gusts to 138 mph at Blue Hill Observatory MA on the 12th. The hurricane finally died over Maine two days later, producing more than five inches of rain over the state. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Caribbean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused serious river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.


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This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 74 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 61 °F





Sunny – Mild - Dry






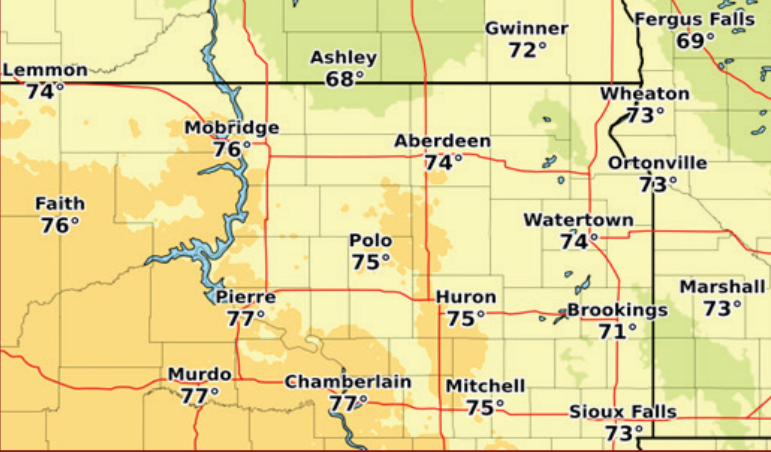
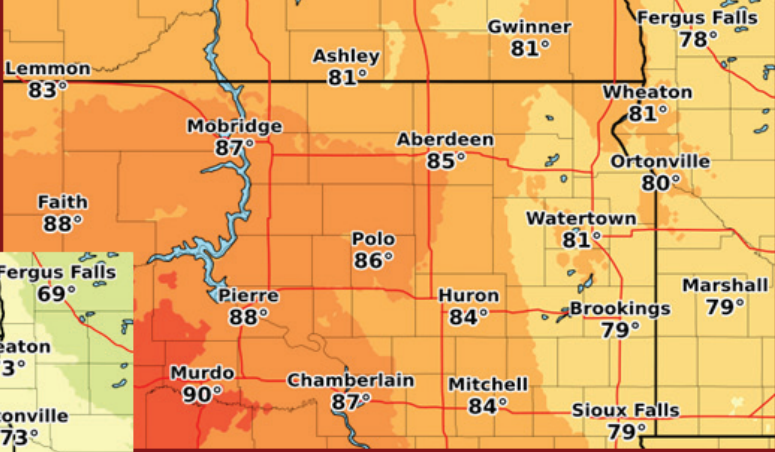
Today








Sunday



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 9/10/2016 4:05 AM Central

Published on: 09/10/2016 at 4:07AM

Dry conditions with a gradual warm up through the weekend before cooler temperatures return for the start of next week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 68.0 F at 5:27 PM

Low Outside Temp: 52.1 F at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 3:46 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1931

Record Low: 27° in 1898

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75

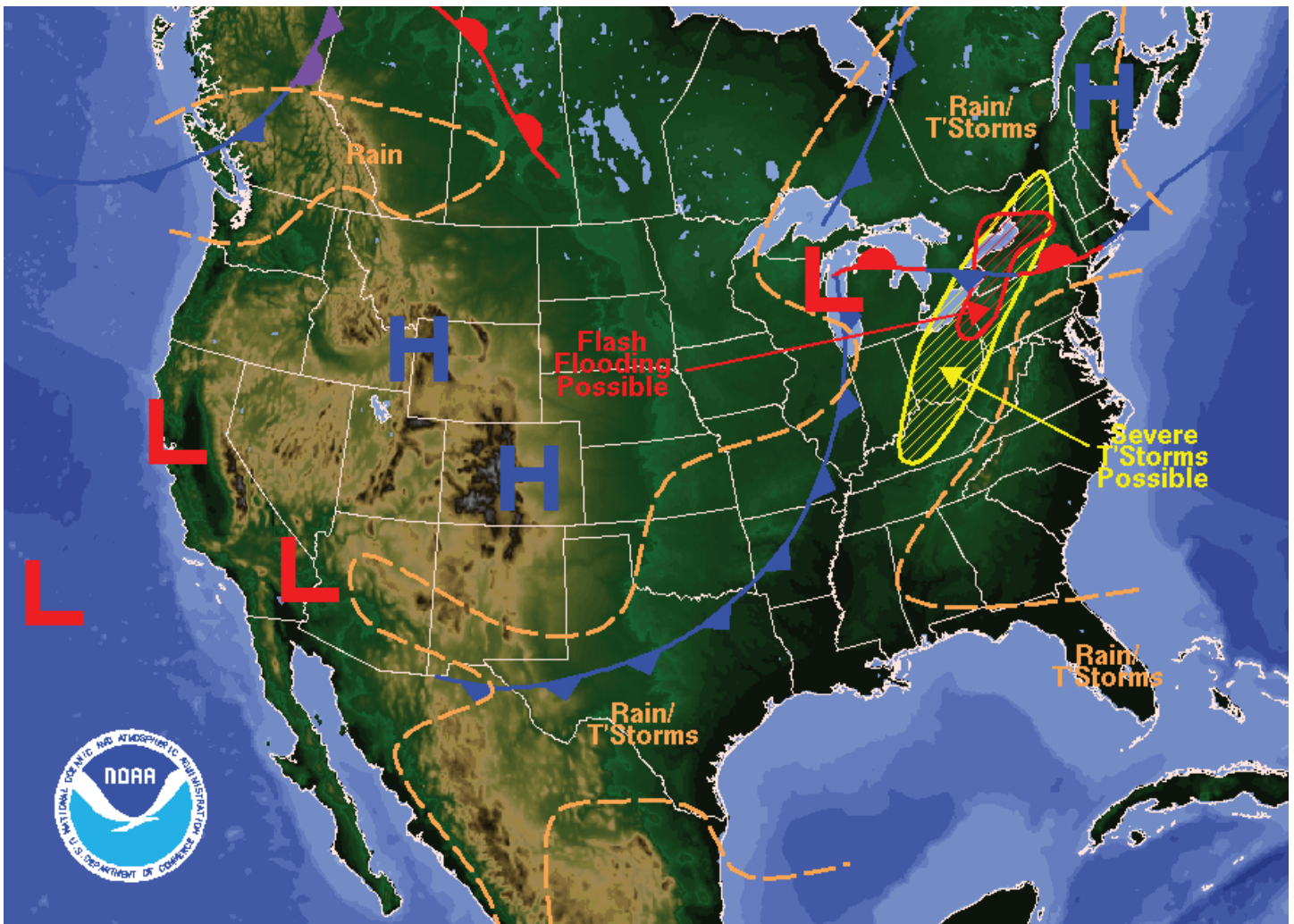
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 17.04

Precip Year to Date: 12.85

Sunset Tonight: 7:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Sep 10, 2016, issued 6:00 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



FAILING IS NOT FATAL

For years Thomas Edison tried to perfect a long lasting storage battery. During this time he conducted thousands of experiments that were unsuccessful. One day one of his employees came to him and said, "Isn't it a shame that you have wasted all of this time? All of the tremendous labor and time that you have spent on this project has not achieved any results that will work."

"I've got plenty of results," said Edison. "You see, I've discovered several thousand that won't work!"

To his credit, Edison was able to look at what he was doing as a way of learning and solving problems. When he failed he did not look at it as final. He looked at it as a stepping stone to something else. How fortunate is that person who can see beyond the moment of defeat to the joy of victory!

Often we fail to see God at work in what we are doing. We look for the approval of others believing that our rewards come from them. Scripture reminds us, however, to define success in terms of being faithful to God and what He has called us to do. God rewards us for being faithful to Him, for doing what He calls us to do even when we fail in the eyes of the world.

Struggling through difficult days and trying times proves that our trust is in God and that we look to Him for our rewards. "Fear not, I will strengthen and help you."

Prayer: It's natural, Lord, to want the approval of those around us. Often we think that they are the final authority. Remind us, however, that we labor for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a curved orange line underneath.

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

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News from the  Associated Press

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Baltic 28, Chester 25
Bridgewater-Emery 50, Flandreau 0
Britton-Hecla 14, Clark/Willow Lake 8
Canistota 32, Howard 8
Canton 43, Lennox 0
Castlewood/Estelline 54, Tiospa Zina Tribal 0
Chamberlain 51, Little Wound 0
Colman-Egan 44, Elkton-Lake Benton 14
Corsica/Stickney 52, Burke/South Central 0
Custer 34, Red Cloud 20
Dell Rapids 35, Tri-Valley 6
Dell Rapids St. Mary 28, DeSmet 26
Edgemont 6, Dupree 2
Faith 44, Newell 0
Faulkton 34, Leola/Frederick 8
Garretson 38, Alcester-Hudson 6
Gayville-Volin 26, Avon 6
Great Plains Lutheran 14, Florence/Henry 6
Gregory 32, Bon Homme 7
Groton Area 40, Redfield/Doland 0
Hamlin 61, Dakota Hills 6
Hanson 44, Platte-Geddes 32
Harding County 52, New Underwood 0
Hill City 48, Bison 38
Huron 51, Sturgis 14
Irene-Wakonda 16, Parker 14
Langford 62, Hitchcock-Tulare 8
Lemmon/McIntosh 43, Timber Lake 6
Madison 32, West Central 0
McCook Central/Montrose 21, Elk Point-Jefferson 18
McLaughlin 42, Lower Brule 14
Milbank Area 19, Aberdeen Roncalli 0
Miller 41, Eureka/Bowdle 12
Mitchell 17, Watertown 7
Mobridge-Pollock 48, Belle Fourche 21
Parkston 36, Vermillion 14
Pine Ridge 14, St. Francis Indian 6, 6OT
Rapid City Central 40, Spearfish 0
Rapid City Stevens 16, Aberdeen Central 14

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Scotland 52, Andes Central 0
Sioux Falls Christian 40, Beresford 7
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, Sioux Falls Lincoln 7
Sioux Falls Washington 41, Yankton 7
St. Thomas More 28, Hot Springs 0
Stanley County 33, Lyman 0
Sully Buttes 26, Herreid/Selby Area 14
Tea Area 28, Dakota Valley 14
Todd County 51, Crow Creek 0
Viborg-Hurley 50, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 12
Wall 54, Rapid City Christian 20
Warner 54, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 0
Webster 61, Waverly-South Shore 14
Winner 54, Wagner 0
Wolsey-Wessington 54, Arlington/Lake Preston 0
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 38, Deubrook 17

Governor proclaims Suicide Prevention Week in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A week Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed for suicide prevention is coming to a close.

Suicide Prevention Week in South Dakota is set to end on Sunday.

The Department of Social Services' Prevention Program has trainings available for teachers, parents, employers and others.

Program manager Gib Sudbeck says suicide is a preventable cause of premature death that must be addressed through education and engaging with the public.

The Latest: Pipeline developer declines comment on work halt

NEAR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the legal challenge and protest of the four-state Dakota Access oil pipeline (all times local):

6 p.m.

The company building the Dakota Access pipeline is declining to comment after the U.S. government ordered work to stop on a segment that has sparked protests in North Dakota.

Energy Transfer Partners spokeswoman Vicki Granado said in an email to The Associated Press that the company did not have a statement on Friday's developments.

A federal judge denied a request by the Standing Rock Sioux for a temporary injunction against the pipeline. But federal agencies almost immediately said they wouldn't allow work on Army Corps of Engineers land bordering Lake Oahe until they decide whether they need to re-examine earlier decisions on the site.

4:55 p.m.

A manufacturer's group says the Obama administration is putting politics above jobs by postponing construction of the Dakota Access pipeline on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' land bordering or under Lake Oahe in North Dakota.

National Association of Manufacturers CEO Jay Timmons says the administration's move puts people out of work and could threaten further infrastructure projects.

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Timmons says he wants discussions of the pipeline project to be "peaceful, respectful and productive," but adds that it's time for the administration to "put its political agenda aside."

A U.S. Department of Justice official did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

4:45 p.m.

The president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council says he is disappointed with the federal government's decision to intervene in the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline.

Ron Ness says the recommendation from three federal agencies to postpone part of the project is "flagrant overreach" by the government and the Obama Administration and will result in more trucks and rail cars moving oil.

Ness says Friday's ruling by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg to reject a request for a temporary injunction shows that the \$3.8 billion pipeline is a legal project that has "met and exceeded" the requirements of four states and the federal government.

He says the infrastructure is vital to the nation's energy future.

4:40 p.m.

Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II has told protesters gathered at the North Dakota Capitol grounds that a public policy win regarding the Dakota Access pipeline is a lot stronger than a judicial win.

Archambault referred Friday to the government ordering work to stop on one segment in North Dakota and asking Energy Transfer Partners to "voluntarily pause" work on a wider 40-mile swath that tribal officials say holds sacred artifacts.

The three-agency statement came not long after a federal judge denied the tribe's request for a temporary injunction in a lawsuit.

Hundreds of protesters braved a torrential downpour to listen to speakers standing on benches and talking with bullhorns.

Before speaking to the crowd, Archambault told reporters that the pipeline fight is a long way from over, but called the federal announcement "a beautiful start."

3:45 p.m.

A federal judge's refusal to block the Dakota Access pipeline was received quietly at the construction site where the Standing Rock Sioux and their allies have spent weeks protesting.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg's order was announced Friday over a loudspeaker set up at the camp near the Standing Rock Sioux's reservation on North Dakota's southern border.

Afterward, protesters who did not make the trek to Bismarck for a rally at the state Capitol said it was what they expected.

John Nelson of Portland, Oregon, came to the camp to support his grandson, Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault. The 82-year-old says he wasn't surprised by the ruling, "but it still hurts."

John Spence of Fort Belknap, Montana, says he is pleased that the federal government has requested the pipeline company put a voluntary pause on a 40-mile stretch of land that tribal officials say holds sacred sites and artifacts.

Spence vowed that the protest will continue.

3:40 p.m.

Dakota Access pipeline protesters were happy to learn that federal authorities recommended construction on a 40-mile span in North Dakota be halted, despite a federal judge denying the Standing

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Rock Sioux's broader request.

Several hundred people gathered on the state Capitol lawn Friday, braving a torrential downpour to sing, play drums and burn sage grass.

They pumped their fists in the air and chanted, "I believe that we will win" and carried signs that read "Respect Our Water" and "Water Is Sacred."

About 50 Highway Patrol officers lined up about 100 yards away from the protesters.

A federal judge denied the tribe's request Friday to temporarily stop construction on the four-state \$3.8 billion oil pipeline.

Seventy-five-year-old Darlene Pipeboy, from the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota, says she decided to burn sage grass because it "restores balance in all things."

Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault was scheduled to speak later Friday.

2:30 p.m.

Federal authorities say they want to review their permitting for the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota and have asked that the company "voluntarily pause" construction on a 40-mile span of land that Standing Rock Sioux officials say holds sacred sites and artifacts.

A federal judge denied the tribe's request Friday to temporarily stop construction on the four-state \$3.8 billion oil pipeline.

Shortly after, the Departments of Justice, Army and Interior released a statement says that construction would stop on land that borders or is under Lake Oahe while it reconsiders "its previous decisions," and requested that Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners "voluntarily pause" work within 20 miles east or west of the lake.

The statement also said that the case "highlighted the need for a serious discussion on whether there should be nationwide reform with respect to considering tribes' views on these types of infrastructure projects."

The tribe has said that the pipeline threatens its water supply and that construction already has disturbed sacred sites.

This story clarifies that the federal government stopped construction near Lake Oahe and requested the company do so on a wider stretch, not that it asked for voluntary work stoppage on land bordering or under Lake Oahe as well as the 40-mile swath.

2:05 p.m.

The Standing Rock Sioux's tribal historian says a federal judge's decision to deny a request for a temporary stop of construction on the Dakota Access pipeline gives her "a great amount of grief."

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, who also has been a part of the protests near the North Dakota reservation, says that the tribe will "continue to stand" and "look for legal recourses," as well as continue to protest peacefully.

Attorney Jan Hasselman with environmental group Earthjustice, who filed the lawsuit in July on behalf of the tribe, said in the days before the ruling that it'll be challenged.

Hasselman said that they'll "hope that construction isn't completed while that (appeal) process is going forward."

Officials with pipeline company Energy Transfer Partners didn't return The Associated Press' phone calls or emails seeking comment.

Allard also noted that her tribe is not the only that's filed a lawsuit. The Yankton Sioux tribe in South

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Dakota did the same yesterday.

1:45 p.m.

A federal judge has denied the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's request to temporarily stop construction on the four-state Dakota Access oil pipeline near their reservation in North Dakota.

Tribal officials challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion pipeline that is intended to carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

Friday's ruling by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg comes amid growing protests over the pipeline, which would cross the Missouri River less than a mile upstream of the reservation.

The tribe argues the pipeline could impact drinking water and that construction has already disturbed ancient sacred sites.

A lawyer for the tribe says the ruling will be appealed.

1:35 p.m.

Many of those protesting the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline are planning to gather at the North Dakota Capitol on the day a judge is to rule on a tribal challenge to the project.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg says he'll rule by the end of Friday on the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's request to block the project, which will carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

The rally is scheduled from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday on the Capitol grounds, and participants will march there from a bridge over the Missouri River, which the tribe says will be threatened by the pipeline.

Many are coming from the protest site near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, about 40 miles south of Bismarck.

The Standing Rock Sioux say the project threatens water supplies and has already disrupted sacred sites. The developer, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, says modern technology allows quick detection of leaks. Pipeline supporters also say it would cut the amount of oil that travels by train.

1:30 p.m.

A North Dakota state agency that regulates private investigation and security firms is looking into the use of force against protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline.

The confrontation last weekend between protesters and private security guards left some guards injured. Tribal officials say about 30 protesters were pepper-sprayed and some were bitten by dogs after construction workers bulldozed alleged sacred sites.

Monte Rogneby, an attorney for the North Dakota Private Investigation and Security Board, says the board received complaints about use of the dogs.

He says the probe should also find out whether the private security personnel at the site are properly registered and licensed. Rogneby says the board has contacted private security firms that it believes were involved in the protest, but he would not name them.

Rogneby says the board wants to finish its investigation "sooner rather than later."

A federal judge is set to deliver a key ruling Friday on the four-state pipeline.

1:10 p.m.

An attorney says the Yankton Sioux Tribe's lawsuit over the Dakota Access pipeline is not expected to have any immediate bearing, and she wouldn't say whether the tribe would ask a federal court to temporarily block construction of it.

The lawsuit from the South Dakota tribe was filed Thursday and is separate from the one filed by the Standing Rock Sioux on which a federal judge is expected to rule Friday.

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Tribal attorney Jennifer Baker says the lawsuit will take time, but that the Yankton Sioux wants to stand beside Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and other tribes because they share rights to the water and the land.

The complaint says the pipeline route passes through the tribe's treaty territory, aboriginal title lands and areas of cultural and spiritual importance.

10:30 a.m.

More than 1,000 people, including families and children, are gathered at the Dakota Access pipeline protest site in North Dakota.

They're awaiting a critical ruling from a federal judge on the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's request to block the \$3.8 billion pipeline over environmental concerns.

Judith LeBlanc is director of the New York-based Native Organizers Alliance. She said Friday that it's an historic coming together of tribes — probably the largest such gathering of Native Americans in a century.

People have come from as far as New York and Alaska, as well as Canada.

Kate Silvertooth made the daylong drive from Colorado on Thursday, spending hundreds of dollars on supplies such as tarps and food. She says she "felt moved" to help the protesters.

The pipeline, being built by a Texas-based company, is to carry oil from western North Dakota to Illinois.

9:05 a.m.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association has asked U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch to send federal monitors to the site of a large pipeline protest in North Dakota.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and others are trying to stop the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, saying it threatens their drinking water and has disturbed sacred sites.

The association, made up of tribal leaders in the Dakotas and Nebraska, aims to defend tribal rights.

President John Yellow Bird Steele sent a letter to Lynch on Thursday saying protesters have been attacked by private security with guard dogs and that racial profiling is occurring. Authorities say some protesters are armed with hatchets and knives, and Saturday's protest injured guards and dogs.

Lynch's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg says he'll rule by the end of Friday on the tribe's challenge to the pipeline, which will carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

8 a.m.

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein says she's working with North Dakota authorities to arrange a court date on charges related to her participation in a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline.

Stein has acknowledged spray-painting construction equipment Tuesday in North Dakota. Stein and running mate Ajamu Baraka were charged Wednesday with misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass and criminal mischief, and authorities issued arrest warrants.

Stein defended her actions to the Chicago Tribune (<http://trib.in/2cfvzAg>) Thursday during a campaign stop in Chicago. She said it would have been "inappropriate for me not to have done my small part" to support the Standing Rock Sioux.

The tribe says the pipeline threatens sacred sites and drinking water.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline is to carry oil from western North Dakota to Illinois.

1:27 a.m.

A federal judge is set to deliver a key ruling on the four-state Dakota Access pipeline that has drawn thousands of protesters to a construction site in North Dakota in recent weeks.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg says he'll rule by the end of Friday on the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's request to block the \$3.8 billion project, which will carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

The tribe argues the project threatens water supplies and has already disrupted sacred sites. The developer, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, says modern technology allows quick detection of leaks. Pipeline supporters also say it would cut the amount of oil that travels by train.

A weekend confrontation between protesters and private security guards left some guards injured and some protesters with dog bites.

Gov. Daugaard orders flags flown at half-staff Sunday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags flown at half-staff Sunday to honor those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Daugaard on Friday asked that the flags remain at half-staff from 8 a.m. until sunset Sunday. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives in the attacks.

Sept. 11 has been designated as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

State inmate dies in hospital after attempted suicide

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says a state prison inmate who attempted suicide has died at a hospital.

The agency says 25-year-old Nicholas Tchida was hospitalized Sunday after he was found hanging in his cell at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. He died Friday.

The agency says Tchida was simultaneously serving two eight-year sentences for possession and distribution of a controlled substance out of Roberts County.

Officials said an autopsy is being conducted.

Man accused of role in murder-for-hire wants trial moved

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of being an accessory in the alleged murder-for-hire of a Rapid City woman last year wants his trial held outside of the city.

The attorney for 25-year-old Michael Frye is seeking a change of venue in the case, due to extensive news coverage in Rapid City. A hearing on the motion is scheduled Oct. 11.

Frye is charged in the death of 22-year-old Jessica Rehfeld, whose body was found in a remote grave near Rockerville in June.

Authorities say Rehfeld was stabbed to death in May 2015. Frye and another man who earlier pleaded guilty are accused of helping move the body.

Three other people face first-degree murder charges in the case, including Rehfeld's ex-boyfriend, Jonathan Klinetobe. They've all pleaded not guilty.

Iowa man killed in South Dakota motorcycle crash ID'd

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified an Iowa man who died in a crash involving two motorcycles in South Dakota's Custer State Park.

The Highway Patrol says the motorcycles were traveling together on state Highway 87, failed to ne-

gotiate a curve and went in the ditch Wednesday afternoon.

Seventy-two-year-old Douglas Boemecke, of Davenport, Iowa, died at the scene. The 52-year-old Illinois man driving the other bike suffered injuries that authorities say are serious but not life-threatening. Neither bike had any passengers.

Aberdeen police officer who shot suspect cleared after probe

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Aberdeen police officer who shot and wounded a suspect has been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says a state investigation determined that Officer Ty Reinke was justified in firing his weapon during the Aug. 14 incident.

Twenty-one-year-old Ehkhu Poe is accused of assaulting four people, including Reinke, that day while armed with a knife. Poe was shot twice. He later was released from a hospital and jailed on aggravated assault and drug charges.

GOP ticket quick to deplore Clinton's 'deplorables' comment

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Hillary Clinton verbally banished half of Donald Trump's backers to a "basket of deplorables," and the Republican presidential nominee quickly pounced, saying Saturday she had smeared many Americans and would pay a heavy political price.

"Wow, Hillary Clinton was SO INSULTING to my supporters, millions of amazing, hard-working people. I think it will cost her at the polls!" Trump said in a tweet.

And running mate Mike Pence drew loud applause when he told social conservatives: "Hillary, they are not a basket of anything. They are Americans and they deserve your respect."

Clinton, who has said she is the candidate to unify a divided country, made the comment at an LGBT fundraiser Friday night at a New York City restaurant, with about 1,000 people in attendance.

"To just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it," she said, before stressing that other Trump supporters are frustrated and need sympathy.

Pence, in remarks at the Values Voter conference in Washington, shot back: "The truth of the matter is that the men and women who support Donald Trump's campaign are hard-working Americans, farmers, coal miners, teachers, veterans, members of our law enforcement community, members of every class of this country who know that we can make America great again."

The rhetorical scuffle comes as the candidates head into the final two months of the campaign, with Trump trying to make up ground on Clinton before the Nov. 8 election.

While Clinton is taking heat for her comment, Trump's brand is controversy. At a rally in Pensacola, Florida, on Friday, he said Clinton is "so protected" that "she could walk into this arena right now and shoot somebody with 20,000 people watching, right smack in the middle of the heart. And she wouldn't be prosecuted."

Trump has lamented the Obama administration's decision not to prosecute Clinton on criminal charges over her handling of classified emails while secretary of state.

The comment was reminiscent of Trump's January description of the loyalty of his supporters. "They say I have the most loyal people ... where I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK? It's like incredible," he said.

At the fundraiser, Clinton bemoaned the people she described as "deplorables," saying "unfortunately

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there are people like that. And he has lifted them up. He has given voice to their websites that used to only have 11,000 people — now how 11 million. He tweets and retweets their offensive hateful mean-spirited rhetoric. Now, some of those folks — they are irredeemable, but thankfully they are not America,” said the Democratic nominee, who was the country’s top diplomat during President Barack Obama’s first term.

Clinton then pivoted and tried to characterize the other half of Trump’s supporters, putting them in “that other basket” and saying they need understanding and empathy.

She described them as “people who feel that the government has let them down, the economy has let them down, nobody cares about them, nobody worries about what happens to their lives and their futures, and they’re just desperate for change.”

It could prove a stumble for a seasoned — and polarizing — politician who wants to lead a country that includes many who have embraced Trump’s exhortations to “lock her up.”

Clinton has made similar comments in the past. In an interview with Israeli TV this week, Clinton said that Trump supporters are, “what I call the deplorables; you know, the racists and the, you know, the haters, and the people who are drawn because they think somehow he’s going to restore an America that no longer exists.”

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a series of tweets after the remarks that Clinton has been talking about the “alternative right,” or “alt-right” movement, which often is associated with efforts on the far right to preserve “white identity,” oppose multiculturalism and defend “Western values.” Merrill argued that “alt-right” leaders are supporting Trump and “their supporters appear to make up half his crowd when you observe the tone of his events.”

Democratic strategist Lis Smith said Clinton should clarify her “tone deaf, momentary gaffe.”

“It’s one thing to attack your opponent. It’s another to attack the people who support him,” said Smith, who worked for former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley’s presidential bid. “It sounds out of touch and condescending... trying to explain away Trump’s supporters to a New York money crowd.”

Comments about voters — especially at private fundraisers — have tripped up presidential hopefuls in the past.

Weeks before the 2012 election, Republican Mitt Romney landed in hot water for saying that 47 percent of the public would vote for President Barack Obama “no matter what” because they depended on government benefits and his job was “not to worry about those people.”

During the 2008 Democratic primary, then-Sen. Obama said that small-town voters “cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren’t like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.” Those remarks were seized on by Clinton, his primary opponent, as evidence that he was disconnected from many Americans.

Muslim pilgrims begin hajj, but this year without Iranians

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Close to 2 million people from around the world have begun performing the rites of the Islamic hajj pilgrimage, which calls for entering into a state of physical and spiritual purity and circling the cube-shaped Kaaba with their palms facing upward in prayer.

Notably absent this year are Iranian pilgrims. Last year, some 64,000 Iranians took part in the hajj, but disputes with the Saudi government prompted Tehran to bar its citizens from taking part this year.

Saudi Arabia has blamed Iranian officials for the decision and suggests it was politically motivated to publicly pressure the kingdom. Iran says Saudi “incompetence” caused a crush and stampede during last year’s hajj that killed more than 460 of its citizens.

The hajj, which begins Saturday, is one of the world's largest pilgrimages.

Some police departments shelve body cameras, cite data costs

RICK CALLAHAN, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Police departments in at least two states that outfitted their officers with body cameras have now shelved them, blaming new laws requiring videos to be stored longer, which they say would significantly increase the cost.

About a third of the nation's 18,000 police agencies are either testing body cameras or have embraced them to record their officers' interactions with the public. But departments in Indiana and Connecticut suspended their programs this year after their states imposed considerably longer video-storage rules.

Clarksville, a southern Indiana town just north of Louisville, Kentucky, began using body cameras in 2012 for its 50 full-time officers and 25 reservists. That program ended in late June when Chief Mark Palmer pulled the cameras in response to Indiana's new law requiring agencies using the cameras to store the videos for at least 190 days.

Palmer said his department's video storage and camera maintenance costs had been between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year under its 30-day video storage policy. But the new law that took effect July 1 would have raised those costs to \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the first year, he said, by requiring videos to be stored more than six times longer.

Palmer said the department would have had to buy new servers and may have had to buy new cameras and software and to train someone to use it, and that although the cost would have been lower in subsequent years, it still would have been high.

"This has really hit us hard. That's not the kind of thing we budgeted for when we set this year's budget in place," Palmer said of his department in the Ohio River community of about 20,000 residents.

The adjacent city of Jeffersonville also shelved its 70 officers' cameras for the same reasons, and other Indiana police agencies have delayed committing to the cameras while they monitor the new law's impact.

Palmer said he's working with Jeffersonville police on ways they might be able to resume their programs by holding down costs by sharing equipment with other agencies.

Civil rights activists have long called for police officers to wear body cameras, and even more so since the 2014 fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, by a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri.

Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst for the national American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, acknowledged that costs of operating body camera programs can be daunting. But he said he's concerned that some departments might use the costs "as a cover" to avoid the added layer of oversight the cameras bring.

"There could be good reasons for a community not to adopt body cameras, but a police department's desire to escape accountability is not one of them," Stanley said.

Looming higher video storage costs were also the reason the Berlin, Connecticut, police department ended its body camera program this year after testing eight body cameras that had rotated among its 42 officers, said Chief Paul Fitzgerald. His department followed the Connecticut state librarian's suggestion to retain video for 60 days, and longer in instances involving ongoing investigations or citizen complaints.

But Fitzgerald shelved the cameras in January in response to new state standards approved late last year. Those standards, which a Connecticut law directed a state board to draft, require all body camera

videos to be stored for at least 90 days — and for at least four years if they're deemed evidentiary.

"Everybody's trying to maintain budgets and that becomes very difficult," Fitzgerald said. "It's the long term costs, of unfunded mandates."

At least eight states — Indiana, Oregon, Illinois, Nevada, California, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Georgia — have laws spelling out how long police departments must preserve the footage the cameras capture, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Police departments typically have to buy new servers or pay for a cloud service to store the videos. And additional staffers often need to be hired to handle public records requests, manage videos that must be stored for long durations and redact videos to blur the faces of minors or otherwise protect privacy.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, whose Michigan department covers Detroit's northern suburbs, said he won't equip his 900 officers with the cameras largely because his department's startup costs for the cameras and storing the resulting videos for just 30 days would amount to more than \$1 million a year.

"For body cams it's a deal-breaker. I won't implement them," he said.

Medium-sized police departments, those with between about 50 and 250 officers, appear to be facing the biggest challenges with video storage because they often don't have enough space on servers or hard drives for their considerable data storage needs, said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum.

Small police departments and large metropolitan departments seem to be having an easier time managing their body camera costs, he said. And in a decade, Wexler predicts, departments without the cameras affixed to officers' uniforms will be rare and competition among vendors will mean the videos will be cheaper to store.

"That's going to be a good thing for the field," he said.

Kanye West performs at New York Fashion Week party

MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kanye West brought his "Saint Pablo Tour" to the small stage at a New York Fashion Week party, where he performed under smoky, dark lights and ended his set with some outspoken words, per usual.

West hit the stage Friday night at The Plaza Hotel, where the audience — a bit sweaty and cramped and made of up fashion and entertainment industry insiders — hung on to the rapper's every move as he performed new and old songs, even jumping into the audience to rap with the crowd.

West and his wife, Kim Kardashian, were being honored by Harper's Bazaar at its annual ICONS event. It was just days after West, 39, debuted the fourth season of his Yeezy collection for Adidas to mixed reviews.

"At the beginning of this performance I tried my best to not try. No, I tried to listen to all the reports and shit and I tried my best to stop trying," he said at the end of the performance. "But I just couldn't do it! I couldn't stop! No matter what they write, I just couldn't stop!"

He then thanked the fashion crowd for supporting him as he transitioned from Grammy-winning rapper-producer to fashion mogul.

"I appreciate y'all going on this journey for me. I appreciate all the years y'all put up with me learning in front of you and listening to the music at the same time," he said.

"I appreciate the moment when Carine put her friend on the cover — no, not this moment — I'm talking about when she put Tom Ford on the cover," he continued, referring to Carine Roitfeld, the former

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editor of Vogue Paris and founder and editor of CR Fashion Book. "And all you mother (expletive) were like, 'Oh, Carine (is) over!' She's a mother (expletive) icon though. There's only one Carine."

Then West paused, dropped his microphone and walked offstage. The crowd of a few hundred cheered him on.

He kicked off his set with "Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1," and also performed "Famous," "All of the Lights," "Black Skinhead" and "Touch the Sky." When he performed "Runaway" — which features the infamous line, "Let's have a toast for the douchebags" — he held his middle finger up throughout most of the performance.

The Kardashian clan was there to support Kimye, including Kris, Kourtney, Kylie and Kendall, who was with her rapper-boyfriend Tyga.

Celebrity attendees dressed to impress included stylish singer Mary J. Blige and a dapper Nico Tortorella. Heidi Klum, Christina Hendricks, fashionable NBA player Russell Westbrook, Kate Upton, Nick Cannon, Pamela Anderson, Nina Agdal and Camila Alves also attended.

The Harper's Bazaar event is in its third year and was held by Roitfeld and Karl Lagerfeld. Katy Perry was featured on last year's stage and Lady Gaga performed jazz songs at the inaugural event in 2014.

West's "Saint Pablo Tour" kicked off last month and wraps Nov. 1 at the Forum in Inglewood, California.

Samsung tells consumers to stop using Galaxy Note 7

KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

YOUKYUNG LEE, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung Electronics on Saturday urged consumers to stop using Galaxy Note 7 smartphones immediately and exchange them as soon as possible, as more reports of the phones catching fire emerged even after the company's global recall.

The call from the South Korean company, the world's largest smartphone maker, comes after U.S. authorities urged consumers to switch the Galaxy Note 7 off and not to use or charge it during a flight. Several airlines around the world asked travelers not switch on the jumbo smartphone or put it in checked baggage, with some carriers banning the phone on flights.

In a statement posted on its website, Samsung asked users around the world to "immediately" return their existing Galaxy Note 7 and get a replacement.

"We are asking users to power down their Galaxy Note 7s and exchange them as soon as possible," Koh Dong-jin, Samsung's mobile president, said in the statement. "We are expediting replacement devices so that they can be provided through the exchange program as conveniently as possible."

Consumers can visit Samsung's service centers to receive rental phones for temporary use. Samsung plans to provide Galaxy Note 7 devices with new batteries in South Korea starting Sept. 19, but schedules for other countries vary.

Earlier this month, Samsung announced an unprecedented recall of 2.5 million Galaxy Note 7s worldwide just two weeks after the phone was launched. That move came after Samsung's investigation into reports of fires found that rechargeable lithium batteries manufactured by one of its suppliers were at fault.

The U.S. was among the first countries to take a step following the recall. Late Friday, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urged owners of the phone to turn them off and leave them off. It also said it was working with Samsung and hoped to have an official recall "as soon as possible."

The recall by the safety commission will allow the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to ban passen-

gers from carrying the phones on planes. The FAA already warned airline passengers late Thursday not to turn on or charge the Galaxy Note 7 during flights and not to put the smartphone in their checked bags.

Scandinavian Airlines said Saturday that it has prohibited passengers from using the Galaxy Note 7 on its flights because of concerns about fires. Singapore Airlines has also banned the use or charging of the device during flights.

Samsung said it had confirmed 35 cases of the Galaxy Note 7 catching fire as of Sept. 1, most of them occurring while the battery was being charged.

There are at least two more cases that Samsung said it is aware of — one at a hotel in Perth, Australia, and another in St. Petersburg, Florida, where a family reported that a Galaxy Note 7 left charging in their Jeep had caught fire, destroying the vehicle.

Samsung released the Galaxy Note 7 on Aug. 19. The Galaxy Note series is one of the most expensive lineups made by Samsung.

Election hacks raise fears of Russian influence

DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recent hacks of election data systems in at least two states have raised fear among lawmakers and intelligence officials that a foreign government is trying to seed doubt about — or even manipulate — the presidential race, renewing debate over when cyberattacks cross red lines and warrant a U.S. response.

Federal officials already are investigating cyberattacks at the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, believed to be the work of hackers tied to the Russian government. Trolling a private organization's emails is one thing, cyberexperts say, but breaching state election systems to undermine the integrity of the November ballot would be quite another.

"The mere access to those systems is incredibly concerning to me," said Sean Kanuck, former national intelligence officer for cyber issues at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. "I think that the manipulation of election data or voting systems would warrant a national security response."

No one has yet confirmed that data was actually manipulated. Law enforcement and intelligence officials are investigating the election-related breaches, but also are looking at the extent to which Russia could be involved in a disinformation campaign to diminish U.S. clout worldwide. Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow wasn't involved in the hacking of emails of the Democratic Party.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said last week he thinks it's unlikely that Russia is trying to influence the election. "I think maybe the Democrats are putting that out," he said on RT America, the U.S. partner of Kremlin-backed network Russia Today.

But Defense Secretary Ash Carter issued a public warning to Moscow last week while in Europe. "We will not ignore attempts to interfere with our democratic processes," Carter said. Asked later to elaborate, Carter said he was referring to Russia's use of hybrid warfare — "interference in the internal affairs of nations, short of war" — which he said is a concern across Europe.

Late last month, the FBI sent a "flash alert" to warn state officials to strengthen their election systems in light of evidence that hackers targeted data systems in two states. The FBI described a "compromise" of one elections board website and "attempted intrusion activities" in another state's system. The FBI didn't name the states, but state election websites in Illinois and Arizona experienced hack-related shutdowns in the parts of the websites that handle online voter registration.

Manipulating an election in the United States would be difficult, officials say, because there are thousands of electoral jurisdictions across the 50 states.

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Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Thursday that the election system is "so decentralized, so vast ... it would very difficult to alter the count."

FBI Director James Comey agrees.

"The vote counting in this country tends to be kind of clunky," which is a blessing because it makes harder for hackers to infiltrate, Comey said. "It makes it more resilient and farther away from an actor who might be looking to crawl down a fiber-optic cable, and find there actually is no fiber optic cable — that it's actually some woman named Sally and a guy named Joe and they roll the thing (voting machine) over and pull out the punch cards," Comey said.

Such reassurances have not eased concern on Capitol Hill, yet reaction has been mixed.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada was "deeply shaken" after a half-hour briefing about Russian activities that he received at the FBI office in Las Vegas, according to an individual familiar with the briefing. The individual was not authorized to publicly discuss the briefing and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

An aide to another senator, who also was briefed, said what gave the lawmaker "pause" was that Russia might be meddling in the United States in the same way it has in Eastern Europe where it has a history of using cyberattacks to facilitate their political objectives.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said there is bipartisan concern about the "Russian government engaging in covert influence activities." He said a section of this year's intelligence authorization bill directs the president to set up an interagency committee to "counter active measures by Russia to exert covert influence over peoples and governments."

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said, however, that he's not surprised by the hacks.

"I just think people have been asleep," he said. "This is the challenge of going to digital records, digital voting. This is why it's imperative to keep paper voting."

How the U.S. should respond to cyberattacks is the subject of much debate.

John Carlin, assistant attorney general for national security at the Justice Department, described a three-pronged approach: figure out who's responsible, don't be afraid to take it public and routinely impose consequences.

Andrew McCabe, deputy director of the FBI, said each one of those steps presents challenges. "In terms of options for action, they are limited — very understandably sometimes — by international policy constraints, diplomatic challenges and the concern about the impact on partners and relationship with partners."

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said each cyber-attack will require a different U.S. response. In some cases, it could begin with "naming and shaming" responsible parties, he said. Other cases call for economic or other sanctions. When it comes to cyber-attacks by North Korea, perhaps the U.S. should consider dropping public leaflets aimed at denouncing the repressive North Korean government, he said.

"I think the failure to act, the failure to establish any deterrent, the failure to even name responsible parties — particularly in the case of Russia — only invites further exploitation, further attacks and further effort to disrupt our elections," Schiff said.

After 15 years, last artifacts of 9/11 have been given away

ADAM GELLER, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Behind the barbed wire, the white minivan's busted windows and crumpled roof hint at its story. But forklifted to this windblown spot on the John F. Kennedy International Airport tar-

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mac, between a decommissioned 727 and an aircraft hangar, it's doubtful passing drivers notice it at all.

In the long struggle with the searing memories of 9/11, though, the van's solitary presence here marks a small but significant transition point.

Tons of wreckage — twisted steel beams weighing up to 40,000 pounds, chunks of concrete smelling of smoke, a crushed fire engine, a dust-covered airline slipper — were salvaged from the World Trade Center site for preservation in the weeks after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Now, 15 years later, this van, part of a government agency motor pool likely sheltered from the impact in the parking garage beneath the complex, is the very last artifact without a resting place.

When the van is claimed, as soon as a few weeks from now, it will fulfill a pledge that, to move beyond 9/11 without losing sight of it, New York would share relics of that terror, along with the tales of sacrifice and fear that come with them.

The decision by officials to give away pieces of Trade Center wreckage has been praised and criticized over the years. But its impact is undeniable.

More than 2,600 artifacts have gone to 1,585 fire and police departments, schools and museums, and other nonprofit organizations in every state and at least eight other countries. Each recipient has pledged to use them in memorials or exhibits honoring those killed on 9/11. While some have not followed through, the many that have mean it is now possible to touch a piece of September 11 during a Roman Catholic Mass in Port St. Lucie, Florida, while standing in the shadows of Colorado's San Juan mountains, or in a park honoring animals in Meaford, Ontario.

"They are the relics of the destruction and they have the same power in the same way as medieval relics that have the power of the saints," said Harriet Senie, a professor of art history at the City University of New York and author of "Memorials to Shattered Myths: Vietnam to 9/11."

"History is a vague concept, but if you have this tangible object that was a part of this historical event, it makes it very difficult to deny and it also makes it possible to experience it in a very visceral way."

In the days immediately after the attacks, it wasn't at all clear what would happen to the wreckage of the Trade Center. It's not as if anyone had confronted questions of that scale before. There was no certainty about exactly which artifacts, if any, should be saved.

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, which owned the Trade Center, dispatched an architect to comb through the site and cull pieces that seemed distinctive. Investigators carted away others. Most of the wreckage from the site was scrapped or recycled. But the agency saved about half of 1 percent of the total.

It all had to go somewhere. That ended up being JFK's Hangar 17, an 80,000-square-foot cavern of sheet metal left empty when tenant Tower Air went out of business in 2000.

Officials were uncertain what to do with so much material, given the emotions intertwined with it. A judge determined the artifacts were not evidentiary or personal, and approved donations to those who promised to care for them. But where to begin?

"It was piles and piles, probably my height or higher, of steel beams," says Amy Passiak, the archivist hired to catalog the artifacts and manage their distribution, recalling the first time she walked into the hangar in 2010. Passiak, a high school senior in Michigan at the time of the attacks, had been working as an intern at New York's 9/11 museum, but says she was still unprepared for the scene.

"I remember going home that day and just being exhausted, just from being there a few hours, just being emotionally exhausted and not being able to comprehend the amount of work that was going to go into the process. It was like, maybe a year, maybe two years. And here I am, six years later."

Passiak built a database of every item, cataloging its size and approximate weight, with descriptive notes. As word spread that the Port Authority was giving the material away, requests poured in. Through August, the Port Authority had distributed 2,629 artifacts.

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Many went to fire departments, local governments and organizations in the New York area with direct ties to the first responders and workers who perished when the towers fell.

"When those buildings came down, everybody and everything in its path was either pulverized or vaporized off the face of the earth," said John Hodge of the Stephen Siller Tunnels to Towers Foundation, named for his cousin, a New York firefighter killed on 9/11. In late July, the foundation marked the looming closure of Hangar 17 with a ceremony outside before hauling away an elevator motor from the Trade Center, a piece of the parking structure, and a portion of a broadcast antenna that crowned the complex.

"That's where the DNA is. Neither my cousin or anybody else from Squad 1 was ever found, but it's in that steel," Hodge said.

But for many of the people and groups that adopted artifacts from the Trade Center, the loss was more abstract. At least it started off that way.

Heath Satow, a sculptor in southern California hired to design a 9/11 memorial for the plaza fronting Rosemead's city offices, recalls awkwardly scanning a digital catalog showing beams available from the Trade Center. But hundreds of hours creating the memorial — a 10-foot beam cradled by hands of chrome, the palms and fingers formed from 2,976 interlocking birds representing individual victims — left a deep impression.

"Every individual was attended to," said Satow, his voice breaking five years later, as he described making the sculpture. "I just was totally unprepared for it. But when you spend all that time seeing it as individuals it will just wreck you."

Satow said he purposely positioned the beam at about eye level, so people could see, touch and feel it. Others who adopted Trade Center artifacts used them to similar effect.

Firefighters in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, created a memorial in front of their station around a small piece of donated I-beam. Many people in the town, surrounded by the San Juan mountains and the Southern Ute Reservation, will never get to New York or Washington D.C., said David Hartman, who worked to obtain the artifact. But September 11 was his generation's Pearl Harbor, and being able to see and touch the wreckage enables residents to reflect on its lessons, he said.

At Flour Bluff Junior High School in Corpus Christi, Texas, a piece of Trade Center steel — one of three received by the school district — is housed in a case near the entrance to the cafeteria. In September, it is taken out and students from the school's officer training program stand guard. Bruce Chaney, the naval science instructor who applied for the artifacts, brings another, smaller piece to his classes.

The artifact is "twisted and somewhat burned. It's not pretty. I'm hoping it will make them think as they're growing up, that they have to pay attention to their past," Chaney said.

Most Flour Bluff students hadn't yet been born in 2001, so the relics are the closest most will ever get to experiencing that day.

But the desire to touch and own history, however distant, has been around since long before this generation, said Erika Doss, a professor of American studies at the University of Notre Dame and author of "Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America."

She notes that after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, millions of Americans gathered alongside the tracks as a train carrying his body made its way to Illinois. People wore mourning bands on their arms. They hung Lincoln's portrait in their homes. They flocked to see death masks cast from his face. They wanted to see and touch Lincoln.

Artifacts let people grapple with pained memories. But 15 years after September 11, the dispersal of artifacts from the Trade Center has not resolved the public's conflicted feelings about those events, now set against continued fears of terrorism.

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"We just don't know where the events of 9/11 have led us," said Rick Sluder, fire chief in Wauseon, Ohio, which obtained a Trade Center beam and, together with neighboring departments built a memorial at the nearby Fulton County Fairgrounds.

"A lot of people are looking at this as, is this the point of downfall or the point at which we rose above the rest, the point of resiliency?" Sluder said. "I don't think that's been determined yet."

There's little questioning, though, the emotions people invest in the artifacts. During the six years Passiak spent archiving the relics, the people seeking them would often tell her stories of the losses in their own communities — of firefighters, or soldiers or others — that connected them, however tangentially, to 9/11.

In the first years, there were so many artifacts that she could easily match them with requesters. So when a girl at Cracker Trail Elementary School in Sebring, Florida, wrote that she wanted to help her fellow students learn about 9/11, Passiak set aside a children's alarm clock recovered from a store in the Trade Center's concourse, a burned notebook, and small piece of steel, 6 inches square.

"I felt like that allowed a full story to be told," she said.

As the piles of material winnowed, though, it became more difficult. Most of the groups seeking artifacts wanted pieces they could build a narrative around. The biggest artifacts were unwieldy. By early this year, there was little left except rails from the commuter train line that ran under the complex. Items like police cruisers, whose purpose that day were clear, found takers. But unmarked vehicles, anonymous but for their place in the wreckage, were initially passed over.

When the Port Authority shuttered the artifact program in August and padlocked Hangar 17, officials moved the only remaining artifact — a Dodge Caravan with a ripped out red interior — to the tarmac, uncertain of its fate. It, too, is likely to go soon, to a group officials will not identify until its application has been approved. Hangar 17, itself, may eventually be torn down.

Passiak moved back to Michigan to start a job at an art museum this month. But many of the people whose groups received donations of Trade Center artifacts have stayed in touch with her, extending invitations to visit their memorials, from California to Germany.

Someday, the archivist said, she'd like to take a road trip, stopping in cities and towns along the way to see where the artifacts she once cared for have found homes. She imagines she'll recognize some of them, and remember their stories. It will not matter that the steel, concrete and other relics are at rest far from lower Manhattan. The memories they hold, she is certain, will not soon fade.

How AP rates the presidential race and the Road to 270

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The presidential race may be tightening nationally, but Hillary Clinton still has the edge in the states she'll need to win in November — including one previously rated as a toss-up by The Associated Press.

A survey released Thursday by the University of New Hampshire and WMUR found Clinton holding a nine-point lead there, confirming other polls giving her an advantage in the state.

The AP this week moves that race to leaning Democratic. Clinton now has an advantage in states with enough electoral votes to put her over the top in November.

That's according to an AP analysis of the map as it stands today. The analysis considers preference polling, recent electoral history, demographic trends and campaign priorities such as advertising, travel and on-the-ground staff.

The race, of course, could change in the roughly two months remaining Election Day. Republican Donald Trump has pulled closer in both national and some state polls in the past week.

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In Pennsylvania, for example, polls have consistently shown a large advantage for Clinton. But a survey released Thursday by Quinnipiac University suggests her advantage may be slightly narrower; that poll found her ahead by 5 percentage points.

A look at where the race stands, state by state:

SOLID DEMOCRATIC: California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maine 2nd District, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington state.

LEANS DEMOCRATIC: Colorado, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin.

TOSS-UP: Florida, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio.

LEANS REPUBLICAN: Arizona, Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska 2nd District, Utah.

SOLID REPUBLICAN: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming.

In dash to November, campaigns pin hopes on turnout efforts

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Over pizza and cupcakes, Jose Nunez implored a crowd of University of Iowa students to pull out their smartphones and start sharing with online friends their personal reasons for backing Hillary Clinton for president.

Early voting in Iowa begins in late September, and the digital aide for the Clinton campaign said earnestly: "These stories are going to start making a difference."

It's a scene Clinton's campaign is replicating in about a dozen of the most contested states as their aggressive voter turnout effort kicks into high gear for the sprint to Election Day, Nov. 8.

In Iowa alone, 25,000 volunteers are helping send real-time data on voters back to the campaign's New York City headquarters, where dozens of analysts model the electorate.

The campaign says it has about a half-million volunteers in swing states, including 40,000 in North Carolina. In Florida, the largest of those pivotal states, it claims 90,000.

To be sure, Clinton's debates with Republican Donald Trump or a late-in-the-campaign surprise could reshape the White House race in the final stretch. But Clinton's team believes winning the 270 electoral votes needed to secure the presidency relies on its yearlong, multimillion-dollar investment in sophisticated analytics and an army of volunteers now making contact with individual voters.

Trump, with heavy assistance from the Republican National Committee, is trying to replicate some of those efforts, bringing new staff on and hoping they can make up for lost time.

On Saturday, the RNC expected to have about 1,000 employees and 4,000 volunteers knocking on doors in Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin and elsewhere.

But the billionaire businessman — who told The Associated Press earlier this year that he believes the use of data analysis in campaigning is "overrated" — is also banking on a wave of momentum to carry voters to the polls in November.

"This is an incredible movement. The world is talking about it," Trump said during one of his recent rallies, which have served as a main way of collecting information about voters.

Republicans scoffed at then-Sen. Barack Obama for speaking in similarly sweeping terms during his 2008 presidential campaign. But it wasn't Obama's rhetoric that propelled him to victory. It was an expensive and painstaking effort to convert the crowds he generated into a data-driven voter turnout

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operation run by many of the same people now working for Clinton.

RNC officials talk publicly about having made gains since Obama won re-election in 2012, and there's no doubt the party has focused more on voter targeting in recent years. But GOP officials are well aware they have something to prove, even to those within the party who privately question the strength of the turnout operation.

"We know we have to be better than we have been before to win a tight election," said Rick Gorka, a communications adviser to the RNC and a former campaign aide to Mitt Romney, the 2012 nominee.

While the contest between Clinton and Trump is close, Clinton has more ways to 270 than does Trump, who almost certainly has to win Florida and Ohio to pull out a victory. Even then, Clinton could win without them.

The biggest unknown is how voter turnout will be affected by the unusual combination of high interest in the election and low approval for both candidates. Do voters dismayed by their options choose to stay home on Election Day or does interest in the race push more people to vote?

Clinton aides expect turnout to exceed the 129 million total from the 2012 contest between Obama and Romney. That's due in part because turnout was suppressed in 2012 in heavily populated areas of New York and New Jersey as a result of Superstorm Sandy.

While few Republicans will openly cheer for low turnout, that scenario could help Trump. Clinton has an edge over Trump with blacks, Hispanics and young people. But she needs those groups to show up in big numbers to offset Trump's strength with white, working-class voters.

In Florida, for example, her team is aggressively registering residents moving from Puerto Rico, who tend to vote Democratic.

Republican pollster Whit Ayers said that even if the GOP turnout effort is on track, Trump has a tougher task in Florida.

"Republicans say they are signing up more white voters," Ayers said. "But I'll be very surprised if they can sign up more white people than Clinton can sign up Hispanics."

In Iowa, a less diverse state, Clinton's staff has set up a text messaging competition between University of Iowa and Iowa State University this weekend to see which school can attract more new registered voters.

Marlon Marshall, Clinton's director of states, said that nearly all Democratic-leaning voters in swing states have had some level of contact from the campaign by this stage in the race.

"And if not, you will soon," Marshall said.

As in past elections, Democrats are urging people, particularly less reliable voters, to vote during early voting periods. RNC officials know Democrats have a better chance of banking more votes during early voting, but they too are instructing field staff to push low-propensity voters to vote before Nov. 8, to try to offset Clinton's advantage.

Jeremy Bird, Obama's chief data analyst in 2012 and a Clinton consultant, said that if the campaigns are doing their jobs right, early voting data will tell the story of the election.

"Sophisticated campaigns will know by mid-October how the election is likely to end up," Bird said.

23 dead in explosion and fire at Bangladesh factory

NEW DELHI (AP) — A boiler exploded and triggered a fire at a packaging factory near Bangladesh's capital on Saturday, killing at least 23 workers and injuring dozens, officials said.

Fire officials said that the explosion at the five-story Tampaco Foils Ltd. factory in the Tongi industrial area outside Dhaka was huge, and that the fire triggered by the blast spread quickly because flam-

mable chemicals were stored at the factory.

At least six of the 14 people being treated for burns at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital were in critical condition, said Mohammed Bacchu Mia, a police official at the hospital. He confirmed that at least 23 people had died.

Local TV stations said about 50 people were injured in all. Television footage showed smoke billowing from the factory, with the fire engulfing part of the upper floors.

Factory safety is a major concern in Bangladesh, which has thousands of garment and packaging factories that supply products to global chains like Wal-Mart and H&M. A fire at a garment factory in a Dhaka suburb killed 112 workers in 2012. In 2013, a commercial complex near Dhaka housing five garment factories collapsed, killing 1,135 people, Bangladesh's worst industrial disaster.

It took firefighters nearly five hours to bring Saturday's blaze under control. Huge piles of burned materials and chemicals had to be removed from the building to prevent the fire from spreading further, officials said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, which occurred at around 6 a.m. Authorities have ordered an investigation.

Syed Mokbul Hossain, the owner of the Tampaco Foils factory, told the Bengali-language Prothom Alo daily that he was not sure when the boiler was last inspected.

He said around 75 people had been scheduled to work the overnight shift, which was to end at 7 a.m.

Saturday was the last working day at the factory before the workers were to go on leave for a week-long holiday for the Islamic festival of Eid al-Adha, which falls on Tuesday.

The major factory accidents in 2012 and 2013 prompted Bangladesh's government, global brands and the United Nations to work together to try to improve safety standards in the South Asian country's factories.

Q&A: The hajj pilgrimage and its significance in Islam

AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Around 2 million Muslims from around the world are beginning the five-day hajj pilgrimage on Saturday. They will circle Islam's most sacred site, the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca, and take part in a series of rituals intended to bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims.

Here's a look at the pilgrimage and what it means for Muslims:

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HAJJ?

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform it once in their lifetime. The hajj is seen as a chance to wipe clean past sins and start fresh. Many seek to deepen their faith on the hajj, with women taking on the Islamic hair covering known as "hijab" upon returning from the pilgrimage.

Despite the physical challenges of the hajj, many people rely on canes or crutches and insist on walking the routes. Those who cannot afford the hajj are sometimes financed by charities or community leaders. Others save their entire lives to make the journey. A few even walk thousands of miles by foot to Saudi Arabia, taking months to arrive.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE HAJJ?

While following a route the Prophet Muhammad once walked, the rites of hajj are believed to ulti-

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mately trace the footsteps of the prophets Ibrahim and Ismail, or Abraham and Ishmael as they are named in the Bible.

Muslims believe Ibrahim's faith was tested when God commanded him to sacrifice his only son Ismail. Ibrahim was prepared to submit to the command, but then God stayed his hand, sparing his son. In the Christian and Jewish version of the story, Abraham is ordered to kill his other son, Isaac.

Pilgrims also trace the path of Ibrahim's wife, Hagar, who Muslims believe ran between two hills seven times searching for water for her dying son. Tradition holds that God then brought forth a spring that runs to this day. That spring, known as the sacred well of Zamzam, is believed to possess healing powers and pilgrims often return from the hajj with bottles of its water as gifts.

WHY IS THE KAABA SO IMPORTANT TO MUSLIMS?

Islamic tradition holds that the Kaaba was built by Ibrahim and Ismail as a house of monotheistic worship thousands of years ago. Over the years, the Kaaba was reconstructed and attracted different kinds of pilgrims, including early Christians who once lived in the Arabian Peninsula. In pre-Islamic times, the Kaaba was used to house pagan idols worshipped by local tribes.

Muslims do not worship the Kaaba, but it is Islam's most sacred site because it represents the metaphorical house of God and the oneness of God in Islam. Observant Muslims around the world face toward the Kaaba during the five daily prayers.

WHAT ARE THE RITUALS PERFORMED DURING THE HAJJ?

Pilgrims enter into a state of spiritual purity known as "ihram" that is aimed at shedding symbols of materialism, giving up worldly pleasures and focusing on the inner self over outward appearance.

Women forgo makeup and perfume and wear loose-fitting clothing and a head covering, while men dress in seamless, white terrycloth garments. The white garments are forbidden to contain any stitching — a restriction meant to emphasize the equality of all Muslims and prevent wealthier pilgrims from differentiating themselves with more elaborate garments.

Muslims are forbidden from engaging in sexual intercourse, cutting their hair or trimming nails while in ihram. It is also forbidden for pilgrims to argue, fight or lose their tempers during the hajj. Inevitably, though, the massive crowds and physical exhaustion of the journey test pilgrims' patience and tolerance.

THE FIRST DAY OF HAJJ

The hajj traditionally begins in Mecca, with a smaller pilgrimage called the "umrah", which can be performed year-round. To perform the umrah, Muslims circle the Kaaba counter-clockwise seven times while reciting supplications to God, then walk between the two hills traveled by Hagar. Mecca's Grand Mosque, the world's largest, encompasses the Kaaba and the two hills.

Before heading to Mecca, many pilgrims visit the city of Medina where the Prophet Muhammad is buried and where he built his first mosque.

THE SECOND DAY OF HAJJ

After spending the night in the massive valley of Mina, where 160,000 tents are set up to house them, the pilgrims head to Mount Arafat, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Mecca, for the pinnacle of the pilgrimage.

The Prophet Muhammad is believed to have said that hajj is Arafat, in reference to the day spent there and its importance. Pilgrims are packed shoulder to shoulder, with some men and women openly weeping and praying.

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Tens of thousands scale a hill called Jabal al-Rahma, or mountain of mercy, in Arafat. It is here where Muhammad delivered his final sermon, calling for equality and for Muslim unity. He reminded his followers of women's rights and that every Muslim life and property is sacred.

Around sunset, pilgrims head to an area called Muzdalifa, nine kilometers (5.5 miles) west of Arafat. Many walk, while others use buses. They spend the night there and pick up pebbles along the way that will be used in a symbolic stoning of the devil back in Mina, where Muslims believe the devil tried to talk Ibrahim out of submitting to God's will.

THE FINAL THREE DAYS OF HAJJ

The last three days of the hajj are marked by three events: a final circling of the Kaaba, casting stones in Mina and removing the ihram. Men often shave their heads at the end in a sign of renewal.

The final days of hajj coincide with Eid al-Adha, or the festival of sacrifice, celebrated by Muslims around the world to commemorate Ibrahim's test of faith. During the three-day Eid, Muslims slaughter livestock and distribute the meat to the poor.

John Hinckley Jr. to leave DC mental hospital for Virginia

JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man who shot President Ronald Reagan is scheduled to leave a Washington mental hospital for good on Saturday, more than 35 years after the shooting. A federal judge ruled in late July that the 61-year-old John Hinckley Jr. is not a danger to himself or the public and can live full-time at his mother's home in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Hinckley had already been visiting Williamsburg for long stretches at a time and preparing for the full-time transition. He'll have to follow a lot of rules while in Williamsburg, but his longtime lawyer Barry Levine says he thinks Hinckley will be a "citizen about whom we can all be proud."

This is what life will look like in Williamsburg for Hinckley:

WORK

Hinckley will have to work or volunteer at least three days a week. He hasn't yet done paid work in Williamsburg, but he has volunteered at a church and a mental health hospital, where he has worked in the library and in food service.

HOME SWEET HOME

Hinckley will start off living with his elderly mother in her home in the gated community of Kingsmill. The unassuming home is on the 13th hole of a golf course. Hinckley's room has a king-size bed and TV and is decorated with paintings he has done of houses and cats, according to court documents. In the past, he has done chores like cleaning, dishwashing, laundry and leaf-raking. After a year, he may live alone or with roommates.

THERAPY

Hinckley will continue to go to therapy while in Williamsburg. For at least the first six months he'll see his psychiatrist twice a month and he'll have to attend weekly group therapy sessions. He'll also see a therapist individually. He'll return to Washington once a month to St. Elizabeths' outpatient department to discuss his mental health and compliance with the conditions of his leave.

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ROAD TRIPPING

Hinckley got a driver's license in 2011. The court order in his case lets him drive within 30 miles of Williamsburg by himself, which gets him to Newport News but not Norfolk. He can go up to 50 miles from the city if accompanied by his mom, sibling or a therapist or social worker. He can also drive to and from Washington once a month for his outpatient meetings.

LEISURE

Hinckley has long considered himself a musician and an artist. He paints and plays the guitar and has been involved in both as part of his therapy. He'll continue to see a music therapist once a month while in Williamsburg. At court hearings in the case in late 2011 and early 2012, lawyers discussed the fact that Hinckley had recently developed an interest in photography.

There are limits to how Hinckley can spend his leisure time. He also can't drink or use illegal drugs. He can surf the web but, at least initially, he's not allowed to search for information about his crimes or victims, among other things. He can't have accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or LinkedIn without permission.

VOTING

Once Hinckley lives in Virginia he can register to vote there. Hinckley has expressed an interest in voting in the past and tried unsuccessfully to get a ballot in the 1980s and 1990s. Hinckley's longtime lawyer Barry Levine told a newspaper in early August that he suspects his client will register to vote. Virginia's deadline to register for the November presidential election is Oct. 17.

MEDIA

Don't expect to see Hinckley giving any interviews. He's barred from talking to the press.

US, Russia seal Syria cease-fire, new military partnership

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The United States and Russia working in lockstep against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria. A rejuvenated truce that will compel President Bashar Assad's air and ground forces to pull back. New flows of badly needed humanitarian aid.

Those details emerged Saturday as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov capped another marathon meeting in Geneva to present their latest ambitious push to end Syria's devastating and complex war.

The potential breakthrough deal, which launches a nationwide cessation of hostilities by sundown Monday, will hinge on compliance by Assad's Russian-backed forces and U.S.-supported rebel groups, plus key regional powers such as Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia with hands directly or indirectly in Syria's 5-1/2 years of carnage.

"We believe the plan as it is set forth — if implemented, if followed — has the ability to provide a turning point, a moment of change," Kerry said as he and Lavrov laid out the contours, but admittedly not too much fine print, of the hard-won accord.

The ultimate hope is to silence the Syrian guns so that the long-stalled peace process under U.N. mediation can resume between Assad's envoys and representatives of the opposition, while the two world

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powers focus on battling jihadis.

The deal, at least publicly and for now, appears to overcome months of distrust between Russia and the United States that President Barack Obama had cited less than a week ago.

Now, the two powers are lining up in an unexpected new military partnership targeting IS and al-Qaida-linked militants, while trying to prod Assad and opposition groups to end a civil war that has killed up to 500,000 people and displaced millions.

"This is just the beginning of our new relations," Lavrov said of the U.S.

Washington must persuade Syrian rebels to break ranks with Fath al-Sham, an al-Qaida-linked group previously known as the Nusra Front, which has intermingled with U.S.-backed fighters. Moscow is to pressure Assad's government to halt all offensive operations against the armed opposition in specific areas, which were not detailed.

"The Syrian government has been informed of these arrangements and is ready to fulfill them," Lavrov said at a news conference alongside Kerry after midnight.

Kerry said the arrangement depends on "people's choices. It has the ability to stick, provided the regime and the opposition both meet their obligations, which we — and we expect other supporting countries — will strongly encourage them to do."

He also alluded to the possibility of backsliding that all but doomed a previous U.S.-Russia cease-fire initiative earlier this year, which briefly halted the fighting and paved the way for new aid convoys before a resurgence of bloodshed.

"No one is building this based on trust," Kerry said. "It is based on a way of providing oversight, and compliance, through mutual interest and other things. If this arrangement holds, then we will see a significant reduction in violence across Syria."

The deal culminates months of frenetic diplomacy that included four meetings between Kerry and Lavrov since Aug. 26, and a lengthy face-to-face in China between Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The military deal would go into effect after both sides abide by the truce for a week and allow unimpeded humanitarian deliveries. Then, the U.S. and Russia would begin intelligence sharing and targeting coordination, while Assad's air and ground forces would no longer be permitted to target Fath al-Sham; they would be restricted to operations against the Islamic State.

The arrangement would ultimately aim to step up and concentrate the firepower of two of the world's most powerful militaries against IS and the group once known as Nusra, listed by the United Nations as terrorist groups.

Both sides have failed to deliver their ends of the bargain over several previous truces.

But the new arrangement goes further by promising a new U.S.-Russian counterterrorism alliance, only a year after Obama chastised Putin for a military intervention that U.S. officials said was mainly designed to keep Assad in power and target more moderate anti-Assad forces.

Russia, in response, has chafed at America's financial and military assistance to groups that have intermingled with the Nusra Front on the battlefield. Kerry said it would be "wise" for opposition forces to separate completely from Nusra, a statement Lavrov hailed.

"Going after Nusra is not a concession to anybody," Kerry said. "It is profoundly in the interests of the United States."

The proposed level of U.S.-Russian interaction has upset several leading national security officials in Washington, including Defense Secretary Ash Carter and National Intelligence Director James Clapper, and Kerry only appeared at the news conference after several hours of internal U.S. discussions.

After the Geneva announcement, Pentagon secretary Peter Cook offered a guarded endorsement of the arrangement and cautioned, "We will be watching closely the implementation of this understanding

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in the days ahead.”

At one point, Lavrov said he was considering “calling it a day” on talks, expressing frustration with what he described as an hours-long wait for a U.S. response. He then presented journalists with several boxes of pizza, saying, “This is from the U.S. delegation,” and two bottles of vodka, adding, “This is from the Russian delegation.”

The Geneva negotiating session, which lasted more than 13 hours, underscored the complexity of a conflict that includes myriad militant groups, shifting alliances and the rival interests of the U.S. and Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and Turkey and the Kurds.

Getting Assad’s government and rebel groups to comply with the deal may now be more difficult as fighting rages around Aleppo, Syria’s most populous city and the new focus of the war.

Assad’s government appeared to tighten its siege of the former Syrian commercial hub in the last several days, seizing several key transit points. Forty days of fighting in Aleppo has killed nearly 700 civilians, including 160 children, according to a Syrian human rights group.

Kerry outlined several steps the government and rebels would have to take. They must now pull back from demilitarized zones, and allow civilian traffic and humanitarian deliveries — notably into Aleppo.

“If Aleppo is at peace, we believe that the prospects for a diplomatic solution will brighten,” he said. “If Aleppo continues to be torn apart, the prospects for Syria and its people are grim.”

But as with previous blueprints for peace, Saturday’s plan appears to lack enforcement mechanisms. Russia could, in theory, threaten to act against rebel groups that break the deal. But if Assad bombs his opponents, the U.S. is unlikely to take any action against him given Obama’s longstanding opposition to entering the civil war.

In the Mideast, the main Syrian opposition umbrella group said it hoped the new U.S.-Russian agreement would be enforced in order to ease the suffering of civilians. Basma Kodmani, of the High Negotiations Committee, told The Associated Press that Russia should pressure Assad to abide by the deal, adding enforcement mechanisms will be needed including the “cessation of hostilities and the grounding (of) regime air forces.”

On 9/11 anniversary, Obama hails ‘true spirit of 9/11’

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hailing the values and resilience that he says both define and sustains Americans, President Barack Obama on Saturday honored the nearly 3,000 souls that were lost in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, as well as the bravery of survivors and the emergency personnel who responded, and the work of scores of others who have labored since to keep the homeland safe.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said that while so much has changed in the years since 9/11 it’s important to remember what has stayed the same. “The core values that define us as Americans. The resilience that sustains us,” he said on the eve of the 15th anniversary of one of the nation’s darkest days.

He said the terrorists’ goal is to frighten Americans into changing how they live, but “Americans will never give in to fear.”

“We’re still the America of heroes who ran into harm’s way, of ordinary folks who took down the hijackers, of families who turned their pain into hope,” Obama said.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in New York City, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon when hijacked commercial airliners were slammed into all three locations in attacks that were planned and carried out by the al-Qaida terrorist group. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed nearly a decade later by U.S. forces during a May 2011 raid on his Pakistani hideout that Obama authorized.

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Obama noted in his address that the terrorist threat has evolved since Sept. 11 “as we’ve seen so tragically from Boston to Chattanooga, from San Bernardino to Orlando,” cities that suffered headline-grabbing, terrorist-linked, fatal shootings.

He pledged that the U.S. will stay relentless against terrorism from al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, which is spreading its mayhem across the Middle East and the West.

Obama will mark Sunday’s anniversary by observing a moment of silence in the privacy of the White House residence at 8:46 a.m. EDT, when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center, before delivering remarks at a Pentagon memorial service.

WHY IT MATTERS: Issues at stake in election

EDITOR’S NOTE _ A look at issues at stake in the election and their impact on people

WASHINGTON (AP) — A selection of issues at stake in the presidential election and their impact on Americans, in brief:

IMMIGRATION

The future of millions of people living in the U.S. illegally could well be shaped by the presidential election. The stakes are high, too, for those who employ them, help them fit into neighborhoods, or want them gone.

Republican Donald Trump at first pledged to deport the estimated 11 million immigrants in the country illegally. Not only that, he’d build a wall all along the Mexican border. But his position has evolved. He’s sticking to his vow to build the wall and make Mexico pay. But he’s no longer proposing to deport people who have not committed crimes beyond their immigration offences. Still, he’s not proposing a way for people living in the country illegally to gain legal status.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, in contrast, would overhaul immigration laws to include a path to citizenship, not just legal status.

Illegal immigration has been at nearly 40-year lows for several years. It even appears that Mexican migration trends have reversed, with more Mexicans leaving the U.S. than arriving. Billions of dollars have been spent in recent years to build fencing, improve border technology and expand the Border Patrol.

Nonetheless the Mexican border remains a focal point for those who argue that the country is not secure.

EDUCATION

Education is a core issue not just for students and families, but for communities, the economy, and the nation as a global competitor.

The country has some 50 million K-12 students. Teaching them, preparing them for college and careers, costs taxpayers more than \$580 billion a year, or about \$11,670 per pupil per year. A better education usually translates into higher earnings.

And while high school graduations are up sharply and dropout rates down, the nation has a ways to go to match the educational outcomes elsewhere. American schoolchildren trail their counterparts in Japan, Korea, Germany, France and more.

For students seeking higher education, they face rising college costs and many are saddled with debt.

Hillary Clinton has proposed free tuition at in-state public colleges and universities for working families with incomes up to \$125,000 — free for families, that is, not for taxpayers. Donald Trump has railed against the Common Core academic standards in most states, and vowed to give students more choice

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and charter schools.

STUDENT DEBT

More Americans are getting buried by student debt — causing delays in home ownership, limiting how much people can save and leaving taxpayers at risk as many loans go unpaid.

Student debt now totals around \$1.26 trillion. This amounts to a stunning 350 percent increase since 2005, according to the New York Federal Reserve.

More than 60 percent of the class of 2014 graduated with debt that averaged nearly \$27,000, according to the College Board. Not all that taxpayer-backed debt is getting repaid. Out of the 43 million Americans with student debt, roughly 16 percent are in long-term default — a potential hit in excess of \$100 billion that taxpayers would absorb.

Democrat Hillary Clinton proposes no tuition for students from families making less than \$85,000 who go to an in-state, public college. Republican Donald Trump has promised a “great” student debt plan, details to come.

CLIMATE CHANGE

It’s as if Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton live on two entirely different Earths: one warming, one not. Clinton says climate change threatens us all, while Trump repeatedly tweets that global warming is a hoax.

Measurements and scientists say Clinton’s Earth is much closer to the warming reality. And it is worsening.

The world is on pace for the hottest year on record, breaking marks set in 2015, 2014, and 2010. It is about 1.8 degrees warmer than a century ago.

But it’s more than temperatures. Scientists have connected man-made climate change to deadly heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours.

Studies say climate change is raising sea levels, melting ice and killing coral. It’s making people sicker with asthma and allergies and may eventually shrink our bank accounts.

The American Association for the Advancement of Sciences says warming can be highly damaging to people and the planet and potentially irreversible.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

It’s the Goldilocks conundrum of American politics: Is the government too big, too small or just right? Every four years, the presidential election offers a referendum on whether Washington should do more or less.

Donald Trump favors cutting regulation and has promised massive tax cuts, but his plans are expected to add trillions to the national debt. Unlike most conservatives, he supports eminent domain and has spoken positively about government-run health care. And don’t forget that massive border wall. Hillary Clinton has vowed new spending on education and infrastructure that could grow government, too. She strongly supports “Obamacare,” which most small government proponents see as overreach.

At its heart, the debate about government’s reach pits the desire to know your basic needs will be cared for against the desire to be left alone. For the last few decades, polls have found Americans generally feel frustrated by the federal government and think it’s wasteful. A smaller government sounds good to a lot of people until they’re asked what specific services or benefits they are willing to do without.

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DEBT

The federal government is borrowing about one out of seven dollars it spends and steadily piling up debt. Over the long term, that threatens the economy and people's pocketbooks.

Most economists say rising debt risks crowding out investment and forcing interest rates up, among other problems. At the same time, rapidly growing spending on federal health care programs like Medicare and the drain on Social Security balances caused by the rising tide of baby boomers could squeeze out other spending, on roads, education, the armed forces and more.

It takes spending cuts, tax increases or both to dent the deficit. Lawmakers instead prefer higher spending and tax cuts.

Neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump has focused on the debt.

Trump has promised massive tax cuts that would drive up the debt and he's shown little interest in curbing expensive benefit programs like Medicare.

Clinton, by contrast, is proposing tax increases on the wealthy. But she wouldn't use the money to bring down the debt. Instead, she'd turn around and spend it on college tuition subsidies, infrastructure and health care.

TRADE

In this angry election year, many American voters are skeptical about free trade — or hostile to it.

The backlash threatens a pillar of U.S. policy: The United States has long sought global trade.

Economists say imports cut prices for consumers and make the U.S. more efficient.

But unease has simmered, especially as American workers faced competition from low-wage Chinese labor. Last year, the U.S. ran a \$334 billion trade deficit with China — \$500 billion with the entire world.

The Democratic and Republican presidential candidates are both playing to public suspicions about trade deals. Hillary Clinton broke with President Barack Obama by opposing an Asia-Pacific trade agreement that she had supported as secretary of state.

Donald Trump vows to tear up existing trade deals and to slap huge tariffs on Chinese imports.

But trade deals have far less impact on jobs than forces such as automation and wage differences between countries. Trump's plans to impose tariffs could start a trade war and raise prices.

SUPREME COURT

The ideological direction of the Supreme Court is going to tip one way or the other after the election. The outcome could sway decisions on issues that profoundly affect everyday Americans: immigration, gun control, climate change and more.

The court has been operating with eight justices since Antonin Scalia died in February. His successor appears unlikely to be confirmed until after the election, at the earliest. The court is split between four Democratic-appointed, liberal justices and four conservatives who were appointed by Republicans — although Justice Anthony Kennedy has sided with the liberals on abortion, same-sex marriage and affirmative action in the past two years.

The ninth justice will push the court left or right, depending on whether Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump becomes president. President Barack Obama has nominated Merrick Garland to take Scalia's seat, but the Republican Senate has refused to consider Garland's nomination, in an effort to prevent a liberal court majority.

CHINA

Tensions have been rising over China's assertive behavior in the seas of Asia. The U.S. also accuses China of unfair trading practices and cyber theft of business secrets.

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Donald Trump says that the sheer volume of trade gives the U.S. leverage over China. He accuses China of undervaluing its currency to make its exports artificially cheap and proposes tariffs as high as 45 percent on Chinese imports if Beijing doesn't change its behavior. Such action could risk a trade war that would make many products in the U.S. more expensive.

Clinton says the U.S. needs to press the rising Asian power to play by international rules, whether on trade or territorial disputes.

While many of China's neighbors are unnerved by its military buildup, the wider world needs the U.S. and China to get along, to tackle global problems. The U.S. and China are also economically interdependent, and punishment by one party could end up hurting the other.

INCOME INEQUALITY

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

Dogged on the issue during the primaries by Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton has highlighted inequality in multiple speeches. She hopes to redirect more money to the middle class and impoverished. Clinton would raise taxes on the wealthy, increase the federal minimum wage, boost infrastructure spending, provide universal pre-K and offer the prospect of tuition-free college.

Donald Trump offers a blunter message about a system "rigged" against average Americans. To bring back jobs, Trump has promised new trade deals with better terms, greater infrastructure spending than Clinton foresees and higher budget deficits. But Trump has also proposed a tax plan that would allow the wealthiest Americans to keep more money.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

More than 28,000 Americans died from overdosing on opioids in 2014, a record high for the nation.

That's 78 people per day, a number that doesn't include the millions of family members, first responders and even taxpayers who feel the ripple of drug addiction in their daily lives.

A rise in prescription painkillers is partially to blame: The sale of these drugs has quadrupled since 1999, and so has the number of Americans dying from an addiction to them. When prescriptions run out, people find themselves turning to the cheaper alternative heroin and, increasingly, the even more deadly drug fentanyl.

Recovering addicts and their family members are increasingly speaking out, putting a face on drug addiction and lessening the stigma surrounding it. But dollars for prevention, treatment and recovery services are still hard to come by, leaving many people waiting weeks or months to find the treatment they're seeking. Meantime, family members empty bank accounts in search of help, while law enforcement officers and emergency rooms serve as a first line of defense.

Donald Trump says the wall he wants to build along the southern border is essential to stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the country. Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, pledges to spend \$10 billion to increase access to prevention, treatment and recovery services, among other things.

NORTH KOREA

Pariah state North Korea could soon be capable of targeting America with nuclear weapons. What can the U.S. do to stop it?

Diplomacy and economic sanctions have not worked so far. North Korea's isolation is deepening, but

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it has continued to conduct nuclear test explosions and make advances in its missile technology.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump says the U.S. can put more pressure on China to rein in its North Korean ally. He says he is willing to meet the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un.

Democrat Hillary Clinton wants the world to intensify sanctions as the Obama administration did with Iran, a course that eventually opened the way for a deal to contain its nuclear program.

But it will be tough to force North Korea back to negotiations that aim at its disarmament in exchange for aid. Kim views atomic weapons as a security guarantee for his oppressive regime

HEALTH CARE

About 9 in 10 Americans now have health insurance, more than at any time in history. But progress is incomplete, and the future far from certain. Rising costs could bedevil the next occupant of the White House.

Millions of people previously shut out have been covered by President Barack Obama's health care law. No one can be denied coverage anymore because of a pre-existing condition. But "Obamacare" remains divisive, and premiums for next year are rising sharply in many communities.

Whether Americans would be better off trading for a GOP plan is another question. A recent study found that Donald Trump's proposal would make 18 million people uninsured. GOP congressional leaders have a more comprehensive approach, but key details are still missing.

Overall health care spending is trending higher again, and prices for prescription drugs — new and old — are a major worry.

Medicare's insolvency date has moved up by two years — to 2028.

Hillary Clinton would stay the course, adjusting as needed. Republicans are united on repealing Obama's law, but it's unclear how they would replace it.

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

How the U.S. uses its influence as the world's sole superpower is a central feature of presidential power.

It can mean taking the country to war — to protect the homeland or to defend an ally. Or it can mean using diplomacy to prevent war. It can affect U.S. jobs, too, as choices arise either to expand trade deals or to erect barriers to protect U.S. markets.

In the contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, America's role in the world is a point of sharp differences. Each says the U.S. must be the predominant power, but they would exercise leadership differently. Trump calls his approach "America first," meaning alliances and coalitions would not pass muster unless they produced a net benefit to the U.S. Clinton sees international partnerships as essential tools for using U.S. influence and lessening the chances of war.

These divergent views could mean very different approaches to the military fight and ideological struggle against the Islamic State, the future of Afghanistan and Iraq, the contest with China for influence in Asia and the Pacific, and growing nervousness in Europe over Russian aggression.

VOTING RIGHTS

Voting rights in America are in flux. Republican-controlled legislatures are tightening voter laws, placing limits on early voting and same-day registration, and imposing new requirements for IDs at polling places. In 2013, the Supreme Court invalidated a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. That provision had required states with a history of racial discrimination to get federal preclearance to change election laws.

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The issue has become highly partisan with the rapid growth of minority populations, which in recent presidential elections have tilted heavily Democratic.

The Obama Justice Department has challenged voter ID and other laws, saying they could restrict access for minorities and young people. Recent lower court rulings temporarily softened some of the toughest restrictions, but litigation remains knotted up with Supreme Court appeals likely. Bills in Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act are stalled.

Donald Trump opposes same-day voter registration, backing laws to ensure only citizens vote. Hillary Clinton wants Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act and seeks a national standard of at least 20 days of early in-person voting.

Associated Press writers Alicia A. Caldwell, Jennifer C. Kerr, Josh Boak, Seth Borenstein, Josh Lederman, Andrew Taylor, Kathleen Ronayne, Paul Wiseman, Mark Sherman, Matthew Pennington, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Robert Burns and Hope Yen contributed to this report.

Japanese pro-wrestling icon meets senior N. Korean official

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Japanese politician and pro-wrestling icon Kanji Inoki met a close confidant of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday in his latest visit to Pyongyang, a day after North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test in defiance of heavy international sanctions.

Inoki met with Ri Su Yong, former North Korean foreign minister and current head of the international department of the country's ruling Workers' Party. It wasn't immediately known what the two men discussed.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Inoki gave Ri an unspecified gift intended for Kim, but provided no other details.

Inoki, 73, is a pro wrestler-turned-lawmaker, perhaps best known in the United States for his exhibition bout with Muhammad Ali in the 1970s.

He has been a regular visitor to North Korea for years and has supported the idea of promoting exchanges with the isolated nation through sports.

In 1995, Inoki fought American Ric Flair in what was called the "Collision in Korea," a two-day event held in Pyongyang's huge May Day Stadium that drew a reported 380,000 spectators and guest attendees including Ali.

Inoki organized another wrestling event in Pyongyang in 2014, with about 20 mixed martial artists taking part in a series of exhibition matches.

Rhetoric or real? N. Korea nuclear test may be a bit of both

FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's latest nuclear test, its most powerful to date, is a game-changer ... according to North Korea.

As with anything reported by Pyongyang, an authoritarian state run by a third-generation dictator who allows zero dissent or outside investigation, there's reason to be skeptical. But even if the North's assertion that it has rounded a crucial corner in nuclear development is more rhetoric than real, the content of its claim holds some important clues about where the country's atomic efforts may be heading.

In a meeting in Seoul on Saturday, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said that Friday's test showed that North Korea's nuclear capacity has reached a "considerable level" after quickly progressing

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in the past 10 years.

The newest test by North Korea raises many big questions, including:

WHAT DID NORTH KOREA ACCOMPLISH?

North Korea says its "standardization" of a warhead will allow it to produce "at will and as many as it wants a variety of smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear warheads of higher strike power." This puts "on a higher level (the North's) technology of mounting nuclear warheads on ballistic rockets."

It may indicate North Korea feels it can confidently build miniaturized warheads, mass-produce those weapons and then deploy them on ballistic missiles.

If so, Pyongyang has developed a unified design for nuclear weapons that could be used on a variety of its ballistic missiles, including Scuds, midrange Rodong and Musudan missiles, and submarine-launched missiles, said Kim Dae Young, a military expert at South Korea's Korea Defense and Security Forum.

Combine that with everything scientists have learned from the four previous tests and North Korea may now have nuclear weapons capable of attacking its Asian neighbors, said nuclear expert Whang Joo-ho of Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association, provided a similar assessment, saying that North Korea is either at or very close to the point where they can arm short-range ballistic missiles with a nuclear warhead.

"The cumulative knowledge of the five nuclear test explosions and the dozens of ballistic missile tests, especially in the last 12 months, are giving their technical people greater confidence that they can deploy warheads on their ballistic missiles. If they have not reached that capability today, they certainly will relatively soon with further nuclear test explosions and ballistic missile tests," he said.

Whatever the state of the program, one thing is clear: The fifth test was the most powerful to date.

Seoul said the magnitude-5.0 seismic event dwarfs the four past quakes associated with North Korean nuclear tests. Artificial seismic waves measuring 3.9 were reported after North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, for instance, and a 4.8 was reported from its fourth test this January.

The explosive yield of Friday's blast would have been 10 to 12 kilotons, or 70 to 80 percent of the force of the 15-kiloton atomic bomb the United States dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in 1945, according to South Korea's weather agency. The North's fourth test, in January, was an estimated 6 kilotons.

This power strongly indicates a legitimate advance.

"If previous tests were conducted with the purpose of acquiring the nuclear bomb, the newest test shows that the North finally owns a real, weaponized nuclear bomb," Kim said.

The RAND National Defense Research Institute, a federally funded U.S. think tank, said in a 2010 report that the detonation of a 10-kiloton nuclear weapon in the South Korean capital of Seoul could cause more than 200,000 deaths and would easily overwhelm doctors and beds in hospitals throughout the country.

WHAT CAN IT BUILD NOW?

The big question, though, is whether Pyongyang can make warheads small and light enough to be armed on a missile that can reach the mainland United States — much more advanced technology.

Kimball from the Arms Control Association said North Korea has not yet demonstrated the ability to launch a medium- or long-range missile that can re-enter the Earth's atmosphere and is still years away from having an intercontinental ballistic missile that can deliver a nuclear warhead that can hit

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the continental U.S.

If the North has mastered miniaturization, the next step would be making and stamping bombs that can be put on warheads.

But how many?

North Korea is a very poor country and has much less to work with than, for instance, the United States and Soviet Union did in their nascent nuclear stages. This means that Pyongyang likely can't develop different warheads for different missiles.

Much also depends on how much nuclear fuel the country has.

Estimates vary, but North Korea may have about 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of weapons-grade plutonium, according to a 2014 South Korean report, which is enough for about seven atomic bombs.

But Pyongyang also has a highly enriched uranium program, which is much more easily concealed and which outsiders know very little about; if that program is advanced, the North could have much more fuel for bomb-building.

Stephen Schwartz, an independent nuclear weapons expert, said that North Korea's statement about the test suggested that the detonated nuclear device employed a composite fissile core that used both plutonium and highly enriched uranium, which, if true, would enable the North to build more nuclear weapons than would be otherwise possible with plutonium or uranium alone.

ARE MORE TESTS COMING?

It's a possibility.

New tests would help improve the design of North Korean warheads and develop a stronger "boosted" hybrid bomb, which uses some nuclear fusion fuel with conventional uranium or plutonium fuel to achieve a larger explosive force, said Lee Choon Geun, an analyst at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

But North Korea has vowed to pursue both nuclear and economic development.

This test, portrayed as an overwhelming success, could allow the North to turn more attention to its moribund economy and a population that often struggles to find enough to eat.

WHAT'S RHETORIC? WHAT'S REAL?

Some outsiders were struck by the name of the agency that announced the nuclear test, something called the Nuclear Weapons Institute, which hasn't appeared previously in North Korean media.

This important-sounding institute may be a way for Pyongyang to play up another important goal: that it considers itself a full-fledged nuclear weapons state, despite a refusal by Washington, Seoul and others to accept the North in this role.

From a purely propaganda point of view, the North's statement Friday satisfies an important requirement: It portrays a strong, proud country led by a great leader.

Whether the North's announcement of its test is simply the same mixture of boast, threat and propaganda that characterizes much of what North Korea chooses to show in its tightly controlled state media, or a major nuclear advancement, the picture that the North paints for the world may be as important as what actually happened.

2 killed, 25 injured in protests in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Two people died and at least 25 others were injured Saturday as government forces fired tear gas and clashed with protesters demanding freedom from Indian control in Kashmir.

A police officer said a young man was killed when police and paramilitary soldiers tried to stop protesters from marching to a village in Shopian district.

In another incident, a 25-year-old man died from pellet injuries in Anantnag district following clashes between police and protesters.

A prolonged curfew, communication blackouts and a tightening crackdown have failed to stop some of the largest protests in Kashmir against Indian rule in recent years, triggered by a rebel commander's killing on July 8. Since then, tens of thousands of people have defied security restrictions, staged protests and clashed with government forces on a daily basis to seek an end to Indian rule.

At least 70 civilians have been killed and thousands injured, mostly by government forces firing bullets and shotguns at rock-throwing protesters. Two policemen have been killed and hundreds of government forces have been injured in the clashes.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both. Most Kashmiris want an end to Indian rule and favor independence or a merger with Pakistan.

Appeals court blocks proof-of-citizenship voting requirement

SAM HANANEL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has blocked Kansas, Georgia and Alabama from requiring residents to prove they are U.S. citizens when registering to vote using a national form.

The 2-1 ruling Friday is a victory for voting rights groups who said a U.S. election official illegally changed proof-of-citizenship requirements on the federal registration form at the behest of the three states.

People registering to vote in other states are only required to swear that they are citizens, not show documentary proof.

The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia acted swiftly in the case, issuing a two-page, unsigned ruling just a day after hearing oral arguments. A federal judge in July had refused to block the requirement while the case is considered on the merits.

The League of Women Voters and civil rights groups argued that the requirements could lead to the "mass disenfranchisement" of thousands of potential voters — many of them poor, African-American and living in rural areas

The groups took issue with the actions of Brian Newby, executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, who changed the federal form shortly after he took the job last November. Newby is a former Kansas election official who had publicly supported the state's effort to make the change.

The case now returns to the district court for a full hearing on the merits. But the appeals court said the voting rights groups are likely to succeed on the merits.

The change requires people seeking to register to show birth certificates, naturalization papers or other documents as proof of citizenship. Kansas has been actively enforcing the requirement, but Alabama and Georgia have not.

Opponents said Newby had no authority to take the action on his own. Even the Justice Department has refused to defend Newby's action and has sided with voting rights groups.

The appeals court's ruling requires the commission to immediately remove the proof-of-citizenship requirement from all forms. It requires the states to treat all registration applications filed since January 29 as if they did not have the requirement.

The EAC was created in 2002 to help avoid a repeat of the disputed 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore following ballot confusion in Florida. It is supposed to have four commissioners, two Democrats and two Republicans, but one of the Democratic seats is currently va-

cant. The remaining commissioners never acted to approve or disapprove Newby's action.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach had argued that the change was needed to prevent voter fraud. He rejected claims that the requirement undermined voter registration, saying Kansas voter rolls have risen overall this year.

Apple is shifting the focus of its secret car project

BRANDON BAILEY, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple may not become an automaker, but it still wants to develop its own self-driving technology.

The iPhone-maker's automotive project, long an open secret in Silicon Valley, is shifting to focus on creating the technology for an autonomous vehicle that doesn't require a human driver. The new direction apparently doesn't foreclose the possibility that Apple might someday build its own car, but it opens the door to partnering with other car companies.

The new emphasis was confirmed Friday by a person with knowledge of the project, after the New York Times reported that Apple is "rethinking" its automotive strategy. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the project.

Apple had no official comment Friday and has consistently declined to confirm its automotive ambitions. But Elon Musk, the chief executive of electric-car maker Tesla, has said that Apple has hired hundreds of engineers, including some from Tesla, to work on an automotive project. Local officials in the San Francisco Bay Area say Apple contacted them last year about using a former naval base that's been converted into an automotive testing ground.

More recently, the New York Times and Bloomberg News have reported that Apple's initial efforts to design its own car have suffered from management turnover and technical delays. Industry experts say building a car is an incredibly complex challenge for any company, even one with the engineering prowess of Apple. Automobile manufacture also poses more regulatory and legal issues than building an iPhone or a computer.

But the tech industry has increasingly ventured into the automotive sector, where Apple, Google and other firms are competing to develop software that can help manage — at least — the information and entertainment systems inside today's vehicles. Google has made no secret that it's also working on self-driving technology, but says that it is more likely to partner with an established automaker.

Analysts say tech companies want to be involved in automobiles because they want people to keep using their products and services, even while driving. Meanwhile, most of the leading auto-makers have opened research labs in Silicon Valley, in part to work on the software and the physical systems — including sensors and other components — that are needed for autonomous driving.

Uber, the giant ride-sharing company, has also hired experts in robotics and has begun testing cars with self-driving capabilities.

Federal government halts work on part of pipeline project

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

NEAR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. (AP) — The federal government stepped into the fight over the Dakota Access oil pipeline Friday, ordering work to stop on one segment of the project in North Dakota and asking the Texas-based company building it to "voluntarily pause" action on a wider span that an American Indian tribe says holds sacred artifacts.

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The government's order came minutes after a judge rejected a request by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt construction of the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline.

The tribe, whose cause has drawn thousands to join their protest, has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for the pipeline at more than 200 water crossings. Tribal leaders allege that the project violates several federal laws and will harm water supplies. The tribe also says ancient sites have been disturbed during construction.

The tribe's chairman, Dave Archambault II, spoke at the state Capitol in front of several hundred people, some carrying signs that read "Respect Our Water" and "Water Is Sacred." He called the federal announcement "a beautiful start" and told reporters that the dispute is a long way from over.

"A public policy win is a lot stronger than a judicial win," he said. "Our message is heard."

A joint statement from the Army and the Departments of Justice and the Interior said construction bordering or under Lake Oahe would not go forward and asked the Texas-based pipeline builder, Energy Transfer Partners, to stop work 20 miles to the east and west of the lake while the government reconsiders "any of its previous decisions."

The statement also said the case "highlighted the need for a serious discussion" about nationwide reforms "with respect to considering tribes' views on these types of infrastructure projects."

Vicki Granado, a spokeswoman for the company, said it had no comment.

The president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council said he was disappointed with the government's decision to intervene and called it "flagrant overreach" that will result in more oil being moved by trucks and trains.

The 1,172-mile project will carry nearly a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota's oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois.

In denying the tribe's request for a temporary injunction, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington said that the court "does not lightly countenance any depredation of lands that hold significance" to the tribe and that, given the federal government's history with the tribe, the court scrutinized the permitting process "with particular care."

Nonetheless, the judge wrote, the tribe "has not demonstrated that an injunction is warranted here."

Attorney Jan Hasselman with the environmental group Earthjustice, who filed the lawsuit on the tribe's behalf, said earlier this week any such decision would be challenged. "We will have to pursue our options with an appeal and hope that construction isn't completed while that (appeal) process is going forward," he said.

Tribal historian LaDonna Brave Bull Allard said Boasberg's ruling gave her "a great amount of grief. My heart is hurting, but we will continue to stand, and we will look for other legal recourses."

Earlier in the day, thousands of protesters, many from tribes around the country, gathered near the reservation that straddles the North and South Dakota border.

"There's never been a coming together of tribes like this," according to Judith LeBlanc, a member of the Caddo Nation in Oklahoma and director of the New York-based Native Organizers Alliance. People came from as far as New York and Alaska, some bringing their families and children, and hundreds of tribal flags dotted the camp, along with American flags flown upside-down in protest.

The judge's order was announced over a loudspeaker there. John Nelson of Portland, Oregon, came to the camp to support his grandson, Archambault. The 82-year-old says he was not surprised by the ruling, "but it still hurts."

State authorities announced this week that law enforcement officers from across the state were being mobilized at the protest site. They said some National Guard members will work security at traffic checkpoints and another 100 would be on standby. The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association

asked the Justice Department to send monitors to the site because it said racial profiling is occurring. Nearly 40 people have been arrested since the protest began in April, including Archambault.

A week ago, protesters and construction workers were injured when, according to tribal officials, workers bulldozed sites on private land that the tribe says in court documents are "of great historic and cultural significance." Energy Transfer Partners denied the allegations.

The state's Private Investigation and Security Board received complaints about the use of dogs and will look into whether the private security teams at the site are properly registered and licensed, board attorney Monte Rogneby said Friday, adding that he would not name the firms.

On Thursday, North Dakota's archaeologist said a piece of private land that was not previously surveyed by the state would be surveyed for artifacts next week.

The company plans to complete the pipeline this year, and said in court papers that stopping the project would cost \$1.4 billion the first year, mostly due to lost revenue in hauling crude.

A status conference in the tribe's lawsuit is scheduled for Sept. 16.

Appeals court blocks proof-of-citizenship voting requirement

SAM HANANEL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has blocked Kansas, Georgia and Alabama from requiring residents to prove they are U.S. citizens when registering to vote using a national form.

The 2-1 ruling Friday is a victory for voting rights groups who said a U.S. election official illegally changed proof-of-citizenship requirements on the federal registration form at the behest of the three states.

People registering to vote in other states are only required to swear that they are citizens, not show documentary proof.

The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia acted swiftly in the case, issuing a two-page, unsigned ruling just a day after hearing oral arguments. A federal judge in July had refused to block the requirement while the case is considered on the merits.

The League of Women Voters and civil rights groups argued that the requirements could lead to the "mass disenfranchisement" of thousands of potential voters — many of them poor, African-American and living in rural areas

The groups took issue with the actions of Brian Newby, executive director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, who changed the federal form shortly after he took the job last November. Newby is a former Kansas election official who had publicly supported the state's effort to make the change.

The case now returns to the district court for a full hearing on the merits. But the appeals court said the voting rights groups are likely to succeed on the merits.

The change requires people seeking to register to show birth certificates, naturalization papers or other documents as proof of citizenship. Kansas has been actively enforcing the requirement, but Alabama and Georgia have not.

Opponents said Newby had no authority to take the action on his own. Even the Justice Department has refused to defend Newby's action and has sided with voting rights groups.

The appeals court's ruling requires the commission to immediately remove the proof-of-citizenship requirement from all forms. It requires the states to treat all registration applications filed since January 29 as if they did not have the requirement.

The EAC was created in 2002 to help avoid a repeat of the disputed 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore following ballot confusion in Florida. It is supposed to have four commissioners, two Democrats and two Republicans, but one of the Democratic seats is currently va-

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cant. The remaining commissioners never acted to approve or disapprove Newby's action.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach had argued that the change was needed to prevent voter fraud. He rejected claims that the requirement undermined voter registration, saying Kansas voter rolls have risen overall this year.