

Groton Daily Independent

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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

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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Today

National Cream-Filled Donut Day

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice or milk.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, mixed vegetable, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie.

Anniversary: Gerald & Ann Rix

Birthdays: Bonnie Larson • Ryan Groeblichhoff

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

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

5:00 pm: Gun Club Golfing at OG

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League meets at Doeden's

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation Kick-off (parents and youth)

15

Felt Hat Day

Make a Hat Day

School Breakfast: Cheese omelet, fruit, juice or milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, bread sticks, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice with chow mien noodles, broccoli, breadsticks, sour cream apple pie square.

Birthday: Mason Madsen

4:00pm: 7th Grade FB hosts Aberdeen Central

4:00pm: Cross Country at Lee Park Golf Course, Aberdeen

6:00pm: VB: at Hamlin (C/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

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Bates Township Mowing Weed Notice

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2016 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist

Township Clerk

Cross Country Meet Results Webster Golf Course Sept. 12, 2016

Boy's Division (5K)

28, Lee Williams, 20:29.16
53, Tylan Glover, 21:54.74.
74, Spencer Jacobs, 30:26.76.

Girl's Division (5K)

34, Emily Thompson, 23:00.86.
40, Hannah Lewandowski, 23:27.80.
52, Erin Smith, 25:25.19.
58, AnneMarie Smith, 26:33.44.
62, Jenifer Fjelstad, 27:07.49.

Girl's JV (3K)

23, Allison Wilson, 17:33.67

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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Olive Grove's Sunflower Couples Tournament September 11

Championship Flight

70 - Duncan and Sara Ferreira
70 - Brad and Brenda Waage
70 - Mike and Cherry Baker
71 - Mike Papstein and Suzi Souza
74 - Jan and Nancy Gilchrsit
74 - Mark and Keri Herman
74 - Ray and Cyndy Larson
75 - Chad Ellingson and Haley Rheaut

First Flight

72 - Brad and Dar Larson
76 - Ryan Easthouse and Diane Easthouse
76 - Tony and Mandy Grohs
76 - Randy and Sue Stanley
78 - Dave and Marcy Blackmun
79 - Bob and Patty Couser
79 - Roger Colestock and Payton Colestock

Second Flight

78 - Joe and Laura Stoebner
79 - Bob and Vicki Walter
79 - Walt and Helen Plummage
79 - Jonathan and Mandilyn Fliehs
81 - Rod and Arlys Kluess
83 - Doug and Vicki Jorgensen
85 - Terry Ellingson and Sharon Zastrow

Third Flight

82 - Rick and Tami Zimney
84 - Steve and Betty Dunker
85 - Lorin and Julie Fliehs
86 - Rod and Cheryl Paul
87 - Rolfe and Car Ludtke
88 - Bob and Judy Sundling

Closest to Pin on #8: David Blackmun

Closest to Pin on #4: Keri Herman

Longest Putt on #9: Doug Jorgensen



Please join us for an
Open House Celebration
in honor of
NANCY LARSEN
as she retires after 47
years of dedicated service.

**JAMES
VALLEY**
* TELECOMMUNICATIONS *

Wednesday, Sept. 14th
2-4pm
235 E 1st Ave Groton
Refreshments Served



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



Schuring hits Hole-In-One at Redfield



The Groton Area boys golf team went to Redfield on Sept. 13, 2016, where Sean Schuring hit a hole-in-one on hole number five at Fisher Grove Golf Course.

Hunter Schaller placed third with a 78, Sean Schuring was ninth with an 86 and Landon Marzahn was 10th with an 86. Others golfing were Cade Guthmiller who shot an 87 and Hunter Kassube shot a 111.

Aberdeen Roncalli won the meet with 316 points followed by Sisseton with 322, Groton Area with 337, Sioux Valley with 351, Milbank Area with 366 and Redfield-Doland with 408.

Sean Schuring hit a hole-in-one at Fisher Grove Golf Course in Redfield on Sept. 13, 2016. (Courtesy photo)

Groton Area girls beat Mobridge-Pollock

Groton's volleyball team made the trek to Mobridge Tuesday night and came home with a 3-0 win over the home town Tigers. Game scores were 25-21, 25-20 and 25-21.

Groton Area was 72 of 78 in serving with eight ace serves. Katie Koehler was 11 of 11 with two ace serves and Payton Maine was 14 of 15 with two ace serves.

In sets, Groton Area was 73 of 75 with 27 assists. Katie Koehler was 63 of 65 with 25 assists and Paityn Bonn was six of six with one assist.

Groton Area was 77 of 96 in attacks with 27 kills. Jessica Bjerke was 18 of 21 with nine kills and Audey Wanner was 19 of 25 with eight kills.

Groton Area had five blocks with Gia Gengerke and Jessica Bjerke each having two. The team had 46 digs with Audrey Wanner having 13 and Jessica Bjerke and Payton Maine each having nine.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-11 and 25-22.

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Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degree low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent tornado, estimated at F4 intensity with winds over 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1937 - The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 - A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)








1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

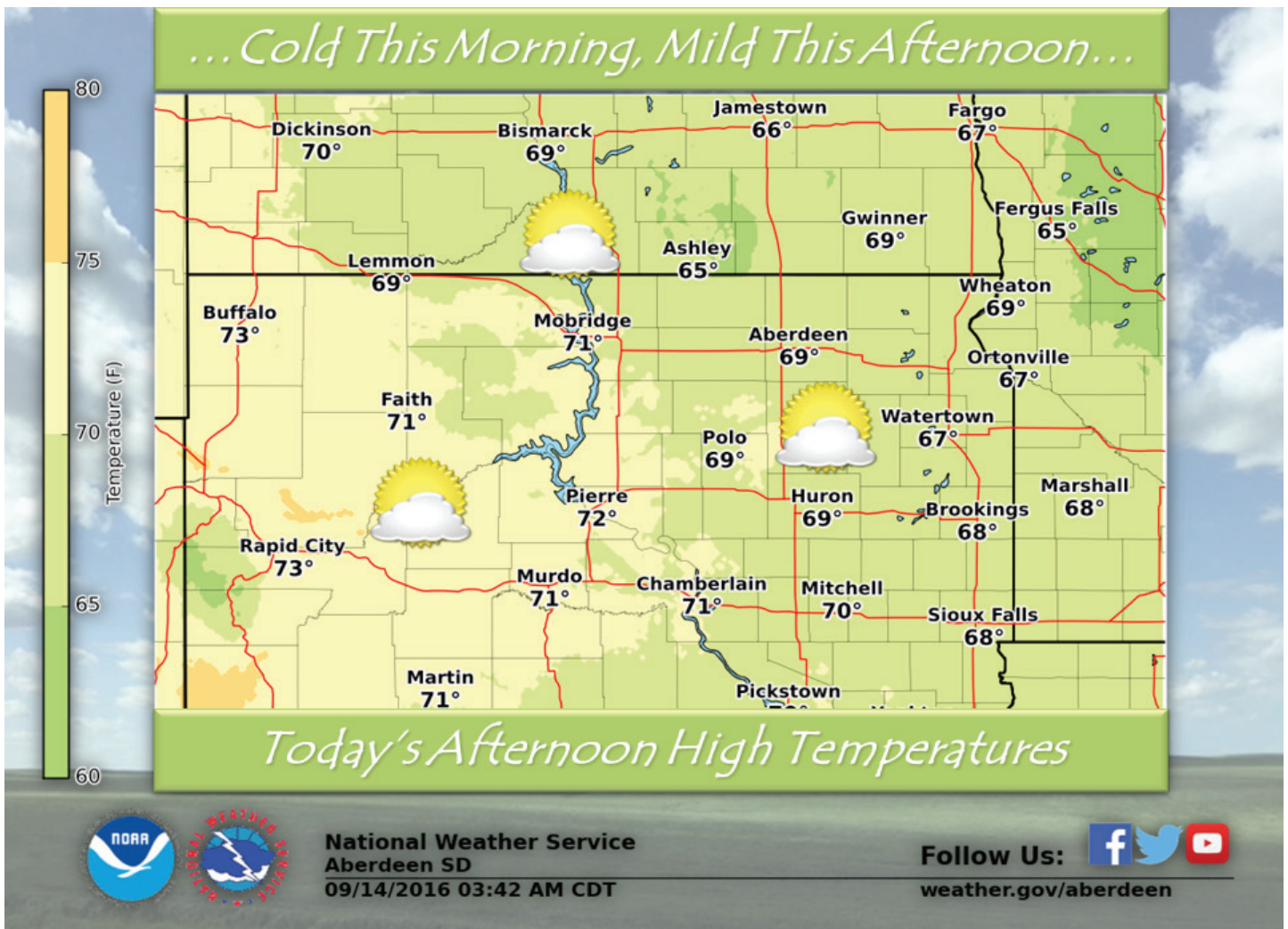
1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Patchy Frost	Patchy Frost then Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms
High: 61 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 70 °F



Published on: 09/14/2016 at 4:03AM

High pressure will bring a dry day to the area, with mild afternoon temperatures. On Thursday, a system will approach the region, with showers and thunderstorms possible.

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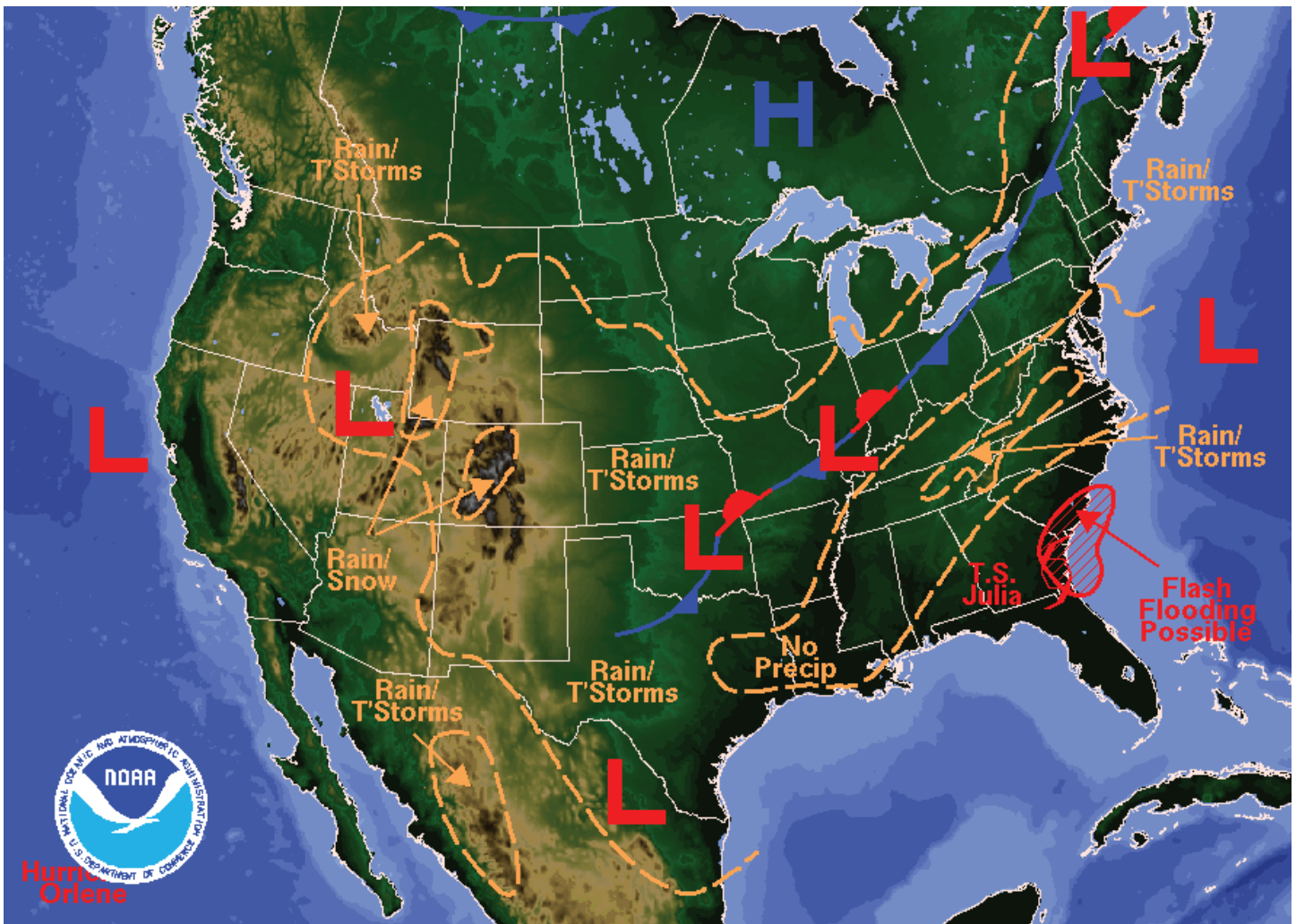
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 53.8 F at 1:24 PM
Low Outside Temp: 39.0 F at 11:40 PM
High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 9:24 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1948
Record Low: 28° in 1949
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 47°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.05
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.19
Average Precip to date: 17.34
Precip Year to Date: 12.85
Sunset Tonight: 7:45 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Sep 14, 2016, issued 4:50 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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QUIET PLEASE

The young boys in a Paris school felt that they had learned enough for one week and decided that they would go to the park that Friday afternoon. One of them picked up a pebble and began to tap it on a bench as he sat gazing across a bed of flowers. Intrigued, a boy at the other end of the bench kneeled down and put his ear to the board and was able to hear the tapping.

Smiling, he said to his friend, "I heard two quiet taps, a pause and then several loud taps."

A doctor sat watching them with great interest. Suddenly he stood up with a distant look in his eyes as though he was trying to imagine something he had not seen before. At that moment an idea was born in his mind. Whenever he wanted to hear the sounds going on in a person's body he would place his ear above the organs he was trying to hear. He wondered if it were possible to hear the sounds of a patient's organs more clearly if he placed a hollow tube on the person's body. From that idea the stethoscope was born.

You and I are "God's stethoscopes." He has given us ears to hear the cries of those around us who are suffering and crying out for His hope, help and healing. It is sad, however, that our ears are often so filled with the noises of this world that we cannot hear those who are calling out to Him for His love and salvation.

Prayer: Lord, all around us are those who need someone to hear their cries, wipe away their tears and share Your love. Help us to see, hear and respond. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.

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

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Scotland, 15-25, 25-23, 25-18, 14-25, 15-11
Beresford def. Tri-Valley, 21-25, 25-9, 25-20, 25-14
Bison def. Newell, 25-11, 25-15, 25-9
Bon Homme def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-14, 25-11, 25-8
Bridgewater-Emery def. Freeman, 25-20, 25-19, 25-19
Chamberlain def. Todd County, 25-17, 27-25, 25-13
Cody-Kilgore, Neb. def. St. Francis Indian, 25-15, 25-8, 25-16
Custer def. Douglas, 25-23, 25-23, 21-25, 25-20
Dakota Valley def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-21, 25-16, 26-24
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Flandreau Indian, 25-11, 25-8, 25-12
Deubrook def. Waubay/Summit, 25-18, 25-15, 25-18
Deuel def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 17-25, 25-10, 25-14, 25-19
Faulkton def. Leola/Frederick, 23-25, 28-26, 25-19, 22-25, 15-12
Flandreau def. Garretson, 24-26, 25-22, 25-17, 25-14
Florence/Henry def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-23, 25-16, 19-25, 25-15
Freeman Academy def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-14, 25-15, 25-15
Gayville-Volin def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-10, 25-23, 25-19
Great Plains Lutheran def. Estelline, 25-11, 25-23, 24-26, 25-21
Groton Area def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-21, 25-20, 25-21
Hanson def. Canistota, 24-26, 25-12, 25-13, 25-21
Harding County def. Hettinger/Scranton, N.D., 25-19, 25-16, 25-14
Harrisburg def. Brookings, 25-8, 25-16, 25-17
Hill City def. Hot Springs, 25-18, 25-18, 26-24
Huron def. Mitchell, 27-29, 25-15, 27-25, 25-17
Jones County def. White River, 25-20, 25-15, 25-13
Langford def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-5, 25-15, 25-17
Lead-Deadwood def. Edgemont, 25-17, 25-16, 25-23
Madison def. Vermillion, 25-18, 25-11, 27-25
Milbank Area def. Arlington, 25-19, 25-27, 26-24, 25-20
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-21, 16-25, 25-9, 22-25, 15-9
Northwestern def. Miller, 25-14, 25-22, 25-16
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Iroquois, 25-11, 25-6, 25-16
Parker def. Tea Area, 25-18, 25-18, 25-17
Parkston def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-20, 25-17, 25-9
Platte-Geddes def. Colome, 25-18, 25-13, 25-18
Rapid City Christian def. Dupree, 25-20, 25-17, 23-25, 25-14
Rapid City Stevens def. Sturgis Brown, 25-16, 25-10, 25-10
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Wessington Springs, 25-8, 25-16, 21-25, 25-11
Sioux Falls Christian def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-17, 24-26, 21-25, 25-17, 15-4

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Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Yankton, 25-23, 25-15, 24-26, 22-25, 15-8
Sioux Valley def. DeSmet, 25-13, 25-11, 25-22
Sully Buttes def. Edmunds Central, 25-7, 25-5, 25-13
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Crow Creek, 25-22, 23-25, 9-25, 25-23, 15-13
Wagner def. Avon, 25-17, 25-21, 25-18
Warner def. Ipswich, 25-15, 25-6, 25-6
Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 26-24, 11-25, 25-22, 27-25
Webster def. Wilmot, 25-20, 25-14, 25-21
Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. def. Sisseton, 3-0
Wolsey-Wessington def. Mitchell Christian, 25-10, 25-15, 25-11

Feds to close Indian Health Service hospital's ER

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

The emergency room at the Indian Health Services hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota, will close indefinitely, the federal government announced Tuesday, a move that some tribal officials say will threaten lives.

The Sioux San Hospital emergency department is set to be closed on Sept. 20 due primarily to the age of the facility and equipment, IHS officials said, though the hospital will continue to offer urgent care services around the clock for needs that are not complicated or life-threatening.

Rear Admiral Sarah Linde, the IHS acting chief medical officer, told The Associated Press that justifying emergency services at Sioux San "is no longer as clear as it once was," given the fact the next-closest emergency room is less than 5 miles (8 km) away at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Asked if the closure could become permanent, Linde said, "The future will be determined by continued consultation with the tribes and stakeholders about how IHS can best use limited resources to ensure access to quality care for patients."

Linde said "a very small percentage" of patients would need emergency services beyond what Sioux San urgent care can provide.

Inspectors with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services earlier this year cited serious issues with patient care in the Sioux San emergency room and had threatened to cut off funding. The review found patients were not receiving appropriate medical screening examinations and the lack of care could cause serious injury, harm, impairment or death to a patient.

A correction plan was put in place and continued funding was approved by CMS in May. The latest action is not related to CMS review, Linde said.

Officials with the Unified Tribal Health Board for the Sioux San Hospital, which consists of the Oglala Sioux, Rosebud Sioux and Cheyenne River tribes, criticized Tuesday's action.

O.J. Semans, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Health Board, said it will strain area hospitals that will have to take over emergency care. He pointed to the Rosebud hospital emergency room, which was shut down for seven months and reopened in July.

"It's almost beyond words when you know that you have other relatives, brothers and sisters, cousins, uncles and aunts that their lives are going to be in danger as much as they were here," Semans said.

CMS issued similar deadlines to IHS-run hospitals on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations in South Dakota after substandard conditions were uncovered during inspections.

"We need a complete audit in order for us to get the big picture of how bad this is and what we need to do to fix it," Semans said. "And until we get that independent audit, we are going to go through this with every hospital in the United States."

Rapid City event to offer tool to help recover lost kids

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A group of volunteers will be at a Rapid City mall this weekend to encourage parents to register their children in a comprehensive child identification program.

The South Dakota Child Identification Program will collect information to register children at the Rushmore Mall. The kits may include child's photos, dental impressions, fingerprints, a DNA cheek swab and video interview.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the program is "designed to assist in the event a child becomes missing." The information packets will be given to each child's parents to keep.

The state's Academy of Physician Assistants and Highway Patrol are among the groups that help implement the program in South Dakota.

Parents can register their children between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday.

Annual Buffalo Roundup to be held in Custer State Park

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is hosting the annual Buffalo Roundup at Custer State Park this month.

The 51st roundup is scheduled to be held on Sept. 30.

Katie Ceroll, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, says the roundup brings more than 10,000 spectators from around the world to Custer State Park each year.

An annual Arts Festival runs from Sept. 29 through Oct. 1.

AARP, League of Women Voters back nonpartisan election plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota nonpartisan groups will be supporting a constitutional amendment that would remove candidates' party affiliations from primary and general election ballots, supporters said Tuesday.

AARP South Dakota and the League of Women Voters of South Dakota said that passing the amendment would help give roughly 115,000 independent voters — roughly 21 percent of the state's total — an equal voice in the electoral process. If approved in the November election, Constitutional Amendment V would establish a nonpartisan primary that would send the top vote-getters to the general election; it wouldn't apply to presidential races.

Supporters say the measure would help broaden the voter base participating in the political process because many elections now are effectively decided in partisan primaries closed to independent voters. In South Dakota, the Democratic primary is open to independents, while the Republican primary is closed.

"We do a lot of research on anything we stand on," said Erik Gaikowski, state director of AARP South Dakota, which has more than 107,000 members. "We feel it's a strong way for more independents to have a voice and really, truly make candidates work for every vote."

Backers are pursuing the amendment with help from the New York nonprofit Open Primaries. Under the plan, political parties would still be free to advertise, but the "sacred ballot" would simply show a candidate's name, said Rick Knobe, a leader of a group advancing the measure.

Top Republicans including Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are opposing the amendment. Foes are casting the measure as a plan to reduce transparency at the polls that takes away voters' right to know the party affiliation of a candidate.

"This is a partisan effort masquerading as nonpartisan," said Will Mortenson, chairman of a group working against the measure. "It's an anti-transparent campaign pushing an anti-transparent measure on South Dakota."

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Midwest governors send letter to EPA seeking ethanol changes

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Seven Midwest governors have sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking regulation changes intended to increase sales of gasoline blended with a higher percentage of ethanol.

The governors of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota sent a letter Tuesday to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy requesting new standards that would allow stations to sell more gasoline blended with 15 percent ethanol rather than the current standard of 10 percent ethanol.

The letter says the current setup “is stifling the widespread adoption” of E15 ethanol blends.

The governors — five Republicans and two Democrats — are all from leading ethanol-producing states. The letter was also sent to President Barack Obama.

A telephone message seeking a comment from McCarthy was not immediately returned Tuesday.

South Dakota farmers close to finishing spring wheat harvest

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are close to wrapping up spring wheat harvest.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that spring wheat is 97 percent completed, just slightly behind the 98 percent average for five years and the 99 percent figure at this time a year ago. Winter wheat planted was at 7 percent, trailing last year’s mark of 17 percent and the 13 percent average.

The report says corn and soybeans continued to mature at or near average pace.

Fieldwork for crops in areas of eastern South Dakota was slowed early in the week because of strong storms.

Pasture and range conditions were rated at 39 percent good to excellent, 35 percent fair, and 26 percent poor to very poor.

South Dakota Prep Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The 2016 South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school football poll is below. Teams are listed with first-place votes in parentheses, vote points and ranking last week.

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(6)	3-0	38	1
2. Sioux Falls Washington	(2)	3-0	34	2
3. Sioux Falls O’Gorman	-	2-1	24	3
4. Brandon Valley	-	1-2	14	4
5. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	1-2	9	5

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central 1.

Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Harrisburg	(8)	3-0	40	1
2. Mitchell	-	2-1	32	2
T3.Huron	-	2-1	1	RV
T3.Pierre	-	1-2	15	3
5. Yankton	-	1-2	14	4

Others receiving votes: Spearfish 2, Brookings 2.

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Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Madison	(7)	3-0	37	1
2. St. Thomas More	(1)	3-0	33	2
3. SF Christian	-	3-0	24	3
4. Tea Area	-	3-0	17	4
5. Milbank Area	-	3-0	8	RV

Others receiving votes: Dakota Valley 1.

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Winner	(7)	3-0	39	1
2. Groton Area	(1)	3-0	23	3
3. Tri-Valley	-	2-1	21	2
4. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	-	2-1	19	5
5. Sioux Valley	-	2-0	15	4

Others receiving votes: Chamberlain 3.

Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(6)	3-0	36	1
2. Webster Area	(1)	3-0	26	T2
3. Canistota (1)	(1)	2-0	25	T2
4. Gregory	-	3-0	13	RV
5. Mount Vernon-Plankinton	-	2-0	10	RV

Others receiving votes: Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 7, Deuel 1, Baltic 1, Bon Homme 1.

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Sully Buttes	(7)	3-0	36	1
2. Scotland	-	3-0	30	2
3. Potter County	-	2-0	22	3
4. Warner	(1)	2-0	20	4
5. Phillip	-	2-0	7	5

Others receiving votes: Castlewood-Estelline 5.

Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Langford Area	(8)	3-0	40	1
2. Corsica-Stickney	-	2-0	29	2
3. Harding County	-	3-0	26	3
4. Hamlin	-	3-0	17	4
5. Colome	-	1-1	6	5

Others receiving votes: Faulkton Area 1, Leola-Frederick 1.

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South Dakota Volleyball Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Sportswriters Association volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 12, 2016. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking:

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Roosevelt	(6)	8-2	42	2
2. Harrisburg	(3)	7-1	34	1
3. Stevens	-	8-0	26	3
4. Huron	-	4-2	21	4
5. Brandon Valley	-	4-2	8	5

Others receiving votes: O’Gorman 2-2.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(8)	7-1	44	1
2. Dakota Valley	(1)	10-1	37	2
3. Bon Homme	-	9-0	23	4
4. Custer	-	10-0	16	5
5. Mount Vernon-Plankinton	-	4-3	10	3

Others receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock 8-0, McCook Central-Montrose 5-6.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Warner	(8)	11-2	44	1
2. Chester Area	(1)	8-3	34	2
3. Sully Buttes	-	11-0	23	4
4. Parker	-	5-1	19	3
5. Northwestern	-	7-1	13	5

Others receiving votes: Hanson 7-0.

Openings set in major Chicago gang trial focused on killings

MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The biggest street-gang trial in recent Chicago history starts in earnest Wednesday, with months of testimony expected to provide a rare look inside the gangland activity fueling deadly gun violence in the nation’s third-largest city.

On trial for federal racketeering charges are six purported leaders of the Hobos gang who prosecutors say murdered, maimed and tortured their way into controlling the most lucrative drug markets on the city’s South Side.

Among the defendants is alleged Hobos hit man Paris Poe, who prosecutors say killed a government witness in 2013, shooting the man 25 times at close range while his horrified step-kids, aged 4 and 6 at the time, screamed in the back seat of a car. The 4-year-old later told investigators the “Boogie Man” had attacked them, according to court filings.

Prosecutors will seek to prove that the defendants’ criminal conspiracy involved at least nine murders, including the execution-style killing of semi-pro basketball player, Eddie Moss Jr., in a case of mistaken

identity and the fatal drive-by shooting of two rival gang members outside a funeral home.

Security is heavy at federal court in downtown Chicago, with a walk-through metal detector and bomb-sniffing dog at the courtroom entrance. The judge ordered jurors' names be kept secret to ensure they aren't subject to intimidation. U.S. marshals have already said they're investigating reported threats against several likely witnesses.

The 36-year-old Poe, alleged Hobos boss Gregory "Bowlegs" Chester and four other co-defendants have all pleaded not guilty. If convicted, they each face maximum life prison sentences.

Prosecutors say the Hobos formed from several fractured gangs with home bases in Chicago public housing complexes that have since been demolished.

Government filings cite one co-defendant, William Ford, as explaining in a secretly recorded conversation how the gang got its name from an early emphasis by its founders in 2003 on jewelry and other heists. "After they kept robbin' ... they like, 'Man, we Hobo,'" Ford said, according to court filings. "And Hobos, all they do is, is sleep and rob."

But the Hobos apparent willingness to resort to violence meant those goals changed over a decade to the point where they became one of the city's dominant gangs. Another Hobos motto, which Poe has tattooed to his back, reflected that greater ambition — "The Earth Is Our Turf."

While narcotics promised huge profits, robbery remained an aspect of their criminal enterprise, prosecutors say. They allegedly held up then-NBA basketball player Bobby Simmons at gunpoint outside a nightclub in 2006, getting away with the athlete's \$200,000 white gold necklace. Prosecutors say they also robbed other drug traffickers.

The violence wasn't all one way. Court filings describe a gun battle between Hobos and rival Black Disciples during a summer picnic in 2007, when Chester was shot 18 times. The Hobos spent weeks retaliating, shooting one Black Disciple in face during a drive-by shooting and hitting another as he walked into a daycare center.

DIVIDED AMERICA: How China fueled pain and Trump support

PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

HANNIBAL, Ohio (AP) — Crushed by Chinese competition and feeling betrayed by mainstream politicians, workers in the hills of eastern Ohio are embracing Donald Trump and his tough talk on trade.

For decades, they and others living across the Ohio River in West Virginia found work in coal mines and at a local aluminum plant — union jobs, with good pay and generous benefits.

But those jobs are going, if not gone.

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

Coal is being wiped out by stricter environmental rules and competition from cheap natural gas. The aluminum plant? It's out of business, doomed by China's domination of the global aluminum market.

In an angry election year, some of America's angriest voters live in places like Monroe County where local economies have been punished by price competition with China. Their frustration has fueled support for the Republican presidential nominee, with his belligerent rhetoric about the need to outsmart America's economic rivals, tear up unfair trade deals and re-establish America as the world's dominant player.

"This is Trump country," says John Saunders, an official with the United Steelworkers in nearby Martins Ferry, Ohio.

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The disaster that's unfolded here isn't obvious at first glance, not in a region known as the Switzerland of Ohio for its forested, rolling hills. In tiny Hannibal (population: 411), stately two-story homes overlook lawns that roll toward the banks of the Ohio. Nearby Woodsfield, seat of Monroe County, Ohio, looks like Main Street USA, its downtown dominated by a red brick courthouse displaying one of the world's biggest clocks.

But the misery is real. Monroe County's unemployment rate is Ohio's highest at 10.2 percent. Families have moved out to find work. The number of children in the local school district is down 223, or nearly 10 percent, since 2013.

"You're going to have to travel to find a job," says Fran Poole, whose husband, Cecil, worked at the Ormet plant here for 37 years before being laid off when it closed.

Some laid-off workers chose to retire early. Others found work in the energy business, only to see those jobs melt away, too, as oil and gas prices fell. Some are doing odd jobs — cutting grass, hauling gravel.

Much of the damage to this region can be traced to China's decision to become self-sufficient in aluminum production. Aluminum is used in construction and auto manufacturing, aerospace and consumer-product packaging. The surge in its production reflected a broader Chinese strategy: pour money into manufacturing to add jobs and accelerate economic growth.

Fueled by government subsidies and cheap loans from state-owned banks, Chinese aluminum producers went into overdrive: In 2000, the United States had produced a world-beating 15 percent of all aluminum, China just 11 percent. By 2015, China had escalated its output nearly 1,200 percent — and held 55 percent of the world's share.

As Chinese aluminum flooded the world, prices collapsed. A pound of raw aluminum now fetches 74 cents — down from \$1.25 five years ago. U.S. production has tumbled 56 percent since 2000, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. And America's share of world aluminum is below 3 percent.

Since 2011, U.S. aluminum companies have closed or idled nine of the 14 U.S. smelters, where aluminum oxide is turned into raw aluminum. Two surviving plants are running at half capacity or less. In Massena, New York; Columbia Falls, Montana; New Madrid, Missouri, plants have folded, idled production or laid off workers.

Hundreds of workers in New Madrid lost their jobs when Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. sought bankruptcy protection in February.

"If you take metal prices back to where they were before China started flooding the market, you're looking at somewhere between 90 cents and \$1.10 a pound," says Cameron Redd, a laid-off Noranda employee. At those prices, he says, the Noranda plant still "would be hiring."

Relief probably hasn't come. At this month's G-20 summit, U.S. and Chinese officials agreed to work together to reduce overproduction of aluminum, but the Chinese have long balked at cutting aluminum output — and jobs.

"They don't want unemployment," says Michael Komesaroff of Urandaline Investments, and Australian consulting firm.

Longtime residents recall how vital the Ormet plant here was for the area's economy and for supporting middle-class lifestyles. Workers regularly vacationed and bought houses and boats and all-terrain vehicles to tear up the Ohio countryside.

"If you didn't go to college or the military, you went to the coal mines or Ormet," says Bill Long, a former Ormet laborer who is a supervisor at the county's Department of Job and Family Services.

The plant used to burn more electricity than all of Pittsburgh. For nearly six decades, barges plied the Ohio River and trains clacked alongside State Highway 7, bearing Ormet aluminum to customers across

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America.

The factory drew workers from the hills of West Virginia and eastern Ohio, paying them about \$40,000 a year before overtime. Overtime was "sporadic," recalls Carl Davis, a former Ormet worker who is now a Monroe County commissioner. "But a few were known to gross around \$100,000."

"Even though the work was hard back then, it was best job I had ever had, and the most money I'd ever had my hands on," says Francis Blackstone, a 70-year-old Ormet retiree. "And the benefits were just unheard of" — including free health care.

"We were all family," says Danny Isaly, an Ormet worker who became the plant's head of industrial relations. "Everybody had a relative here."

After the plant closed, Isaly received unemployment benefits until they ran out. Then he retired at age 59.

Niagara Worldwide bought the 1,600-acre complex at auction in 2014 after Ormet Corp. sought bankruptcy protection. Dan Gerovac is overseeing the plant's destruction for Niagara. He and his crew are clearing the site in hopes of selling it to another industrial company. They are breaking down equipment — including the pots where aluminum oxide was turned into aluminum at temperatures of 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit — for sale as scrap metal.

"No aluminum will be made here anymore," Gerovac says.

Through most of the 2000s — aside from a sharp drop during the Great Recession — world aluminum prices had withstood the surge in supply from China. China's own economy was growing so fast its demand for aluminum was nearly insatiable. Then its economy decelerated after 2010, and aluminum prices plunged.

Desperate, Ormet and the Steelworkers union sought to renegotiate electricity prices from the local utility, Appalachian Power. In 2012 and 2013, they urged Gov. John Kasich to lean on the state utility commission to help. Kasich wouldn't intervene, leaving the decision to the commission.

The plant went out of business.

Aluminum prices were so low the plant might not have survived anyway. But Kasich's refusal to intervene helps explain why animosity for the governor runs high in these parts. In the March Republican presidential primary, Monroe County overwhelmingly backed Trump and rejected Kasich, who otherwise won his home state handily.

"He just shunned us," Danny Isaly says.

Trump is viewed as a champion to many here who say America's political leaders have stood by while competition from China and other countries has wrecked communities like Hannibal.

"He says what a lot of people would like to say," says Cecil Poole, who feels the national Democratic Party has abandoned blue-collar workers. Trump's pledge to "Make America Great Again" resonates with those who feel they've lost their place in the middle class.

In a way, some of the laid-off Ormet workers were fortunate for a time. When the plant closed two years ago, the region was enjoying an energy boom. Oil and gas companies were fracking in the Marcellus Shale formation, from upstate New York through Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio and West Virginia. They needed drivers, electricians, welders.

Poole, 62, and out of work after nearly four decades at Ormet, got a commercial driver's license and found work hauling supplies for energy companies. He earned about what he made at Ormet, though he had to work twice as many hours for it. And Poole found the work exhausting. He traveled overnight and slept in his rig.

"It was tough on the old body," he says.

He retired in June.

The fracking boom, it turned out, didn't produce as many jobs as people here had hoped. The energy companies often brought in experienced oil-field workers. Then, energy prices started tumbling, and fracking work dried up.

Now, job openings are scarce, the pay and benefits no match for what Ormet offered.

"It's embarrassing what's out there," says Bill Long, who counsels the unemployed.

Peeking out from one jobseeker's file in his office is an application for a position at Dairy Queen. Long says some of the old Ormet workers seem in denial about their prospects. He recently ran into one.

"He said, 'I keep hoping the plant's going to fire back up,'" Long recalls. "I said, 'That's not going to happen, buddy.'"

Uber gives riders a preview of the driverless future

DAKE KANG, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Uber riders in Pittsburgh can get a glimpse of the future by summoning a car capable of handling most of the tasks of driving on its own.

Starting Wednesday morning, a fleet of self-driving Ford Fusions will pick up Uber riders who opted to participate in a test program. While the vehicles are loaded with features that allow them to navigate on their own, an Uber engineer will sit in the driver's seat and seize control if things go awry.

Uber's test program is the latest move in an increasingly heated race between tech companies in Silicon Valley and traditional automakers to perfect fully driverless cars for regular people. Competitors such as Volvo and Google have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and logged millions of miles test driving autonomous vehicles, but Uber is the first company in the U.S. to make self-driving cars available to the general public.

"That pilot really pushes the ball forward for us," said Raffi Krikorian, Director of Uber Advanced Technologies Center (ATC) in Pittsburgh, the company's main facility for testing self-driving vehicles. "We think it can help with congestion, we think it can make transportation cheaper and more accessible for the vast majority of people."

Removing the cost of the driver is one way to make rides more affordable. But that prospect didn't sit well with some Uber customers.

"It scares me not to have a driver there with an Uber," said Claudia Tyler, a health executive standing near the entrance of an office in downtown Pittsburgh.

A reporter from The Associated Press tried out the service Monday. The ride through downtown Pittsburgh and over some bridges went smoothly, with the car waiting for oncoming traffic before making a turn and at one point stopping for a vehicle that was backing into a parking space. Parking, however, was a task the human driver had to perform.

Approaches to driverless technology differ. Google, a unit of Alphabet, and Ford Motor Co. want to perfect the fully driverless car — no steering wheel, no pedals — before letting the public climb in for a ride. Others are adding autonomous features in phases, while relying on the driver to take over in certain circumstances.

Many experts predict that it will be years, if not decades, before the public is being driven around in fleets of fully driverless vehicles under any condition.

"Because vehicles are driving at seventy miles per hour on the highway, if something goes wrong, things could go wrong very bad, very quickly," said Carnegie Mellon engineering Professor Raj Rajkumar. "This technology needs to be ultra-reliable before we can take the human out of the driving equation."

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NuTonomy, a spinoff from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, got the jump on Uber globally three weeks ago when it began picking up passengers in self-driving taxis in Singapore. The company said Tuesday that its six taxis — with backup drivers — haven't had any accidents since the service launched.

The Uber vehicles are equipped with everything from seven traffic-light detecting cameras to a radar system that detects different weather conditions to 20 spinning lasers that generates a continuous, 360 degree 3-D map of the surrounding environment.

During the demonstration for reporters two engineers were seated in front — one ready to take control in case the car encountered a situation it couldn't handle, the other monitoring the car's 3D map and scribbling notes on how to improve the car's software. The engineers must undergo a week of safety orientation or more to drive the cars, with additional training as the vehicles continue to be refined.

Pittsburgh is a particularly good place to experiment, they said, because the city is a research hub of self-driving cars and has notoriously bad driving conditions, including snowstorms, rolling hills and a tangled network of aging roads and bridges. Uber executives are watching to see how the cars handle these challenges before saying when fully driverless vehicles will be ready to hit the roads.

"We actually think of Pittsburgh as the double black diamond of driving," Krikorian said. "If we can really tackle Pittsburgh, that we have a better chance of tackling most other cities around the world."

Pennsylvania also lacks stringent testing regulations at the moment, unlike other driverless car-testing venues such as California. The Uber trial is perfectly legal under current state law, Pennsylvania officials said.

"There's no requirement that you be touching the steering wheel," said Kurt J. Myers, deputy secretary at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. "But there is a requirement that you are a licensed driver and that you are in the driver's seat."

A task force commissioned by the state is expected to make policy recommendations in November.

Uber officials hope the initial trial will teach them how to ease public fears of adopting the bleeding-edge technology.

"The Pittsburgh pilot is our opportunity for real world testing, so that we can learn more about what makes riders feel safe and comfortable," said Uber product manager Emily Bartel.

Uber's Silicon Valley roots means it tends to pivot quickly and plan, experiment, and adjust direction within weeks, in contrast to longtime carmakers like General Motors or Toyota who have yearlong timelines when bringing out new features, Rajkumar and Uber officials said. When the drivers are removed from front seats, the cars will likely be restricted to driving in specific locations under good conditions at first.

"I'd probably give them a little bit and let them work their kinks out," Patrick Holland, a Philadelphia-area student, said right before getting into a human-driven Uber. "But I think a product that's well tested and it's proven to work and safe — I think that's where we're heading, and I think I'll eventually find myself in a driverless vehicle."

University research lab helping runners 1 step at a time

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Some footwear stores videotape a jogger's gait on a treadmill to help determine the kind of running shoe that would be the best fit.

The University of Michigan is taking that practice a few steps beyond.

The School of Kinesiology's Michigan Performance Research Laboratory attaches motion-capture sen-

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sors to runners' legs and upper body, has them jog on a treadmill outfitted with 10,000 sensors and does the old-school videotaping. The running-specific assessment that's now available to the public, not just the school's athletes, lasts about two hours and includes in-depth clinical and biomechanical evaluations.

It's the "really unique technology" and "a lot of expertise" that sets the lab apart, according to Jessica Deneweth Zandler, the director of MiPR (pronounced "my PR").

High school cross country runner Lydia Gilbert was looking to get a leg up on her competition and an answer to why she's been suffering from nagging shin splints.

Following a clinical examination by Cristine Agresta, a physical therapist and post-doctoral research fellow, the 16-year-old junior from Ann Arbor was outfitted with the sensors and jogged on the treadmill at various speeds. A flat screen displayed a 3-D image of Gilbert's skeleton as she ran.

After, Agresta ran through the preliminary results of the testing, which included footwear, musculoskeletal and postural evaluations as well as footprint pressure and 3-D gait analyses.

"We go through their video, because it's always nice to see yourself in action and it helps confirm that I'm not just making things up," Agresta said, laughing. "People actually believe it when they see it on the video."

Gilbert said she got what she was looking for, predicting the findings will help her feel less pain and hoping it will help her achieve a sub-20-minute 5K time.

"It was very insightful seeing how I can correct my running and how my running was different from how it should be," Gilbert said.

MiPR has offered general sports assessments to the university's varsity athletes since 2012. Starting this spring, the lab geared some toward the public: postpartum, injury, novice and performance. There's a \$390 fee for the initial assessment and \$85 for a follow-up, charged solely "to cover the time of our people," said Zandler, a biomedical engineer with expertise in orthopedic injury.

David Moran considered it money well-spent. The Michigan law professor and longtime half-marathoner wanted to figure out why he had been feeling numbness in his leg during runs.

Agresta suggested the cause of Moran's discomfort could be compartment syndrome, an exercise-induced muscle and nerve condition, and recommended massage therapy.

"I'm sure a lot of runners have such issues," Moran said.

"I can't say yet whether the treatment plan is going to work. I hope it will," he added.

Russia urges Syrian rebels to separate from 'terrorists'

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia is urging Syrian rebels to separate themselves from 'terrorists' to ensure that the Russia-U.S.-brokered cease-fire continues to hold in Syria, where a relative calm has prevailed since the truce went into effect two days ago.

A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin says the Kremlin is hopeful that the truce deal "will create the necessary environment for political settlement."

Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday that the Kremlin welcomes the cease-fire but that the key thing now is to make sure moderate opposition groups are separated from the "terrorists" — a reference to militant groups such as Syria's al-Qaida affiliate.

Peskov said that's the "key task, without which further progress can hardly be possible."

Russia launched its operation in Syria last year to support ally President Bashar Assad's forces.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. HOW CHINA FUELED PAIN AND TRUMP SUPPORT

Crushed by Chinese competition and feeling betrayed by mainstream politicians, Rust Belt workers are embracing the Republican presidential nominee and his tough talk on trade.

2. SYRIA CEASE-FIRE DEAL RIFE WITH LEGAL, LIABILITY QUESTIONS

The details of the U.S.-Russian deal to halt the Syrian civil war and focus efforts on rooting out extremists are fueling Pentagon skepticism about military cooperation between the two powers.

3. PERES IN SERIOUS BUT STABLE CONDITION

Doctors treating the former Israeli president say he has survived the night but remains in serious condition after suffering a major stroke.

4. WHY DEMOCRATS ARE BEARISH ON RETAKING SENATE

Republicans are demonstrating a commanding fundraising advantage and Hillary Clinton's lead has narrowed in key battleground races.

5. KAINE NOT ENTERTAINING PRESIDENTIAL READINESS

Even with Clinton in the midst of a health scare, her running mate is downplaying the fact that, if elected, he'd be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

6. WHAT AMERICANS ARE WILLING TO DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Most are open to pay a little more each month to fight global warming — but only a tiny bit, according to a new AP poll.

7. SANCTIONS RELIEF ON AGENDA AS SUU KYI MEETS OBAMA

The visit to Washington signals her transformation from imprisoned heroine of Myanmar's democracy struggle to a Burmese national leader focused on economic growth, but will the plight of the persecuted Rohingya Muslims come up?

8. MAJOR CHICAGO GANG TRIAL GETTING UNDERWAY

Opening statements will offer a rare inside look at the kind of gangland activity that's helped fuel city gun violence.

9. HUNGRY STARTUP USES A.I. TO GRAB SLICE OF PIZZA INDUSTRY

Silicon Valley's Zume Pizza is using robots to make the pies and get its cut of the \$10 billion delivery business.

10. CHINA DOMINATES AT RIO PARALYMPICS

And the main reason might just be sheer numbers — the world's most populous nation has a disabled population of about 85 million.

Kaine downplays presidential readiness amid Clinton illness

WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (AP) — Tim Kaine's role as Hillary Clinton's vice presidential running mate means he'd be one heartbeat away from the presidency. Clinton's health scare, complete with a widely-viewed video of her stumbling and being supported by aides after abruptly leaving a 9/11 memorial service in New York City, makes that fact more relevant to some — and a bit awkward.

Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland found that out by offering what's usually benign praise of any presidential running mate, telling an audience on Monday that Kaine was, "wonderfully prepared" to "be the president if that ever became necessary."

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Asked the same day if there's more pressure to prove he's up for the presidency given Clinton's pneumonia, the usually folksy and expansive Kaine was curt: No, he said, he absolutely does not think that. He did not elaborate.

As Clinton recovers from pneumonia and prepares to resume campaigning Thursday, Kaine is emphasizing instead that her "energy staggers me. I have a hard time keeping up with her."

"She is working so hard, even pushing through. She got told, 'Hey, you're a little bit sick,'" Kaine told hundreds of supporters from the steps of the graduate library on the University of Michigan campus during a Tuesday rally. He characterized Clinton's response as: "Well, I'm going to still go at it."

Clinton's illness could put more pressure on Kaine to look more presidential — instead of just relishing his usual role as political attack dog or top Clinton cheerleader. But Kaine can't embrace that too much without calling unwanted attention to Clinton's health.

Clinton's illness was on the minds of some voters as Kaine briefly visited Michigan, a swing state that he promised was "going to be close" between Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

Kim Clarke chatted with Kaine when the candidate popped into a coffee shop just off the university's campus shortly before his Tuesday rally. Clarke told Kaine of Clinton, "it's OK to be sick," to which Kaine immediately responded that the illness wasn't a big deal and Clinton would recover soon.

Clarke, a 56-year-old who works for the University of Michigan, said afterward that when she heard about Clinton's health problems "my first thought wasn't, 'Oh, Tim Kaine, what's going to happen.'" But she also said the stakes have risen for the Virginia senator.

"You obviously want your vice presidential candidate to be of the same timber as the presidential candidate because things happen," Clarke said. "If that person were to have to step in, you'd want to know that they have similar leadership characteristics."

During a campaign stop later Tuesday at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in Minneapolis, 21-year-old Will Dammann gave Kaine a student government T-shirt. Dammann said he normally voted Republican but that he would support Clinton and Kaine in November because he doesn't think Trump is good for the GOP.

"He's a very trustworthy person. He comes across as caring and assertive," Dammann said of Kaine's qualities as a potential president. But also said he didn't think it would come to that: "I think Secretary Clinton is going to be fine."

Same goes for Alex Juntti, a 21-year-old English major at the University of Michigan who attended Tuesday's rally after his Ancient Law class. He said he still sees Kaine as more of a Clinton campaigner-in-chief than someone who needs to prove he's up for the presidency.

"To me, this isn't his audition for a potential presidency," Juntti said.

GOP gains ground on Dems in voter registration in key states

HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have gained ground on Democrats in registering voters in three battleground states and kept their razor-thin advantage in Iowa — encouraging news for Donald Trump eight weeks before Election Day.

Republicans added hundreds of thousands of voters to the rolls since 2012 in states including Florida and Arizona, and narrowed the gap in North Carolina, according to data compiled by The Associated Press. In Iowa, Republicans prevented Democrats from surpassing them, aided by a court ruling upholding a ban on voting by ex-felons, who often register as Democrats.

As Election Day approaches, voter registration drives are in full swing.

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Hillary Clinton's campaign is staging registration rallies and appealing in particular to non-whites and young people, who are more likely to vote early — if they vote at all. Trump is relying mostly on a base of white voters, urging supporters to be vigilant for voter fraud and "rigging."

"The Clinton campaign cannot come close to our output," said Sean Spicer, the Republican National Committee's chief strategist, in a campaign memorandum Monday.

The latest registration numbers aren't an assurance of new voters for Trump. Some changes reflect those who have died and been removed from the list, while others are inactive, not having voted in recent elections. In Florida, newly registered Hispanics are turning against the Republican nominee, stung by his anti-immigrant rhetoric. And Democrats historically have done well in signing up new voters in the final stretch.

But the figures, when available, offer important clues as to how each party stands.

IOWA

Iowa is a bright spot for Trump among battleground states, with Republicans now holding an edge of 19,000 total registered voters over Democrats, 691,000 to 672,000. While independents are the most numerous at 755,000, much of the state's Republican establishment has rallied around Trump. A state court in June upheld a ban on voting for an estimated 20,000 ex-felons, many of them African-American.

The race is "about even" and "very close," said Gov. Terry Branstad in a recent AP interview. In the run-up to the state's early voting, which begins Sept. 29, the Trump campaign struggled initially in its ground game, leading Branstad to offer advice to the New York billionaire on how to get a leg up: TV advertising, appealing to the state's farmers.

Branstad's son, Eric, is running Trump's campaign in Iowa.

FLORIDA

Both campaigns have heavily targeted Florida, but Democrats have seen their advantage shrink to 258,000 active voters — down from 535,000 in 2012. Overall, Democrats declined to 4.69 million compared to a 4 percent rise for Republicans to 4.4 million, driven by Republican gains among white voters. Registered "no party" independents jumped 13 percent to 2.9 million.

The state imposed voter restrictions in 2011, including cuts to voter registration and early voting, that have since been softened.

But the picture remains murky.

The Republican advantage is primarily due to declines among previous Democratic voters — deaths, moves out of state and voters removed after being inactive for long periods, as well as switches to the Republican Party.

Democrats are registering more new voters than Republicans. Nearly half of all first-time voters registered since 2013 were non-white, many of them Hispanic.

Since January, of the 121,000 newly registered Hispanics, 42 percent are Democrats and 41 percent are "no party," compared to 16 percent for Republicans. It's a shift from the Jan. 1, 2013 to Aug. 1, 2016 period, when newly registered Hispanics were most likely to pick "no party." Before 2013, Hispanics had more frequently opted to register as Republican, with 39.5 percent of them Democrats, 30.5 percent "no party" and 28.4 percent Republicans.

"There's little question that the rise in Democratic registration of Hispanics in Florida is a reaction to the rise of Donald Trump," said Daniel Smith, a University of Florida professor who analyzes trends.

NORTH CAROLINA

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Democrats hold a clear registration advantage in North Carolina, but the gap has narrowed.

A Republican-controlled legislature in 2013 imposed a voter ID law and curtailed early voting and registration. But a federal appeals court in July invalidated the law as discriminatory against blacks, who are more likely to vote before Election Day.

Democrats hold a lead of about 645,000 voters. That's down from an advantage of 818,000 in 2012.

Despite a registration deficit, Republicans have been successful with voter turnout, currently holding the governorship and both Senate seats. Obama lost the state by 92,000 votes to Mitt Romney.

Election officials predict high overall turnout, spurring an appearance by Clinton in Charlotte last week.

WEST

In the diversifying West, Democrats regained their edge in Colorado, but face challenges in Nevada and Arizona.

Boosted by rapid Latino growth, Colorado saw an increase in registered Democrats since 2012, compared to a 1.5 percent decline for Republicans. That allowed Colorado Democrats to surpass Republicans earlier this year for the first time in more than 20 years. For 2016, the state will conduct all-mail balloting, believed to slightly favor Democrats.

In Nevada, where Trump is competing hard, Democrats maintained their advantage, but Republicans have narrowed the gap.

And in Arizona, traditionally a Republican state, the picture was mixed. Republicans grew at a faster pace, but the biggest jump was among independents, to 1.4 million. Republicans hold a registration edge of about 159,000, although an influx of Hispanic voters and third-party interest have given Democrats hope.

The state has been receiving national attention with a recent hack of voter registration records.

The Homeland Security Department has suggested federal involvement to protect election integrity. But some conservatives oppose that, citing a risk of Democratic "rigging." For 2016, Arizona placed new limits on mail-in ballot collection, which Democrats are challenging in court as restrictive.

Democrats fear their Senate takeover chances dimming

ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are sounding increasingly concerned about their chances of retaking control of the Senate, as Republicans demonstrate a commanding fundraising advantage and Hillary Clinton's lead narrows in key battleground races.

Although most Democrats still express confidence that they will win back the Senate majority in November, they now appear to have fewer paths to victory as wins in Ohio and even Florida look increasingly remote.

And if they do win back control, it could end up being with the narrowest of margins, even a 50-50 Senate with a Vice President Tim Kaine casting tie-breaking votes for the Democrats, if Hillary Clinton becomes president.

A key factor is the Republican money edge, which is particularly pronounced this year because some major donors, most notably the billionaire Koch Brothers, have decided to stay out of the presidential race out of distaste for Donald Trump and are pouring money into Senate races instead. Ohio, Florida, Nevada and other races are awash with cash.

"It's worrisome," the No. 2 Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said Tuesday of the GOP money advantage. Overall, Durbin offered "mixed reviews" of the Senate map: "Solid, quality candidates, good campaigns but a massive infusion of Republican money in the last few weeks, and we are working

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overtime to try to keep up with it.”

Democrats frequently point with alarm to the massive \$42 million haul in August disclosed by two connected fundraising committees run by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. That money is now being funneled to New Hampshire, Nevada, Indiana and elsewhere.

Senate Democrats have been pressed to chip in more to make up the deficit. Last week, Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, who heads the Senate Democratic fundraising arm, announced in a private meeting that Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York had transferred \$2 million from his campaign accounts to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Another concern is Clinton’s sometimes weak performance as a candidate, particularly pronounced over the past days as her campaign contended with questions over its handling of her health. Clinton’s stumbling exit from a 9/11 memorial Sunday was followed by the disclosure that she had been diagnosed with pneumonia.

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell said he was “surprised and a little frustrated” that the race was so close, and said it was a concern as Democrats seek to recapture the Senate.

“In Pennsylvania for example, if Hillary does win by the 7 she’s up in the latest poll it will be very hard for (incumbent Republican Pat) Toomey to win,” Rendell said. “If Hillary wins by 2 or 3, it gives Toomey a chance.”

Republicans now have a 54-46 majority in the Senate, so Democrats have to net at least four seats to take back the majority, or five if Donald Trump becomes president, because of the vice president’s role as the Senate tie-breaker.

Democrats entered this election cycle with some expressing high hopes because of a favorable Senate map that has Republicans defending 24 seats and Democrats only 10. Republicans have vulnerable incumbents in blue or purple states including Illinois, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, while Democrats are defending only one at-risk seat, in Nevada, where Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is retiring.

Partisans on both sides are acutely aware that the map reverses itself in 2018 when Democrats will be playing defense on GOP-friendly terrain such as Missouri, North Dakota, Montana and West Virginia. That makes the task for Democrats all the more urgent this year since they will be at greater risk of losing seats two years from now.

While some predicted that Trump at the top of the ticket would pull down Republican incumbents from coast to coast, that hasn’t happened in all cases. Instead, lawmakers including Rob Portman in Ohio, Marco Rubio in Florida and Toomey are running ahead of Trump in their states, and either beating their opponents or keeping it close.

“All I can say is that I was feeling much better a few weeks about the chances of Democrats retaking the Senate,” said Jim Manley, a Democratic consultant and former top Reid aide. “I still think it’s going to happen, because the Trump campaign is going to prove toxic to the Republican Party, but it may prove to be tougher than many Democrats were thinking a few months ago.”

Officials with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee dispute suggestions that the outlook has changed for the worse, noting that unlike some others, they never predicted they would sweep to victories across the country and end up with a comfortable majority.

While disagreeing that they are giving up on Florida and Ohio, where they have delayed spending, DSCC officials point to plans to spend in North Carolina and Missouri. It’s cheaper in those states to pay for advertising, though Missouri is widely considered a long shot.

Tester said he would “of course” feel more confident if Clinton had a bigger lead, but added: “The truth is that Hillary’s running a great race, I’m confident that she’s going to win, but nothing’s easy. I

mean these are hotly contested races and we knew that 20 months ago, and that hasn't changed."

Poll: Americans favor slightly higher bills to fight warming

SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans are willing to pay a little more each month to fight global warming — but only a tiny bit, according to a new poll. Still, environmental policy experts hail that as a hopeful sign.

Seventy-one percent want the federal government to do something about global warming, including 6 percent who think the government should act even though they are not sure that climate change is happening, according to a poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.

And those polled said they'd be willing to foot a little of that cost in higher electric bills.

If the cost of fighting climate change is only an additional \$1 a month, 57 percent of Americans said they would support that. But as that fee goes up, support for it plummets. At \$10 a month, 39 percent were in favor and 61 percent opposed. At \$20 a month, the public is more than 2-to-1 against it. And only 1-in-5 would support \$50 a month.

"I feel we need to make small sacrifices — and money is a small sacrifice — to make life better for future generations," said Sarah Griffin, a 63-year-old retired teacher in central Pennsylvania. "Surely I have enough money to spend on something that's worthwhile."

Greg Davis, a 27-year-old post-graduate student in Columbus, Ohio, agreed: "It's far more important to protect the environment than to save money. I think that's true for businesses as well as individuals."

That a majority is willing to pay more is a new phenomenon, said Tom Dietz, professor of sociology and environmental science and policy at Michigan State University.

"While the amounts may seem small, the willingness to take action, even if there are some out-of-pocket costs, is encouraging," Dietz said in an email.

Dana Fisher, director of the Program for Society and the Environment at the University of Maryland, said it's noteworthy that a majority was "willing to pay at all," and added that the levels of support for \$10 a month and \$20 a month are significant.

But so was the opposition to higher costs.

James Osadzinski, 52 of Rockford, Illinois, said simply: "I have a set budget. I don't have the money," while for 26-year-old nurse Marina Shertzer of Pensacola, Florida, it doesn't make sense because she doesn't see climate change as a threat, but something cyclical and normal.

Of those polled, 77 percent said climate change is happening, 13 percent weren't sure, and only 10 percent said it wasn't happening.

There remains a partisan divide in how Americans view climate change. While 84 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of independents view global warming as a fact and a problem that the government needs to address, only 43 percent for Republicans agree. And 18 percent of Republicans said they think climate change is happening but don't think the government should address the issue.

Slightly more than half of Americans — 54 percent — said they approved of Obama administration rules to cut pollution from coal power plants, the biggest emitter of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. When the question also mentions that thousands of jobs may be eliminated while reducing coal use by one-third, only 45 percent favor the policy; 29 percent are opposed.

Last December, 190 nations in the world signed an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Two-thirds of those polled were at least moderately confident that the United States could meet its

obligations. But about the same number of Americans weren't that sure that China — the No. 1 polluter — and India could meet their goals.

Davis, the Ohio student, wasn't very optimistic about the future

"I think as the younger generation starts displacing the older people, I think we'll get somewhere," he said. "But I'm afraid that may be too late."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,096 adults was conducted Aug. 11-14 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

The survey was paid for by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Syria cease-fire deal rife with legal, liability questions

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deal crafted by the U.S. and Russia to halt the Syrian civil war and focus efforts on rooting out extremists is rife with legal and liability questions that are fueling Pentagon skepticism about military cooperation between the two powers, senior U.S. officials said.

The first hurdle is that Congress has enacted a law prohibiting any military cooperation with Moscow in the wake of Russia's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine. That means the deal that Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed to last week in Geneva first needs a waiver from a skeptical Defense Secretary Ash Carter to be legal.

Another nagging question revolves around whether America could be held responsible if a Russian airstrike — approved by the U.S. as part of the military cooperation at the heart of the deal — kills civilians. Military and defense leaders question whether Russia will be able to force the Syrian government to uphold the cease-fire. And they worry that Moscow's lack of precision targeting could result in civilian casualties, even if Russia is attempting to strike Islamic State militants.

"We conduct military operations with our allies and partners, and Russia is neither," said Evelyn Farkas, former U.S. deputy assistant defense secretary who is now a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington. "So, it makes this very fraught with all kinds of risk for us — military and political."

Neither U.S. nor Russian officials have released the plan, so details are sketchy. But senior U.S. officials said military and intelligence officials and other segments of the administration have serious doubts that Russia will be able to live up to its commitments in the deal, despite Moscow's long-held desire for military cooperation with the U.S.

If it does happen, however, U.S. officials said the cooperation would be a sharply limited and carefully controlled exchange of very basic targeting information that would protect U.S. intelligence gathering and tactics, and involve detailed vetting to ensure that any proposed Russian strikes would hit Islamic State or al-Qaida-linked combatants, not the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Several U.S. officials spoke about the deal on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss it.

The cease-fire took effect at sunset Monday, with sporadic small violations. It calls for a halt in hostilities between Assad's government forces and rebel groups, and it paves the way for the delivery of humanitarian relief.

It allows Syrian government strikes against al-Qaida-linked militants who fight alongside the rebels. And the U.S.-led coalition can continue attacks on Islamic State militants. The Syrian army has said it

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would abide by the cease-fire, but will defend against any violations.

If the cease-fire holds for seven days and humanitarian deliveries continue, the U.S. would begin discussions with Russia on the establishment of a joint implementation cell. If the cease-fire is violated, the seven-day time period resets, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

U.S. officials said the cooperation won't begin immediately after the seven days. They said it could be shut down quickly if humanitarian aid stops getting through or if the Syrian government violates the cease-fire.

The Pentagon's top leaders insisted on the seven-day waiting period, largely due to deep skepticism about Russia.

Toner said he had no estimate on how long it would take to set up the coordination center, but said discussions have been going on for several months, so he didn't believe it would "be a matter of weeks."

Officials declined to talk about where the center would be and how it would actually work. And many suggested it was too early to discuss the details of something that may never happen.

But a senior U.S. official said American intelligence officials have been studying the issue for some time to determine what information could be given to the Russians and how it could be done carefully.

Russia is not part of the U.S.-led coalition targeting Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, and the U.S. doesn't have a history of sharing information with Moscow.

U.S. officials expressed concerns that Moscow might continue to target U.S.-allied opposition forces, claiming they are working with the al-Qaida-linked group Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, previously known as the Nusra Front. Rebel forces have intermingled with the Nusra militants, at times making targeting difficult.

They also worry that many of the Russian airstrikes do not involve precision-guided weapons. Moscow has predominantly used so-called dumb bombs in Syria, largely targeting opposition forces and backing Assad's government forces.

Two senior administration officials, however, said the U.S. will bear no responsibility for any strikes made by Russia or deaths that result. And neither country will be able to veto strikes the other wants to conduct.

The strikes have triggered frequent complaints of mass civilian casualties. And the U.S. faces the possibility of agreeing on a particular target, then having the Russian strike miss and kill civilians.

The U.S. officer in charge of Air Force operations in the Middle East, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian, told reporters Tuesday that the intent is to develop a plan that "executes the mission precisely, minimizing risk to the coalition team and civilians on the ground." He added that it would be important to do it in a way that does not undermine "coalition cohesion" and momentum.

The U.S., he said, will not share any classified tactics with Russia.

"Clearly there will be some authorities and legalities that we're going to need to work through to make sure everybody understands what the agreement is," he said when asked whether the U.S. could be considered a co-belligerent in the event that it provides targeting information for a Russian airstrike that results in civilian casualties.

"I'm not going to tell you I trust them," said Harrigian. "We, from our side, have to do some planning and they need to do the right thing. We'll see what happens from there."

Sanctions relief on agenda as Myanmar's Suu Kyi meets Obama

MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aung San Suu Kyi's latest visit to Washington signals her transformation from long-imprisoned heroine of Myanmar's democracy struggle to a national leader focused on economic growth.

President Barack Obama will meet with Suu Kyi at the White House on Wednesday to discuss rolling back more of the sanctions that were applied when the nation was under military rule. Suu Kyi will also be courting the American business community at a dinner where tables go for as much as \$25,000.

Suu Kyi's party swept historic elections last November, and the visit by the 71-year old Nobel peace laureate, deeply respected in Washington, is a crowning occasion in the administration's support for Myanmar's shift from pariah state to democracy, which it views as a major foreign policy achievement.

The U.S. has eased economic sanctions on the country also known as Burma since political reforms began five years ago but it still restricts dealings with military-owned companies and dozens of officials and associates of the former ruling junta. U.S. companies and banks remain leery of involvement in one of Asia's last untapped markets.

Human rights groups, however, say there are powerful reasons for retaining sanctions. Military abuses continue in ethnic minority regions. Rohingya Muslims remain displaced by sectarian violence and denied citizenship.

Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said the U.S. wants to balance concerns about the "out-sized" role of the military in politics and the economy without impeding growth and offering a "democratic dividend" for an impoverished population.

"We hear frequently that the ongoing sanctions regime serves as a chill on investment from the United States and in some cases from other international firms, and so we want to make sure that our sanctions are not preventing the type of economic development and investment that we believe can improve the livelihoods of the people of Burma," Rhodes said Tuesday, adding that the administration's decisions would be guided by consultation with Suu Kyi and her government.

Suu Kyi, who will also be meeting with lawmakers, Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry, last visited Washington in 2012 when she was still opposition leader. On that occasion, she was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, the legislature's highest civilian honor, which she had been awarded in 2008 while under house arrest.

Now she meets Obama as the de facto leader of the country with the title of state counsellor although a junta-era constitution still enshrines the military's role in politics and bars her from the presidency. When Obama last visited Myanmar in November 2014, he voiced support for constitutional reform.

Suu Kyi's stance on sanctions is unclear. When she met Kerry in Myanmar in May, Suu Kyi said that the U.S. was keeping sanctions not to hurt but to "help us," and that if the country was on the right path, sanctions should be lifted "in good time."

Her government is believed to support extension of U.S. duty-free benefits to help spur still meager trade with the U.S. Two-way goods trade with Myanmar totaled just \$227 million in 2015, and U.S. companies account for less than 1 percent of total foreign investment.

Suu Kyi will speak on her government's priorities at a dinner Thursday organized by U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council — a group that supports American business ties with Southeast Asia. The council offered companies the chance to book a table for eight and a seat at an off-the-record round-table with Suu Kyi for \$25,000.

That event perhaps typifies the widening gulf between Suu Kyi and rights activists who championed her cause when she was under house arrest.

"With the democracy icon having won a popular mandate to govern and often taking the sole lead in

shaping the civilian government's policies, a number of civil society leaders feel excluded, ironically as the country moves toward greater democracy," the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank said in a report this week.

Rights activists are speaking out in support of keeping sanctions. Global Witness said Tuesday that U.S. industry lobbying to roll back sanctions before critical reforms have kicked in risks undoing the country's fragile progress to democracy. Last year, the transparency watchdog reported that Myanmar's jade industry is worth nearly half of the nation's economic output and remains firmly in the grip of military elite, U.S.-sanctioned drug lords and crony companies.

U.S. sanctions currently bar the import of jade and gemstones from Myanmar.

Suu Kyi enjoys deep respect among U.S. lawmakers who were instrumental in the imposition of sanctions in the first place and they will likely follow her lead on whether they should be lifted. Lawmakers engaged on Myanmar policy are deeply suspicious about opening up engagement between the U.S. and Myanmar militaries.

"I certainly believe it would be premature to get rid of all the sanctions at this point," said Democratic Rep. Joe Crowley of New York, a prominent voice on the issue in Congress. "I have very strong reservations about military-to-military cooperation."

Pigeon Power: Birds swoop into stadium, Yankees fly high

BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A flock of newcomers quickly swoops into Yankee Stadium and suddenly a team that wobbled all season turns into a playoff contender.

So exactly who's gotten the New York Yankees flying so high? A rookie slugger, a fresh set of pitchers? Sure, they've helped. But maybe it's something more.

"Pigeon power," outfielder Aaron Judge said. "They're fueling us."

OK, go ahead and laugh. Then look at the Yankees' record lately — against the Blue Jays and Orioles, no less — ever since dozens and dozens of pigeons began descending for picnics at the park.

Besides, if the Royals can have a Rally Mantis, the Angels a Rally Monkey and the Cardinals a Rally Squirrel, why not a good-luck pack of pigeons?

Sometimes, these birds arrive early, searching for new seeds that keep the grass so green and fresh. More than 85 of them recently roamed the yard before batting practice.

Often, they stick around for the game, hardly ruffled by the balls that go whizzing past them.

In the sixth inning last weekend against Tampa Bay, six gray pigeons lounged in medium left-center field, a half-dozen hung out in shallow center and seven others strolled in right-center. No surprise, moments later the Yankees hit back-to-back home runs to break open a scoreless game.

"They're fearless," longtime head groundskeeper Dan Cunningham said.

Speedy, too.

"I don't worry about them too much because they're pretty fast," star center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury said. "They can take care of themselves."

No birds have been hit yet. Certainly nothing like that spring training episode many years ago when a fastball by Randy Johnson struck a dove in mid-flight. And they aren't pesky, like the seagulls that hover around AT&T Park late during San Francisco Giants games.

Scorned and shooed away all around town, these pigeons relax at The House That Ruth Built. Oh, and they seem to prefer day games.

When line drives get too close, they simply flap away and settle somewhere else, perhaps on the warning track in deep center or near the foul lines. Or they take off toward the scoreboard and stay

there for a while, with a bird's-eye view.

"We've been watching them fly overhead, more and more of them," reliever Tommy Layne said. "You just hope they don't unload on you."

Cunningham said the birds come for the seeds that maintain the combination blue and rye grass. The stadium hosts the Yankees and the New York City FC team in Major League Soccer, making for a lot of reseeding late this summer.

Plus, players who spit sunflower seeds provide tasty snacks.

Overall, that's brought more and more feathered fans in the last month. Not that Cunningham minds.

"I'm not a pigeon hater," he said. "It's New York, they're part of the scene here."

A month ago, Judge homered in his first major league at-bat. He fits into the Yankees' wave of the future, along with Gary Sanchez, Tyler Austin and the fittingly named Greg Bird.

Judge has grown accustomed to sharing his surroundings with the other birds in right field.

"Actually started noticing them maybe about a week ago. Kind of started showing up in little bunches," he said. "Started out with five or 10, now it's 20, 30, 40. Just a big bunch of them out there now."

"I go for a ball in the gap, they start flying everywhere. Could cause a little bit of havoc," he said.

Then again, pigeons have always had a place in this city.

"I don't mind them," Judge said. "A little company in the outfield."

Israel's Peres in serious but stable condition after stroke

ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Former Israeli President Shimon Peres was in "serious but stable" condition after suffering a major stroke, doctors treating him said Wednesday, as the nation rallied in prayer and support for the 93-year-old elder statesman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Dr. Yitzhak Kreiss, director of the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, said Peres was in a medically induced coma to allow him to rest after experiencing significant bleeding in the brain.

Peres was rushed to hospital Tuesday after feeling ill and following a battery of tests was diagnosed to have suffered a stroke. Kreiss said Peres was being transferred to the neurosurgical intensive care unit where he would continue to be evaluated.

Israeli media reported that Peres was "fighting for his life," but Rafi Walden, Peres' son-in-law and personal physician, said there appeared to be no imminent threat to his life anymore. The question was what kind of damage was sustained and what kind of recovery he could make, Walden said.

In a phone briefing with reporters, Walden said Peres suffered a stroke in the right side of the brain and was being ventilated and sedated. However, he gave an optimistic forecast, saying all Peres' physical parameters were stable and his blood tests were good. Peres was responsive when addressed, Walden added, and even squeezed his hand when he asked him to.

"We are happy to remark then when the sedation was a little lessened he was reactive," he said. "We'll keep very close to him during the day and hopefully next time when the sedation will be lessened we hope we are going to be able to get in touch with him."

Peres is the elder statesman of Israeli politics, one of the country's most admired symbols and the last surviving link to its founding fathers.

Over a seven-decade career, he's held virtually every senior political office, including three stints as prime minister and extended terms as foreign, defense and finance minister. He won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in reaching an interim peace agreement with the Palestinians.

He had remained active since completing his seven-year term as president in 2014, refusing to bow

into retirement. His spokeswoman Ayelet Frisch said Tuesday was no exception, with Peres waking early to read the daily newspapers before delivering an hour-long lecture and then uploading a video to his Facebook account in which he encouraged the public to buy locally made products. In the video, he appears weary but is otherwise alert and coherent.

Peres is known to keep a healthy lifestyle and has long prided himself in his longevity and stamina. Earlier this year, Peres was twice hospitalized for heart problems but quickly discharged. His office said Peres received a pacemaker last week.

Long a divisive figure in Israeli politics, Peres finally became one of Israel's most popular public figures in his later years.

"In his people's eyes he ceased to be a politician. He became an historic figure, larger than politics, larger than everyday affairs, a figure in a league of his own," wrote Yediot Ahronot columnist Nahum Barnea.

As word of his stroke spread, Peres was showered with well wishes from political friends and foes alike.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who defeated Peres in 1996 to become prime minister, personally called the hospital to enquire on Peres' condition and posted a Facebook message wishing him a speedy recovery.

"Shimon, we love you and the entire nation wishes you get well," Netanyahu said.

The chief rabbis of Israel have called on the public to pray for Peres' recovery. His son, Hemi Peres, said the family has been overwhelmed with the love and affection it has received from Israel and around the world. But he warned that it was far too soon to eulogize his tenacious father.

"We are still in a battle and it is the beginning of the battle," he told Israel's Army Radio.

Veteran Thornton could be representing Canada for last time

TORONTO (AP) — Mario Lemieux was the unofficial greybeard of Team Canada when the last World Cup of Hockey was played 12 years ago.

This time around, the role falls to 37-year-old Joe Thornton, who played alongside Lemieux in 2004 and is being counted on this time for leadership and talent that have withstood the test of time.

Thornton finished fourth in NHL scoring last season, compiling 82 points in 82 games for the San Jose Sharks. He added another 21 points in 24 playoff games, reaching his first-ever Stanley Cup Final.

"Joe Thornton, when you look at his season last year, he's playing great hockey," Team Canada general manager Doug Armstrong told the Canadian Press.

Armstrong says Thornton is still one of the best passers in hockey, and indeed his 63 assists last season were only topped by Ottawa Senators captain Erik Karlsson. Thornton is the runaway leader in assists since he entered the league in 1997, 212 ahead of second-place Jaromir Jagr. Thornton also has the most points (1,341) of any player in that span, more than 100 points up on Jagr.

Canada coach Mike Babcock said Thornton's inclusion on the roster, which came at the initial exclusion of much younger players like Logan Couture, Corey Perry, Ryan O'Reilly and Taylor Hall, was based on merit. His offensive gifts, which have already been apparent in exhibition play, were too much to ignore.

"He obviously was a guy that played well enough and played good enough and was important enough on his team," Babcock said.

Armstrong was intrigued by how San Jose used Thornton last season, mostly on the wing alongside Joe Pavelski. A plodding skater who didn't make the 2014 Olympic squad in Sochi, Thornton also seemed a better fit for the NHL-sized rink in Toronto where the World Cup will be played, though Armstrong said his inclusion was based on performance, not the ice surface.

Thornton, who last represented Canada at the 2010 Olympics, hadn't given much thought to cracking the World Cup roster before getting the invitation this summer.

"It was just one of those things where you just kind of play, don't think about it and then you get chosen," said Thornton, still oozing energy even after more than 1,500 NHL games.

It could be the last time he wears red and white on the international stage, though he's hinted at playing on. He's already won Olympic (2010) and world junior gold (1997) as well as the crown at that 2004 World Cup, one of two players returning for Team Canada. Jay Bouwmeester is the other.

Thornton recalls that '04 squad fondly. The group went undefeated (6-0-0) and included Lemieux as well as other future Hall of Famers Scott Niedermayer, Martin Brodeur and Joe Sakic. Thornton, 25 at the time, set up two of three goals in Canada's 3-2 win over Finland in the final. The Canadians hope he's still got that magic.

"I've still got another 10 years (left)," said a grinning Thornton, "so maybe the next World Cup, I'll play in it, too."

Chinese dominate medal count at Paralympics

GARRETT ROSS, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — At the Riocentro Pavilion 2, the only sound in the table tennis arena was a steady tapping as the two competitors in the gold medal match struggled for points.

On one side of the table was Xue Juan. On the other, Li Qian. Both Chinese Paralympians in wheelchairs. Their match was one of two to decide a gold medal on Monday that featured athletes from China only.

After Xue defeated Li, and Zhang Bian beat Gu Gai in the later match, each winner quietly acknowledged the victory, wheeled to the middle of the table and shook the hand of her countrywoman.

There were no screaming fans, and little celebration. But in Rio, the scene has become routine, across the menu of sports. China is dominating the Paralympics.

After competition ended on Tuesday, China held a huge lead at the top of the board with 147 total medals (63 golds) through six days of competition. The next closest country, the United Kingdom, had 75 medals in all.

The Ukraine (72) was next with the United States (61) in fourth and host Brazil (43) in fifth.

China has topped the medal board in the last three Summer Paralympics, beginning at the 2004 Athens Games.

This year, China has more than 300 athletes, a physical representation of the country's commitment to keeping its spot as a Paralympic powerhouse, but it can also be seen as a strategy: More athletes competing means more opportunities to collect medals.

This was evident soon after China stepped foot on Brazilian soil. Last Friday, China won 14 medals in swimming, including two all-China podiums in men's 50- and 100-meter butterfly races. The victories have not stopped.

Some athletes, however, have been raising questions about China's dominance in Rio.

Philip Craven, the International Paralympic Committee president, was asked at a news conference on Monday about complaints that Brazilian competitors had been making about potential cheating by Chinese athletes.

"We had a very informal, short board meeting this morning of the IPC and that issue was brought up to us and it is something that we will look into in the future, not to do necessarily with doping, we always look into that anyway, but with regard to what particularly the Brazilian athletes are thinking and saying," Craven said.

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A spokesman for the IPC later said Craven was referring primarily to whether some Chinese athletes had been classified properly. Russia was banned from Rio for systematic doping, raising suspicion about cheating generally.

The Paralympic Games, which date back to an English competition in 1948 and became the Paralympics in 1960, were once an event in which the United States routinely topped the medal count.

The U.S. finished first in medals for nine consecutive Paralympics from 1964 to 1996. China, meanwhile, did not begin sending athletes to the Paralympics until the 1984 Games.

The 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games were awarded in 2001 to Beijing over four other cities. Three years later, at the 2004 Athens Games, China not only cracked the top five in total medals for the first time but also placed first.

Penny Briscoe, the British chef de mission in Rio, said that the value in winning a bid to host the Summer Games cannot be underestimated in relation to the development of sport for the Paralympics.

Briscoe recalled jumping and screaming alone in her house when London was announced as the host city for 2012. Even though the UK was the home of the Paralympic Movement, and had already seen success in the past, winning the bid to host the Summer Games led to an increased focus on the Paralympics.

"It was massive and such a morale boost," Briscoe said in a phone interview. "It gave everyone maybe more sense of purpose than any other four years."

Matt Cramer, director of high performance for United States Paralympics, said that the U.S. often has different challenges than some of the other high profile names atop the Paralympic leaderboard.

"One thing is that we are creative but we are also very smart with our resources, because we get no federal funding," Cramer said in a phone interview.

As a result, the American Paralympic program invests in initiatives, both long and short term, that are aimed at identifying and developing the athletes who show potential.

"We gauge success in the most simplistic way — we look at an athlete that is in the system and has shown a positive trajectory that will hopefully lead to medal," Cramer said. "But we don't just hope and cross our fingers, we really invest in them."

China, too, has invested in long term plans for success in the Paralympics. In 2007, the huge China Disability Sports Training Centre was opened in Beijing.

Britain also invests a lot in its Paralympic program, though Briscoe said that it can be difficult to compare other countries to China because of the sheer size of its disabled population. In 2012, the Beijing Review reported that China's disabled population was about 85 million. According to the United Nations, the entire population of Germany entering 2016 was about 80 million.

Regardless of the number of athletes competing for each nation, it is still up to the individual athlete to win.

In the Olympic Aquatics Stadium on Tuesday, China was at it again.

Yang Bozun and Zhang Xiaotong claimed gold medals and world records in the 100-meter men's and women's breaststroke finals for blind competitors. Neither was the top finisher in qualifiers.

By the end of the night, China had won eight medals and broken five world records.

After her race, Zhang was asked about the secret to China's success at the Paralympic Games.

"It is because we train very hard in China and it is a whole teamwork for the entire China team," Zhang said through an interpreter.

Whatever it is seems to be paying off.

Hungry startup uses robots to grab slice of pizza

TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Did robots help make your pizza?

If you ordered it from Silicon Valley's Zume Pizza, the answer is yes.

The startup, which began delivery in April, is using intelligent machines to grab a slice of the multibillion-dollar pizza delivery market.

Zume is one of a growing number of food-tech firms seeking to disrupt the restaurant industry with software and robots.

"We're going to eliminate boring, repetitive, dangerous jobs, and we're going to free up people to do things that are higher value," said co-founder Alex Garden, a former Microsoft manager and president of mobile game maker Zynga Studios.

Inside its commercial kitchen in Mountain View, pizza dough travels down a conveyor belt where machines add the sauce, spread it and later carefully slide the uncooked pies into an 800-degree oven.

The startup will soon add robots to prep the dough, add cheese and toppings, take pizzas out of the oven, cut them into slices and box them for delivery.

"We automate those repetitive tasks, so that we can spend more money on higher quality ingredients," said Julia Collins, Zume's CEO and cofounder. "There will always be a model here at Zume where robots and humans work together to create delicious food."

In Silicon Valley and beyond, tech startups are building robots to help reduce labor costs, speed production and improve safety in the restaurant industry.

San Francisco-based Momentum Machines is building robots to make gourmet hamburgers, and BistrotBot, another San Francisco startup, has designed a machine that makes sandwiches while customers watch.

"We're trying to automate some of the stations you might find in restaurants," said co-founder Jay Reppert. "It's quicker, it's cheaper, it's more consistent and it's this really fun experience to share with people."

Robots may be able to produce simple foods such as pizza, burgers and sandwiches, but they won't be taking over restaurants anytime soon because they still struggle with irregular tasks that require fine motor skills, judgment and taste, said Ken Goldberg, who directs the University of California, Berkeley's Automation Lab.

"There are so many jobs in food service that are so complex that it will be a very long time before we have robots doing them," Goldberg said. "I want to reassure restaurant workers that the skills they have are still going to be of value."

Zume's founders say the company doesn't plan to eliminate any of its roughly 50 employees, but move them into new jobs as robots take over more kitchen work and the company opens new locations.

"There's way more work than there's people," Garden said.

Zume also wants to bring innovation to pizza delivery. This fall the startup plans to deploy trucks equipped with 56 ovens that can bake pizzas en route to customers, allowing them to deliver dozens of orders before returning to the kitchen.

The company is trying to shorten delivery times with software to anticipate when and what kind of pizzas customers will order.

Charity Suzuki regularly uses the Zume mobile app to order pizza. She isn't bothered by the robot cooks.

"It's delicious. It's always hot and fresh when it comes," Suzuki said. "I can't tell the difference that

it's made by a robot versus a human."

Trump child care plan breaks with conservative orthodoxy

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

ASTON, Pa. (AP) — Donald Trump rolled out a plan Tuesday aimed at making child care more affordable, guaranteeing new mothers six weeks of paid maternity leave and suggesting new incentives for employees to provide their workers childcare. Spurred on by his daughter, Ivanka, Trump waded into topics more often discussed by Democrats.

Trump unveiled the proposals in a speech in a politically critical Philadelphia suburb as he tries to build his appeal with more moderate, independent voters — especially women. Child care is one of the biggest expenses many American families face, surpassing the cost of college and even housing in many states.

"We need working mothers to be fairly compensated for their work, and to have access to affordable, quality child care for their kids," Trump said in Aston, Pennsylvania. "These solutions must update laws passed more than half a century ago when most women were still not in the labor force."

Trump proposed guaranteeing six weeks of paid maternity leave to employees whose employers don't offer leave already. The campaign says the payments would be provided through existing unemployment insurance — though it has yet to spell out how the system would cover those costs.

Trump's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, has called for 12 weeks parental leave for both mothers and fathers paid for by taxes on the wealthy.

Trump previously proposed reducing child care costs by allowing parents to fully deduct the average cost of child care from their taxes. On Tuesday, he expanded that proposal to allow families with a stay-at-home parent to qualify for the deduction and to include costs associated with caring for elderly dependent relatives.

The deduction would apply only to individuals earning \$250,000 or less, or \$500,000 or less if filing jointly. But because Trump's proposal is a tax deduction rather than credit, its greatest benefits would go to affluent households. More than 40 percent of U.S. taxpayers don't make enough money to owe taxes to the federal government, meaning they would not benefit from a deduction. Lower-income earners would receive child-care spending rebates through expanding the existing Earned Income Tax Credit, the campaign said.

Trump also proposed incentives for employers to provide child-care options at work. But some of his proposals to prod businesses and communities into providing childcare and other services are anathema to conservative orthodoxy.

At one point, Trump was interrupted briefly by a crying baby — but, unlike at a rally in August, he did not suggest he wanted the child ejected.

The timing, location and subject matter are no coincidence. Democratic presidential candidates have won Pennsylvania since 1992, but Trump hopes to flip the battleground to win the White House in November. And Trump has been trying to soften his image among college-educated women who have been reluctant to support a candidate who has made many derogatory remarks toward women.

Ivanka Trump introduced Trump in Pennsylvania and, earlier in the day in Iowa, the candidate credited his daughter for his action on the issue. "She is the one who has been pushing for it so hard: 'Daddy, Daddy we have to do this.' She's very smart, and she's right," the candidate said.

The timing raised some eyebrows among skeptics.

Carmel Martin at the liberal Center for American Progress said the new savings accounts would create

a potential tax shelter for wealthy people and that Trump's proposals remain tilted to the rich because the low-income child-care rebates top out at \$1,200.

"It would definitely work for Ivanka, but not for most American families," Martin said.

Trump laid out plans to create "Dependent Care Savings Accounts" that would allow families to set aside money to look after children or elderly parents. The accounts would allow tax-deductible contributions and tax-free appreciation and could be used to pay for child care, after-school programs and school tuition. To help lower-income parents, the government would match half of the first \$1,000 deposited per year.

For elderly dependents, the accounts could be used to help pay for services including in-home nursing and long-term care.

Currently, families can set aside up to \$5000 annually for child care expenses or elder care but not for school tuition and cannot carry over the amount in the account.

Trump did not lay out how much the proposals would cost, but insisted the extra spending would be offset by economic growth and other cuts.

Clinton, meanwhile, proposes that no family should spend more than 10 percent of its income on child care. To achieve this, Clinton would seek to boost federal spending on child-care subsidies and provide "tax relief for the cost of child care to working families." Those benefits would be offered on a sliding scale based on need, though Clinton has offered few other details since introducing the plan in May.

Samsung's quick fix for Galaxy Note 7 is no full recharge

YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung plans to issue a software update for its recalled Galaxy Note 7 smartphones that will prevent them from overheating by limiting battery recharges to 60 percent.

The front page of the Seoul Shinmun, a South Korean newspaper, carried a Samsung Electronics advertisement on Tuesday announcing the software update for any users of the Note 7 who may be disregarding its recall notice and continuing to use the smartphone.

"It is a measure to put consumer safety first but we apologize for causing inconvenience," the advertisement said. The update for South Korean users will start Sept. 20, it said.

South Korean media earlier reported the software update plan, citing Samsung.

It was unclear when the update may be issued overseas and if it will be forced on existing Note 7 phones regardless of user consent. Yonhap News Agency reported that Samsung is in talks with global mobile carriers to deliver the same update to keep battery power at 60 percent or below at all times.

Samsung plans to begin issuing new Note 7s with batteries it says will not be prone to overheating starting Sept. 19 in South Korea. It recalled 2.5 million of the devices just two weeks after their launch after dozens of cases in which batteries exploded or caught fire. Samsung says the problem stems from a manufacturing glitch in the batteries.

Samsung is the world's largest smartphone maker, and analysts said the recall may leave a larger impact on its brand than earlier estimated. Aviation regulators and airlines have deemed the Note 7 a flight hazard and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering an official product recall.

The company has urged consumers to immediately turn off the phones and get them replaced with the new Note 7.

But implementing such a large-scale recall is a challenge. Consumers have to visit Samsung service centers or retailers twice — once to get a replacement phone — not a Galaxy Note 7 — and have a safety check of their existing Note 7, and a second time to get a new Note 7. South Koreans are travel-

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ing for one of the two biggest national holidays of the year starting Wednesday, which complicates the recall plan.

Samsung offered free pizza as an apology to workers at mobile carrier shops who have been handling the unprecedented recall. Some will work during the holidays this week as Samsung plans to keep its service centers open.

Lee In-tae, an employee at a SK Telecom shop in central Seoul, said two pizzas were delivered to the shop during lunchtime on Tuesday with a letter from Samsung that included an apology for causing inconvenience with the recall. South Korean media said Samsung gave free pizzas to all employees at local handset shops and mobile carriers.

"We ate the pizza among a few of us," Lee said by phone. He and his co-workers have been handling complaints from Note 7 consumers. "We have to do all the recalls here, do all the work and listen to all the bad things. But it feels like (Samsung) is trying to make up for it with that," he said, referring to the pizza.

Samsung did not answer emails and calls seeking comment on Tuesday. Offices were closed in South Korea on Wednesday for the holiday.

The software update appears to be a last-ditch effort to contain the crisis.

Samsung "has to contain the battery explosions but people are not returning the phones," said Peter Yu, an analyst at BNP Paribas. "It is taking a desperate measure."

Keeping the battery level low could reduce the risk of overheating, but would be equivalent to getting a downgrade of a top-of-the-line phone, said Kim Young Woo, an analyst at SK Securities. The Galaxy Note series are among the most expensive handsets made by Samsung.

"It means that the phone has not been optimized before the release," Kim said.

Canada issued a recall notice on Monday.

The company did not say how many more battery fires in the Note 7 have been reported since Sept. 1, when 35 cases were confirmed. In announcing its recall, the Canadian government said one case was confirmed in Canada while Samsung received more than 70 reported cases in the United States alone.

Asian shares mostly lower on worries over global growth, Fed

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares mostly sagged in sluggish trading Wednesday on concerns over weaker global growth and uncertainty about the U.S. Federal Reserve's plans for interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.2 percent in morning trading to 16,689.31. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was flat at 23,223.42, and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.1 percent to 5,212.50. The Shanghai Composite fell 0.4 percent to 3,011.55. Shares were lower in Singapore, Indonesia and Taiwan. South Korean markets were closed for a national holiday.

FED FACTOR: Markets are watching for what the Federal Reserve might do on interest rates, weighing various economic indicators. Economists say December is the most likely time for the Fed to hike rates for the first time this year.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average gave up 1.4 percent to 18,066.75. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.5 percent to 2,127.02 and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.1 percent, to 5,155.25.

THE QUOTE: "The Federal Reserve blackout period is now upon us, giving traders a week to speculate on the impact of what has been said and the few pieces of data we get between now and the decision next Wednesday," Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA, said in a note. "While a hawkish consensus does appear to be building among the committee, the absence of some key policy makers

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from this makes a hike at the meeting next week very unlikely.”

ENERGY: The price of oil recovered some of its 3 percent overnight drop which followed International Energy Agency remarks about weaker oil demand due to slower global economic activity. Benchmark crude rose 23 cents to \$45.13 a barrel. It fell \$1.39, or 3 percent, to \$44.90 a barrel in New York Tuesday. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, inched up 16 cents to \$47.26 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 102.99 yen from 101.98 yen late Tuesday in Asia. The euro fell to \$1.1224 from \$1.1233.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 14, the 258th day of 2016. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British bombardment during the War of 1812; the poem later became the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

On this date:

In 1715, Benedictine monk Dom Pierre Perignon, credited with advances in the production of champagne, died in Hautvillers, France, at age 76.

In 1829, the Treaty of Adrianople was signed, ending war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1941, Vermont passed a resolution enabling its servicemen to receive wartime bonuses by declaring the U.S. to be in a state of armed conflict, giving rise to headlines that Vermont had "declared war on Germany."

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, appeared together on radio and television to appeal for a "national crusade" against drug abuse.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

Ten years ago: Authorities advised people to avoid eating bagged fresh spinach, the suspected (later confirmed) source of an outbreak of E. coli illnesses that killed three people. Three men became the first rabbis ordained in Germany since World War II during a ceremony in Dresden. Actor-bodybuilder

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Mickey Hargitay, husband of actress Jayne Mansfield and father of actress Mariska Hargitay, died in Los Angeles at age 80.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged enthusiastic college students at North Carolina State University to join him in his fight to get Congress to act on his new jobs bill. A government panel released a report saying that BP bore ultimate responsibility for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

One year ago: Ahmed Mohamed, a 14-year-old Muslim boy, was arrested after bringing a homemade clock to MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas, that was mistaken for a possible bomb; police declined to seek any charges against the teenager. Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk Kim Davis returned to work for the first time since she was jailed for defying a federal court and announced that she would no longer block her deputies from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump renewed his campaign against illegal immigration, telling a cheering crowd of thousands at the American Airlines Center in Dallas that "it's disgusting what's happening to our country." At least a dozen people were killed in flash floods that struck in Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona, along with seven hikers who drowned in a narrow canyon in Zion National Park and a man from Hurricane, Utah. Fred Deluca, 67, the Subway co-founder who turned a sandwich shop he started as a teenager into the world's largest fast-food chain, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 83. Feminist author Kate Millett is 82. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 80. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 76. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 72. Actor Sam Neill is 69. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 69. Rock musician Ed King is 67. Actor Robert Wisdom is 63. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 61. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 60. Actress Mary Crosby is 57. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 57. Country singer John Berry is 57. Actress Melissa Leo is 56. Actress Faith Ford is 52. Actor Jamie Kaler is 52. Actress Michelle Stafford is 51. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 51. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 50. Actor Dan Cortese is 49. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 47. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 47. Actor Ben Garant is 46. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 46. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 45. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 43. Rapper Nas is 43. Actor Austin Basis is 40. Country singer Danielle Peck is 38. Pop singer Ayo is 36. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 34. Actor Adam Lamberg is 32. Singer Alex Clare is 31. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 29. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 27.

Thought for Today: "I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." — Adlai E. Stevenson, American statesman (1900-1965).