

Groton Daily Independent

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Today

International Rabbit Day

National Cherries Jubilee Day

Birthdays: • Jesse Overacker • Charles Dirks • Ben Woodward • Turner Webb • Jerry Locke • Wade Marzahn

9:30 am: Groton Black 3rd-4th FB host Milbank Silver

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

9:30 am: Groton 5th-6th FB hosts Milbank Silver

1:00pm: Soccer at Tea Area (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 3 pm)

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

25

National Comic Book Day

Anniversary: Jason & Kathy Holm

Birthdays: • Grant Rix • Jarrett Rix • Joey Padfield

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

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

9:30am: Presbyterian Bible Study

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

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

10:15am: Emmanuel L Lutheran School

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:00pm: HBM Worship at Golden Living Center



GDILIVE.COM
livestream
Many Groton
Area activities are
Livestreamed by the
Groton Daily
INDEPENDENT
Your Main Source for Community News, Sports and Important Announcements

605/397-NEWS
(6397)

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**

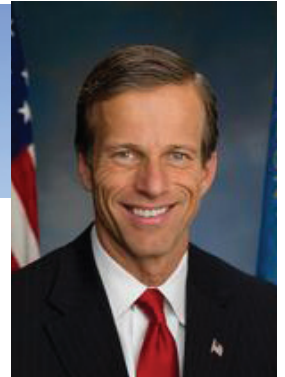
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BLOCKER NEW CONSTRUCTION
CONSTRUCTION REMODELING
HOOP BARNS

(605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



No Room for Error in National Security Strategy

The recent bombing and attempted bombings in New York and New Jersey, as well as the shopping mall attack that occurred less than 200 miles from South Dakota's eastern border, have reminded us once again that the United States isn't immune to the risk posed by radical Islamic terrorism. Sadly, we've seen these types of attacks before, both in San Bernardino and Orlando. We must remain vigilant and do everything we can to ensure potential risks are identified and eliminated, because when it comes to our national security strategy, there is no room for error.

ISIS has already claimed responsibility for the attack in St. Cloud, a city typically more threatened by an early winter than a knife-wielding ISIS fighter. And we know the man responsible for planting explosive devices in New York and New Jersey neighborhoods was inspired by the radical teachings of Al Qaeda and ISIS leaders. Law enforcement and intelligence communities acted swiftly after these attacks, and I'm hopeful we'll soon know more about them, the men who carried them out, and in doing so, be able to piece together their motives and any additional ties to terrorist groups like ISIS.

ISIS, once described as the "JV team" by President Obama, has quickly grown into a global network. There's no question the rise of ISIS can be traced, in part, to the president's decision to prematurely withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq. Our departure from the region left a hole in Iraq's security, which created an opportunity for ISIS to expand its reign of terror. Despite the carnage that's repeatedly filled our TV screens – carnage that cannot be denied – the president and his administration continue to downplay the threat posed by ISIS. This is a gross miscalculation.

In Congress, we're working to keep American families safe from the threat of terrorism. Senate Republicans will continue to push for the resources our military needs to defeat ISIS and other threats abroad. We will continue pursuing policies that strengthen our borders so we know who is coming in and out of our country – a key component to our national security. And we will continue supporting policies that give our intelligence and security agencies the tools they need to keep the American people safe.

As the leader of the Commerce Committee, which oversees our nation's transportation system, I've looked for ways to improve security on our nation's roads and railways, and in our skies, too. I fought hard to include numerous airport security provisions in the aviation bill I helped get through Congress earlier this year. Also, I recently introduced a bill that would strengthen security on our nation's highways and railways by closing the gap in the Transportation Security Administration's approach to surface transportation security.

Terrorists don't target one political party or another. They don't care if you're a Republican, Democrat, or Independent. Their only goal is to disrupt our peace of mind and cut to the core of our freedom. So when it comes to national security, leaders in Washington must rise above politics and work together to defeat ISIS and fund the men and women who defend our freedom around the globe. It's our duty, and it's what the American people deserve.

Groton Area 5-0, Aberdeen Roncalli 1-3

Keith's three interceptions spoil Roncalli's NEC title hopes

As Justin Olson, the Voice of the Tigers, said on the GDILIVE.COM coverage, "It's all about defense." Brandon Keith had three interceptions and Bennett Shabazz had one as the Groton Area Tigers handed Roncalli its third loss of the season. Trevor Pray made a touchdown catch under heavy traffic and Bennett Shabazz made a dive into the endzone as Groton came from behind for the win, 18-15.

Sponsors for the game on GDILIVE.COM were Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Bahr Spray Foam, Blocker Construction, Doug Abeln Seed Company, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Harry Implement of Ferney, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson, James Valley Telecommunications, John Sieh Agency, Julie Schaller's Reflexology & Massage, Ken's Food Fair of Groton, Leading Edge Industries with Shawn Gengerke, McKiver Collision, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Olson Backhoe & Trenching, Patios Plus with Joe Foertsch, Pro Ag Supply of Aberdeen, Producer's Hybrids with John Wheeting, S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank, Simon Insurance & Auction Service, Subway of Groton, Treeline Tree Service & Sperry Stump Removal.

"Football is good entertainment and you want your team to come out on top," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "It doesn't matter what your record is, It's always a good football game when you play Roncalli."

Roncalli scored on its first possession of the game. Starting at their own 35 yard line, the Cavaliers marched down the field, securing two first downs in two minutes as Conner Fiedler scored on a 46 yard pass play from Braden Sommers. Conner Deutsch kicked the PAT and the Cavaliers took a 7-0 lead with 5:24 left in the first quarter.

Roncalli would threaten to score on its next possession as the Cavaliers were in Groton territory, but on a big pass, Bennett Shabazz would intercept the ball to stop the Roncalli drive. Roncalli would return



Trevor Pray sprints towards the goal line and makes a catch to score for the Tigers as he is double teamed. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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the favor with an interception on Groton's second and 11. Branden Keith would have his first of three interceptions on the night early in the second quarter with the ball at the Roncalli 13 yard line. On the next play, Trevon Tuggles would score on the 13 yard run. The PAT kick failed a second time as Groton had a penalty on the first attempt. The Cavaliers now lead, 7-6, with 8:49 left in the first half.

Roncalli would later have a touchdown recalled due to a penalty. The first half ended with Roncalli leading, 7-6.

"When we came out at halftime our kids had a sense of knowing we were going to win this football game," Wanner said. "We held them (Roncalli) to minus two or minus four yards in the second half and that's not a typical thing to happen to Roncalli. Our running game was better in the second half and that gives credit to our kids up front. We can run the football and then come back and hit them with a pass."

Roncalli had the ball to start the second half. Its initial second half drive would go 75 yards in nearly six minutes with 15 plays and ended with five first downs and a Fiedler eight yard pass from Sommers. The PAT kick was Deutsch was good and the Cavaliers took a 14-6 lead and that is the way the third quarter would end.

Brandon Keith would stop another threat as he intercepted the ball at the Groton 32 yard line. The Tigers would take over. After three first downs, the Tigers would score on second and 15 on a Trevor Pray 34 yard pass play from Bennett Shabazz. "Trevor made a great catch," Wanner said. "That's one of the better catches I've seen." The two point conversion failed and the Cavaliers still led, 14-12, with 5:59 left in the game.

One third and nine for the Cavaliers, McClain Lone would make a big sack and the Cavaliers were forced to punt on fourth and 21. A bad punt by the Cavaliers resulted in a negative two yard punt and Groton started its drive on the Roncalli 27 yard line with 4:14 left in the game. On fourth and six from the Roncalli 24 yard line, Bennett Shabazz looks for an open person, finding no one, he takes the ball and dashes through the Roncalli defense and dives into the endzone for the winning touchdown score. The PAT attempt was no good and Groton Area took an 18-14 lead with 2:28 left in the game. "The kids played with a lot of heart," Wanner said. "We can score any time - I don't think I have ever had a team that has a big play capability."

Brandon Keith would intercept the ball on Roncalli's next drive. The Cavaliers would use its last two time outs to stop the clock during Groton's drive, which Groton had to punt on fourth and 11. "That's athleticism," Wanner said of Shabazz's several dives into the endzone this season. "He's a gamer."

The Cavaliers would have 1:28 to march 74 yards, but a Roncalli penalty made it third and 28, then fourth and 28 and Groton took over on downs with 13 seconds left. The Tigers would simply take a knee and that was the ballgame with Groton winning, 18-14.

"The kids really celebrated in the locker room after the game," Wanner said. "They were jumping around, playing music and hugging each other - this is something they will always remember."



Bennett Shabazz dives into the endzone for the game winning touchdown. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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Both teams had 12 first downs. Groton Area had 38 carries for 127 yards. Trevon Tuggles had 20 carries for 78 yards and one touchdown, Bennett Shabazz had 16 carries for 51 yards and one touchdown, and Seric Shabazz had two carries for a minus five yards. Aberdeen Roncalli had 24 carries for 56 yards. Gabe Torbert had five carries for 20 yards and Brandon Sommers had 10 for 15 yards.

Bennett Shabazz completed seven of 10 passes for 60 yards. Receivers were Trevor Pray with four catches for 50 yards and a touchdown, Trevon Tuggles had two catches for nine yards and Lucas Hinman had one catch for one yard. The Cavaliers' Brandon Sommers completed 13 of 35 passes for 166 yards with two touchdowns and four interceptions. Connor Fielder had four catches for 70 yards and two touchdowns.

Groton Area had one fumble, but it was recovered by Luke Thorson. The Cavaliers had two fumbles and recovered them both. Groton Area had 14 penalties for 95 yards. Roncalli had 10 penalties for 89 yards.

Brandon Keith had 10 tackles and three interceptions and Bennett Shabazz had nine tackles and one interception. Alex Garvin had eight tackles for Roncalli and Grant Gonderso had five.

Groton, now 5-0 on the season, will host Sisseton in its final Northeast Conference game and it will be Groton's homecoming game. Roncalli is now 1-3 on the season.

"We have to get ready for Sisseton," Wanner said. "We've had two emotional wins. I can see something like laying an egg next week. We still have to keep playing. We have the chance to win the conference out right. I don't want to lay an egg on the last conference game."

The last time Groton Area won the Northeast Conference was in 2011.

- Paul Kosel

Worrel Pumpkin Patch



**Hours are
Saturdays and Sundays
10am-4pm thru Oct. 23rd.
Group appointments call
605-377-8133
Address is 13606 429th
Ave - Webster, SD
22 Miles East of Groton**

**We have a large variety of Pumpkins
(white, orange, blue, green)
Gourds, Straw Bales and Melons.
Check us out on Facebook at worrelpumpkinpatch**



The Life of Dolores Georgens

A Celebration of Life for Dolores R. Georgens, age 99, of Janesville, Wisconsin and formerly of Groton will be held 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Inurnment will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

Dolores died on Friday, December 11, 2015 at Rock Haven Nursing Home.

She was born on September 6, 1916 in Warner, SD, the daughter of the late Herman and Ella (Kempf) Kuhfeld. She married Clarence Georgens on September 14, 1938 in Aberdeen, SD and he predeceased her in January of 1989. She and her husband previously farmed in the Verdon, SD area and later moved to Groton, SD in 1956. While in Groton, Dolores was active with the Groton Senior Citizens and the Ladies Aid at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Dolores moved to Janesville to be near her son and lived at Garden Courts Apartments before moving to Rock Haven seven years ago. She was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church in Janesville and its Ladies Aid. Dolores was a very friendly and sociable lady, who enjoyed being around people.

She is survived by two children: Duane (Arlene) Georgens of Janesville and Carol Huffman of Virginia; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren. She is further survived by her three sisters: Hazel Kurth of Aberdeen, SD, Elvera (Rodger) Bierman of Northville, SD and Verna Becker of Huron, SD; other relatives and friends. In addition to her husband and parents, she was by her brothers: Edward, Ervin and Melvin; and step-sons: Kenneth, Orvin and Dick.

Death Notice: Clarice Larson

Clarice Larson, 85, of Britton passed away Saturday, September 24, 2016 at Wheatcrest Hills, Britton. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



2017 GROTON DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!

Licenses due by Dec. 30, 2016

Fines start after Dec. 30, 2016

Must bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to City Hall. Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog. If you no longer have any dogs, please let City Hall know ASAP.

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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



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Today in Weather History

September 23, 1984: Snow fell from the early morning to the late evening hours across northwest South Dakota bringing more than a foot of snow to some locations. Camp Crook in Harding County reported 14 inches. Amounts between six and twelve inches were common across Harding and Perkins Counties as well as parts of Meade and Butte Counties. Roads in these areas were slushy with icy bridges. The snow covered much of the western third of South Dakota with depths an inch or less.

September 23, 2004: A tornado touched down northeast of Browns Valley, MN during the late afternoon. This tornado traveled through a cornfield and a farmstead before dissipating. The tornado damaged several sheds and a trailer along with toppling a large grain bin. Another tornado touched down south and southwest of Rosholt in Roberts County in the late afternoon. This F2 tornado destroyed a house, a mobile home, and a travel trailer. The tornado also killed three cattle.

1551: The Grand Harbour at Valetta, Malta, was hit by a waterspout which then moved inland. This waterspout sunk four ships, killing at least 600 people. It should be noted, the year of the event could also be 1555, or 1556 as sources conflict.








1722: La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans) was founded May 7, 1718, by the French Mississippi Company, under the direction of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, on land inhabited by the Chitimacha. Four years later, a hurricane destroys nearly every building in the village, including the only church and hospital.

1975: On September 22, Hurricane Eloise intensified to attain Category 2 strength, and became a major hurricane of Category 3 status shortly after that as it turned towards the northeast. Several ships penetrated the storm's center during its passage through the Gulf. Hurricane Eloise continued to strengthen until it reached its peak winds of 125 mph and a minimum barometric pressure of about 955 mbar. It moved ashore along the Florida Panhandle near Panama City on September 23.

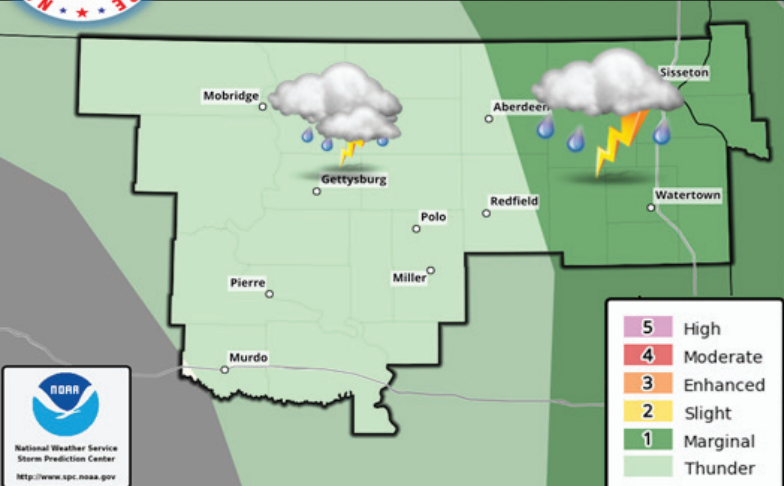
2009: A massive dust storm swept 725 miles across the outback to engulf Sydney, New South Wales producing a red hue across the region from the 22nd through the 24th. Wind gusts topped 60 mph as the storm transported an estimated 5,000 metric tons of dust, spreading it into the southern region of Queensland.

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This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Chance T-storms and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 79 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 72 °F

Thunderstorms Return Today, strong to severe storms possible east



- Highs in the 70s
- Isolated Strong to Severe Storms possible this afternoon over eastern SD and western MN

Main Threats

- Hail
- Thunder
- Winds


Cooling Down Sunday and Monday



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 8/26/2016 5 AM Central

weather.gov/Aberdeen

 National Weather Service Aberdeen

 @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 09/24/2016 at 6:07AM

A low pressure set to move across the Northern Plains will sweep a cold front eastward across our area this afternoon and evening. It will be accompanied by scattered showers and thunderstorms. Isolated strong to severe storms will be possible over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota this afternoon into early this evening. The main threats will be large hail, gusty winds, frequent lightning, and heavy rain. Cooler conditions will slide in behind the front on Sunday, with highs in the 60s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 70.6 F at 4:52 PM

Low Outside Temp: 58.6 F at 10:13 AM

High Gust: 34.0 Mph at 6:50 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1935

Record Low: 23° in 2000

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 42°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.76

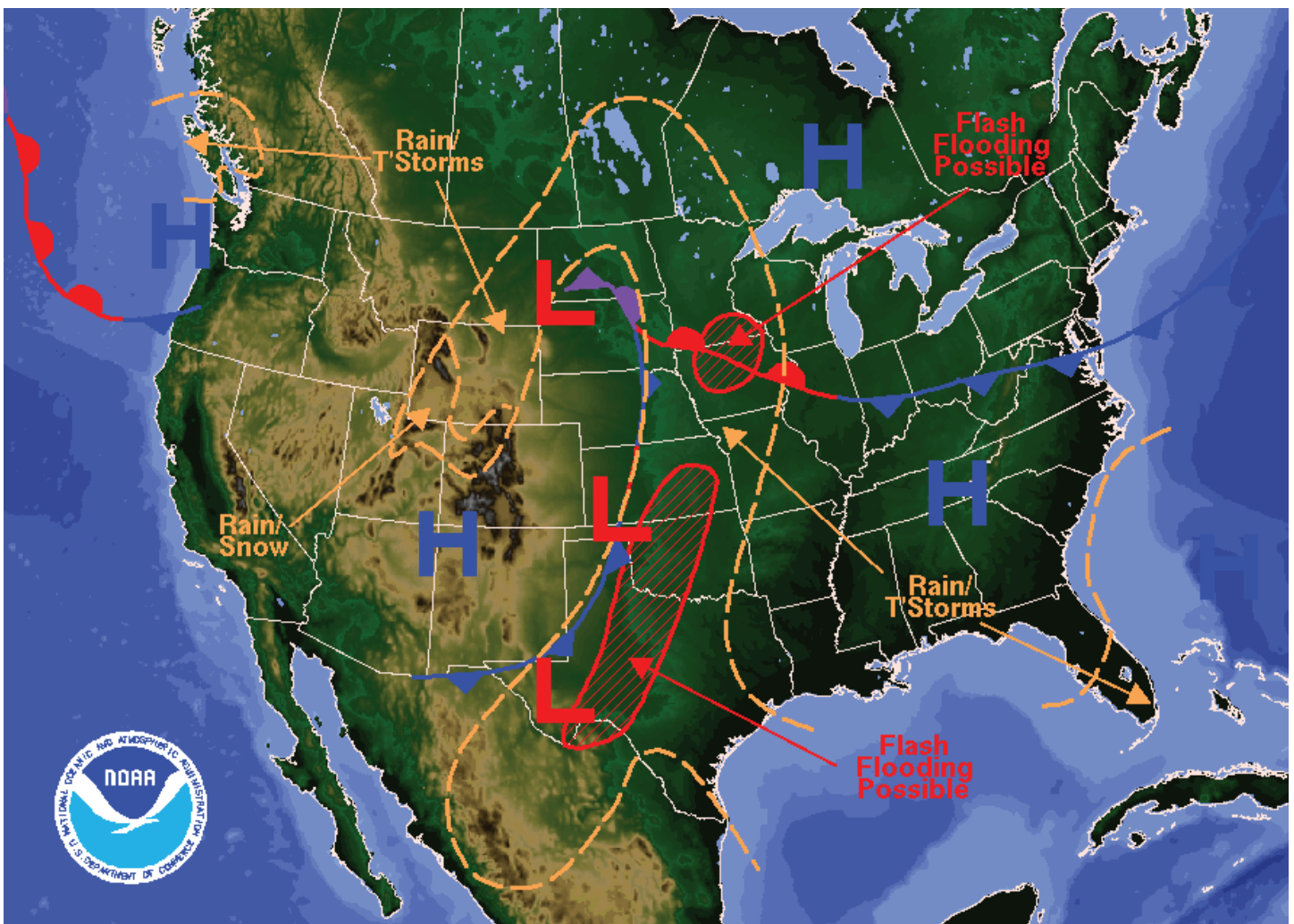
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.54

Average Precip to date: 18.05

Precip Year to Date: 13.20

Sunset Tonight: 7:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:25 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Sep 24, 2016, issued 10:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Burke based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHAT NEXT?

Have you ever eaten a Twinkie? Those moist cakes filled with creamy vanilla? Do you know how they got to the grocer's shelf?

Jimmy Dewar is the creator of the delicious little treats. He never planned on baking Twinkies. The idea for them came to him out of frustration.

He began by making strawberry shortcakes but ran into a problem. At the end of the season, he had pans but no strawberries. He then decided to create a banana filling which was well received in the stores. But he ran into another problem.

One year there was a shortage of bananas and he was forced to try something else. He thought and worked and experimented and came up with the idea of a vanilla filling. It was and still is a delicious treat and enjoyed by many every day. Besides, the creamy vanilla filling has no season.

That's the way God works in our lives. When he closes one door He willingly opens another if we are faithful, work diligently and look to Him for guidance. Unfortunately, many Christians look upon difficult days as a reason to become despondent – not dependent upon God.

God's Word declares, "I have opened a door for you that no one can shut." Trust Him. He wants you to succeed.

Prayer: Open our eyes, Lord, to see the opportunities that You set before us. May we look to You each day with excitement for the challenges You will bring us! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Revelation 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

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

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Man convicted in Aberdeen stabbing death asks for new trial

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An attorney for an Aberdeen man convicted in the stabbing death of his ex-girlfriend last year says his client deserves a new trial.

John Hemminger, 34, was convicted last month of premeditated murder in the killing of 26-year-old Jessica Goebel. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Authorities say Goebel was stabbed in her home more than 20 times on Jan. 6, 2015. She died in a Sioux Falls hospital a week later.

In a court filing, defense attorney Tom Cogley argues that prosecutor Chris White made an inappropriate statement during closing arguments. White told the jury that defense attorneys could have presented more than 49 of the 500 text messages between Goebel and Hemminger as evidence, according to the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2d7bgWd>).

Hemminger's attorneys objected to the comment and asked for a mistrial, saying that it shifted the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defense. After a short conference with attorneys, Judge Scott Myren denied the motion.

Cogley wrote that White's statement prejudiced the jury because it was made during the closing arguments and, thus, couldn't be countered by the defense.

Prosecutors haven't responded to the motion.

Eagle Butte women indicted on numerous federal drug charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota women have been indicted by a federal grand jury on numerous drug charges.

Marla Cook and Merlina Marrowbone, both of Eagle Butte, are charged with multiple counts of distribution of a controlled substance. They have pleaded not guilty.

Authorities say the 39-year-old Cook and 31-year-old Marrowbone sold methamphetamine on 10 different occasions.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Trial is scheduled for Nov. 8.

Hotel occupancy, gambling money down in Deadwood for August

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Officials say hotel occupancy rates and gambling revenue in Deadwood each fell more than 4 percent in August compared to the same month a year ago.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2cLcHtR>) that hotels in the tourist town had an occupancy rate of nearly 70 percent. Officials say the drop in attendance at the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was a factor.

The Deadwood city finance office reported that overall gaming revenues were down 4.70 percent from August 2015. Slot machine action dropped 4.25 percent to \$106 million, while table game play slumped nearly 11 percent to \$7.1 million for the month.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Pipeline protester who inspired rally extradited to Nebraska

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — An oil pipeline protester from South Dakota who inspired a rally after she was arrested and jailed in North Dakota has been moved to Nebraska to face another criminal complaint.

Forty-two-year-old Olowan Martinez was arrested Sept. 13 for criminal trespass during a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline. Earlier this week, about 300 people showed up outside the Morton County Jail in Mandan to appeal for her release. They held up a large sign that read "Free Olowan." Some called out to her in the jail.

The Bismarck Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/2d71mE4>) the North Dakota arrest triggered a warrant from Nebraska, where Martinez was wanted on charges of making terroristic threats, theft and criminal mischief.

Martinez was released on \$10,000 bond after making her initial appearance Thursday in Sheridan County, Nebraska.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Police say body of Twin Cities woman could be in Fargo area

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Authorities in the Fargo area are searching for the remains of a 45-year-old Vadnais Heights, Minnesota woman allegedly killed by a 51-year-old man.

Timothy Barr, of Lakeville, Minnesota, is charged with two counts of second degree murder without intent and criminal vehicular homicide. Police say Barr told two people he accidentally ran over Michelle Newell with his car.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office in Fargo is asking anyone with farm property to check for anything unusual.

Newell's family reported her missing on Sept. 8. Cass County deputies questioned Barr near Interstate 94 in North Dakota on Aug. 31 after someone called to say a man was lying in a ditch.

Barr allegedly told a police informant that he and a woman were going to South Dakota to sell methamphetamine. .

2 Mitchell men charged in kidnapping of 66-year-old man

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say two Mitchell men have been arrested for the robbery and kidnapping of a 66-year-old man.

Twenty-eight-year old Alex Rock and 21-year-old Marco Sherman are accused of taking the man by force from his home around 6 a.m. Thursday. Police say Rock and Sherman forced the victim into a vehicle and drove him blindfolded about 19 miles southeast of Mitchell. The suspects forced the man to remove his clothes and left him in a field.

The man was found less than an hour later. Authorities say two rings and a wallet were stolen from him.

Rock is charged with first-degree kidnapping and possession of stolen property. Sherman is charged with first-degree kidnapping and robbery.

Police are searching for a 36-year-old woman considered a person of interest in the case.

Man sentenced for driving drunk with child in vehicle

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to a year in federal prison for driving drunk with a 2-year-old child in the vehicle.

Thirty-six-year-old Colton Poorman, of Rosebud, pleaded guilty in July to operating a motor vehicle

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under the influence with a minor present in the vehicle.

The incident happened in October of 2015. Authorities say the child was not placed in safety restraints.

At the time of his arrest, Poorman had been on federal supervised release for a previous felony conviction.

Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Central 15, Sioux Falls Lincoln 6

Alcester-Hudson 36, Irene-Wakonda 22

Arlington/Lake Preston 68, Dell Rapids St. Mary 30

Baltic 38, Garretson 26

Bennett County 34, Little Wound 8

Bison 52, McLaughlin 0

Bon Homme 50, Menno-Marion 8

Brandon Valley 35, Harrisburg 14

Britton-Hecla 54, Great Plains Lutheran 6

Canistota 42, Hanson 0

Castlewood/Estelline 35, Deubrook 0

Chester 50, Scotland 18

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 34, Todd County 14

Colman-Egan 44, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 0

Colome 52, Avon 0

Corsica/Stickney 57, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6

Dakota Valley 40, Canton 8

Dell Rapids 21, West Central 7

Faith 32, Timber Lake 12

Faulkton 48, Northwestern 6

Florence/Henry 60, Dakota Hills 8

Gregory 40, Wolsey-Wessington 36

Groton Area 18, Aberdeen Roncalli 14

Hamlin 18, Clark/Willow Lake 0

Harding County 62, Hill City 14

Herreid/Selby Area 26, Miller 21

Herreid/Selby Area 26, Highmore-Harrold 21

Hot Springs 48, Belle Fourche 13

Howard 52, Burke/South Central 12

Huron 29, Brookings 7

Ipswich/Edmunds Central 45, Tiospa Zina Tribal 0

Kadoka Area 52, Edgemont 2

Lemmon/McIntosh 53, Newell 7

Leola/Frederick 50, Eureka/Bowdle 6

Madison 42, Vermillion 6

McCook Central/Montrose 17, Beresford 7

Milbank Area 14, Sioux Valley 7

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Mitchell 55, Spearfish 20
Mobridge-Pollock 47, Jones County/White River 0
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 68, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 40
Parker 26, Viborg-Hurley 16
Parkston 54, Wagner 0
Platte-Geddes 44, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Red Cloud 28, Pine Ridge 6
Redfield/Doland 22, Sisseton 14
Sioux Falls Christian 45, Flandreau 0
Sioux Falls O’Gorman 31, Watertown 13
Sioux Falls Washington 42, Rapid City Central 14
St. Thomas More 55, Custer 0
Stanley County 61, Rapid City Christian 6
Sully Buttes 20, Kimball/White Lake 18, OT
Tea Area 20, Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 14
Tri-State 20, Waverly-South Shore 8
Tri-Valley 38, Lennox 0
Warner 44, Langford 6
Webster 31, Deuel 6
Winner 60, Chamberlain 6
Yankton 22, Pierre 21
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Douglas vs. Sturgis, ppd. to Sep 24.
Rapid City Stevens vs. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, ppd. to Sep 24.

South Dakota chamber says Amendment V is bad for business

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota business group has come out against a constitutional amendment that would remove candidates’ party affiliations from primary and general election ballots.

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.

The South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry says a merged primary system has not worked in other states and it doesn’t make sense for a state that has a good business climate, low taxes and no gridlock.

Supporters say the plan would help broaden the voter base participating in the political process.

Department of Agriculture seeks input on pollinator plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Agriculture is seeking input on its managed pollinator protection plan.

The plan outlines efforts including protecting honeybees, boosting hive health and facilitating communications among landowners, beekeepers and crop producers. The department wants to ensure the plan reflects the best available management ideas.

Informational meetings are set for Oct. 4 in Brookings and Oct. 6 in Pierre.

Agricultural Services division director Brandon Beshears says pollinator health is important in South

Dakota for the natural pollination of crops and the state's vibrant commercial beekeeping industry.

Online: <http://sdda.sd.gov/>

After failing in Pierre, redistricting forces turn to ballot

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — After years of trying to get South Dakota legislators to surrender control of redistricting to an independent commission, supporters of the idea are trying to do it instead through a constitutional amendment.

Backers say the measure before voters this November would eliminate lawmakers' conflict of interest and make people feel elections are fair to all parties.

"It's time for fair representation. Period," said Democratic Rep. Peggy Gibson, who has backed at least nine independent redistricting measures since 2009. "I'm not saying it'll be perfect, but I'm certainly thinking it will be better than the method that we have now."

Opponents — including majority Republicans — say the current system is working fine.

"The idea, I think, is to elect people that are more in line with liberal ideas as far as spending money and a whole host of issues," said GOP Rep. Jim Bolin, who served on the commission that oversaw the last redistricting plan in 2011.

Members of the South Dakota Farmers Union decided to gather signatures for a constitutional amendment after their last failure at the Legislature. The group has given at least \$238,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to a political committee supporting the effort, according to state campaign finance reports.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries every 10 years to account for population changes. When the process is carried out by elected officials, it often sparks lawsuits and claims of gerrymandering — attempting to draw the districts for political advantage.

Passage of South Dakota's Amendment T requires a simple majority. It would create a commission of nine people chosen each redistricting year to revise the legislative district boundaries.

No more than three commission members could be part of the same political party, and none could be elected officials in the legislative or executive branches, among other prohibitions. The plan also says party registration and voting history must be excluded from the redistricting process, and that the residency of incumbents or candidates can't be identified or considered.

Opponents argue the plan is meant to tip the political balance toward Democrats. Republicans now hold every statewide office and supermajorities in both legislative chambers, and registered Republicans far outnumber registered Democrats.

The 2011 plan passed with a vote mostly along party lines, with minority Democrats complaining it put them at a disadvantage. Bolin insisted it was fair. He called the amendment "part of a crazy plan to change things around."

Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University, said the current process probably does favor the Republican majority.

"I don't think anybody thinks that even with neutrally drawn districts that Democrats would control the House or the Senate, but it's likely that the numbers of Democrats would go up," he said.

Political considerations get no mention in redistricting guidance provided by the state constitution. It just says each legislative district must consist of "compact, contiguous territory and shall have population as nearly equal as is practicable."

Reuben Bezpaletz, a former Legislative Research Council staff member who worked on redistricting

plans from 1981 through the 2011 redistricting, wouldn't take a position on the measure. But he said it's critical that districts are drawn when possible so that either party could win.

"I believe the creation of competitive legislative districts is the most important single thing that you can do to preserve democracy by giving voters a real choice," he said.

Pipeline developer buys ranch near North Dakota protest camp

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The company developing the four-state Dakota Access oil pipeline has purchased a portion of a historic North Dakota ranch where a violent protest occurred earlier this month due to what tribal officials said was construction crews destroying burial and cultural sites.

Morton County records show Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners purchased 20 parcels of land on the Cannonball Ranch totaling more than 6,000 acres from David and Brenda Meyer of Flasher. Financial terms of the deal, which was finalized Thursday, were not disclosed.

The Meyers did not return telephone calls Thursday or Friday seeking comment. Energy Transfer Partners confirmed the purchase Friday but declined to provide further details.

The ranch, which is more than a century old and was the first to be inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, is within a half-mile of an encampment on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' land where the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and hundreds of others are gathered to protest the pipeline. The tribe says the pipeline, which is slated to cross Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir, threatens its water supply and violates several federal laws.

Corps records show Meyer pays \$4,865 annually for exclusive grazing rights at the encampment site, a five-year lease that ends in 2018.

The purchase of the ranchland will allow ETP to better access its construction sites and the pipeline, when it is finished.

On Sept. 3, protesters and private security guards clashed after construction crews removed topsoil across an area about 150 feet (46 meters) wide stretching for 2 miles (3 km) on the ranch. The incident came one day after the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe filed court papers saying it found several sites of "significant cultural and historic value" along the pipeline's path.

Authorities said four security guards and two guard dogs were injured; the tribe says protesters reported that six people had been bitten by security dogs, and at least 30 people were pepper-sprayed. There were no law enforcement personnel at the site when the incident occurred.

The tribe, whose cause has drawn thousands across the globe to join their protest, has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for the \$3.8 billion, 1,172-mile (1886 km) pipeline that would ship North Dakota crude through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois.

A federal appeals court last week ordered a halt to construction within 20 miles on either side of Lake Oahe. The Departments of Justice, Army and Interior also has said it would "reconsider any of its previous decisions" on land that borders or is under the lake, one of six reservoirs on the Missouri River.

The Obama administration said Friday that it has invited leaders from 567 federally recognized tribes to participate in a series of consultations aimed at getting input on infrastructure projects. The meetings, scheduled from Oct. 25 through Nov. 21 in six regions of the U.S., will focus on "meaningful" tribal input into infrastructure-related decisions and the protection of tribal lands, resources and treaty rights. New legislation to promote those goals also will be considered.

Records show the Meyers purchased about 2,400 acres of the ranch in 2013 for \$3.2 million; that land makes up half of the sale Thursday. Financial terms between ETP and the Meyers do not have to be disclosed under state law because the land has been reclassified from agriculture to industrial, the

state Tax Department said.

The sale also is exempt from North Dakota's Depression-era anti-corporate farming law that limits the number of nonprofit groups allowed to buy land, and requires the governor to approve land purchases.

Sioux Falls student charged for having BB gun in backpack

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A student at a Sioux Falls middle school is facing criminal charges after school employees found a BB gun in his backpack.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2dnw3WT>) that the incident happened Thursday at McGovern Middle School. Sioux Falls police say the 12-year-old boy was charged with having a weapon on school property and turned over to his parents.

The backpack was found on the football field. School employees found the gun inside when they opened it to try and find out the owner of the backpack.

Police say no one was threatened with the gun.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Rapid City short-term rental rules earn another approval

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Despite some public opposition, a group of Rapid City officials has given preliminary approval to a set of regulations for the growing cottage industry of home sharing.

The Rapid City Planning Commission on Thursday approved the proposed regulations for services provided by websites such as Airbnb, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2cqTXyC>) reported. Another city committee will evaluate the regulations before the full council takes them up on Oct. 3.

The websites allow people to make extra income by renting out extra rooms in their homes, or in some cases the entire home, to visitors looking for an alternative to hotels. But city officials have said the short-term rentals have become an issue in the community that's surrounded by tourist attractions.

The proposed regulations include a \$250 fee and require property owners who act as short-term landlords to register with the city and provide officials with property and inspection records. Property owners who rent rooms for fewer than 14 days per year or for more than a month to the same person would be exempted.

Jamin Hübner, who is among the people who spoke against the regulations at the planning commission meeting, said the ability of Airbnb customers to post a public review brings a level of regulation that the government can't match.

"If there is a pillow out of place, if there is something unexpected, if they feel unsafe they are going to say about it publicly," Hübner said. "That is a service of regulation that no board could ever offer, that is far exceeding what any city council could do."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Court for defendants with mental illness to be piloted

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's chief justice plans to pilot a program aimed at helping to treat and stabilize defendants with mental illnesses.

Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson is requesting funding for a specialized court that would allow defendants to agree to undergo mental health treatment in exchange for a possible dismissal of charges, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2cWLyag>) reported. The mental health court will be piloted in Pennington County, and if it is successful, it may be expanded to Minnehaha County.

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"They have been used in many states in the country with success," Gilbertson said.

A task force that Gilbertson chairs has been studying issues surrounding mentally ill people entering the criminal justice system in South Dakota. The task force was put together after the Argus Leader reported that a backlog of mental competency evaluations of criminal suspects is taxing county budgets and raising concerns about the rights of defendants.

Under the pilot program, prosecutors could contact a defendant's attorney to offer to move the case to the specialized court. The defendant who agrees to enter the court would then undergo a mental health evaluation and would be mandated to follow treatment. Defendants who successfully complete the programs requirements could see their charges tossed.

The state already has other specialized courts, including for drug and drunken driver offenders and veterans.

Phyllis Arends, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, said she believes the pilot program will be a success.

"I think there is a lot of interest in helping people stay in the community rather than throwing them behind bars," Arends said.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

The Latest: Charlotte crowd demands shooting video release

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Latest on protests in Charlotte, North Carolina, over the fatal police shooting of a black man (all times local):

3 p.m.

Hundreds of demonstrators in Charlotte have taken their protest to the police department.

Many of the hundreds who gathered Saturday afternoon chanted "Keith Scott," the name of the black man shot to death earlier this week by police.

Protesters had gathered earlier in the day, marching through the streets of a city on edge after Scott's shooting death. The demonstrations reached a violent crescendo on Wednesday before the National Guard was called in Thursday to maintain order.

The next two nights of protests were free of property damage and violence, with organizers stressing a message of peace at the end of the week.

Many demonstrators have demanded police release body camera and dashcam video of Scott's shooting. On Saturday, the crowd chanted, "No tapes, no peace."

2 p.m.

Music and peaceful attitudes are dominating a rally of several hundred in a park near Charlotte's police department.

Speakers and singers at the Saturday afternoon gathering have spoken out against incidents of police violence across the country. Organizer Femi Shittu welcomed those in attendance "with all of their righteous anger" before an acoustic musical duo took the makeshift stage.

Saturday marked the fifth day of rallies in this southern banking capital since a black man was shot by police earlier in the week. The demonstrations reached a violent crescendo on Wednesday before the National Guard was called in Thursday to maintain order.

The next two nights of protests were free of property damage and violence, with organizers stressing a message of peace at the end of the week.

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1 p.m.

Several dozen people have gathered at a Charlotte park located just blocks away from the city's police department for a rally and march.

People wore shirts that say "black lives matter" and "support the Charlotte movement" while they waited for speakers to take a makeshift stage in front of a fountain. Two women walked around offering to register people to vote. Others offered bottles of water.

Saturday marked the fifth day of rallies since a black man was shot by police earlier in the week. The demonstrations reached a violent crescendo on Wednesday before the National Guard was called in Thursday to maintain order.

The next two nights of protests were free of property damage and violence, with organizers stressing a message of peace at the end of the week.

10 a.m.

The mother of a man shot and killed during violent protests in Charlotte says her son's death has helped others live through the donation of his organs.

Vivian Carr spoke out at a church service on Friday night. WBTV reports (<http://bit.ly/2dibjE1>) that the mother told a group gathered at Our Lady of Consolation Church that her son Justin was a peaceful person and that several people received his heart, lungs and liver.

Justin Carr was shot during rioting in downtown Charlotte on Wednesday night following unrest over the police shooting of a black man, 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott. Carr died the next day at a hospital, and a man has been arrested in his death.

12:30 a.m.

Charlotte police say they don't plan to forcibly remove protesters from the street after curfew as long as the situation remains peaceful.

Capt. Mike Campagna says in a CNN interview that the midnight curfew is a tool the police can use if it becomes necessary, but they hope that won't be the case.

Campagna says people inside the group of demonstrators helped keep things peaceful Thursday, the third night of protests after an officer fatally shot a black man. He says community members intervened with aggressors after seeing the need when protests became violent Wednesday night.

12:05 a.m. Saturday

A curfew has taken effect in Charlotte with demonstrators still on the street.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts signed documents Thursday night to put in effect a curfew from midnight until 6 a.m.

After midnight, dozens of protesters continued to march and chant in the city's business district.

Officers didn't appear to be trying to arrest people or force them off the streets several minutes after midnight passed.

10:50 p.m.

Protesters in Charlotte who spilled onto an interstate highway are being pushed back by police officers in riot gear.

After peacefully circling the city's business district for several hours, several dozen demonstrators climbed onto Interstate 277 and stood in the middle of the highway.

A line of police officers with shields and face masks advanced on the protesters, and many dispersed

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and climbed back up embankments off the road.

Thursday marked the third night of protests after a shooting earlier in the week of a black man by police in Charlotte.

9:45 p.m.

Charlotte's mayor is imposing a curfew starting at midnight after three nights of protests.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts told reporters Thursday night that she had signed documents to impose a curfew that will run from midnight to 6 a.m.

She expects it to be in place for multiple days until officials determine they no longer need it.

The city's government issued a Tweet saying the curfew is citywide.

Protesters took to the streets for a third night but were largely peaceful Thursday. Two previous nights of chaotic protests included injuries, one death arrests and vandalism.

8:40 p.m.

Hundreds of protesters are marching through the heart of Charlotte's business district.

The protesters stopped for about 15 minutes to chant and block an intersection near Bank of America's headquarters. They then moved on as police and members of the National Guard monitored them.

The demonstration that began about 7:30 p.m. at a park has so far been peaceful.

The crowd includes curious onlookers who emerged from hotels and office buildings to take pictures.

The business district, known locally as uptown, has been on edge Thursday after two nights of chaotic protests that included vandalism and injuries.

The protests stem from the fatal shooting this week of a black man by police.

8:20 p.m.

A North Carolina congressman says that people are protesting in Charlotte because they "hate white people."

U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger, a Republican whose district includes parts of Charlotte, was asked by an interviewer for Britain's BBC TV what grievance the protesters have.

In the video posted online Thursday, Pittenger responded: "The grievance in their mind is — the animus, the anger — they hate white people because white people are successful and they're not."

He later released a statement apologizing and saying that his anguish over the situation led him to give a response he regretted.

Chaotic protests broke out Tuesday and Wednesday in Charlotte after a black man was shot to death by a police officer.

The North Carolina Democratic Party released a statement saying Pittenger's remarks were inexcusable and racist.

8 p.m.

Charlotte police say the man shot in the head during Wednesday night's protests near a downtown hotel has died.

Police spokesman Keith Trietley says in a news release that 26-year-old Justin Carr died Thursday at the hospital.

Carr was shot as protesters clashed with police in riot gear lined arm-in-arm protecting the Omni Hotel about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. City officials say Carr was not shot by an officer.

Police Chief Kerr Putney says the detectives are determined to find who fired the fatal shots. No ar-

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rests have been made.

7:50 p.m.

The lawyer for relatives of a black man killed by Charlotte police says he couldn't tell after watching police video if the man had anything in his hands when he was shot.

Keith Scott's family was shown the dashboard and body camera footage by police Thursday.

After viewing it, attorney Justin Bamberg said in a statement they want the video released to the public immediately. Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney has said he won't release the video while a criminal investigation continues.

Bamberg says Scott is seen in the video calmly exiting his vehicle Tuesday and while police give him several commands, he does not approach officers. Bamberg says Scott's hands were by his side and he was slowly walking backward when he was shot

7:35 p.m.

About 100 protesters have gathered at a park in uptown Charlotte, launching a third night of demonstrations over the fatal shooting of a black man by a black police officer.

With dwindling daylight, the protesters formed a circle and chanted several slogans, including "We believe that we will win." Some of them wrapped bandanas around their faces to protect themselves from tear gas.

About 50 feet away, about a dozen Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers sat on bicycles observing the protesters.

Camouflage Humvees carrying National Guard members are patrolling downtown interspersed with civilian vehicles. Guard members with fatigues and rifles walked through a plaza near the headquarters of Bank of America.

6:45 p.m.

The attorney for relatives of a black man shot to death by Charlotte police says the family has seen police videos of his killing.

Lawyer Justin Bamberg tells television crews he would not detail what they saw. Bamberg says: "There are some things to digest."

Members of Keith Scott's family didn't talk to reporters as they quickly left Charlotte's police headquarters Thursday afternoon.

Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney said earlier Thursday he won't release the body and dashboard camera video while the criminal investigation into Tuesday's shooting continues.

4:15 p.m.

An attorney for relatives of a black man shot and killed by an officer in Charlotte says the victim's wife "saw him get shot and killed."

Attorney Justin Bamberg spoke Thursday on behalf of the family of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott during a news conference. He says the family was not present because they were still grieving.

Bamberg said: "My understanding is that his wife saw him get shot and killed. That's something she will never, ever forget."

He did not give other details about what the wife saw.

Bamberg says the family will view police video of the shooting later Thursday.

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It is not clear when, or if, dash and body camera video of the shooting might be publicly released.

3:55 p.m.

An attorney for relatives of a black man shot and killed by an officer in Charlotte says the family will view police video of the shooting later Thursday.

Attorney Justin Bamberg spoke on behalf of the family of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott during a news conference. The family was not present, he says, because they were still grieving.

He says they don't know what's on the video, only what law enforcement says on the video.

Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney has said that Scott refused commands to drop a gun; residents say he was unarmed. Putney also says the video does not definitively show whether Scott pointed the gun at anyone.

It is not clear when, or if, dash and body camera video of the shooting might be publicly released.

The attorney says the family wants to know the truth but worries about the emotional impact if the video is released.

3:10 p.m.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory says he supports the Charlotte police chief's position that body and dashcam video of the deadly police shooting of a black man shouldn't be released to the public while the investigation continues.

At a news conference Thursday, McCrory said he hadn't changed his mind about a law he signed that will make it harder for police shooting videos to be released starting next month.

McCrory spoke as officials try to head off another day of protests stemming from the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott. Police say he refused to drop a gun; residents say he was unarmed. McCrory says he expects less chaos in Charlotte because the National Guard and state troopers are helping Charlotte police.

2:20 p.m.

The Congressional Black Caucus is demanding that Attorney General Loretta Lynch authorize federal intervention into the police killings of unarmed African-American men and women.

The action comes in the aftermath of the killing in Charlotte, North Carolina, of Keith Lamont Scott. Police say he refused repeated commands to drop a gun, but residents say he was unarmed.

The black lawmakers walked Thursday from the U.S. Capitol to the Justice Department to present the letter to Lynch, who was having a news conference of her own inside the building. Democratic Rep G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina, the caucus's chair, said they would tell the attorney general that "enough is enough."

The letter asks for state and federal investigations, indictments and prosecutions of police officers whose actions harm or kill unarmed African-Americans.

12:55 p.m.

A North Carolina gun-rights group says just because there's a state of emergency in Charlotte doesn't mean people there are unable to carry their concealed handgun for defense if they have a permit for one.

Grass Roots North Carolina President Paul Valone wrote Thursday in a memo to its supporters strongly advising them to carry these lawful firearms if they can't avoid being in Charlotte and surrounding

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Mecklenburg County. There have been two nights of violence in Charlotte stemming from the shooting of a man by a police officer.

Valone points to a 2012 federal court ruling striking down a broad state law making it a misdemeanor for people to possess or transport any dangerous weapon outside of their homes within an area where a state of emergency exists. Grass Roots was a plaintiff in the litigation.

Grass Roots counts 20,000 people among its members.

12:05 p.m.

The chief state prosecutor in Charlotte is asking the State Bureau of Investigation to look into the shooting of a man killed by a police officer earlier this week.

District Attorney R. Andrew Murray said in a statement Thursday that he was making the request for a state investigation at the request of the family of 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott.

Charlotte Police Chief Kerr Putney says he plans to show video of the shooting to the slain man's family, but the video won't be immediately released to the public.

He also said during a news conference Thursday that the video does not definitively show Scott pointing a gun at anyone, though police maintain Scott refused commands to drop the weapon.

Noon

The family of a black man shot to death by a police officer in Charlotte is calling on protesters to be peaceful.

Reykia Scott says in a statement released Thursday that she is devastated by the death of her husband, 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott, and understands people's frustrations. But Reykia Scott says hurting people or damaging property is not the answer.

The Scott family's comments come after a second night of unrest in Charlotte after the fatal shooting. Police Chief Kerry Putney told reporters Thursday he planned to show video of the shooting to Scott's family but would not immediately be releasing it to the public.

Putney says the video does not definitively show Keith Scott pointing a gun at anyone.

Police say Scott refused repeated commands to drop his gun, but residents say he was unarmed.

11:45 a.m.

Charlotte's police chief says he sees no reason to impose a curfew in North Carolina's largest city, even after two nights of violent protests following the shooting of a man by a police officer.

Chief Kerr Putney said the city now has more resources to deal with problems, following a declaration of a state of emergency and the arrival of the North Carolina National Guard and more officers from the State Highway Patrol.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts said earlier Thursday the city was considering a curfew. She defended the decision not to seek an emergency declaration earlier, noting the city had been calm during the day Wednesday. She says the request was made at the appropriate time when more resources were needed.

Roberts again called for calm as the shooting investigation continues.

10:55 a.m.

Charlotte's police chief says he plans to show video of an officer shooting a black man to the slain man's family, but the video won't be immediately released to the public.

Police Chief Kerr Putney said during a news conference Thursday that the video does not definitively

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show 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott pointing a gun at anyone.

Putney says he is working to honor the request from the family of Scott to view the video. It's unclear when or if the video might be released publicly.

The video could be key to resolving the chasm between police, who say Scott refused repeated commands to drop his gun, and residents who say he was unarmed. It's not clear what the body cameras worn by three officers who were present during the shooting may have captured.

10:15 a.m.

Life is returning to normal on downtown streets in Charlotte despite two nights of violence.

On Thursday morning, a few uniformed police officers are walking around the area. The governor declared a state of emergency Wednesday night and called on help from the National Guard, but no Guard members were present on the street Thursday morning.

Glass and uprooted plants can be seen on the sidewalk from the protests Wednesday night.

Traffic is flowing in the area although at least three major companies asked their employees to stay home on Thursday.

9:55 a.m.

The mayor of Charlotte says officials have no time frame for when they might release camera footage of the fatal police shooting of a black man.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts told "NPR" Thursday morning that releasing the police video "depends on the investigation and its progress, and it depends on the discretion of the chief to some extent."

Calls for police to release the video have increased along with the violent protests, but the police chief has resisted. North Carolina has a law that takes effect Oct. 1 requiring a judge to approve releasing police video, and he said he doesn't release video when a criminal investigation is ongoing.

Roberts said she hopes to watch the video Thursday or Friday. "I certainly would feel better being able to see it," she said, adding that she doesn't know how conclusive the video footage is until she watches it.

Police said the plainclothes officer who shot 43-year-old Keith Lamont Scott, identified as Brently Vinson, has been placed on leave, standard procedure in such cases. Three uniformed officers at the shooting scene had body cameras; Vinson did not, police said.

9:45 a.m.

Federal help is on the way to Charlotte after two nights of violence after the fatal police shooting of a black man.

The Justice Department is sending a team of trained peacekeepers designed to help resolve community conflict.

The department's Community Relations Service has been deployed to other cities roiled by tense flare-ups between police and residents.

8:50 a.m.

The mayor of Charlotte says the city is considering a curfew after two nights of violence in the wake of the shooting of a black man by police.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Thursday that city officials are talking about imposing a curfew.

Streets were calm Thursday morning, but several civilians and police officers were hurt in the second

night of violence Wednesday night.

City spokeswoman Ashley Simmons told local media that Roberts' office will discuss a possible curfew with city police and the National Guard on Thursday.

The mayor said she wants people to know Charlotte is open for business Thursday. But at least three major companies told workers to avoid downtown offices.

The North Carolina National Guard arrived at a Charlotte armory early Thursday and some Guard vehicles left the armory about 8 a.m.

City 'changed forever' as authorities hunt mall gunman

By PHUONG LE and MANUEL VALDES, Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Wash. (AP) — A gunman police said killed five people in a Washington state mall remained at large Saturday as authorities appealed for help in identifying the suspect but said there were no indications the slayings north of Seattle were a terrorist act.

People fled, customers hid in dressing rooms and employees locked the doors of nearby stores after gunshots rang out just after 7 p.m. Friday at the Cascade Mall in Burlington. A helicopter, search teams and K-9 units scoured the area for the gunman in a police response that included more than 200 officers.

The gunman entered the shopping center without a weapon, but 10 minutes later, went inside Macy's with a rifle and opened fire, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities said that a weapon had been found at the scene. Mount Vernon Police Lt. Chris Cammock described it as a "hunting type" rifle. Cammock said officers are reconstructing the entire scene at the mall.

"There are people waking up this morning and their world has changed forever," Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton said Saturday at a news conference. "The city of Burlington has probably changed forever."

Authorities said four females, ranging in age from teens to seniors, died after the gunman opened fire in the makeup department of a Macy's store. An adult male who was wounded in the shooting died early Saturday, officials said. His age was not given and no identifications of the victims were released.

Police said they were looking for a man dressed in black and last seen walking toward Interstate 5. The description, including that he appeared to be Hispanic, was based on statements from witnesses, said Given Kutz, a spokesman for the Skagit County Emergency Operations Center.

"We do not have an identity on the individual yet," Cammock said. "We could certainly use the community's help."

Authorities said the motive was unknown for the shooting about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Seattle.

The FBI was assisting local authorities, but Michael Knutson, assistant special agent in charge of the Seattle FBI, said there was no evidence to point to terrorism.

Stephanie Bose, an assistant general manager at Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant near the Macy's store at the mall, said she immediately locked the doors after hearing about the shooting from an employee's boyfriend.

"He was trying to go to the mall and people were screaming," she told The Associated Press. "It was frantic."

She said he could see police at the doors with assault rifles.

It took hours for teams to search the 434,000-square-foot (40,000-square-meter) mall late Friday night. They escorted shoppers and workers who had sheltered in place outside.

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"It took several hundred to do that...clearing every room, to make sure the suspect wasn't still on the scene," Cammock said.

Joanne Burkholder, 19, was watching the movie "The Magnificent Seven" in a theater at the mall when police and security came in and said they needed to evacuate.

She said she heard screaming as they were escorted out into the parking lot.

"I've never been so terrified in my life," she said.

The parking lot was closed and emergency management officials told people they would be able to retrieve vehicles Saturday, though the mall said it would be closed for the day.

Worried residents feared for their safety Saturday.

Maria Elena Vasquez of Burlington attended a community gathering Saturday following the slayings. She said "it's nerve-wracking" and she's nervous about taking her 7-year-old daughter to her soccer game.

"I'm nervous. I don't know if we'll be going back there. It's too scary," she said referring to the mall. "It's too close to home."

Burlington is a city of about 8,000 people, but its population swells to several times that as people visit the mall and area outlet stores during the week.

Gov. Jay Inslee said tragedy had struck the state.

"We urge residents to heed all safety and detour warnings. Stay close to your friends and loved ones as we await more information and, hopefully, news of the suspect's capture," Inslee said in a statement.

The Cascade Mall is an enclosed shopping mall that opened in 1990. It features J.C. Penney, TJ Maxx, and Macy's stores, among other stores, restaurants and a movie theater.

On Sept. 17, a man stabbed 10 people at a Minnesota mall before being shot and killed by an off-duty police officer. Authorities say Dahir Ahmed Adan, 20, stabbed the people at the Crossroads Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Associated Press writers Lisa Baumann in Seattle and Kimberlee Kruesi in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show the first name of the Skagit County official is Given, not Givan.

Clinton, Trump look to overcome weaknesses on debate stage

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump needs to prove to voters that he has the policy depth and gravitas to serve as commander in chief. Hillary Clinton needs a moment to connect with Americans who question whether she can be trusted.

In an election year that has upended political convention, the candidates' best opportunity to conquer their weaknesses will come in the most traditional of campaign forums: Monday's 90-minute, prime-time debate.

Both campaigns expect a record-setting television audience for the high-stakes showdown, which could help tip the balance in a tight White House race.

The visuals alone will be striking as the candidates step behind their podiums at Hofstra University in suburban New York. Clinton will be the first woman to take the stage in a presidential general election debate. Trump has spent years on Americans' television screens as a reality show host, but it can still be jarring to see him at politics' upper echelons.

Six weeks from Election Day, and with advance voting already underway, the opening debate is one

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of the few opportunities left for the candidates to motivate supporters and sway a narrow band of undecided voters. According to a new Associated Press-Gfk poll, more than 85 percent of likely voters backing Clinton or Trump say their minds are completely made up. About 13 percent said they were undecided.

The candidates' preparation has been a microcosm of their sharply different approaches to politics and presumably, the presidency.

The Democratic nominee has spent weeks with advisers, taking full days away from campaign travel to pour through briefing books, practicing to pounce if Trump makes false statements and steeling herself for the possibility that he levels deeply personal attacks.

Longtime Clinton aide Philippe Reines is playing Trump in mock debates, according to a person familiar with the preparations who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and insisted on anonymity. Reines is a combative political operative who is deeply loyal to Clinton.

Former President Bill Clinton has sat in on some sessions, offering advice from his own White House debates.

Trump has eschewed traditional debate preparations, but has held midflight policy discussions with a rotating cast of advisers. He's also spent numerous Sundays batting around ideas with aides.

The Republican businessman's loose approach is potentially risky given that he is new to many policy issues expected to come up during the debate. But advisers contend he will compensate by being quick on his feet and point to his experience at performing under pressure.

"Imagine the practice and the training of 13 years of reality television on 'The Apprentice' and then imagine Hillary's experience reading hundreds of papers," said Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker and a Trump adviser who has been talking through policy with the candidate in recent days.

Clinton aides fear Trump will indeed be judged more for his performance than his grasp of the numerous challenges that pass across a president's desk. They've been flummoxed by Trump's ability to sail through the campaign without fleshing out many policy positions and glossing over past statements that he no longer views as politically palatable.

On Friday, the Clinton campaign released 19 pages of what they called Trump's "seven deadly lies," including his false assertion that he opposed the Iraq war from the start.

"Even if he meets some kind of lowered bar of being semi-coherent and not having any outbursts, it's hard to imagine he'll avoid his own propensity for lying," said Brian Fallon, Clinton's campaign spokesman.

Asked whether Clinton herself planned to call Trump out in the debate if he tries to lie about his past statements, Fallon said, "I don't think she would let anything like that pass."

People familiar with Clinton's preparations say she has been working through answers to questions that hit at her lack of trustworthiness in the eyes of many Americans, a problem that has dogged her throughout the campaign. Supporters cringed during a candidate forum earlier this month when Clinton was pressed about her email use at the State Department and became defensive, rather than apologizing and trying to move on quickly.

Clinton has debated more than 30 times at the presidential level, including several one-on-one debates with Barack Obama in 2008 and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in 2016. But this will be her first presidential debate against a candidate from an opposing party, which Democrats say will give her far more latitude in drawing a contrast and defending herself.

"It's a lot more comfortable running against people in the other party than it is debating in the primary," said Anita Dunn, who worked on debate preparations with Obama. "The differences don't have to be manufactured. The differences exist."

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Trump had an uneven record during the Republican debates, sometimes controlling the crowded contests and other times fading into the background. He flipped back and forth between being bombastic and trying to act restrained.

Trump's less-than-restrained side was on display Saturday as he took to Twitter to criticize Clinton's decision to ask businessman Mark Cuban — a frequent Trump critic — to be one of her guests at the debate. The Republican nominee suggested he might put Gennifer Flowers, a woman who had a relationship with Bill Clinton, "right alongside" Cuban.

Trump misspelled Flowers' first name in his original tweet, then sent a corrected version minutes later.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey in White Plains, New York, and AP Polling Editor Emily Swanson in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

This story has been corrected to reflect that Clinton-Sanders debates were this year, not 2012.

Global efforts against ivory traffickers still falling short

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Poaching syndicates shipped large amounts of African elephant ivory last year despite global calls to dismantle the trafficking networks that often collude with corrupt officials, conservationists said as an international wildlife conference opened Saturday in South Africa.

The illegal ivory trade "has remained fairly constant at unacceptably high levels" since 2010, and in 2015 there was a "continuing upward trend" in the seizure of larger shipments of more than 100 kilograms (220 pounds), according to a document released by organizers. The transfer of big amounts of ivory indicates the key role of organized crime in poaching, the document said.

The plight of elephants dominated the discussion on the first day of the 12-day Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, conference. Rhinos, sharks, pangolins, helmeted hornbills and other threatened species are also on the agenda at the meeting, which regulates trade in wild animals and plants with the aim of ensuring their survival.

Last held in Bangkok in 2013, this year's CITES conference ends Oct. 5. The U.N. group has 183 member countries and can recommend suspending trade in wildlife with countries that don't enforce its guidelines.

Wildlife trafficking is estimated to generate billions of dollars a year globally. Interpol is among the delegations at the conference and will discuss crime, corruption and the illegal financial flows of poaching.

Many delegates at the conference in Johannesburg are likely to push to tighten the international ban on the ivory trade, as well as close domestic ivory markets. Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, however, favor the sale of their ivory stockpiles, saying the money can be funneled back into conservation operations.

The world's main ivory consumer, China, has said it plans to close its domestic ivory market. The United States has announced a near-total ban on the domestic sale of African elephant ivory.

Ivory has been used for centuries to make carvings, jewelry, furniture, piano keys and other items. Many conservationists say criminal syndicates launder illegal supplies through legal markets that permit the sale of antique ivory pieces or ivory exempted from a 1989 international trade ban.

The number of Africa's savannah elephants dropped by about 30 percent from 2007 to 2014, to

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352,000, because of poaching, according to a recent study. Elephant populations in Tanzania and Mozambique were among the hardest hit.

Tom Milliken, a co-author of the document released at the CITES meeting, said there are about 50 ivory seizures of more than half a ton, and sometimes as many as four tons, every year. Such big shipments indicate the involvement of organized criminal groups, said Milliken, an expert with the TRAFFIC conservation organization.

"Nobody is really uncovering their identities and making arrests and prosecuting the people who are really behind this," he said, adding that poaching syndicates view occasional ivory seizures as a form of "taxation" on their lucrative activity.

Some governments have the capacity to target ivory syndicates in the same way they prosecute drug kingpins, but are sometimes "more comfortable" going after low-level operatives rather than well-connected ringleaders, said Susan Lieberman of the Wildlife Conservation Society, a New York-based group.

"There's a lot of corruption," Lieberman said.

Follow Christopher Torchia on Twitter at www.twitter.com/torchiachris

Black community sees Charlotte as glimmering, fake Oz

By TOM FOREMAN Jr. and SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — To much of the world, Charlotte is the Queen City — a gleaming downtown, state-of-the-art stadiums, sparkling new mass transit, the nation's banking capital.

But a very different Charlotte came into the spotlight in the past few days.

Move outside the city's core and there are neighborhoods such as the one where a black police officer shot and killed a black man, Keith Scott, setting off violent protests. Places where residents tire of seeing police only when teams of officers sweep in to make arrests, and remember well other blacks killed by police officers who did not face punishment.

Their anger at Scott's death made its way downtown. Rioting in Charlotte's center killed one protester, shattered windows and rattled finance executives whose salaries boost the city's median income to \$10,000 above the national average. They told their workers in the skyscrapers to stay home.

To the protesters, home is a world away from those skyscrapers.

"For the people we serve, the Queen City is only the Queen City if you get on the train and ride into the glimmering, crystal core," said the Rev. Peter Wherry of Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, about 5 miles from downtown.

Nearly all of Charlotte lies in Mecklenburg County, which the U.S. Census Bureau estimated had the largest increase in the country in the percentage of people living in distressed neighborhoods during the first 15 years of this century — an index that combines unemployment, poverty rates and other items, like how many businesses close.

Those pockets of poverty aren't immediately evident. Charlotte doesn't have many stereotypical slums. Instead, lower-rent housing is in apartment complexes or condominiums nestled behind tree-lined roads or off the main thoroughfares.

That's the kind of place where Scott lived. Tracy McLean lived in the condominium complex just down the road; she said teams of police frequently come to the neighborhoods full of black and Latino families in a show of force, looking for suspects they often don't find, instead of talking to residents and getting to know them.

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"The fear needs to be dispelled," Tracy McLean said. "It's fear, and it's ridiculous fear."

In the mid-1990s, as Charlotte pushed to become a world-class city, its leaders cracked down on crime with a heavy-handed police force. Longtime African-American residents remember James Cooper, a 19-year-old black man killed by a white officer in 1996 as he reached back in his car window during a traffic stop to check on his 4-year-old daughter. The officer said he thought he had a gun.

They also remember Carolyn Boetticher, a passenger in a car that sped toward and then past white officers doing a license check in a high-crime neighborhood. Police fired 22 shots that came from the front, side and rear of the fleeing car. She was shot in the neck.

None of the officers faced criminal charges, but Charlotte created a citizen review panel for its police department.

And even when Charlotte police seem to get it right, the black community has been left feeling justice was not served. Jonathan Ferrell was a 24-year-old unarmed black man shot 10 times by white officer Randall Kerrick. Ferrell had just crashed his car in a suburban neighborhood and banged on a neighbor's door looking for help. She called 911.

Charlotte police charged Kerrick with voluntary manslaughter one day later. But the jury couldn't reach a unanimous verdict at his trial, and state prosecutors decided not to retry the case. There were peaceful protests then, which prompted headlines like, "How Charlotte Avoided Ferguson's Fate."

Activist Jibril Hough organized those peaceful protests. He said Charlotte's black community remembers Ferrell's death, and that pain has just been made worse by recent shootings in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and elsewhere.

"I think if Jonathan Ferrell would happen today instead of happening three years ago, you would get much of the same reaction as you've seen in the past 48 hours," he said. "It's been building, but it's not just what happened here in Charlotte. We have social media now, people see what's happening in other states."

Hough calls Charlotte "Oz," a city that cares about its appearance and the people who live in its \$400,000 one-bedroom downtown condos and eat \$50 steak lunches, but not about substance.

"When people come into town, they see nice, shiny buildings. But when it comes to working-class people, they don't put pressure on these businesses to say what are you going to do for the working class," Hough said.

The growing economic disparity in Charlotte and the recent violence is on the mind of Hugh McColl, the former CEO of Bank of America who was the most public face of a group of bank executives that relentlessly boosted Charlotte during its massive growth to a city on the world's stage over the past three decades.

If Charlotte wants to keep rapidly growing, it must provide affordable housing, a better standard of living and good paying jobs for people of all races and especially for children growing up in poor households, McColl said to the crowd during a free concert Friday by the Charlotte Symphony.

"Black lives do matter. All lives matter. Our children's lives matter, and their future matters a great deal," McColl said.

A similar message comes from the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP.

When people work two jobs but don't make enough to own a home, they get discouraged, and seeing video after video of black men dying makes them lose hope and start to wonder if they matter to society, Barber said.

It reminded him of his lifeguard days, when Barber said he was warned that drowning people would violently fight off the swimmers trying to help them out of confusion and fear.

"The type of riots we are seeing in Charlotte is a systemic response for people who are drowning in injustice," he said.

Associated Press writer Jeffrey Collins contributed to this report.

This story corrects that state prosecutors decided not to retry Kerrick instead of deciding not to drop the charges.

War crimes tribunal for IS detainees lacks support

By DESMOND BUTLER and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — War crimes investigators collecting evidence of the Islamic State group's elaborate operation to kidnap thousands of women as sex slaves say they have a case to try IS leaders with crimes against humanity but cannot get the global backing to bring current detainees before an international tribunal.

Two years after the IS onslaught in northern Iraq, the investigators, as well as U.S. diplomats, say the Obama administration has done little to pursue prosecution of the crimes that Secretary of State John Kerry has called genocide. Current and former State Department officials say that an attempt in late 2014 to have a legal finding of genocide was blocked by the Defense Department, setting back efforts to prosecute IS members suspected of committing war crimes.

"The West looks to the United States for leadership in the Middle East, and the focus of this administration has been elsewhere — in every respect," Bill Wiley, the head of the independent investigative group, the Commission for International Justice and Accountability, told The Associated Press.

Officials in Washington say that the Defense Department and ultimately the administration were concerned that court trials would distract from the military campaign. But the diplomats say that justice is essential in a region whose religious minorities have been terrorized. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue.

The U.S. has no legal obligation to take on the genocide of the Yazidis, but President Barack Obama has said that "preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States of America."

Stephen Rapp, who stepped down as the administration's ambassador at large for war crimes last year, says the administration should have moved early to help secure evidence of IS atrocities and push for the creation of special Iraqi courts to try war crimes.

"The priority for the U.S. government is to win the war against the Islamic State and destroy them," Rapp said. "It's been profoundly disappointing, because the idea of accountability has been such a low priority."

Rapp is now the chairman of the advisory board of the commission, whose investigators in Iraq work with the Kurdish regional government to formally document the IS group's crimes, including those against the Yazidi minority group. They have built a case implicating the entire IS command structure in a plot to kidnap Yazidi women and girls and establish a sex-slave market.

The plan was executed by an organized bureaucracy at every step along the way, from the temporary sorting facilities — including a prison, schools and a curtained ballroom where the Yazidis were divided by age and willingness to convert to Islam — to the waiting buses that would haul them by the dozens across the border to Raqqa. The Islamic State group's Shariah courts soon stepped in, to settle contract disputes and ensure that its finance hierarchy got its cut of the sex slaves proceeds.

"You have members of IS who were engaged in ensuring that this system continued and that it functioned well," said Chris Engels, the American lawyer who is leading the commission's legal investigation.

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Without a legal documentation of their identities from the top down, many could “slide into refugee streams” and disappear.

Though there are at least dozens of Islamic State extremists in custody in Iraq, there have been no prosecutions for the crimes against humanity that the U.S. — among many others — insist have taken place. On Tuesday, the Obama administration’s envoy for the coalition to counter Islamic State, Brett McGurk, tweeted that he “pledged full accountability” for Islamic State crimes against the Yazidis, whom IS militants consider infidels because of their religion.

In 2012, Obama stood at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to announce what he called a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to war crimes with the establishment of an atrocities prevention board, noting that “as president I’ve done my utmost to back up those words with deeds.”

But in fact, though the U.S. has backed limited efforts to secure evidence of Islamic State atrocities in Iraq, there have been few tangible steps toward prosecution. In a recent investigation the AP found that even in territories liberated from IS militants by Kurdish forces, dozens of mass graves have been left unsecured.

“It’s a tragedy that we are not getting in there and securing these sites where we can and doing things like collecting DNA evidence,” said Rapp.

A measure by the House that calls on the U.S. to fund precisely the kind of court envisioned by the investigators is unlikely to advance anytime soon in an election year. With full international backing, the war crimes commission says it would need about \$6.6 million and about six months to get the trials going.

“If the administration was committed to criminal investigations of perpetrators, then it would be robustly funding criminal investigations of perpetrators. The failure to fund shows a failure to hold responsible parties accountable,” said Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican who sponsored the bill.

The State Department said the U.S. was promoting accountability, and spokesman Mark Toner specified that the administration is “supporting ongoing efforts to collect, document, preserve and analyze evidence of atrocities for transitional justice processes.” He provided no specifics.

“Our focus right now is on supporting the efforts of national authorities in Iraq to hold the perpetrators of Da’esh’s atrocities to account,” Toner added, using an Arabic name for the extremist group.

Rapp and other critics say that the commission is the only organization that has built the kind of legal case necessary for a genuine tribunal, but the group said none of its work in Iraq is funded by the U.S. Neither the U.S. nor Iraq is a party to the International Criminal Court in the Hague, which is a court of last resort when national judicial efforts have failed.

The war crimes commission’s file, painstakingly and often perilously gathered since 2014, is ready for a court that does not yet exist. The private organization has pored over hard drives, leaked documents, phone records and interviews with captured Islamic State fighters — in addition to monitoring the Islamic State group’s own voluminous propaganda.

As head of the group, Wiley’s frustration with coalition governments and well-meaning humanitarian NGOs is palpable. The goal is not to advocate, or make promises, but “transforming that evidence into criminal prosecution,” he told the AP in a recent interview in his office, as he and his staff laid out the case against the extremists. The hope, they said, is to build an existing court in Erbil, the Iraqi Kurdish capital, into an internationally backed court for Islamic State defendants.

“Through a scrupulously fair trial, you illustrate that these guys are not soldiers of Mohammad,” Wiley said. “These are the leaders of a criminal syndicate.”

But whether the courts of Iraqi Kurdistan, where most IS prisoners are kept, are ready for the complexities of international criminal law is an open question. U.S. officials worry that backing a special

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court in Iraqi Kurdistan raises sticky questions of sovereignty with the Iraqi central government in Baghdad, which is suspicious of Kurdish independence efforts.

The war crimes commission is best known for collecting evidence against Syrian President Bashar Assad but quietly branched out to document atrocities committed by IS and other extremist groups. The office, based in Europe, has changed cities four times since it was founded in 2012, and security is paramount: No sign on the door, no Wi-Fi, no website. In order to speak to the AP, they requested that their current location be withheld.

The commission has a staff of 20 in Iraq split into three teams, collecting court-ready evidence analyzed at the group's main offices. It says its legal file is the answer to multiple calls for Islamic State extremists to face justice beyond coalition airstrikes, which Wiley said is the sole focus of questioning.

"The intelligence gathering is geared almost entirely toward targeting," he said.

A Kurdish security official, speaking on condition of anonymity to release sensitive information, knew of dozens of detainees directly linked to Islamic State militants. At least some, Wiley said, could be prosecuted as soon as a court could be up and running.

But the Kurdish government is bankrupt and riven by internal struggles. The Erbil-based Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs, which is named in memory of Saddam Hussein's devastating 1988 campaign against the Kurds, has taken up the cause to try extremists.

"Because we believe in the rule of law and in human rights, and we think these people must be tried properly, following international standards, under international supervision, not just in a security court," said Mahmud Haji Salih, head of the ministry.

The word "symbolic" arises frequently when Wiley and his colleagues discuss possible prosecutions. No one harbors any expectation that the Islamic State group's leadership will ever face a judge. But he thinks the charges of crimes against humanity would serve a tangible purpose, even beyond jailing those responsible for the horror against the Yazidi people.

"You have to show that the guys dying for IS, they may think they're dying for Mohammad but they're not," Wiley said. "They're definitely not."

Hinnant reported from Paris. Balint Szlanko in Erbil, Iraq, and Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Butler at <http://twitter.com/desmondbutler> and Hinnant at <http://twitter.com/lhinnant>

EDITOR'S NOTE — This is the latest report in an Associated Press series, "Islamic State: A Savage Legacy," that chronicles the casualties of the IS war that has killed thousands and displaced millions more. Previous reports can be found online at <http://www.ap.org/explore/a-savage-legacy/>

VIEWER'S GUIDE: Look for trust, temperament themes in debate

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most telling moments in presidential debates often come out of the blue — an offhand remark or unrehearsed gesture that helps to reveal the essence of a candidate who's already been poked, prodded and inspected for years.

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have competing missions heading into Monday night's leadoff debate of the general election campaign: Hers to overcome the trust questions that have bedeviled her for decades. His to convince voters that he has the good judgment and restraint required of a president.

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Plenty of subtexts will play out as well over 90 minutes of must-see TV before an estimated audience of 75 million or more viewers — an outsized share of them disenchanted with both candidates.

Some things to watch for Monday night:

CLINTON vs. INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY

Just who will show up to debate Clinton? Will it be the say-anything Trump who roiled the primary debates by dishing out a stream of insults and provocations? Or the rein-it-in Trump who's been trying to demonstrate of late that he has the maturity and measured temperament to be president? One possible clue: Watch to see whether Trump trots out the "crooked Hillary" nickname or puts it on ice for 90 minutes.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Expect Clinton to try to goad Trump into losing control, perhaps by questioning the size of his wealth and the success of his businesses or by highlighting his past incendiary statements about minorities, women and others. Trump is promising to "stay cool." But 90 minutes could be a long time for the master of improv and theatrics to hew to a script.

POLICY PITFALLS

Both candidates have policy gaps to fill in and changes in position to explain. At its best, the debate could help flesh out details of both candidates' platforms, highlighting similarities and differences. There are pitfalls here for Trump in particular: Weak on policy, he's vulnerable to slip-ups that could feed into the not-ready-to-govern line that Clinton is pushing. Trump has been studying up: You can bet he now knows what the nuclear triad is. (During the primary debates, he seemed not to understand that it represents weapons in silos, submarines and bombers.)

THOSE 'DAMN EMAILS'

Clinton largely got a pass during the Democratic primary debates on her use of a private email system when she was secretary of state. Primary rival Bernie Sanders, in their first debate, did Clinton a favor when he declared that "people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails." Don't expect Trump to cut Clinton a similar break. She also has more to answer for since the FBI concluded that she was "extremely careless" in her handling of classified material in the emails. Clinton has been struggling to find an effective explanation: Now would be a good time for her to nail it.

PUSH-UPS ANYONE?

They can't exactly drop to the floor for a one-armed pushups contest. But look for both candidates to more subtly project health and stability. After her much-publicized coughing fits and recent bout of pneumonia, Clinton will be out to show she's got the strength and stamina the White House job demands. As for Trump, critics have speculated he has any number of psychiatric disorders. It would be a good time to show a level head and solid grounding.

POINTERS AND PINCERS

He shrugs. She bobs her head. He waves his arms. She pinches her thumb and index finger. Every wink, nod and fidget on Monday will be analyzed for silent messages that can speak volumes. President George H.W. Bush caught grief for stealing a look at his watch during a 1992 debate. Al Gore's audible sighs in a 2000 debate were seen as discourteous to George W. Bush.

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FACTIVISM

The candidates won't be the only ones under the microscope. Moderator Lester Holt of NBC News will be under enormous pressure to maintain control and act as an objective referee. In the leadup to the debate, Trump maintained that it would be improper for Holt to try to fact-check the candidates' statements in real time. Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon tweeted that if debate moderators don't fact-check the candidates, "it is an unfair advantage to Trump, who is a congenital liar."

GENDER DYNAMICS

Gender politics will be afoot in the first general-election debate to feature a woman. Trump had trouble navigating this terrain in the primaries, when he tried to back away from a derogatory comment about rival Carly Fiorina's looks by declaring in one debate that she had a "beautiful face." Clinton will be ready. She said earlier this year: "I have a lot of experience dealing with men who sometimes get off the reservation in the way they behave and how they speak."

WHAT TO WEAR

Call it frivolous, but people will check out what the candidates wear, especially Clinton. When comic Zach Galifianakis recently asked Clinton what she was going to wear, Clinton said she had no idea and scolded him for "this thing called the double standard." As for what Trump will wear, Clinton said: "I assume he'll wear that red power tie." Alluding to questions about whether Trump is a racist, Galifianakis replied: "Or maybe a white power tie."

POST-MORTEM

Even if you watch the whole debate, its impact may not be completely clear until the post-debate pontificating plays out. The analysis and selected clips that are highlighted after the debate can have a big influence on the millions of people who didn't tune in — or who watched Monday Night Football instead. And why wait for the debate to end? Your Twitter feed will be filled with significant moments before you've even had time to digest them.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

Charlotte has 4th night of protest over police shooting

By MEG KINNARD and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Demonstrators carried signs, chanted and marched in a peaceful protest hours after the family of a black man shot by police released video showing the events leading up to his death.

Friday's march through Charlotte's business district was the fourth night of demonstrations over the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott earlier in the week.

After darkness fell, dozens of people took to the streets to urge police to release dashboard and body camera video that could show more clearly what happened. Police have said Scott was armed, but witnesses say he held only a book.

The group, which appeared smaller than previous nights, carried a banner that said "Just Release the Tapes."

Earlier in the day, footage recorded by Keith Lamont Scott's wife and released by his family shows his wife repeatedly telling officers he is not armed and pleading with them not to shoot her husband as they shout at him to drop a gun.

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The 2 ½-minute video released by the family does not show the shooting, though gunshots can be heard. In the video Scott's wife, Rakeyia Scott, tells officers that he has a TBI, or traumatic brain injury. At one point, she tells her husband to get out of the car so police don't break the windows. She also tells him, "don't do it," but it's not clear what she means.

As the encounter escalates, she repeatedly urges police, "You better not shoot him."

After the gunshots, Scott can be seen lying face-down on the ground while his wife says, "He better live." She continues recording and asks if an ambulance has been called. The officers stand over Scott. It's unclear if they are checking him for weapons or attempting to give first aid.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Friday that there is footage from at least one police body camera and one dashboard camera that shows the shooting. The family of Scott, 43, was shown that footage Thursday and demanded that police release it to the public.

Putney said Friday that releasing the footage of Scott's death could inflame the situation. He has said previously that the video will be made public when he believes there is a "compelling reason" to do so. "It's a personal struggle, but I have to do what I think is best for my community," Putney said.

During the same news conference, Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts said she believes the video should be released, but "the question is on the timing."

Charlotte is the latest U.S. city to be shaken by protests and recriminations over the death of a black man at the hands of police, a list that includes Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York and Ferguson, Missouri.

Earlier in the week, the Charlotte protests turned violent, with demonstrators attacking reporters and others, setting fires and smashing windows of hotels, office buildings and restaurants.

Forty-four people were arrested after Wednesday's protests, and one protester who was shot died at the hospital Thursday. City officials said police did not shoot 26-year-old Justin Carr. A suspect was arrested, but police provided few details.

On Thursday, protests were largely peaceful after National Guard members came to the city to help keep order and the mayor imposed a curfew.

On Friday, a choir from The Citadel Church in Greensboro stood a street corner singing spirituals for two hours, drawing a crowd of curious onlookers who were moved enough to clap along.

The Rev. Gregory Drumwright directed the choir of approximately two dozen, saying they wanted to be "vessels of peace, vessels of righteousness, not rage."

Associated Press writers Tom Foreman Jr. and Allen G. Breed in Charlotte contributed to this report.

Iraq: Triple suicide attack north of Baghdad kills 11 troops

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A triple suicide bombing against a security check point north of Baghdad on Saturday killed at least 11 members of the security forces, a police officer said.

The spokesman for the Salahuddin province police force, Col. Mohammed al-Jabouri, said three militants rammed their explosives-laden vehicles early Saturday morning into the main check point near the town of al-Salam at the province's northern entrance. Al-Jabouri added that 34 other security officers were wounded.

He said the attack occurred as the local police chief and head of the provincial security committee were visiting the site. Both escaped unharmed.

Almost at the same time, another group of militants on foot attacked a check point at the eastern edge of the province, killing four policemen and wounding two others, he added. One militant was

killed in that attack, while the others fled the scene, he said.

The governor of Salahuddin province, Ahmed al-Jabouri, accused the Islamic State group of being behind the attacks, vowing to "retaliate for the martyrs by chopping off the heads of Daesh" militants, using the Arabic acronym for the group. Al-Jabouri called on security forces to review their plans and on residents to cooperate with the authorities.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but IS militants have claimed multiple similar attacks. The Sunni extremists frequently launch attacks targeting Iraq's security forces and civilians in public areas. The group stepped up attacks in recent months as it has lost territory in northern and western Iraq that it had captured in 2014.

In April 2015, Iraqi security forces drove out Islamic State militants from the Salahuddin provincial capital, Tikrit, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad. The attack came days after government forces recaptured the town of Shirqat, north of Tikrit, from IS militants.

Backed by the U.S.-led international coalition and paramilitary forces, the Iraqi government is gearing up for a major military operation to dislodge the militants from the city of Mosul. The city, about 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, is the last major IS urban stronghold in Iraq. U.S. officials have said for some time that they expect the Mosul operation to begin in October.

Police: Lone gunman kills 4 females at Washington state mall

By LISA BAUMANN and MANUEL VALDES, Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Wash. (AP) — Police searched Saturday for a gunman who opened fire in the makeup department of a Macy's store at a mall north of Seattle, killing four females, authorities said.

Washington State Patrol spokesman Sgt. Mark Francis said police were seeking a Hispanic man wearing black and armed with a rifle last seen walking toward Interstate 5.

"We are still actively looking for the shooter," Francis said at a news conference. "Stay indoors, stay secure."

Authorities say the motive for Friday night's shooting which also left a male critically wounded was unknown.

The FBI was assisting local authorities as dozens of police officers searched for the suspect. The FBI's Seattle office said on Twitter that it "has no information to suggest additional attacks planned" in Washington state but did not elaborate.

The deadly shooting happened in the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Seattle. Francis said the "lone shooter" attacked the victims with a "hunting type rifle."

Authorities initially reported four people were killed, then said three were dead, before revising the number again. Francis said the number fluctuated as authorities searched the shopping center.

Tari Caswell told the Skagit Valley Herald she was in the Macy's women's dressing room when she heard "what sounded like four balloons popping."

"Then I heard seven or eight more, and I just stayed quiet in the dressing room because it just didn't feel right. And it got very quiet. And then I heard a lady yelling for help, and a man came and got me and another lady, and we ran out of the store," Caswell told the newspaper.

Stephanie Bose, an assistant general manager at Johnny Carino's Italian restaurant near the Macy's store at the mall, said she immediately locked the doors to the restaurant after hearing about the shooting from an employee's boyfriend.

"He was trying to go to the mall and people were screaming," she told The Associated Press. "It was frantic."

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She said he could see police at the doors with assault rifles and said they were no longer guarding the doors as of 9:30 p.m.

Francis said at about 8:30 p.m. that the mall had been evacuated and emergency medical personnel were cleared to enter. Francis said authorities were still doing a "final clear" of the 434,000-square-foot (40,319-square-meter) mall late Friday night. He said 11 search teams and two K9 units were involved.

The parking lot was closed and emergency management officials told people they would be able to retrieve vehicles Saturday.

Gov. Jay Inslee said tragedy had struck the state.

"We urge residents to heed all safety and detour warnings. Stay close to your friends and loved ones as we await more information and, hopefully, news of the suspect's capture," Inslee said in a statement.

The Cascade Mall is an enclosed shopping mall that opened in 1990, according to the mall's website. It features J.C. Penney, TJ Maxx, and Macy's stores, among other stores, restaurants and a movie theater.

On Sept. 17 a man stabbed 10 people at a Minnesota mall before being shot and killed by an off-duty police officer. Authorities say Dahir Ahmed Adan, 20, stabbed the people at the Crossroads Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Baumann reported from Seattle.

New law may complicate release of Charlotte police video

By JONATHAN DREW and GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Protesters who have filled the streets to push for the release of video of a fatal police shooting could see their task get much harder if Charlotte authorities do not share the footage within a week.

A North Carolina law that takes effect Oct. 1 will declare that the video is not a public record and that only a judge can release it, potentially making the issue far more complicated than if police simply shared the footage on their own.

The law passed by the state's GOP-controlled Legislature runs counter to a nationwide trend in which some cities are trying to show greater transparency by releasing videos soon after a shooting.

Calls for the release of the video have become the crux of the protests in the aftermath of Keith Lamont Scott's death. Police have said Scott, who was shot Tuesday, disregarded repeated warnings to drop a gun. Neighbors have said he was holding only a book.

Police Chief Kerr Putney told reporters Friday that at least one body camera and one dashboard camera recorded footage of the shooting. He said "it's a matter of when" the video will be released. But the chief also cautioned that it won't happen until the State Bureau of Investigation reviews the evidence.

If that process takes more than a week, the new law is likely to create another set of obstacles. The law says footage from police body or dashboard cameras may only be made public by a judge weighing the requests for its release.

Starting next month, "the agency cannot release it ... It's the court that has to make that decision," said Jeff Welty, a criminal law expert at the University of North Carolina. Law enforcement will still be able to show footage to victims' families without releasing it publicly.

Gov. Pat McCrory, who signed the law over the summer, said the debate over the recordings shows the need for the law, which he described as fair and reasonable.

"I assume on October 1, when the new law is enacted, someone will be requesting that tape, and it will most likely go to a third-party arbitrator, which would be the judge," he told reporters.

Questions about how the shooting unfolded lingered even after Scott's wife released cellphone foot-

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age Friday that shows what led up to the shooting and its aftermath. Gunshots can be heard but not seen in her video.

Republican state Rep. John Faircloth, a primary sponsor of the new law, believes there's a strong legal argument that any pending requests for video that are not resolved by Oct. 1 would be handled using the procedures established in the law.

Faircloth, previously police chief in the city of High Point for 16 years, said the upcoming rules provide uniformity statewide on how footage will be handled. He disagreed with the premise that the new rules will make it harder overall for the public to see police videos.

Charlotte investigators have said footage from the shooting is currently exempt from public records requests because it is part of an ongoing investigation.

Susanna Birdsong, a legal policy expert for the American Civil Liberties Union, said officials could argue that requests made this week cannot be considered until that investigative process is complete and thus would be subject to the new law.

"They could very well continue to do that, and they could say: 'This new law went into effect October 1, and we are not allowed to release footage going forward. We need a court order to release it,'" she said in a phone interview.

Birdsong, whose group opposed the law, questioned the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's classification of footage as part of the investigative record.

"To lump all body cam footage as part of criminal investigations doesn't make a lot of sense and doesn't serve the purpose that body cameras are supposed to serve, which is accountability," she said.

The police chief said Friday that the investigation is now in the hands of state authorities who are still getting up to speed.

"A thorough investigation relies on multiple factors, and I can tell you one piece of evidence will never, ever make a good case. I know the expectation is that video footage can be the panacea, and I can tell you that is not quite the case," he said.

Still, Putney has previously said that the video, when considered with the rest of the evidence, supports the police account. A gun was found next to the dead man, and there was no book, he said.

Justin Bamberg, an attorney for Scott's family, watched the video with the slain man's relatives and said it's impossible to tell what Scott may have been holding in his hands. The family has urged release of the police video.

Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper, who is challenging McCrory for governor in November, has criticized the law, saying it appears to make the public release of video more difficult. He called for the Charlotte video to be made public, as did Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

"We must continue in the pursuit of the truth while also continuing the important work of bringing our communities and law enforcement together to build trust and safety for all," Cooper said. "One step toward meeting both goals is for the videos in this case to be released to the public."

Robertson reported from Raleigh.

Video shows deadly encounter between police, black man

By MEG KINNARD and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Video of a deadly encounter between Charlotte police and a black man shows his wife repeatedly telling officers he is not armed and pleading with them not to shoot her husband as they shout at him to drop a gun.

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The footage, recorded by Keith Lamont Scott's wife and released Friday by his family, offers a raw look at how the situation unfolded but does not show whether Scott had a gun as police have said. Uncertainty about the case prompted a fourth night of demonstrations through Charlotte's business district.

After darkness fell, dozens of people carried signs and chanted to urge police to release dashboard and body camera video that could show more clearly what happened. Police have said Scott was armed, but witnesses say he held only a book.

The 2 ½-minute video released by the family does not show the shooting, though gunshots can be heard. In the video Scott's wife, Rakeyia Scott, tells officers that he has a TBI, or traumatic brain injury. At one point, she tells her husband to get out of the car so police don't break the windows. She also tells him, "don't do it," but it's not clear exactly what she means.

As the encounter escalates, she repeatedly urges police, "You better not shoot him."

After the gunshots, Scott can be seen lying face-down on the ground while his wife says "he better live." She continues recording and asks if an ambulance has been called. The officers stand over Scott. It's unclear if they are checking him for weapons or attempting to give first aid.

In the footage, Scott's wife states the address and says, "These are the police officers that shot my husband."

Representatives for the police department and the mayor's office didn't return emails from The Associated Press seeking comment on the family's video.

The video emerged hours before the protesters took to the streets Friday night, monitored by rifle-toting members of the National Guard. The group appeared smaller than previous nights.

Protesters called on police to release video that could resolve wildly different accounts of the shooting earlier this week. Marchers at the front of the group carried a banner that said "Just Release the Tapes."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Friday that there is footage from at least one police body camera and one dashboard camera.

The family of Scott, 43, was shown the footage Thursday and demanded that police release it to the public. The video recorded by Scott's wife had not been previously released.

State Attorney General Roy Cooper also called on Charlotte officials to release the video, saying doing so would help bring the community and law enforcement together. Cooper, a Democrat, is running for governor in November.

Charlotte is the latest U.S. city to be shaken by protests and recriminations over the death of a black man at the hands of police, a list that includes Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, New York and Ferguson, Missouri. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Thursday, prosecutors charged a white officer with manslaughter for killing an unarmed black man on a city street last week.

Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts signed documents to keep a curfew in effect from midnight until 6 a.m. each day until the state of emergency declared by the governor ends.

After the curfew took effect Friday, as on Thursday, police allowed the crowd of demonstrators to thin without forcing them off the street. Police Capt. Mike Campagna told reporters that officers would not seek to arrest curfew violators as long as they were peaceful.

Putney said Friday that releasing the footage of Scott's death could inflame the situation. He has said previously that the video will be made public when he believes there is a "compelling reason" to do so.

"It's a personal struggle, but I have to do what I think is best for my community," Putney said.

During the same news conference, Roberts said she believes the video should be released, but "the question is on the timing."

Hillary Clinton has decided to postpone her planned trip to Charlotte on Sunday after Roberts told CNN that the Democratic presidential nominee should postpone her visit because the city's security

resources were stretched thin. Clinton now plans to visit on Oct. 2.

Earlier in the week, the Charlotte protests turned violent, with demonstrators attacking reporters and others, setting fires and smashing windows of hotels, office buildings and restaurants.

Forty-four people were arrested after Wednesday's protests, and one protester who was shot died at the hospital Thursday. City officials said police did not shoot 26-year-old Justin Carr. A suspect was arrested, but police provided few details.

Putney said he has seen the video and it does not contain "absolute, definitive evidence that would confirm that a person was pointing a gun." But he added: "When taken in the totality of all the other evidence, it supports what we said."

Justin Bamberg, an attorney for Scott's family, said it's "impossible to discern" from the videos what, if anything, Scott is holding in his hands.

Associated Press writers Tom Foreman Jr., Mitch Weiss, Seanna Adcox and Jeffrey Collins in Charlotte, North Carolina; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Jack Jones in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Imam in bombing suspect's hometown speaks against violence

By MEGAN TRIMBLE and MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — An imam spoke against violence and in support of law enforcement during the first Friday prayer service since a local man was charged in last weekend's New Jersey and New York City bombings.

Imam Syed Fakhruddin Alvi urged the more than 100 men gathered at the Muslim Community Center of Union County to be vigilant in leading their families and children away from evil.

Mosque leaders called bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami, an Afghanistan-born U.S. citizen whose father is an active member of the mosque, misguided and said people who follow extremist teachings are criminals.

"Nobody has any right to kill any non-Muslim," the imam said. "If anyone kills a non-Muslim citizen, paradise will be done for him."

Mosque members said Rahami's father frequently prays there, including this week after Rahami was injured by police in a shootout in Linden hours after he was named the suspect.

Rahami has been unconscious and intubated for much of the time since undergoing surgery, U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman said in a court filing. He will first face federal charges in New York when he is out of the hospital. A public defender has sought a court appearance for Rahami so he can hear the charges against him.

The suspect's father, Mohammad Rahami, said his son was a changed person after visiting Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2013. He said he told the FBI in 2014 about his son's apparent radicalization after household tensions led to a fight in which another of his sons was stabbed.

"I found a change in his personality. His mind was not the same. He had become bad, and I don't know what caused it, but I informed the FBI about it," Mohammed Rahami said in Urdu.

A senior FBI official pushed back against Mohammad Rahami's claim to have warned agents about his son.

FBI agents interviewed the father in 2014 after Ahmad Rahami's arrest on charges — later dropped — that he stabbed one of his brothers in the leg. The FBI initiated contact because the father had expressed concern to someone following that episode over his son's internet use and some of his as-

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sociates.

But in interviews with agents, Mohammed Rahami "at no time" discussed his son's radicalization or potential interest in al-Qaeda, the Taliban or their propaganda, according to the FBI official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the case by name and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

When Ahmad Rahami was arrested, prosecutors said he was carrying a journal that praised Osama bin Laden and other Muslim extremists, fumed about what he saw as the U.S. government's killing of Muslim holy warriors and declared, "Death to your oppression."

Mohammad Rahami said he and his family were in a state of shock following last weekend's blasts, which injured 31 people.

"I condemn the act of my son, and I am sad over injuries caused to people," he said, adding that he was cooperating fully with investigators.

Mohammad Rahami and his family live above a fried chicken restaurant he owns in Elizabeth. But last December he also rented a home in Roanoke, Virginia, landlord Renee Turk told reporters.

Ahmad Rahami purchased a 9mm handgun from a store in nearby Salem, Virginia, in July using a Virginia ID card and state fishing license, according to Jerry Cochran, the owner of Trader Jerry's.

At Mohammad Rahami's New Jersey mosque, leaders said they have taken extra precautions to protect congregation members, including informing law enforcement about their events and meetings. Friday prayer in Elizabeth draws the mosque's biggest crowd, including people from other towns.

Members of the mosque's community, made up of about 100 families, said their imam has lectured against extremism in the past.

Radicalization "has been going on in every corner of the world," mosque trustee Naqeeb Rana said. "We especially educate our younger kids on that matter and what the Islamic teachings are. What (extremists) are teaching is not Islam."

Ahmed reported from Islamabad, Pakistan. Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Jessica Gresko, in Washington, contributed to this story

The Latest: Trump campaign to spend \$140 million more on ads

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential election campaign (all times EDT):

10:50 p.m.

Donald Trump's campaign is planning for what it says will amount to \$140 million worth of advertising from now until Election Day.

Senior communications adviser Jason Miller says the total, if executed, would include \$100 million in television airtime and \$40 million worth of digital ads.

He said \$15 million of the buy was placed Friday.

The television purchase is expected to include \$60 million on local stations and another \$40 million in national airtime.

The campaign is targeting key battleground states like Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania, along with Michigan, Maine, New Mexico, Wisconsin and others.

9:50 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign says she has decided to postpone her planned trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, on Sunday after hearing from community leaders.

Clinton announced earlier Friday that she would travel to Charlotte in the aftermath of the shooting of

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a black man by a Charlotte police officer.

But Clinton's campaign now says that after further discussions with community leaders, the Democratic presidential nominee will postpone the trip to avoid straining the city's resources.

Clinton's decision came after Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts told CNN that Clinton should postpone her visit because the city's security resources were stretched thin.

Clinton now plans to visit Charlotte on Sunday, October 2.

9:20 p.m.

Benjamin Netanyahu's office says the Israeli prime minister will meet separately with presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on Sunday.

The Israeli Embassy declines to say where the meetings will take place.

Netanyahu has been in New York City over the last week for the U.N. General Assembly meeting. He met Wednesday evening with President Barack Obama in what is likely to be their last sit-down before Obama leaves office in January.

Clinton and Trump each met Monday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in New York. Clinton also met with the leaders of Japan and Ukraine.

9 p.m.

The mayor of Charlotte is urging Hillary Clinton to postpone her announced visit to the embattled North Carolina city.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts tells CNN that the Democratic presidential nominee should hold off coming to Charlotte after days of protest following the shooting of a black man by police.

Clinton's campaign said earlier Friday that she would travel to Charlotte on Sunday, one day before her first high-profile debate with Republican Donald Trump.

But Roberts, a Democrat, says Charlotte's security resources are "very stretched," and is asking both candidates to give Charlotte "a chance to get our city back to order" before visiting.

5:10 p.m.

Hillary Clinton says the police video of the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte, North Carolina, should be released "without delay."

The Democratic presidential candidate plans to travel to the city on Sunday ahead of her first debate with Donald Trump.

Clinton says on Twitter that authorities should release the video of the shooting of the black man by Charlotte police. She says, "We must ensure justice & work to bridge divides."

Her campaign says Clinton will travel to Charlotte one day before her high-profile debate with Trump, her Republican opponent.

A video recorded by Scott's wife was released Friday by his family and does not indicate whether Scott had a gun. Police have said he was armed by witnesses say he held only a book.

4:45 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine says he never would have supported someone who treated his father the way Donald Trump treated Sen. Ted Cruz's father.

Kaine said he was "not completely surprised" that Cruz endorsed the Republican presidential candidate Friday after several months of holding out.

But Kaine also expressed disbelief that, during the Republican primary, Trump had falsely suggested

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Cruz's father was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Kaine said: "If somebody said that about my dad, they would never have me as a supporter for anything."

Kaine made the remarks Friday in Austin, Texas, at a news conference with Latino elected officials.

4:30 p.m.

Donald Trump says that he's "greatly honored" by what he describes as Sen. Ted Cruz's endorsement. After months of refusing to do so, Cruz announced Friday he would vote for Trump, though he did not describe it as an endorsement.

Trump said in a statement that he and Cruz "have fought the battle" and called Cruz a "tough and brilliant opponent."

After Cruz had refused to endorse Trump at the Republican National Convention, Trump had declared that he would never accept the Texan's backing.

Trump said: "He'll come and endorse, it's because he has no choice. But I don't want his endorsement."

He added then: "Ted, stay home. Relax."

3:40 p.m.

Ted Cruz says he's voting for Donald Trump for president — a shocking about-face after he rocked the Republican convention by dramatically refusing to do so.

The Texas senator says on Facebook that he made the decision for two reasons. First, his promise to support the Republican nominee. And second, his belief that Democrat Hillary Clinton is "wholly unacceptable."

The flip-flop was a stunner since the Texan was booed lustily during a floor speech at his party's convention for urging Republicans to "vote your conscience" without naming Trump.

Cruz finished second to Trump in a bitter primary and for months balked in offering support, despite his previous pledge to endorse the eventual Republican nominee.

Polls have since suggested that Cruz's popularity was slipping nationally and back home in Texas, where he could face a primary challenger for re-election in 2018.

3:25 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign is getting a jump on fact-checking Donald Trump's debate performance.

On a conference call with reporters Friday, Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri laid out what they are calling Trump's "seven deadly lies." Palmieri said there should be heightened scrutiny at the first general election debate Monday because "his level of lying is unprecedented in American politics."

The first item on the list is Trump's false statement that he opposed the war in Iraq. Palmieri said that letting false statements go unquestioned would give Trump an "unfair advantage." She said the campaign expects the debate moderator to "call out those lies and to do so in real time."

Palmieri declined to say who is playing Trump in their debate preparations.

2:45 p.m.

Hillary Clinton is breaking with President Barack Obama and backing legislation that would allow families of Sept. 11 victims to sue the government of Saudi Arabia for any role in the attack.

The Democratic presidential candidate would sign the bill if she were president. That's according to

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a spokesman, Jesse Lehrich.

He said Friday that Clinton continues to support efforts to "hold accountable those responsible" for the attacks.

Obama is expected to veto the bill later Friday. He says it would undermine already-strained diplomatic relations with a critical U.S. ally.

Congressional leaders say they have the voters to override Obama's veto.

1 p.m.

In the final sprint to Election Day, Donald Trump faces a daunting series of roadblocks in the minds of Americans as he tries to catch up to Hillary Clinton.

That's according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll that finds that more than half the country fears a Trump presidency. Only about third of Americans believe he is at least somewhat qualified to serve in the White House.

Moreover, most voters oppose the hard-line approach to immigration that is the centerpiece of the billionaire businessman's campaign.

While Trump undoubtedly has a passionate base of supporters, most voters don't share their fervor. Only 29 percent of registered voters would be excited and just 24 percent would be proud should Trump prevail in November.

12 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine is highlighting some of Donald Trump's provocative statements about women, the same day Hillary Clinton's campaign released television ads doing the same.

Speaking at a rally at a union hall in Houston, Kaine said Trump has a troubling history of calling women "fat pigs" and "dogs."

The Clinton campaign's new ad shows girls and women looking in the mirror as audio plays of Trump making insulting comments about women.

Kaine also criticized Trump's campaign for selling buttons on its website that say "Hillary for prison." Kaine said Trump's history of name-calling will likely be on display during Monday's first presidential debate.

Kaine said: "They name-call her because that's all they got folks."

11:50 a.m.

Tim Kaine is warning those considering voting for Libertarian Gary Johnson as a form of protest that their decision could have "deeply troubling" consequences.

The Democratic vice presidential candidate says votes for third-party candidates have been costly. Kaine said if Ralph Nader hadn't pulled away votes from Al Gore in the 2000 election, then the U.S. "probably wouldn't have had a war in Iraq." He spoke in an interview with Katie Couric for Yahoo News posted online Friday.

Kaine said "everybody knows" that Johnson won't win, but supporting him could help Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Kaine said that "casting a vote, a protest vote for a third-party candidate that's going to lose may well affect the outcome, and may well lead to a consequence that is deeply, deeply troubling."

11:45 a.m.

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Bruce Springsteen says Donald Trump's presidential campaign is a "great embarrassment" for Americans.

The Boss shared his thoughts on the Republican candidate as a guest on Swedish-Norwegian talk show "Skavlan."

In an excerpt of the program posted online by Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter on Friday, Springsteen said he understands why people who have struggled to make ends meet could find some of Trump's arguments compelling.

Commenting on Trump's chances, he said "the absurdity is beyond cartoon-like. But he's gotten close enough so it can make you nervous. I don't think he's going to win, but even him running is a great embarrassment if you're an American."

Hosted by Norwegian TV personality Fredrik Skavlan, the talk show is produced jointly for public service broadcasters SVT of Sweden and NRK of Norway.

11:35 a.m.

Donald Trump has added 10 names to the list of people he says he'll choose from to fill Supreme Court vacancies.

Among the names on the list to be released Friday: Utah Sen. Mike Lee, who notably has yet to endorse the Republican nominee.

The list adds several minority judges to Trump's list. Nine of the 10 new names are men. The list was first reported by NBC.

Trump in May unveiled a list of 11 federal and state court judges as potential replacements for the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Trump has wavered in the language he's used to describe the list. At times, he's said he would pick directly from it. At others, he's said the people he would nominate would share similar qualities to those on the list.

7:30 a.m.

President Barack Obama says it would good for Donald Trump to visit the Smithsonian Institution's new National Museum of African American History and Culture that is opening this weekend.

Obama was disputing the Republican presidential candidate's assertion that "African-American communities are absolutely in the worst shape that they have ever been in before."

In an interview broadcast Friday on ABC's "Good Morning America," Obama said: "I think even most 8-year-olds would tell you that whole slavery thing wasn't very good for black people. Jim Crow wasn't very good for black people."

When asked what advice he would give Hillary Clinton ahead of Monday's debate with Trump, Obama said she should be herself and explain what motivates her.

He said: "She's in this for the right reasons."

6:00 a.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign is releasing a new television ad that rehashes some of Donald Trump's most provocative statements about women in the past.

The 30-second ad shows young girls and women looking in the mirror as they hear Trump describe various women as "fat," a "slob" and one who "ate like a pig."

It ends with the tag line: "Is this the president we want for our daughters?" It's the latest attempt by her campaign to use Trump's words against him and is similar to ads aimed at voters in battleground

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states, including veterans and people with disabilities.

Clinton's campaign plans to run the ad in Ohio, New Hampshire, Iowa, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and on national cable.

3:30 a.m.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is seeking to show law-and-order toughness along with empathy for African-Americans as he criticizes violent protests stemming from another fatal police shooting of a black man.

His Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, was behind closed doors as she prepared for their initial debate and did not address on Thursday the escalating racial tensions in Charlotte, North Carolina. The city was under a midnight curfew after two previous nights of chaotic protests that led to one death as well as injuries, arrests and vandalism.

Trump has spent the last several weeks asking black Americans for their support and asserting that President Barack Obama has failed the black community, but those appeals have been undermined at times. On Thursday, the Trump campaign accepted the resignation of an Ohio volunteer, Mahoning County chair Kathy Miller, who told the Guardian newspaper, "I don't think there was any racism until Obama got elected."

GOP lawmaker: FBI gave immunity to top Clinton aide

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton's former chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, and two other staff members were granted immunity deals in exchange for their cooperation in the now-closed FBI investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state, says a Republican congressman.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, told The Associated Press on Friday that Mills gave federal investigators access to her laptop on the condition that what they found couldn't be used against her.

Democrats on the committee said Friday the immunity agreements were limited in scope and did not cover statements made to investigators or to potential testimony before Congress.

Still, Chaffetz said he was "absolutely stunned" that the FBI would cut a deal with someone as close to the investigation as Mills. By including the emails recovered from the laptops in the immunity agreements, the Justice Department exempted key physical evidence from any potential criminal case against the aides.

"No wonder they couldn't prosecute a case," said Chaffetz, R-Utah. "They were handing out immunity deals like candy."

Copies of the immunity agreements were provided to the House oversight committee by the Justice Department this week under seal.

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon accused House Republicans of "trying to make something out of nothing by rummaging through the files of a Justice Department investigation that was closed months ago without any charges whatsoever, and leaking selective details three days before the first presidential debate."

"Congressman Chaffetz continues to abuse his office by wasting taxpayer dollars to try to second-guess the FBI in what amounts to a desperate attempt to boost Donald Trump's chances against Hillary Clinton," Fallon said.

A yearlong investigation by the FBI focused on whether the Democratic presidential nominee sent or received classified information using the private server located in the basement of her New York home,

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which was not authorized for such messages.

FBI Director James Comey said in July that his agents hadn't found evidence to support any criminal charge or direct evidence that Clinton's private server had been hacked. He suggested that hackers working for a foreign government may have been so sophisticated they wouldn't have left behind any evidence of a break-in.

Chaffetz said in addition to Mills, others granted immunity include John Bentel, then-director of the State Department's Office of Information Resources Management, and Heather Samuelson, a senior adviser to Clinton.

Beth Wilkinson, the lawyer representing Mills and Samuelson, said the text of the immunity agreements show investigators considered her clients "to be witnesses and nothing more." Her office declined to provide copies of the agreements to AP.

"The Justice Department assured us that they believed my clients did nothing wrong," Wilkinson said. "At all points my clients cooperated with the government's investigation, including voluntarily participating in interviews with the FBI and DOJ."

The latest revelation brings the total number of people who were granted immunity as part of the FBI's investigation to at least five.

It had previously been reported immunity had been granted to Bryan Pagliano, a tech expert who set up Clinton's email server, as well as Paul Combetta, a computer specialist for a private firm that later maintained Clinton's email setup.

Chaffetz said he is looking forward to asking Comey questions about the immunity deals when Comey testifies Wednesday before the House Judiciary Committee. Chaffetz is also a member of that panel.

Mills, who was among Clinton's closest confidants, voluntarily appeared last year for a lengthy interview as part of the House GOP's investigation into the 2012 attack on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, that left three Americans dead.

Pagliano and Combetta, however, have refused to testify before Congress by invoking their Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. On Thursday, the GOP-led House oversight committee voted along party lines to hold Pagliano in contempt of Congress for failing to comply with its subpoena.

Friday evening, the FBI released 189 additional pages of documents from its investigation, including notes of agents' interviews with Mills, Samuelson, Bentel, close Clinton aide Huma Abedin and foreign policy adviser Jake Sullivan.

The highlights of the interviews were previously summarized in the FBI's investigative report released earlier this month. Many of the documents released Friday were heavily redacted by the FBI, but some provided new details about the agency's extensive investigation into Clinton's email use.

Included was a summary of FBI's interview with Marcel Lazar, a Romanian hacker who went by the name Guccifer. In it, Lazar admits he lied to a Fox News reporter about hacking Clinton's email server, though he had seen her private email address and some exchanges with her after successfully accessing the AOL account of Clinton friend Sidney Blumenthal in 2013.

The new FBI documents also reveal that Clinton occasionally exchanged messages with President Barack Obama, who used a pseudonymous email address. Those exchanges have not been made public among the tens of thousands of Clinton emails released thus far by the State Department.

Disappointed the FBI didn't recommend criminal charges, congressional Republicans are seeking to keep the issue of Clinton's email use alive through the November election. Clinton has called her use of the private server a mistake.

In a statement, the campaign of the Republican presidential nominee criticized both Clinton and the Justice Department.

"No one with judgment this bad should be allowed to serve as president of the United States or hold any public office," Trump spokesman Jason Miller. "What has become abundantly clear is that the Obama Administration is protecting Hillary Clinton from accountability at all costs because she will keep the rigged system in Washington in place."

Associated Press reporter Eric Tucker contributed from Washington.

Follow Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Obama vetoes 9/11 bill; possible override by Congress looms

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama rejected a bill Friday that would have allowed the families of 9/11 victims to sue the government of Saudi Arabia, arguing it undermined national security and setting up the possibility Congress may override his veto for the first time in his presidency.

Obama's move escalates the fight over an emotional issue that has overlapped with the campaign debate over terrorism and the Middle East. The bill had sailed through both chambers of Congress with bipartisan support, clearing the final hurdle just days before the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The president said the bill, which doesn't refer specifically to Saudi Arabia, could backfire by opening up the U.S. government and its officials to lawsuits by anyone accusing the U.S. of supporting terrorism, rightly or wrongly.

"I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001," Obama wrote to the Senate in a veto message about the bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. But, he said, "the JASTA would be detrimental to U.S. national interests more broadly."

Congress is determined to try to overturn the veto, which requires a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate. Previous attempts to overturn Obama's vetoes have all been unsuccessful.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said an override would pass in the Republican-controlled House. Yet the Senate would be the greater challenge. After furious lobbying to try to peel off supporters, the White House said Friday it was unclear whether enough had defected to avert an override.

With lawmakers eager to return home to campaign, a vote could come early next week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office said the Senate would vote "as soon as practicable in this work period."

Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the Senate's No. 3 Democrat and a traditional Obama ally, came out swinging against Obama while predicting lawmakers would reverse it "swiftly and soundly."

"The families of the victims of 9/11 deserve their day in court, and justice for those families shouldn't be thrown overboard because of diplomatic concerns," Schumer said.

A coalition of 9/11 victims' families, meanwhile, said they were "outraged and dismayed." In a response circulated by their lawyers, the families insisted the bill would deter terrorism, "no matter how much the Saudi lobbying and propaganda machine may argue otherwise."

Though the concept of sovereign immunity generally shields governments from lawsuits, the bill creates an exception that allows foreign governments to be held responsible if they support a terrorist attack that kills U.S. citizens on American soil. Opponents say that's a slippery slope considering that

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the U.S. is frequently accused wrongly by its foes of supporting terrorism.

"Americans are in countries all over the world," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, a Republican, wrote Friday in a letter urging colleagues to support a veto. "Many of those countries do not respect the rule of law, and we cannot expect their responses to be as measured and narrow as ours."

Fifteen of the 19 men who carried out 9/11 were Saudi nationals. Families of the victims spent years lobbying lawmakers for the right to sue the kingdom in U.S. court for any role elements of Saudi Arabia's government may have played. Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally, strongly objected to the bill.

Obama long had objected, too, warning that foreign countries might reciprocate by dragging American government, diplomats and military members before courts. The administration was also apprehensive about undermining a difficult yet strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia. The U.S. relies on the Saudis to counter Iran's influence in the Middle East and help combat the spread of terrorism.

Since the bill's passage, the White House has lobbied aggressively to persuade lawmakers to withdraw support, and found some sympathetic listeners. The bill had passed by voice vote - meaning lawmakers didn't have to go on the record with their positions — and the White House was hoping the prospect of a recorded vote would lead some Democrats to reconsider publicly rebuking their president.

Debate about the bill has spilled onto the presidential campaign trail, as candidates vie to appear tough on terrorism. The issue is one of a few where Democrat Hillary Clinton, who supports the bill, has publicly disagreed with Obama. Trump, too, backs it, and said Obama's veto was "shameful and will go down as one of the low points of his presidency."

The bill had triggered a perceived threat by Saudi Arabia to pull billions of dollars from the U.S. economy if it was enacted. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir said in May the kingdom never issued threats, but had merely warned that investor confidence in the U.S. would shrink if the bill became law.

The House vote on Sept. 9 came two months after Congress released 28 declassified pages from a congressional report into 9/11. The pages reignited speculation over links that at least a few of the attackers had to Saudis, including government officials. The allegations were never substantiated by later U.S. investigations.

Associated Press writers Richard Lardner, Erica Werner and Lisa Lerer contributed to this report.

Cheers, groans as Puerto Rico struggles with power outage

By DANICA COTO, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Frustration mounted across Puerto Rico on Friday amid record-high heat as the U.S. territory struggled to restore electricity more than two days after a power plant fire caused an island-wide blackout when it shut down an aging utility grid.

Cheers were intermixed with groans as power came and went during the day, frustrating some who had already stocked up at the supermarket and others who complained that the surges were damaging their home appliances.

Roughly 75 percent of 1.5 million homes and businesses served by the island's power company had electricity restored by late Friday, but officials warned that number would keep fluctuating. Around 200,000 of those customers were temporarily knocked off the grid Friday afternoon when a privately run plant failed and caused the temporary collapse of two larger public power plants that it was feeding, said Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla.

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"There may be setbacks that we can't anticipate," he said during a press conference late Friday.

Garcia said he expected that the majority of customers would have power by the time they woke up on Saturday.

"But, again, this is a very, very ambitious goal," he said, adding: "I want people to start their week without any problems."

Javier Quintana, executive director of Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, warned that power would come and go given the increase in demand as more customers came online. Both he and Garcia urged Puerto Ricans to be prudent in their use of electricity.

Those without power became increasingly disgruntled by Friday afternoon, when the heat index reached 106 degrees and meteorologists announced that a record high temperature was set. Many worried about spending a third night in darkness with no air conditioning or fans.

"It's taking way too long," said 74-year-old Magdalena Concepcion as she waited at a bus stop. "It's so hard to sleep. I take a cold shower right before going to bed."

Most Puerto Ricans don't have generators, and those who could afford it booked hotels offering special rates.

The blackout affected the entire island of 3.5 million people and angered many Puerto Ricans already struggling through a decade-long economic crisis. The outage prompted Garcia to activate the National Guard and declare a state of emergency.

At least one person died the first night from exposure to carbon monoxide after setting up a personal generator. Meanwhile, four police officers were struck by vehicles while directing traffic but were expected to recover.

Localized power outages are common in Puerto Rico given its outdated energy infrastructure, but widespread failures such as this are extremely rare.

The Electric Power Authority said it is investigating what caused the fire at the Aguirre power plant in the southern town of Salinas. The fire knocked out two transmission lines that serve the broader grid, which tripped circuit breakers that automatically shut down the flow of power as a preventive measure, officials said. Executive director Javier Quintana said a preliminary investigation suggests that an apparent failure on one transmission line that might have been caused by lightning caused the switch to explode.

Garcia denied the blackout was caused by maintenance problems that have plagued the utility for years, largely a result of the island's economic crisis. He said the switch where the fire happened had been properly maintained.

It was not yet clear how much damage the fire caused. The utility is struggling with a \$9 billion debt that it hopes to restructure as it faces numerous corruption allegations. Company officials have said they are seeking revenue to update outdated equipment.

Danica Coto on Twitter: www.twitter.com/danicacoto

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 24, the 268th day of 2016. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 24, 1996, the United States, represented by President Bill Clinton, and 70 other countries

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signed a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (To date, 183 countries have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, but the agreement has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations — including the United States — to ratify it.)

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1948, Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleaded not guilty in Washington D.C. to charges of treason. (Gillars, later convicted, ended up serving 12 years in prison.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1957, the Los Angeles-bound Brooklyn Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics — but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as "Dr. Seuss," died in La Jolla, California, at age 87.

Ten years ago: In a combative taped interview on "Fox News Sunday," former President Bill Clinton defended his handling of the threat posed by Osama bin Laden, and accused host Chris Wallace of a "conservative hit job." Democrats seized on an intelligence assessment that said the Iraq war had increased the terrorist threat, saying it was further evidence Americans should choose new leadership in upcoming elections. The Europeans turned the Ryder Cup into another rout, winning 18 1/2-9 1/2 to make history as the first European team to win three straight times.

Five years ago: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed Vladimir Putin as a presidential candidate for 2012, paving the way for Putin's return to office four years after he was legally forced to step aside. NASA's dead six-ton Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite fell to Earth, 20 years after being deployed from the space shuttle Discovery.

One year ago: Pope Francis finished his whirlwind visit to the nation's capital, becoming the first pope to address a joint meeting of Congress and calling on the lawmakers to help immigrants "and embrace

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the stranger in our midst." The pope then traveled to New York for an evening prayer service in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) arrived in Washington, where he and President Barack Obama met for dinner at Blair House, the guest residence near the White House. A stampede and crush of Muslim pilgrims occurred at an intersection near a holy site in Saudi Arabia; The Associated Press estimates that at least 2,426 people were killed, while the official Saudi toll has stood at 769. A repurposed military "duck boat" carrying passengers swerved into an oncoming charter bus on Seattle's Aurora Bridge; five international college students were killed in the crash.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 77. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 76. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 74. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 74. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 71. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 70. Actor Gordon Clapp is 68. Songwriter Holly Knight is 60. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 64. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 58. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent (Take 6) is 54. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 54. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 47. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 47. Actress Megan Ward is 47. Singer-musician Marty Cotron (No Mercy) is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 41. Actor Ian Bohen is 40. Actor Justin Bruening is 37. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 34. Actor Erik Stocklin is 34. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 28.

Thought for Today: "The easiest way to get a reputation is go outside the fold, shout around for a few years as a violent atheist or a dangerous radical, and then crawl back to the shelter." — F. Scott Fitzgerald (born this date in 1896, died 1940).