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Sunday, October 2

- Birthdays: • Michael Protas • Gertie Erickson • Gary Baule • Cassie Siders • Winifred Fawcett
- 9:00 am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
- 9:00 am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
- 9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
- 10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church with Communion
- 10:00 am: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:15 am: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School
- 11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

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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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)



FROST
CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions

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Bus Drivers Wanted

The Groton Area School District has openings for a part time (morning) bus route and for a full-time bus route driver. Assistance in obtaining the proper licensure is available. Please contact Transportation Supervisor, Loren Bahr, at 397-8117 for more details.

Bates Township Mowing Notice

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

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

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Bates Township Right-Of-Way Notice

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner, effective with the 2017 growing season.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk
(0928.1005)

THE CIRCUS SPORTS BAR & GRILL



**World
Famous
Wings
have
come to
Groton!**

Serving Mondays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

6 Wings	\$5.99
12 Wings	\$10.99
20 Wings	\$16.99
100 Wings	\$74.99

**For orders of 20
wings or more,
please call
ahead!**

605/397-8456



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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Bad Breath Ain't Always That Bad

I am always super sensitive about my breath. I try to take care of it, but at times, I'm a little bit off schedule. I really do not know when my breath is really bad.

For me, I only know my breath is bad when the person standing in front of me passes out.

It is rather embarrassing to have bad breath, particularly when you are in the company of very sophisticated people. I have bad breath all the time because of my great delight in eating cheese. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage warns me all the time that eating cheese will create bad breath. I know she is right, but cheese is very delicious.

I was boarding an airplane to travel north when the thought struck me that I had eaten a block of cheese before I got to the airport. I was wondering if my breath smelled bad or not. I tried to test it on myself but it never registered with my nose.

I know I have a nose, but my nose does not know when to smell anything. The only thing my nose does for me is sneeze, particularly when I am not prepared. So, I can't smell things the way my wife does. She can smell an odor seven days before it is produced!

How she does that I will never know and at my stage in life I am never going to ask her.

According to her, bad breath is always bad, which is why they call it "bad breath." My contention is, bad is a relative thing. One person smells one way, another person smells the other way and the twain shall never collide. What is bad for one person may not be bad for another person.

I have a habit of nibbling on cheese. At times, my wife thinks that I am just a mouse. Actually, she uses the word "rat," but that is a different story. I just love cheese. When I come home the first thing I do is go to the refrigerator, get out a block of cheese, slice it, go sit down and enjoy nibbling on that cheese never concerned about the bad breath it might create.

My wife is very conscious of this and always carries with her a packet of breath mints. Whenever she offers me a breath mint, I know that she smells my bad breath. I take a breath mint just to console her, but it really does not make any difference to me.

My contention is, bad breath isn't always that bad.

Getting back to my plane ride. As I was boarding the plane, I remembered I indulged in my slice of cheese. At first, I was a little worried because on the plane you almost sit on top of one another.

Fortunately, when I got to my row of seats I was the first one and so I was able to sit near the window. One of the things I enjoy in flying is leaning back and resting in the quietness of the atmosphere. However, most of the time I have somebody seated next to me that does not know the meaning of silence.

As I was getting situated in my seat, somebody came and took the seat right next to me. Before they could even sit down and buckle their seatbelt, their mouth started jabbering. If there is anything I do not like it is a mouth that jabbbers and jabbbers without quitting.

I am quite familiar with the English language, but I am always perplexed at how somebody can talk without stopping or even pausing for a "period."

Seated next to me was such a person. From the moment he got in, he began talking and for the life of me I could never figure out what he was talking about. He went from one subject to the next subject without even a bridge between the two.

The flight was a 2½-hour flight and I was not sure how in the world I was going to endure such endless

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chatter all the way. It's not so much that I mind someone else chattering, it's the fact that while there chattering they never give me an opportunity to chatter back.

While I was sitting there, an idea came to mind. I don't always have good ideas, but I think this one was pristine in every sense of the word. I began to think of that slice of cheese I had nibbled before boarding the airplane. If my wife is correct, and she usually is, my breath at this time would be dangerously stinky, to use her phrase.

With a smile on my face, I turned to the chatterbox and just let out very slowly my bad breath in his direction. It must've been bad because all of a sudden, he stopped and he could not breathe. Just to make sure it was working, I sent another hot breath in his direction. His eyes crossed and he set back and looked in the other direction. He had nothing more to say.

I do not think Job had this in mind when he wrote, "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Job 33:4).

God's breath is not bad, but it is good to the point of giving me his life to live.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com

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GHS Homecoming Parade Photos (Photos lifted from the GDILIVE.COM Stream)



First Presbyterian Church got the Best Church float award



GHS High School Marching Band

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Junior High Band



Parade Marshals Rick and Angela Carlson

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Homecoming King Bennett Shabazz and Queen Paityn Bonn pictured above.
The rest of the homecoming court pictured below.



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Sixth Grade Float



Seventh Grade Float

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Eighth Grade Float placed third



Freshman Class Float

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The sophomore class float placed second.



Junior Class Float took first place with their "UP" movie theme.

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Senior Class Float



Groton American Legion Post #39 leads off the homecoming parade.

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Junior Kindergarten



Kindergarten

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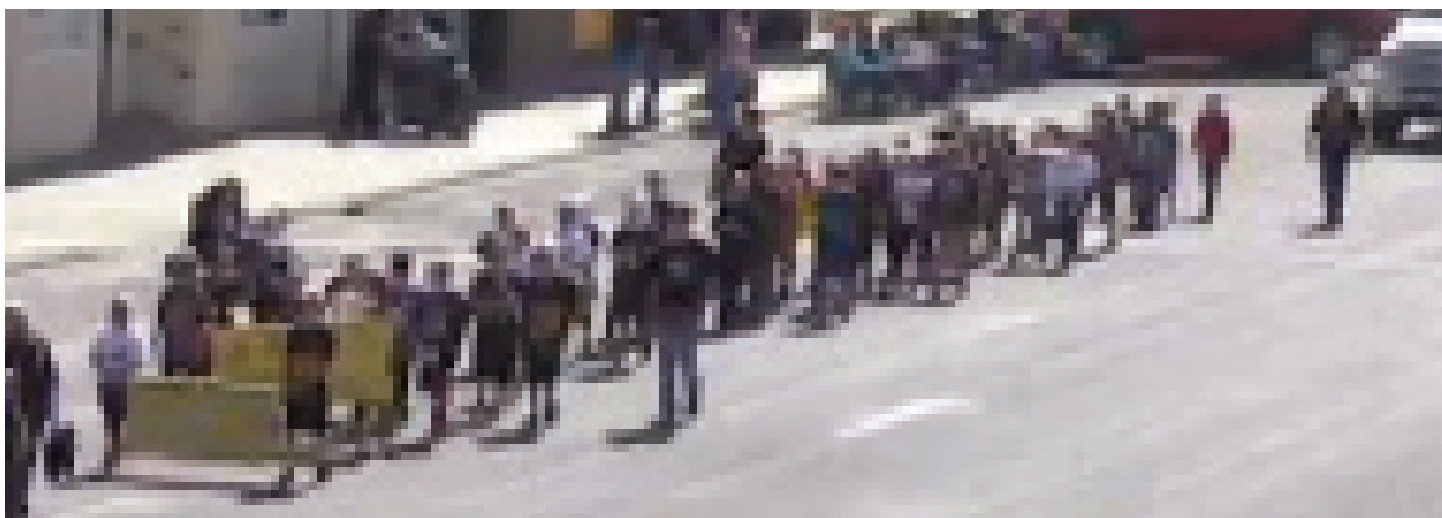
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First Graders



Second Graders



Third Graders

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Fourth Graders



This is the last time this group of fifth graders will march together as a group in the homecoming parade.

Tom Woods now working for Farm Credit Services drives a vehicle through the parade.



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Groton Lions Club



Elementary PAC

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Joyce Ragels was the 1961 GHS Queen



Class of 1986

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Class of 1966

First State Bank
had the
Best Commercial
Float.



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**Wells Fargo
Float**

**Carnival of Silver Skates
Queen Aubray Harry.**



FFA Float

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Groton FCCLA organization



Girl Scouts

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Groton Rodeo Club



Teddy Bear Day Care Float

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Mikey D. Chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids



Pumpkin Fest Entry at the Parade

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King Harvey and Queen Marian from the Golden Living Center



**Senior Citizens Royalty King Bob and Queen Ruth Pray.
They have been married for 70 years!**

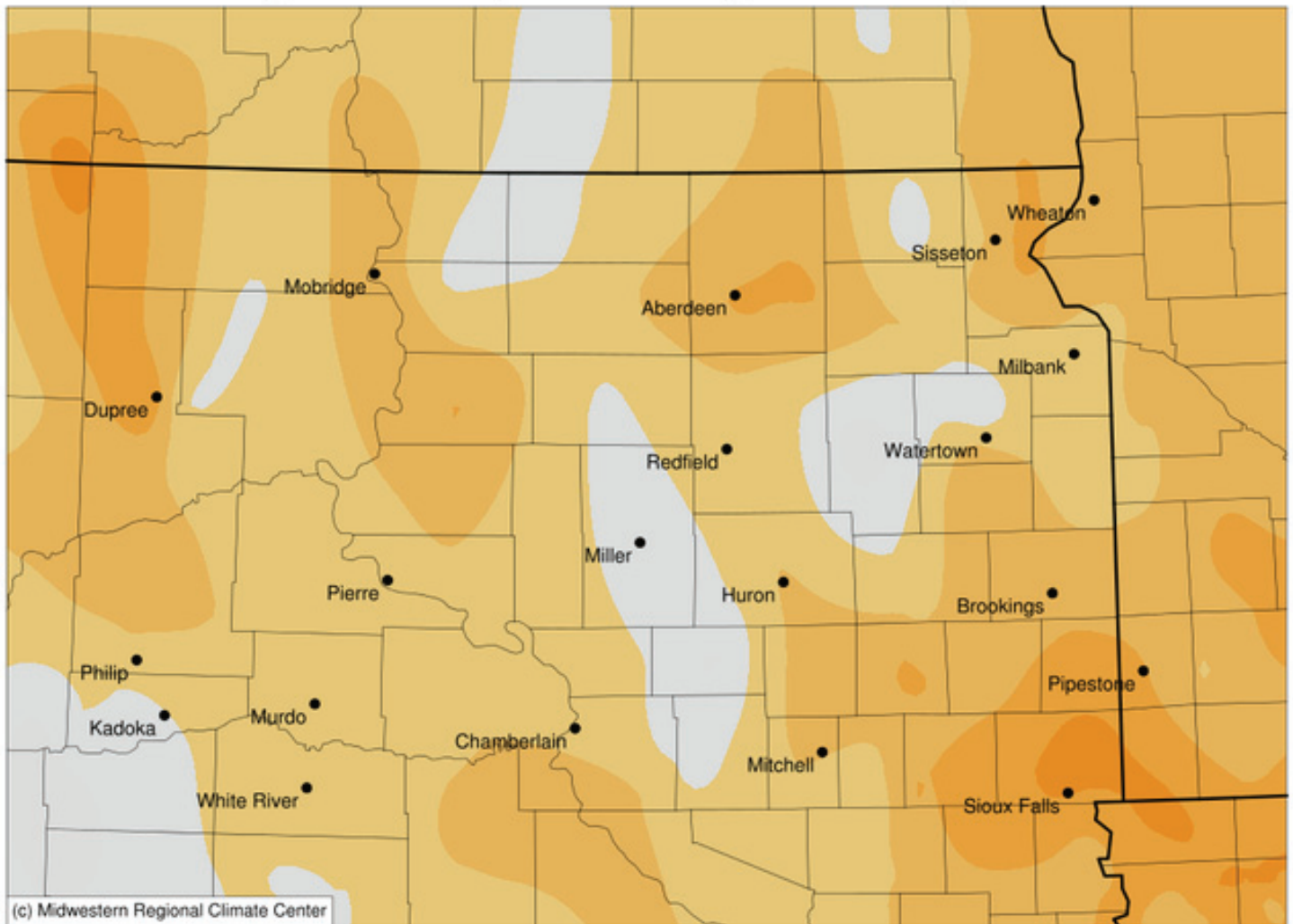
September was warmer than normal

September 2016 was a warmer than normal month across central and northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota. Average temperatures were from one to more than 3 degrees above normal across the region. Most locations only fell into the mid to upper 30s in September with only a few dipping to 32 degrees or below. Normally, the first freeze (32 degrees or lower) occurs during the last 10 days of September for the entire region. A hard freeze (28 degrees or lower) usually occurs during the first 10 days of October.

In terms of precipitation, far southeastern South Dakota picked up a great deal of moisture this month, but the rest of us were only slightly above or below normal (varying quite a bit from spot to spot). Overall, there were only a few minor severe events this September. The 4th featured a few reports of large hail and strong thunderstorm winds, and tennis ball sized hail fell in Spink County on the 7th. Otherwise, very quiet!

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

September 01, 2016 to September 30, 2016

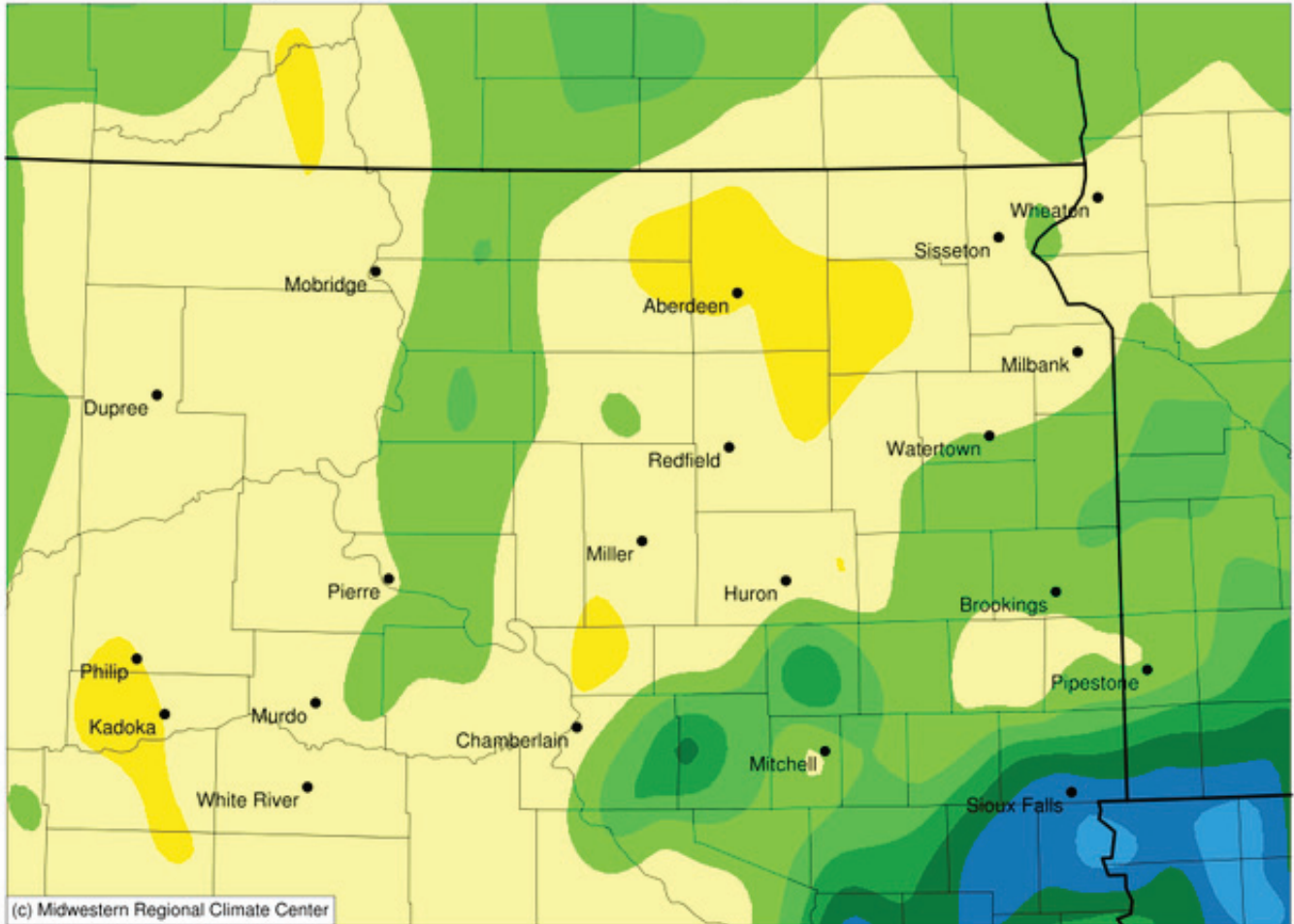


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Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

September 01, 2016 to September 30, 2016



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Today in Weather History

October 2, 1971: Heavy wet snow of over a foot fell in the northern Black Hills. The heavy snow was accompanied by strong winds which caused extensive damage to trees and utility lines. The power company said it was one of the worst storms they had experienced.

1752 - The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared. (David Ludlum)

1858: The only hurricane to impact California struck San Diego on this day. Two researchers with NOAA Michael Chenoweth and Christopher Landsea reconstructed the path of the hurricane using accounts from newspapers of the strong winds. They estimated that if a similar storm were to have hit in 2004, it would have caused around US\$500 million in damage.

1893 - The second great hurricane of the 1893 season hit the Mississippi Delta Region drowning more than 1000 persons. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A blast of cold arctic air hit the north central U.S. An afternoon thunderstorm slickened the streets of Duluth MN with hail and snow, and later in the afternoon, strong northerly winds reached 70 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific northwest. Afternoon highs of 90 degrees at Olympia WA, 92 degrees at Portland OR, and 89 degrees at Seattle WA, were records for the month of October. For Seattle WA it marked the twenty- first daily record high for the year, a record total in itself. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather across central Oklahoma and the eastern half of Texas. Thunderstorms in Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Nocona, and baseball size hail at Troy and Park Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. through the daytime and evening hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, with seven of those tornadoes in Georgia. A tornado southwest of Moultrie, GA, killed two persons and injured a dozen others. Tor-

nadoes also injured one person north of Graceville, FL, and two persons at Bartow, GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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**

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Breezy. Chance T-storms then T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 80 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 62 °F

Today

*Breezy, Dry,
Warm
Temperatures
75°-85°*



Fire Weather

- Strong SE Winds Monday
- Ongoing Harvest



Rain Chances

Expect showers and thunderstorms to move from west to east across the region Monday evening through Tuesday



Much Cooler

Highs only in the 50s for Thursday and Friday

Lows in the lower 30s



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 10/02/2016 at 5:42AM

Mild and dry conditions will continue today with breezy southeasterly winds. An approaching low pressure system will bring strong and gusty winds Monday afternoon. The winds will cause very high fire danger for counties along the Missouri River. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to move from west to east across the region Monday night through Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 76.2 F at 2:46 PM

Low Outside Temp: 50.9 F at 6:53 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 11:26 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1910

Record Low: 17° in 1974

Average High: 65°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.16

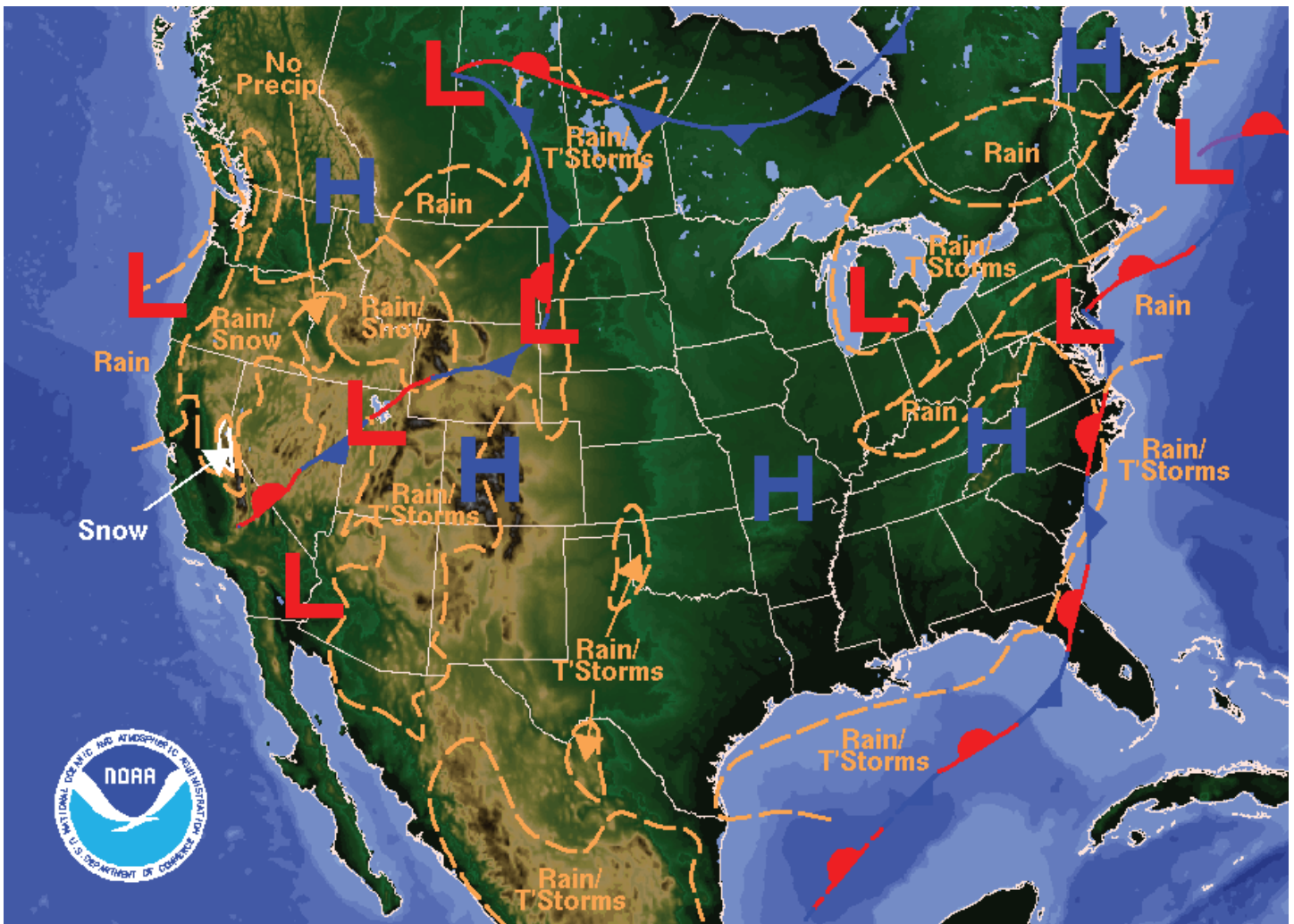
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.64

Precip Year to Date: 13.20

Sunset Tonight: 7:10 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Oct 02, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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BECOMING CHRIST-LIKE

A sculptor was beginning a new project and a reporter came to interview him about his work. He had never talked to a sculptor before so he asked, "What are you going to create?"

"A horse standing on its hind legs," he answered.

"How will you do such a thing?" he wondered.

"By knocking off everything that doesn't look like a horse," he replied.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians said, "Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." God, we are reminded by Paul, is in deed and in fact, shaping us into the likeness of Christ.

As Christians, we need to know and accept the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We may at times think that we are at the end of our rope but as followers of Christ we are never at the end of our hope!

As the sculptor worked with his block of marble, so is our loving Lord working with us to "knock off" everything in our lives that is not Christ-like. We sing our songs and say our prayers and tell others that "we want to be like Him." And someday we will be.

But until that day arrives we must be patient and willing to submit to His will, allow Him to work in us and on us so that He may work through us.

Prayer: We know, Heavenly Father, that You have a plan for each of us to become like Your Son. Give us the desire to work with You while You complete your plan. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 4:1-10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

South Dakota takes action to preserve fire lookout towers

By Seth Tupper, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Barb Peterson is ideally suited to her job as a fire spotter in the Black Hills National Forest.

She likes solitude, which is good, because she spends her days at an elevation of 6,647 feet, pacing a catwalk around a rustic-looking tower and scanning forested hilltops and ridge lines for smoke, the Rapid City Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2d9LAXN>).

She enjoys company, too, which is also good, because she counted 1,600 public visits in July from curious motorists, ATVers and hikers, despite the relatively remote location of the Cement Ridge fire lookout tower. It's in the northwestern Black Hills, about 20 miles southwest of Spearfish via gravel roads and just across the Wyoming line.

Peterson has been a "lookout," as her position is known, for eight years since retiring from an accounting career, and she loves the simplicity of looking for smoke, talking to visitors and enjoying nature.

"To me, it's a coveted position," she said. "People say, 'I want this job,' and I say, 'Stand in line.' I'm not ready to give it up."

The Cement Ridge tower, which turns 75 years old this year, is one of seven fire lookout towers still being used in the Black Hills. There were about 25 active towers in the region, but many were deactivated as advances in technology — including aerial surveillance and automated lightning-strike detection — made forest managers less reliant on human lookouts.

The 25 tower sites in the Black Hills now range from the stone ruins of long-ago deactivated towers to the well-preserved, wood-and-stone or metal structures of active towers. Some of the tower sites are situated along roads, and others require a hike; some are open to the public, and others are restricted. The most well-known Black Hills lookout tower is the stone structure atop Black Elk Peak (formerly Harney Peak), which is no longer used for smoke detection but is visited by thousands of hikers annually.

The decline of lookout towers in the Black Hills has paralleled a national trend. The Forest Fire Lookout Association reports that among nearly 9,000 lookout towers that once stood across the nation, fewer than 3,000 are still standing and fewer than 1,000 are staffed.

But the disappearance of the towers may be slowing as people nationwide, and especially in the West, take action to preserve and protect lookout towers for their continued usefulness, unique architecture, history and scenic vistas.

In some places, unused lookout towers have been re-purposed as rental cabins. That has not yet happened in the Black Hills, where forest managers seem more focused on preserving active lookout towers in part by keeping them staffed with human lookouts.

Chris Huhnerkoch, assistant fire management officer for the Bearlodge Ranger District, said the Black Hills National Forest uses surveillance flights and other modern technology to find fires. But technology is expensive and sometimes fails, and it's comforting to know there are people in towers ready to report smoke within minutes of a fire starting.

Additionally, lookouts provide weather reports and serve as human repeaters for Forest Service personnel who might be out of radio range of each other, but within range of a lofty lookout tower.

"It's pretty handy having them up here for safety, weather and communication, aside from the primary smoke detection job," Huhnerkoch said, adding that he hopes to have people in lookout towers "as long as possible, as long as I'm here."

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The Cement Ridge tower stands 15 feet tall, with a stone-constructed base. Inside the base is an empty room that's open year-round and is a popular warming spot for snowmobile riders.

Atop the tower is a 14-by-14-foot wooden, window-lined room, or cab, with a wraparound catwalk. A stroll around the catwalk affords a panoramic view of the northern Black Hills and the surrounding area, with visible landmarks including Terry Peak, Custer Peak, Crow Peak, Inyan Kara Mountain, Warren Peak and Sundance Mountain. On crystal-clear days, Peterson said, she can see the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming about 150 miles to the west.

Inside the cab is a mix of old and new technology, all surrounding a device known as an Osborne Firefinder.

The Osborne Firefinder was invented during the winter of 1910-1911 by William B. Osborne, a Forest Service employee in Oregon. The device consists of a circular map mounted on a rotating steel disc atop a pedestal, with brass sighting mechanisms.

When Peterson spots smoke from the Cement Ridge tower, she lines up the smoke in the firefinder sight, and then takes readings from the sights and the map that help determine the approximate location of the smoke. If human lookouts in other towers see the same smoke, they can communicate by radio and help pinpoint the location by means of triangulation with strings and tacks on wall maps.

Lookouts have some modern technology, including radios and cell phones, but some towers are still very rustic. The Cement Ridge tower is powered by solar energy, and Peterson's work still revolves around a pair of binoculars and the Osborne Firefinder that is basically the same device, with some updates, that was used by lookouts more than 100 years ago.

"It still works today, and that's the most important thing," Peterson said. "It's tried and true technology, it's been used for decades. My philosophy is if it isn't broke, don't fix it."

Barb Peterson demonstrates how an Osborne Firefinder is used when determining where a fire is burning. The device was invented around 1910 and is still a vital tool today.

The value of fire lookout towers and human lookouts extends beyond smoke-detection, according to Michael Engelhart, North Zone archaeologist for the Black Hills National Forest. Lookout towers are architecturally and historically significant, they offer spectacular views, and the act of getting to a remote tower offers a recreational opportunity.

"It's kind of that nexus of utility and history and getting out and seeing the woods, all at the same time," Engelhart said. "I think that's why we get a lot of visitors."

Peterson's presence in the tower, and the presence of other lookouts in other towers, helps to protect and promote those multiple uses. Her presence deters vandals, and she does some upkeep on the tower during her downtime. And when people come to visit, as long as she's not busy calling in or monitoring a fire, she acts as a kind of docent, telling visitors about her duties and about the history of fire lookouts.

The proliferation of fire lookouts was related to the so-called Big Blowup of 1910, when an estimated 1,736 fires swept across the West and burned 3 million acres while destroying 7.5 billion board feet of timber, wiping out several small towns and killing at least 85 people.

After those fires, lookout towers began popping up around the country as land managers sought to spot and respond to fires before they raged out of control. At Cement Ridge, a log cabin was built in 1911. A crow's nest was added in 1921, but it and the cabin were replaced by a tower that was finished in 1941.

People hired as lookouts in the early days had to be adventurous and comfortable with isolation and danger. Some lookouts lived in towers for days on end, and at Cement Ridge there was a horse stable and a rock cellar for provisions. Printed guidebooks advised lookouts how to avoid being electrocuted by a lightning strike.

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Cement Ridge was remote enough that no motorized vehicles reached it until 1927, when a ranger named Tom Sawyer drove his car to the top with his wife and young son inside. He reportedly cleared a path as he went, and when he got out of the car to clear rocks or branches out of the way, he stuck a sack of potatoes behind one of the car's wheels to prevent it from rolling downhill.

The tower that was built atop Cement Ridge in 1941 is the one that still stands, and it was added to the National Historic Lookout Register in 1993. The tower's 75th anniversary this year coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, which has done much to encourage the preservation of lookout towers and other historic structures all over the country.

Keith Argow, chairman of the board of the national Forest Fire Lookout Association, said historic preservation efforts are needed to prevent the disappearance of towers that help tell the history of forestry.

"They are a symbol of forestry in America going back 100 years," Argow said. "They're almost as important a symbol of responsible fire management as Smokey Bear."

The original Cement Ridge fire lookout was built between 1911 and 1913. At that time it was a one-room log cabin with a shingle roof. In 1921, a crow's nest with a glassed-in house was constructed. A new lookout was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and finished in 1941.

Concern about the decline of lookout towers has motivated many people across the country to donate money, volunteer time, or buy lookout towers in order to preserve them, said Gary Weber, the Idaho-based treasurer for the national Forest Fire Lookout Association.

In eastern states, where lookout towers were typically less remote and the job of a lookout was less demanding, there seems to be less nostalgia for the towers, Weber said. But in the West, there is an active community of people committed to preserving the towers, even as remote controlled cameras and other technological replacements for human lookouts continue to cause more towers to be deactivated.

"I think there is more and more recognition that this is something that's fading off the landscape, and it will continue to fade if we don't do something," Weber said.

Peterson is doing her part at Cement Ridge. She drives 17 miles to the tower five or six days a week during the fire season, which typically spans from May to September. Her days range from eight to 12 hours, depending on fire activity.

In keeping with the historic nature of her role and her work site, she drives a 1978 pickup, which is stuffed with extra clothing and food and whatever else she might need in case of an extra-long day or unpredictable weather. Atop the tower, between visits from the public, she sometimes thinks about her predecessors and about lookouts in more remote towers across the country, and she's jealous of lookouts then and now who've ventured deeper into the wilderness.

Her longing for the wilderness helps explain the lasting appeal of lookout towers. They are reminiscent of a time when nature was more natural, solitude could still be found and life was uncomplicated by digital technology.

Visiting a place like Cement Ridge is one of the few modern ways to experience that bygone era or at least something like it.

"It's hard to overtly recognize it sometimes in ourselves, but we really seek out connections to the past, and I think that's part of the reason people come up here," Engelhart said. "It's part of our identity, really, in the Western forests."

Experts trap mourning doves in South Dakota to track species

By Nick Lowrey, Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) —

Actually, for about 12 years now South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department biologists have been trapping and banding mourning doves as part of a cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The idea, said GFP wildlife biologist Corey Huxoll, is to gather information on mourning dove movements and populations as a way to track the species' health, much like the bands used on ducks and geese. Just a little smaller.

"Basically they've created a model," Huxoll said. "So they can get a picture of hunting mortality."

The Capital Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2d8gkvQ>) each year around 1,400 mourning doves are banded at eight locations throughout South Dakota. Huxoll has been in charge of the GFP banding efforts near Pierre for several years. He said he usually traps and bands around 200 birds every year. In 2016, Huxoll said, he banded 231 mourning doves at a site 11 miles northeast of Pierre.

This reporter harvested one of those doves on Labor Day. According to data held by the U.S. Geological Survey, which maintains the bird banding database, the dove was banded Aug. 1, 2016 and was thought to have hatched earlier in the summer. Huxoll said the dove was one of two bands he's heard of being returned so far this year.

"Most of the returns come from South Dakota," Huxoll said.

The second highest number of returned mourning dove bands comes from Texas, he said. The third highest is Mexico.

Mourning dove populations are tracked at the flyway level, Huxoll said, so there isn't really a solid South Dakota specific population estimate. There are, however, an estimated 350 million doves in North America and every year hunters harvest about 20 million of them. They are, far and away the most widely hunted bird on the continent.

"They're just so widespread," Huxoll said.

South Dakota is a slightly different story. Last year, GFP officials estimated about 7,500 hunters harvested around 135,000 mourning doves in the state.

Eurasian collared doves, the slightly larger, lighter colored and louder doves that have come to populate many urban areas over the last few years aren't tracked, Huxoll said. The Eurasian collared doves are considered an invasive non-native species. As such they can actually be hunted all year, he said.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Marsy's Law: Dakotas voters to decide on victim rights plan

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Voters in both North Dakota and South Dakota are being asked this November whether they want to change their state constitutions to incorporate rights for crime victims. It's a move already made in other states with legislation commonly known as "Marsy's Law."

Here's a look at the amendments:

WHAT THEY WOULD DO

Marsy's Law would establish constitutional rights for crime victims including privacy, protection from harassment or abuse and timely notice of trial, sentencing and post-judgment proceedings. Victims would have the right to be notified of the escape or release of the accused.

The proposal would require that victims are notified of their rights, which would also include the op-

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portunity to offer input during the case. The amendment defines a victim as someone who suffers physical, psychological or financial harm from a crime or attempted crime. A victim's spouse and family members would also be covered.

WHAT SUPPORTERS SAY

The plan would make sure victims have the same protections as criminal defendants, said Kathleen Wrigley, wife of North Dakota Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley and the chairwoman of the effort to pass Marsy's Law in the state. Too many victims aren't notified of upcoming criminal proceedings, said Wrigley, whose brother was killed in 1991.

Supporters say crime victims should be given information about their rights and services available; should be notified of proceedings and major developments in their case; and be allowed to give input on plea agreements, among other things.

The goal is to make it a priority for victims to be heard and protected, Marsy's Law for South Dakota Outreach Director Tami Haug-Davis said. "It's time," she said. "It's past due."

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Foes argue Marsy's Law would bog down the system for victims while increasing court-related costs. They say many of the rights included in the amendment are already in state law.

Pennington County State's Attorney Mark Vargo said he doesn't think that less serious cases such as criminal trespass and disorderly conduct deserve the same level of attention as homicide or aggravated assault.

"We're going to be trading off the most serious victims for what I have called a California solution looking for a South Dakota problem," Vargo said.

Other states that have approved Marsy's Law don't have South Dakota's tax system, and counties don't have the money to take on another state mandate, said opponent Ryan Kolbeck, president of the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

ORIGIN

The law is named after California college student Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend. A week after she was killed, her mother and brother were confronted by the suspect at a store. They did not know the man had been released on bail.

If approved by voters, the Dakotas would join California and Illinois in adopting Marsy's Law. Her brother, billionaire Henry Nicholas, is bankrolling the national effort to expand the law into more states, including Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana and Nevada.

ELSEWHERE

Concerns raised during the 2008 Marsy's Law campaign in California haven't materialized in San Luis Obispo County, said District Attorney Dan Dow, who has served since 2014. A longtime prosecutor, Dow said Marsy's Law hasn't caused funding difficulties for his office largely because victims' assistance has been a priority for decades.

He said that when a case is filed, an advocate notifies the victim of their rights and tallies the rights the victim wants to assert so the prosecutor has that information starting at the initial hearing in the case. The measure gave prosecutors a mandate to make sure victims are always considered throughout the criminal justice process, said Dow, who isn't involved in the campaign.

"I think Marsy's rights are at the core of what a prosecutor is doing every day," Dow said. "It helps us to serve victims fully and completely in every case."

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WHERE THE MONEY IS

Pro-amendment groups in the Dakotas have received from Nicholas at least \$1.9 million — roughly \$800,000 in South Dakota and about \$1.1 million North Dakota — according to the latest state finance records. A spokeswoman for national group Marsy's Law for All declined to disclose additional financial information.

The Dakotas campaigns have launched television and radio advertisements.

Opponents will likely bring in far less than the backers of the Marsy's Law amendments. In North Dakota, opponents are focusing on a grassroots campaign without a set fundraising goal, No On 3 Treasurer Erica Shively said. South Dakota opposition group No on S hasn't yet filed a campaign finance report.

"We certainly can't compete with the \$800,000 that the billionaire from California is chucking into this thing," group Chairman Jason Adams said.

Editors:

South Dakota's amendment is Constitutional Amendment S and North Dakota's is Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 3.

Follow James Nord on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Jvnord>

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Harrisburg def. Aberdeen Central, 25-21, 20-25, 25-21, 25-14

Jones County def. Bennett County, 25-20, 25-14, 25-19

Mobridge-Pollock def. Timber Lake, 22-25, 25-19, 25-23, 25-12

Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-12, 24-26, 23-25, 25-12, 15-12

281 Conference Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Wessington Springs, 25-15, 25-15, 25-15

Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois, 25-8, 25-12, 25-1

Semifinal

Hitchcock-Tulare def. James Valley Christian, 25-19, 25-20, 17-25, 25-18

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-21, 27-25, 25-22

Seventh Place

Iroquois def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 17-25, 26-10, 18-25, 25-23, 15-12

Fifth Place

Wessington Springs def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-16, 25-19, 26-24

Championship

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-19, 23-25, 25-20, 25-21

Huron Invitational

Huron def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-6

Mitchell def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-10

Mitchell def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-17, 25-15

Mitchell def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 23-25, 25-12, 25-22

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Mitchell def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-19, 25-19
Pierre def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 14-25, 25-19, 25-14
Pierre def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-14, 17-25, 25-20
Pierre def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-22, 23-25, 25-23
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Huron, 25-23, 23-25, 25-22
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Huron, 19-25, 25-18, 25-23
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sturgis Brown, 25-13, 25-8
Sioux Falls Washington def. Huron, 21-25, 25-16, 26-24
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sturgis Brown, 25-9, 25-6
Sioux Falls Washington def. Pierre, 26-24, 25-22
Lead-Deadwood Mile High Invitational
Pool Play
Pool A
Edgemont def. New Underwood, 25-10, 16-25, 25-19
Wall def. New Underwood, 25-21, 25-16
Wall def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-16
Pool B
Harding County def. Rapid City Central JV, 25-7, 25-11
Harding County def. Kadoka Area, 25-18, 25-11
Kadoka Area def. Rapid City Central JV, 25-14, 25-16
Pool C
Bison def. Rapid City Central Sophomores, 25-23, 25-22
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Rapid City Central Sophomores, 25-21, 25-22
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Bison, 19-25, 25-22, 25-10
Pool D
Hot Springs def. Newell, 27-25, 25-17
Lead-Deadwood def. Hot Springs, 20-25, 25-12, 25-14
Lead-Deadwood def. Newell, 25-14, 25-18
First Round
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Kadoka Area, 25-21, 25-22
Harding County def. Bison, 25-8, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-17
Wall def. Hot Springs, 25-10, 25-19
Semifinal
Harding County def. Wall, 26-24, 25-20
Lead-Deadwood def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 23-25, 25-16, 27-25
Championship
Harding County def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-13, 25-20
LNI Tournament
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crazy Horse, 25-8, 25-14
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. White River, 25-22, 19-25, 29-27
Crow Creek def. Standing Rock, N.D., 25-15, 25-17
Custer def. White River, 25-11, 21-25, 25-9
Custer def. Red Cloud, 25-16, 25-17
Hill City def. Crow Creek, 25-9, 25-9
Hill City def. Oelrichs, 25-7, 25-8

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Hill City def. McLaughlin, 25-12, 25-16
Little Wound def. St. Francis Indian, 25-21, 25-15
Little Wound def. Red Cloud, 25-14, 25-19
McLaughlin def. Lower Brule, 25-22, 25-18
Oelrichs def. Lower Brule, 26-24, 25-27, 25-23
Oelrichs def. Crow Creek, 26-24, 24-26, 25-16
Pine Ridge def. McLaughlin, 25-20, 25-19
Pine Ridge def. Todd County, 25-17, 25-17
Pine Ridge def. Standing Rock, N.D., 25-8, 25-8
Red Cloud def. St. Francis Indian, 25-21, 15-25, 25-16
St. Francis Indian def. Crazy Horse, 25-23, 27-25
Standing Rock, N.D. def. Todd County, 25-9, 19-25, 25-19
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Little Wound, 18-25, 25-21, 25-17
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Crazy Horse, 25-17, 25-12
Todd County def. Lower Brule, 25-21, 25-21
White River def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-15, 25-14
Semifinal
Custer def. Hill City, 25-18, 25-22
White River def. Pine Ridge, 25-19, 26-24
Third Place
Pine Ridge def. Hill City, 25-23, 25-16
Championship
Custer def. White River, 25-11, 25-12
Twin Cities Tournament
Gold Division
First Round
Ogallala, Neb. def. Rapid City Stevens, 20-25, 25-20, 25-22
Consolation Semifinal
Rapid City Stevens def. Sidney, Neb., 25-9, 25-13
Fifth Place
Rapid City Stevens def. Alliance, Neb., 25-18, 25-9

South Dakota St routs Western Illinois 52-14

By JAMES PURSLEY

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State quarterback Taryn Christian threw five touchdown passes, and the Jackrabbits returned two interceptions for touchdowns in a 52-14 Missouri Valley Football Conference win over Western Illinois on Saturday.

Trailing 14-7, SDSU (2-2, 1-0 MVFC) scored 45 straight points against the previously unbeaten and eighth-ranked Leathernecks (3-1, 0-1).

"I'm proud that our guys rose up and got it done," SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said.

Christian passed for a career-high 361 yards. Four of his touchdown passes went to Dallas Goedert, who tied a 67-year-old school record for TD catches in a game.

Goedert came in with three TDs this season.

Christian threw for 236 yards and four touchdowns in the first half, three of those in the 21-point second quarter.

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Goedert had three TDs in the first two quarters to help the Jacks build a 28-14 lead. He finished with eight catches for 204 yards.

Stiegelmeier didn't seem impressed at the break. "We're the boringest program in America," he said before leaving the field. "We'll go out and do our thing (in the second half) and see if we can win a football game."

The Jackrabbits added 24 points in the third quarter.

Western Illinois quarterback Sean McGuire tossed two touchdown passes in the first quarter as the Leathernecks took a 14-7 lead. He threw a 6-yard pass to Lance Lenoir with less than three minutes into the game and a 3-yarder to Joey Borsellino with 1:52 left in the quarter. That was their final score.

The 16th-ranked Jackrabbits sandwiched a 24-yard TD pass from Christion to Goedert between the two Western Illinois scores.

Goedert added scoring catches of 25 and 24 yards in the second quarter and Connor Landberg added a 17-yarder with 17 seconds left in the half.

The Jackrabbits' defense got into the act early in the third quarter. Christian Rozeboom intercepted a pass and returned it 37 yards for a score.

"I dropped to the hole in my zone. I saw the ball in the air . Just going back to high school running back days," Rozeboom said.

With 5:38 left in the third quarter, Goedert hauled in a 70-yard TD pass to make it 45-14. Less than two minutes later, Dallas Brown returned an interception 19 yards for the game's final score.

Eight SDSU players caught passes from Christion. Jake Wieneke caught seven passes for 102 yards.

McGuire and backup quarterback Trenton Norvell combined to go 20 of 37 for 159 yards. Lenoir caught 10 passes for 84 yards.

Stacey Smith had 71 of Western Illinois' 183 rushing yards.

The Jackrabbits came into the game giving up 41.7 points and 524 yards per game. SDSU responded to the challenge.

"They're winners," Stiegelmeier said of his team. "If things aren't going as well as you like, and people point it out to you, you don't cower down and don't make excuses. You correct some things. Those guys rose up tonight."

Youngstown St. with early lead, beats South Dakota 30-20

Martin Ruiz ran for two touchdowns and Zak Kennedy kicked three field goals as Youngstown State took an early lead and held it to beat South Dakota 30-20 on Saturday. Ruiz ran for two scores in the first half to help the Penguins (3-1, 1-0 Missouri Valley Conference) to a 17-3 lead with 14:11 to go before the break. Kennedy stretched it to 20-3 with a 28-yard field goal as time expired in the half.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Martin Ruiz ran for two touchdowns and Zak Kennedy kicked three field goals as Youngstown State took an early lead and held it to beat South Dakota 30-20 on Saturday.

Ruiz ran for two scores in the first half to help the Penguins (3-1, 1-0 Missouri Valley Conference) to a 17-3 lead with 14:11 to go before the break. Kennedy stretched it to 20-3 with a 28-yard field goal as time expired in the half.

The Coyotes (1-3, 0-1) made it 23-13 on a touchdown pass by Chris Streveler with 5:24 left in the fourth but on the South Dakota's next possession, the Penguins' Jalyn Powell intercepted Streveler and scored to put it away with 2:37 remaining.

Youngstown State held the Coyotes and quarterback Chris Streveler to just 254 yards in total offense. USD did little until the closing minutes when Streveler threw two TD passes.

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The Coyotes came into the game having scored 47, 48 and 49 points in their first three games. But they trailed 23-6 until the 5:24 mark of the fourth quarter.

A Streveler fumble and an interception led to touchdowns. He was 10-for-27 for just 141 yards and ran for 14 yards. He came into the game averaging 115 yards on the ground.

"They are one of the best defensive teams in the (Missouri) Valley and they showed that today," USD coach Bob Nielson said. "We really struggled getting anything going."

Ruiz carried 19 times for 65 yards and scored on runs of 1 and 8 yards. YSU quarterback Ricky Davis completed 15 of 23 passes for 281 yards and rushed for 66 yards.

Kennedy kicked two of his three field goals in the first half.

"Our defense kind of kept us in the game," Nielson said. "We played well against the rush, but unfortunately we gave up a lot of plays through the air."

USD's first possession ended with a fumble that Youngstown State turned into a Ruiz 1-yard touchdown run and a 7-0 lead.

USD's Miles Bergner kicked a 45-yard field goal with 8:20 left in the first, but the Penguins got field goals of 26 and 28 yards by Kennedy and an 8-yard TD run by Ruiz to go into half with a 20-3 lead.

The only scoring in the third quarter was Bergner's 29-yard field goal with 4:26 left.

Kennedy connected from 24 yards as the Penguins went up 23-6 with 13:07 to play.

USD tried to mount a comeback late in the game. Streveler finally got the Coyotes' offense into the end zone twice in the fourth quarter. He threw a 1-yard TD pass to Riley Donovan with 5:24 left and a 23-yarder to Alonge Brooks with 1:34 left.

Trevor Bouma led the Coyotes in rushing with 75 yards on 17 carries and Brooks caught two passes for 56 yards.

Damoun Patterson was one of eight players catching passes for Youngstown State. He had two catches for 86 yards.

Former South Dakota Secretary of State Joyce Hazeltine dies

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Former Republican South Dakota Secretary of State Joyce Hazeltine has died.

Hazeltine's son, Derek Hazeltine, says she died Friday in Custer. She was 81.

Joyce Hazeltine, who served as assistant chief clerk of the state House and secretary of the Senate, was elected secretary of state in 1986 and served through 2002. She also served as a National Association of Secretaries of State president.

Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson, who served as secretary of state after Hazeltine, described her as a graceful lady who had a great love for the state and her post.

Hazeltine was born July 16, 1935, in Pierre. She got a teaching degree from Huron College and taught for years in Aberdeen, Custer and Eureka.

A memorial service for Hazeltine is scheduled for Oct. 8.



Feds say they won't evict sprawling pipeline protest camp

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The sprawling encampment that's a living protest against the four-state Dakota Access pipeline has most everything it needs to be self-sustaining — food, firewood, fresh water and shelter. Everything, that is, except permission to be on the federal land in North Dakota.

Federal officials say they won't evict the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires camp, due to free speech reasons, even though it's on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land near the confluence of the Missouri and Cannonball rivers that many Native Americans believe is still rightfully owned by the Standing Rock Sioux under a nearly 150-year-old treaty.

"We're not leaving until we defeat this big black snake," camp spokesman Cody Hall said of the pipeline.

But residents in the area have expressed feeling unsafe and frustrated with how the protest has swelled to scores of self-described "water protectors" who have joined the tribe's fight, and Republican U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer — North Dakota's lone voice in the House — says the camp is illegal. He blames the agency for looking the other way.

"If that camp was full of people advocating for fossil fuels, they would have been removed by now," Cramer said. "There is some discretionary enforcement going on."

The camp is the overflow from smaller private and permitted protest sites nearby and began growing in August. The gathering has been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century, all there to protest Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, which tribal officials believe threatens sacred sites and a river that's a source of water for millions.

Corps spokeswoman Eileen Williamson said the agency is "encouraging" people to relocate to areas where there is a permit, such as a nearby smaller camp where demonstrators have been allowed to legally protest on federal lands managed by the agency.

"We don't have the physical ability to go out and evict people — it gives the appearance of not protecting free speech," she said. "Our hands are really tied."

Cramer believes the "bigger problem" of the camp is "the illegal activity that may be orchestrated from there" — meaning a base to launch interference with pipeline construction miles away. About 95 people have been arrested in several pipeline protests — some as far as 70 miles away from the camp — since early August, but none at the camp itself. Protesters deny state officials' charge, with Hall saying the camp promotes "peaceful" protest.

"People don't leave from the camp with malicious intent to do harm," Hall said. "There are always going to be a few bad eggs in any group you can't get the message to."

Ranchers and farmers in the area are wary of the growing number of protesters and are fearful of damage to their fields and pastures, Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said.

"We've had several reports of people down there getting stopped on the road and being intimidated to hay that has been stolen to grazing animals without permission," he said.

Matthew Rebenitsch, who has a ranch just a few miles from the encampment, said he and his neighbors worry about talking publicly about the situation.

"To be honest, no one around here wants to say anything because we're afraid they will come and threaten us," he said. "I'll say this, every rancher around here is packing and people are locking their doors — and no one has ever locked a door in their entire life."

Republican state Rep. James Schmidt, who also farms and ranches nearby, said he and his neighbors are more cautious.

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"I'm starting to see a lot more guns in the back of pickup trucks. All it is going to take is one incident and emotions are going to overtake the situation," he said.

Complicating the issue is a grazing lease on that land. The renter, David Meyer, is responsible for the condition of the land. He could enforce his lease and have people removed, Williamson said, but hasn't requested any intervention. Meyer recently sold part of his historic Cannonball Ranch to Energy Transfer Partners for an undisclosed price; he hasn't returned telephone calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The Standing Rock Sioux has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for the pipeline that is intended to carry North Dakota oil to Illinois. Due to a federal court decision, construction has stopped within 20 miles on either side of Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir that is near the encampment. The Departments of Justice, Army and Interior also has said it will "reconsider any of its previous decisions" on land that borders or is under the lake.

Hall, a member of South Dakota's Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said the Sioux "never ceded" the land on which they're camping. He said they are preparing to stay through the winter by stockpiling firewood, heating stoves and warmer clothes. But there'll be no permanent structures built, Hall said.

"We will leave this camp as we found it," he said.

Powerful Hurricane Matthew threatens Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba

By HOWARD CAMPBELL, Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Hurricane Matthew, a potentially devastating Category 4 storm, swirled across the Caribbean Sunday toward Haiti and Jamaica, where residents frantically stocked up on emergency supplies and authorities urged people to evacuate threatened areas.

Matthew is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes in recent history and briefly reached the top classification, Category 5, becoming the strongest hurricane here since Felix in 2007.

The latest projections show Matthew's center likely to strike the southwestern tip of Haiti on Monday. A hurricane warning has been issued for the impoverished country which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

Deforestation has greatly increased the potential for devastating floods and landslides on Haiti and the country's ramshackle homes and buildings are vulnerable to storms.

After passing Jamaica and Haiti, Matthew is expected to reach Cuba late Monday, potentially making a direct hit on the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, where authorities said they were evacuating non-essential personnel, including about 700 family members of those serving there.

Everyone remaining behind was being told to take shelter, said Julie Ann Ripley, a spokeswoman. There are about 5,500 people living on the base, including 61 men held at the detention center.

The forecast track would also carry Matthew into the Bahamas, with an outside chance of a brush with Florida, though that would be several days away.

"It's too early to rule out what impacts, if any, would occur in the United States and Florida," said Dennis Feltgen, a spokesman at the Hurricane Center.

In Haiti, civil protection officials broadcast warnings of a coming storm surge and big waves, saying the country would be "highly threatened" from the approaching system, and they urged people to prepare emergency food and water kits.

Emergency management authorities banned boating, particularly along the southern coastline.

In Jamaica, flooding temporarily closed the road linking the capital to its airport. Carl Ferguson, head of the marine police, said people were starting to heed calls to relocate from small islands and areas

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near rural waterways.

In the coastal town of Port Royal, officials urged residents to seek refuge in government shelters and people in the capital, Kingston, crowded supermarkets to buy bottled water, canned food, flashlights and batteries.

"It has been chaos from the morning," said Melain Azan, owner of the Azan Super Centre.

Shopper Nardia Powell said she was stocking up because she learned a hard lesson when she was unprepared for Hurricane Ivan in 2004, as were many others. "So, I just want to be on the safe side, right?" she said.

As of 8 a.m. EDT (1200 GMT), the storm was centered about 340 miles (545 kilometers) south-southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It was traveling north-northwest at 5 mph (7 kph).

Earlier, two deaths were blamed on the storm as it pushed through the eastern Caribbean and skimmed past the northern tip of South America.

Damage appeared minimal despite flooding in towns along Colombia's La Guajira peninsula. Some officials were even grateful for the rain after a multi-year drought.

"Families that evacuated are returning to their homes," said La Guajira Gov. Jorge Velez. "The dikes and wells filled up, the earth is moist, and this benefits agriculture in an area where it hasn't rained for five years, benefiting the community."

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Miami, Joshua Goodman in Bogota, Colombia, David McFadden in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Alexis Tribouard in Kingston, contributed to this report.

Pope Francis encourages religious tolerance in Azerbaijan

By NICOLE WINFIELD and AIDA SULTANOVA, Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Pope Francis traveled to Azerbaijan on Sunday for a 10-hour visit aimed at encouraging the country's inter-religious harmony while likely overlooking criticism of a referendum that extends the president's term and powers.

Francis' first stop was to celebrate Mass for Azerbaijan's tiny Catholic community. The Caucasus nation — the second-largest Shiite Muslim country after Iran — has fewer than 300 Azeri Catholics. Several thousand foreigners make up the rest of its Catholic community, and Azeri Jews, Zoroastrians and other minorities round out Azerbaijan's religious mix.

"Some may think that the pope wastes so much time: travelling so many kilometers to visit a small community," Francis told more than 400 people in the church and another 450 who followed the Mass outside in the courtyard. But he said he was merely doing as God did in delivering Jesus among the Jews of Jerusalem. "In this, the pope imitates the Holy Spirit. He also descended from heaven to a small community."

"Have courage! Go on, without fear! Go ahead!"

Francis was to meet with the region's Muslim sheik and representatives of all the main faiths as well as President Ilham Aliyev before heading back to Rome after a weekend Caucasus visit that first took him to Georgia.

Francis has denounced the use of violence in God's name and has stressed the need for greater interfaith dialogue. In many ways, the Vatican sees Azerbaijan as a model of religious tolerance given the interfaith harmony that characterizes relations among its Muslims, Christians and Jews.

The Catholic Church where Francis celebrated Mass, for example, was built with the financial help of Muslims and Jews, according to the Salesian priests who preside there. The Azeri government donated

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a plot of land on the outskirts of the capital of Baku after St. John Paul II visited in 2002, but it took the help of non-Christians to get the structure built.

"I cannot contain my boundless joy," parishioner Eva Agalarova, 61, said of Francis' visit. "It is both joy and happiness that the faith gives me."

The half-dozen Salesian priests who minister to Azerbaijani Catholics gave Francis a hand-woven carpet depicting both the church and the Maiden's Tower, a 12th-century bastion in Baku's walled Old City that is probably Azerbaijan's most recognizable structure. Azerbaijan is famed for its magnificent carpets.

Its politics, however, are another story.

Last week, Azerbaijan's Central Election Commission said more than 80 percent of voters in the former Soviet republic backed a constitutional amendment extending the presidential term from five to seven years. Other provisions granted the president the right to dissolve parliament, create new vice presidential jobs and cancel age limits.

Aliyev's opponents, as well as human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Freedom House, said the moves cement a dynastic rule in the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation.

The Azerbaijani government has rejected the criticism, saying the constitutional amendments aimed to cut the red tape and speed up economic reforms.

It wasn't known if Francis would press Aliyev on the issue or broader criticisms of alleged rights abuses and suppression of dissent. The Catholic Church enjoys good relations with the government.

Francis' visit to Azerbaijan comes after a June visit to neighboring Armenia, where he appealed for peace between two former Soviet republics over Nagorno-Karabakh. The region is officially part of Azerbaijan, but since a separatist war ended in 1994, it has been under the control of forces that claim to be local ethnic Armenians but that Azerbaijan claims include the Armenian military.

Zemfira Mamedova, 70, said a hoped-for call for a peaceful resolution was the key expectation of the pope's visit.

"The pope already was in Yerevan several months ago," Mamedova said. "Now we are expecting his call for peace and for the return of our land in Karabakh. This is our most main expectation."

Local Azeri media hasn't given much attention to the visit, but Baku's Muslim residents still welcomed Francis' presence.

"Islam is a tolerant religion and it accepts all faiths," a Muslim woman, Aygun Mikayilova, said. "I will welcome the pope's visit if he is bringing a message of peace, calm and tolerance."

Aliyev, in office since succeeding his father in 2003, has firmly allied the Shiite Muslim nation with the West, helping secure its energy and security interests and offset Russia's influence in the strategic Caspian region.

Follow Nicole Winfield at www.twitter.com/nwinfield

Report: Trump losses may mean he didn't pay taxes for years

By JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's business losses in 1995 were so large that they could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for as many as 18 years, according to records obtained by The New York Times.

In a story published online late Saturday, the Times said it anonymously received the first pages of Trump's 1995 state income tax filings in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The filings show a net loss of \$915,729,293 in federal taxable income for the year.

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That Trump was losing money during the early to mid-1990s — a period marked by bankruptcies and poor business decisions — was already well established. But the records obtained by the Times show losses of such a magnitude that they potentially allowed Trump to avoid paying taxes for years, possibly until the end of the last decade.

Trump's campaign released a statement on Saturday lashing out at the Times for publishing the records and accused the newspaper of working to benefit the Republican nominee's presidential rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"The New York Times, like establishment media in general, is an extension of the Clinton campaign, the Democratic Party and their global special interests," the campaign said, calling Trump "a highly skilled businessman who has a fiduciary responsibility to his business, his family and his employees to pay no more tax than legally required."

The statement added that Trump had paid "hundreds of millions" of dollars in other kinds of taxes over the years.

Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, used the Times story to needle Trump about not releasing his tax returns and contending during his first debate with Clinton that not paying federal income taxes would show he was "smart."

Mook said in a statement that Trump apparently avoided paying taxes for two decades "while tens of millions of working families paid theirs. He calls that 'smart.'" Mook added: "Now that the gig is up, why doesn't he go ahead and release his returns to show us all how 'smart' he really is?"

Since 1976, every major party presidential nominee has released tax returns. Clinton has publicly released nearly 40 years' worth, and Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, has released 10 years of his tax returns.

But after initially saying that he would make his returns public during the course of his campaign, Trump switched course, citing what he said were years of ongoing IRS audits and the advice of his attorneys to keep them private as those audits proceed.

Former IRS officials have expressed skepticism that anyone would be audited so frequently, and they and other tax experts say there's no prohibition on Trump releasing his returns even if he is.

In its story, the Times said the three pages of documents were mailed last month to a Times reporter who had written about Trump's finances. A postmark indicated they had been sent from New York City and the return address claimed the envelope had been sent from Trump Tower, the newspaper said.

Trump's campaign did not directly address the authenticity of the excerpts from Trump's tax filings. Former Trump accountant Jack Mitnick, whose name appears as Trump's tax preparer of the filings, confirmed their authenticity, the newspaper reported.

On the campaign trail, Trump continued to veer from scripted economic arguments to personal attacks on Clinton.

At a rally Saturday night, Trump questioned Clinton's loyalty to her husband, adding an explosive personal charge against his Democratic opponent to a turbulent week when he repeatedly veered off script.

"Hillary Clinton's only loyalty is to her financial contributors and to herself," Trump told thousands gathered in Manheim, Pennsylvania. "I don't think she's even loyal to Bill if you want to know the truth ... Why should she be, right? Why should she be?"

Trump also seized on a leaked recording from a Clinton fundraiser in February, where she expressed empathy for young voters who were siding with her primary opponent, Bernie Sanders, saying that for people who don't see any economic opportunities, the idea that "you could be part of a political revolution is pretty appealing." The hacked recording was published Tuesday by the Washington Free Beacon

Clinton called them "children of the Great Recession" and added: "And they are living in their parents'

basement. They feel that they got their education and the jobs that are available to them are not at all what they envisioned for themselves."

Trump sought to turn her words into a new pitch for Sanders supporters, although Sanders himself has endorsed Clinton and denounced Trump. The businessman contended Saturday that the audio shows Clinton "demeaning and mocking Bernie Sanders and all of his supporters" and added: "To sum up, Hillary Clinton thinks Bernie Sanders supporters are hopeless and ignorant basement dwellers."

Associated Press writers Steve Peoples in Manheim, Pennsylvania, and Catherine Lucey in White Plains, New York contributed to this report.

Boy, 6, dies days after South Carolina school shooting

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A 6-year-old boy who was critically wounded in a school shooting died Saturday, days after a 14-year-old boy opened fire on a school playground, authorities said.

Jacob Hall had been fighting for his life at a hospital after a bullet struck him in a main artery in his leg, causing him a major brain injury due to a "catastrophic" loss of blood, his doctor said. Jacob died about 1 p.m. Saturday, and an autopsy will be done Sunday, Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said.

Authorities say Jacob, another student and a first-grade teacher at Townville Elementary were wounded by the teenager, who had just killed his father at their home. After the slaying, the teen — who is not old enough to have a driver's license — drove a pickup truck about 3 miles down a country road, crashed at the school and started firing with a handgun, authorities said.

The wounded were struck as a door opened for recess. Another teacher who heard the first gunshot was able to get other students safely inside, school officials have said. The other wounded student and the injured teacher, Meghan Hollingsworth, were treated and released from a hospital.

Jacob's parents, Renae and Rodger Hall, thanked the nurses and doctors who cared for Jacob and Hollingsworth, "who put her life on the line to try to protect and save Jacob."

Jacob died surrounded by his family at Greenville Health System Children's Hospital, his parents said in a statement.

"Jacob came into our lives six years and four months ago and changed it completely. He showed us how to love, laugh and smile even on days we did not want to," his parents said. "God gave him to us and he was taken away from us by a senseless act. We know that Jacob has already forgiven this child for what he did to him and his family because that's the kind of child he was."

Authorities have not released a motive for either shooting.

The teenager was charged as a juvenile Friday with murder and three counts of attempted murder. The Associated Press typically does not identify juveniles charged with crimes.

Dr. Keith Webb called Jacob a "tremendous fighter" but said he "unable to overcome the catastrophic blood loss and resulting cardiopulmonary arrest caused when the bullet hit his femoral artery."

Classes at Townville Elementary are set to resume Monday.

Americans take 3-point lead at Ryder Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — The Americans are making all the right moves in this Ryder Cup. Even Tiger Woods.

Europe was riding the momentum as it inched within one point Saturday at Hazeltine. U.S. captain Davis Love III heard conflicting ideas on the radio and by text message from his assistant captains, all

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of them weighing in with the best lineup for the final session of team matches. The question was Patrick Reed and Jordan Spieth, the only Americans who had yet to sit out.

"I finally just said to Tiger, 'Are we playing them or are we sitting them?' He said, 'No, you have to send them back out there,'" Love said.

Reed delivered another moment sure to burnish his growing Ryder Cup reputation.

He was at his bullish best in the anchor match with Jordan Spieth, taking over with great shots and chest-thumping cheers that set the tone for his team and put the Americans on the verge — again — of winning back the cup.

"He's Captain America for us," Spieth said after their 2-and-1 victory over Henrik Stenson and Justin Rose, securing a 9 1/2-6 1/2 lead.

The Americans need only five points from 12 singles matches to win the Ryder Cup for the first time since 2008, and only the third time in the last two decades.

Their biggest challenge now might be history.

They led 10-6 four years ago at Medinah when Europe put together a staggering display of putting and produced the largest comeback by a visiting team in Ryder Cup history. The Europeans refer to that as the "Miracle at Medinah," and they might need another one Sunday.

"We're one closer than we were at Medinah," Rose said. "It's going to be a monumental challenge tomorrow. We're going to put out our lineup and we're going to look at each other man-to-man tomorrow. It's going to be eyeball-to-eyeball on the first tee, no partners, no friends out there on the golf course. Just go out and try to put a point on the board. That's everybody's mission."

The raucous and at times rude crowd at Hazeltine won't have to wait long to get fired up.

Leading off the singles is Reed against Rory McIlroy, who along with Belgian rookie Thomas Pieters has done his part to keep Europe close. McIlroy and Pieters were undefeated as a tandem, combining to go 11-under par in 17 holes of a 3-and-1 victory over Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka, the lone European point in fourballs.

McIlroy shouted "C'MON!" with every putt, even staring at the crowd and daring them to hurl insults, boo or throw anything else his way.

"It's a tough environment for us to come and play in. We expect that," McIlroy said. "It's same for the U.S. guys when they come to play in Europe. You have to keep your concentration out there. It's been a long day and sometimes emotions run high. ... The more they shouted, the better we played.

"I hope they shout at us all day tomorrow."

European captain Darren Clarke described the opening singles match as "mouthwatering" for the crowd.

"I know for a fact that he can't wait to get on that tee tomorrow morning," Clarke said.

Most painful for Clarke was watching his best friend and captain's pick, Lee Westwood, miss crucial short putts on the back nine to cost Europe a valuable point.

Westwood and Masters champion Danny Willett never trailed until they both made bogey on the par-3 17th. Westwood missed a 5-foot par putt to stay all square, and then with a chance to at least earn a halve, he badly missed a 2-foot birdie on the final hole to give J.B. Holmes and Ryan Moore a 1-up victory.

Phil Mickelson, in his 11th straight Ryder Cup, showed he can deliver on the golf course as well as he can run a task force meeting. Lefty produced timely wedges and key putts down the stretch as he and Matt Kuchar combined for nine birdies in a 2-and-1 victory over Sergio Garcia and Martin Kaymer.

The final hour turned solid red on the scoreboard, right when it looked like a putt or two in Europe's favor could have made it a one-point deficit instead of three.

Now, Europe needs another big comeback.

Rose and Stenson had a front-row seat to an exhibition by Reed, who whipped the crowd into even more of a frenzy than it already showed. One down after four holes, Reed played the next four holes in 5 under, including a wedge he holed from the sixth fairway for eagle, winning them all for a 3-up lead.

Their victory was even more important considering they let a sure point get away in foursomes Saturday morning, leading 4 up with six holes to play until Garcia and Rafa Cabrera Bello rallied to earn a halve. Europe only trailed by one point going into the afternoon.

Love said there was no need to bring up Medinah in the team room Saturday night. This whole process has been about looking forward and starting over.

Europe can only hope recent history repeats itself.

"We're going to have to work hard and play very, very well tomorrow," Clarke said. "It's been done before from a worse position. We have a big task ahead of us but the guys are capable of doing it."

Father: Son's killing is a 'turning point' to change police

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP) — The father of an unarmed black man who was fatally shot by police in a San Diego suburb on Saturday told hundreds of demonstrators who peacefully marched through downtown streets that his son's death was a turning point in a struggle to change police practices.

Richard Olango Abuka called the El Cajon officer who fired his gun "a coward" and demanded that Police Chief Jeff Davis resign.

The orderly protest followed days of angry, sometimes unruly, protests that led to Friday's release of two videos by the authorities, something that the family and community had urged.

The videos show the officer fired four times at close range almost immediately after Alfred Olango, 38, suddenly raised both hands to chest level and took what police described as a shooting stance. In addition to the videos, police showed the 4-inch electronic cigarette device Olango had in his hands when he was shot.

The shots came less than a minute after police arrived at the scene in response to Olango's sister calling 911 and reporting he was acting erratically.

There was a modest police presence Saturday to direct traffic as demonstrators walked from one rally to another, shouting Olango's name in unison as they made a short loop through the heart of the city of 104,000 people to Civic Center Plaza, which includes police headquarters. There were no reports of arrests or property damage.

"We must be united in this fight until we achieve our goals," Richard Olango Abuka told the crowd. "Alfred's death is going to be a turning point, and the change is now."

The father didn't directly address the videos but other speakers did. The Rev. Frank Placone-Willey of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in nearby Santee, California, read an email from a parishioner who watched them and questioned if police would have responded less aggressively if Olango were white.

"As long as Mr. Olango was not causing harm other than possibly blocking traffic, the officers should have taken steps to deescalate the situation," Placone-Willey read from the email, sparking applause.

Several speakers said the incident highlighted a need for more police training on how to handle people who are in mental distress.

The incident is the latest in a series of fatal shootings of black men that have roiled communities across the U.S. It came weeks after fatal shootings by police in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Charlotte, North

Carolina.

Olango, a Ugandan refugee who arrived in the U.S. as a boy, had a criminal record that included drug and weapon charges but no violence. His family described him as a loving father and a joyful, happy person.

His mother said he suffered a mental breakdown recently after the death of his best friend. On Tuesday, his sister called 911 and reported he was acting strangely and walking into traffic by a strip mall.

The longer of the two videos released by police came from a surveillance camera in the drive-thru of a restaurant. It is roughly a minute, has no sound and police blurred out the heads of everyone in it.

Olango is seen walking through the parking lot and then stopping suddenly as Officer Richard Gonsalves approached, his weapon drawn at his side.

Olango, his right hand in his pants pocket, moved side to side and backed up toward a white pickup truck.

As Gonsalves moved in from the front, a second officer got out of a cruiser and approached from the side.

In the second video, taken on a cellphone by a witness in the drive-thru, Olango's sister is seen approaching Gonsalves from behind and a woman can be heard screaming at Olango to put up his hands and telling police not to shoot.

Olango then bent over and assumed the shooting stance. Gonsalves quickly fired four shots at close range.

Associated Press writer Julie Watson contributed to this report.

Investigators: No signal problems before New Jersey crash

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP) — Here's what is known about the investigation into a commuter train crash that killed one person and injured more than 100 others Thursday in Hoboken, New Jersey.

THE INVESTIGATION

Federal investigators say there were no problems with signals at a New Jersey station where the commuter train crashed.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Saturday that the signals leading to the Hoboken Terminal appear to be working normally. It says a full study can't be completed yet because the train is still in the station.

Officials say structural issues are preventing work crews from removing the New Jersey Transit train from the terminal.

SAFETY VIOLATIONS-FRA AUDIT

A U.S. government official says the Federal Railroad Administration had investigated New Jersey Transit and found dozens of safety violations months before Thursday's commuter train crash.

The official said Saturday the FRA conducted an audit of New Jersey Transit in June and violations were found. The official says the rail agency also was fined.

A follow-up phase of the audit, focusing on ensuring the railroad's compliance with safety guidelines, was ongoing when the commuter train slammed into Hoboken Terminal Thursday.

THE ENGINEER

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The National Transportation Safety Board says its investigators have spoken with the train's engineer, Thomas Gallagher.

But they declined Saturday to provide further details about the interview.

The agency had held off questioning Gallagher on Friday because he was injured when the train smashed through a steel-and-concrete bumper and hurtled into the station's waiting area.

Investigators from one of the other agencies taking part in the probe interviewed Gallagher, a NJ Transit engineer for about 18 years, three times Friday. Officials wouldn't disclose what Gallagher said but described him as cooperative.

THE BLACK BOX

The NTSB retrieved the event recorder that was in the locomotive at the rear of the train but hasn't been able to download its data and has gone to the manufacturer for help. The event recorder contains speed and braking information.

The NTSB also hasn't been able to extract a recorder from the forward-facing video camera in the train's mangled first car. The wreckage cannot be safely entered yet because it is under a collapsed section of the station's roof.

THE VICTIM

Fabiola Bittar de Kroon, the crash's sole fatality, was a young mother, talented lawyer and dedicated wife with a penchant for travel.

Thursday, the 34-year-old de Kroon was headed to the station during the morning commute. First she dropped off her toddler and had a good, but fleeting, conversation with a day care worker.

A short time later, the train barreled down the tracks with such speed that it plowed into a barrier and went airborne into the station. De Kroon was buried by debris. She died as a crash bystander comforted her.

De Kroon, a 2011 master's degree graduate from Florida International University's College of Business, had previously lived in Florida, but was a Brazil native. She'd temporarily paused her legal career, leaving the software company SAP in Brazil after her husband got a job with an international liquor company.

A friend of Bittar de Kroon's family told the Bergen Record (<http://bit.ly/2cJAjhH>) her husband would accompany his wife's body back to Brazil for burial.

Associated Press writer Bruce Shipkowski in Trenton contributed to this report.

Governor hopefuls distancing themselves from Clinton, Trump

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — In West Virginia, the Democrat running for governor has defended the coal industry while decrying his party's presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton.

In Vermont, the Republican nominee for governor declared his support for transgender bathroom rights and denounced GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Those types of unconventional strategic calculations are helping to make for close races this year in several states.

A dozen governor's offices will be up for grabs in the Nov. 8 elections, including at least seven that appear competitive. The national Republican and Democratic governors associations already have spent

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more than \$25 million in those states, according to an Associated Press analysis of financial reports and interviews.

The number of early TV ads in governor's races is up 40 percent from 2012, according to the Wesleyan Media Project.

Democrats are trying to hold on to offices forced open by term limits or retirements in Missouri, New Hampshire, Vermont and West Virginia. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence's nomination as Trump's running mate added another open office to the competitive list.

The Democrat in Montana and the Republican in North Carolina are the top incumbents facing close contests.

Republicans currently have 31 governorships, three shy of their historic high in the early 1920s. Some of the races to watch:

INDIANA

Even before Pence dropped his re-election bid to become Trump's running mate, Indiana Republicans seeking to retain the governor's office were facing a tough rematch from Democrat John Gregg, a former House speaker who narrowly lost to Pence in 2012.

Pence was replaced on the ballot by Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb, who was appointed to his post in March. Holcomb has said he is happy to run on Pence's record. That's been turned into an attack ad by Democrats eager to exploit Pence's unpopularity among some voters because of his embrace of conservative social issues such as a religious rights law.

The Republican governors association already has routed \$2.8 million to Holcomb while trying to tie Gregg to Clinton.

Gregg has distanced himself from Clinton and affirmed his support for the coal industry. He has been aided with \$1.3 million so far from the national Democratic governors group.

MISSOURI

Republicans view Missouri as perhaps their best chance for a pickup. Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon is leaving office because of term limits, and the state has been trending Republican in legislative and presidential elections even as Democrats have held the governor's office for all but four of the past 24 years.

The Republican Governors Association has poured more than \$4.2 million into the coffers of former Navy SEAL officer Eric Greitens after he won a four-way GOP primary in August.

But the Democratic nominee, Attorney General Chris Koster, has been running like a Republican on key issues. Koster was a GOP state senator until switching parties in 2007. He's won endorsements this year from the National Rifle Association and Missouri's major agricultural organizations, all of whom typically support Republicans.

Koster backed the GOP Legislature's hallmark accomplishment — a 2014 income tax cut enacted by overriding Nixon's veto — and also sided with Republicans when they overrode Nixon's veto of a gun-rights law this September.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The race to replace Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan will be conducted in the shadow of Hassan's quest to oust Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

Democrats have controlled the governor's office for 18 of the past 20 years, and Democratic candidate Colin Van Ostern is pledging to build on Hassan's record.

Republican Chris Sununu comes with strong name identification as the son of former Gov. John H. Sununu and the brother of former U.S. Sen. John E. Sununu. He's positioned himself a bit to the left by backing abortion rights and supporting funding for Planned Parenthood after rejecting it last year.

The governor's race could be influenced by the state's status as a presidential battleground.

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The Republican Governors Association already has reserved \$3 million of air time in the Boston media market for the final weeks before New Hampshire's election, while Democrats say they reserved more than \$4 million of TV ad time.

VERMONT

As a Democrat, Sue Minter begins with what would appear to be a natural advantage in a liberal state that is home to independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist.

Minter is a former state lawmaker and transportation secretary for retiring Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin.

But Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, the only Republican statewide officeholder, has made this race close by tacking to the left. A part-time race-car driver, Scott has wide name recognition and has denounced Trump as "someone who exploits fear for political gain" and "who is willing to overlook the truth."

Scott supports abortion rights and gay marriage, and said during a debate that transgender students should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice.

WEST VIRGINIA

Republican nominee Bill Cole has linked himself closely to Trump, who is popular in West Virginia because of his pledge to revive the coal industry. The state Senate president is aided by West Virginia's trend toward Republicans in recent legislative and presidential elections.

Still, Democrats have won the last five elections for governor. Their candidate this year is Jim Justice, a billionaire coal and agricultural businessman who has been leading in the polls to replace term-limited Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

Justice has loaned his campaign more than \$2.6 million and, like Trump, casts himself as a political outsider with a record of creating jobs. That includes his purchase and revival of one of the state's biggest tourist draws, The Greenbrier resort. Justice has refused to endorse Clinton.

MONTANA

Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock is facing a re-election challenge from Republican businessman Greg Gianforte in a state that has favored Republicans in presidential and state legislative elections.

Gianforte, who made a fortune selling his cloud-based software firm to Oracle in 2011, has donated \$1.6 million toward his campaign while pledging to match all other contributions dollar-for-dollar. The Republican Governors Association has attempted to link Bullock to Clinton, noting in an ad that both used private email accounts.

The Democratic Governors Association has come to Bullock's defense with more than \$2.5 million so far.

NORTH CAROLINA

The top target for both Democrats and Republicans, the North Carolina governor's race already has seen millions of dollars in advertising from candidates and outside groups.

A state law that limits anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people and directs transgender people to use public restrooms matching the gender on their birth certificate has dominated the political discourse since it was signed by GOP Gov. Pat McCrory earlier this year.

Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper, who has held the office since 2001, has declined to defend the law and vowed to try repealing it as governor.

While defeating an incumbent is difficult, the Democratic Governors Association views North Carolina as its best chance to flip an office currently held by a Republican. Cooper has outraised McCrory in four straight reporting periods dating to early 2015.

Associated Press writers Dave Gram and Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont; Jonathan Mattise in

Charleston, West Virginia; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Kathleen Ronayne in Concord, New Hampshire; Brian Slodysko in Indianapolis; and Matt Volz in Helena, Montana, contributed to this report.

UK prime minister says Britain will launch Brexit by April

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May said Sunday that Britain would trigger the formal process for leaving the European Union before April, putting to rest weeks of speculation on the timing of the move.

May confirmed her plans in an interview with the BBC ahead of a speech at her Conservative Party's annual conference in Birmingham.

"I will be saying in my speech today that we will trigger before the end of March next year," she said.

While the prime minister previously had hinted she planned to initiate Britain's EU exit early next year, many observers had speculated she would wait until France's presidential election ends in May.

Britain voted in a June referendum to leave the EU, but has not formally notified the bloc of its intentions by invoking the article of the EU treaty that would trigger negotiations. Doing so will launch two years of talks to work out the details of Britain's future relationship with the single market.

While the 2-year timetable is mandated by the EU treaty, it can be extended by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the bloc.

The prime minister also said she would ask Parliament to repeal the European Communities Act, which automatically makes EU rules the law of the land in Britain.

May said her government instead would incorporate all EU laws into British law and then repeal measures as necessary on a case-by-case basis.

"That means that the United Kingdom will be an independent, sovereign nation," she said. "It will be making its own laws."

May said that by offering a timetable now, she hopes to encourage the two sides to engage in preliminary work that would help the negotiations go smoothly once they begin. EU leaders so far have rejected any such discussions.

One of the biggest sticking points in any talks will be immigration. The free movement of labor is a founding principle of the EU, and millions of EU citizens live and work in Britain.

The perception that immigrants have strained public services and changed the face of many communities was a factor for many British citizens who voted to leave the EU. May said she intends to heed public opinion on that point.

"Apart from the message of leaving the European Union, I think there was also a clear message from the British people that they wanted us to control movement of people from the EU coming into the UK, so we will deliver on that," she said.

Uncertainty over Philippine president alarms investors

By TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody anti-drug war and his foul-mouthed outbursts in defense of the campaign have unnerved foreign investors in one of Asia's fastest-growing economies.

Analysts and businessmen point to uncertainties about Duterte's policies and flip-flopping pronouncements as largely to blame for foreign selling in the stock market and the peso's plunge to a seven-year

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low, reversing the initial optimism after his June 30 inauguration.

Some experts say unpredictability is slowing longer-term foreign investment in the Philippines. Photos and reports in the media of killings of suspected drug dealers and users — more than 3,000 since July 1 — have contributed to sagging confidence.

"We can all deal with risks. We can put measures in place to provide for risks," said Guenter Taus, the head of the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines. "But uncertainty is a factor that we do not like in business, and that is exactly what we're experiencing right now because we don't know where we are heading."

Taus said several companies that had intended to establish operations to the Philippines now prefer to wait and see what happens under Duterte. He declined to say which companies had changed their plans.

He said investors unsure about the Philippines may choose to look at other Southeast Asian countries to gain access to the region's common market of more than 600 million people.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said in September that while the country's economic fundamentals are strong and its potential high, there is growing concern that Duterte's policies and behavior could affect long-standing optimism by American businesses in the Philippines.

The chamber said that the large number of deaths in the anti-drug campaign is harming the Philippines' image, and that some investors are asking if the drug war "reduces the rule of law."

"In addition, traditionally excellent bilateral relations between the U.S. and the Philippines have recently been strained by language from Philippine leaders," the chamber said.

Last month, before heading to a regional summit in Laos where he had been scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama, Duterte used the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bitch" as he told Philippine reporters he wouldn't accept questions from Obama about extrajudicial killings that have occurred during the drug crackdown. Obama cancelled the meeting.

After the European Parliament recently called for an end to the drug killings and expressed concern over the scale of deaths, Duterte hit back with a profane insult and raised a fist with his middle finger thrust out. And this week Duterte said U.S.-Philippine joint military exercises end this year, though his foreign minister said later that they will continue until 2017 as previously agreed.

On several fronts, Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with Western countries, including the United States, an important treaty ally. He has said he's charting a foreign policy that is not dependent on the U.S., and has taken steps to bolster relations with Russia and revive ties with China that had been strained under his predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, over territorial conflicts.

He said he won't allow government forces to conduct joint patrols of disputed waters near the South China Sea with foreign powers, apparently scrapping a deal Aquino reached with the U.S. military earlier this year. Duterte has also said he wants U.S. forces out of the southern Philippines, saying minority Muslims there resent the presence of American troops.

All of this has raised concerns about a Philippine economy that grew 7 percent in the second quarter and 6.9 percent over the first half of the year compared to the same periods last year — among the fastest rates in the region.

The credit-rating agency S&P Global warned Sept. 20 that the stability and predictability of policymaking in the Philippines "has diminished somewhat under the new presidency." It kept the country's credit rating at investment grade, with a stable outlook, but said that rating was unlikely to rise over the next two years.

Last Monday, the peso hit its lowest level against the dollar since September 2009. It fell further Friday, closing at 48.50 pesos per U.S. dollar.

Central bank Deputy Gov. Diwa Guinigundo said foreign direct investment continues to grow. It stood

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at \$4 billion for January to June this year compared to \$2.2 billion for the same period a year ago. He noted that while Duterte became president June 30, his election victory came nearly two months earlier.

"As far as fundamentals are concerned I think they are outstanding fundamentals, but then the sentiment is something else," he told reporters late Wednesday on the sidelines of an economic forum. Sentiment is driven by both external and domestic factors and it's difficult to attribute negative sentiment to a specific factor like Duterte's statements, he added.

Guinigundo said the government's economic program follows the broad strokes that have produced 70 quarters of economic growth, low and stable inflation and a healthy banking system. "And yet the stock market is dropping and the exchange rate is moving consecutively down such as we are now the worst-performing currency in the region," he said.

Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said Wednesday that the depreciation of the peso is a result of the strengthening of the dollar more than the weakening of the local currency, and should not be a cause for concern.

But Joey Cuyegkeng, ING Bank's senior economist in Manila, said the peso was the only Asian currency that slid in the third week of September, despite favorable economic reports, including an increased balance of payment surplus in August.

Presidential spokesman Martin Andanar said that the fundamentals of the economy are solid and strong, and that the anti-drug campaign will enhance the Philippines' image to attract more foreign investment.

In a speech to troops the day after the S&P Global warning was released, Duterte shrugged off the agency's remarks. He said if business and the economy are affected, "so be it."

"Get out, then we start on our own," he said, apparently referring to Western investors. "I can go to China. I can go to Russia. I had a talk with them. They are waiting for me. So what the hell."

This story has been corrected with dates of chamber statement, Laos summit and S&P Global's warning.

Prince William and Kate finish Canadian tour in Victoria, BC

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Prince George left another Canadian hanging on a high-five and handshake, a week after doing the same to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The 3-year-old George, wearing red shorts and a blue sweater with knee-high blue socks, enthusiastically waved to the crowd with both hands on Saturday just before he, his sister and their parents boarded a sea plane at a departure ceremony at the end of an official tour of Western Canada.

The shy future king declined a high-five and hand shake of a flower boy named Daniel Brachman. He looked toward his dad Prince William instead. When George arrived a week ago at the Victoria airport, he also left Trudeau hanging on a high-five and a handshake.

The departure ceremony on Saturday offered the only chance for public crowds to see George and 1-year-old Charlotte on the trip. The media had access to them two other times — at the airport arrival ceremony and a children's party for military families.

Prince William and Kate expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome they received from Canadians as they wrapped up their tour of Canada, a former British colony. William said the trip was memorable because it was their first official trip abroad as a family of four.

"We feel very lucky to have been able to introduce George and Charlotte to Canada," William said in a statement. "This country will play a big part in the lives of our children and we have created such

happy memories for our family during this visit.”

Earlier Saturday, William and Kate unveiled a statue in Victoria, British Columbia, that honors those who overcome challenges at the Cridge Centre for the Family, a nonprofit that offers programs for people with brain injuries and victims of domestic violence and provides health care.

The royal couple have advocated for a number of the same social causes in the U.K. Much of their tour of British Columbia and the Yukon has focused on social and mental health issues as William began the visit by saying he and Kate wanted to meet Canadians from all walks of life.

During their tour, the royal couple visited Vancouver’s most impoverished neighborhood, participated in aboriginal ceremonies in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, and met residents of the small community of Carcross, Yukon.

William and Kate’s last stop was on board the tall ship Pacific Grace, operated by the Sail and Life Training Society, a charity that teaches young people ages 13 to 25 to sail.

Aboard the ship were youth involved in programs run by Jack.org, a charity that supports student leadership in promoting mental health. The Pacific Grace took the royal couple on a cruise of Victoria’s inner harbor. When it returned, Kate could be seen at the helm.

There were also gifts on the final day of the visit as British Columbia Premier Christy Clark presented William and Kate with child-sized jerseys for the Vancouver Canucks National Hockey League team with Charlotte and George printed on the backs.

Canada’s federal government announced a donation of CA\$100,000 (US\$76,000) to be split equally between two organizations to mark the visit.

Half of the donation will go to promote education in indigenous communities and help young people, while the other half will be donated to the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia to help new arrivals with housing, employment and language skills.

Pakistanis turn flag ceremony near Indian border into rally

By MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

WAGHA, Pakistan (AP) — A routine daily flag-lowering ceremony at an Indian-Pakistani border crossing became a show of strength and patriotism Saturday on the Pakistani side thanks to simmering tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

Thousands of Pakistanis thronged the border town of Wagha to watch their soldiers lower the flag. The ceremony takes place daily and features a formal set of handshakes between Indian and Pakistani soldiers. Very few people attended from the Indian side.

Saturday’s ceremony took on extra meaning because of an ongoing dispute between India and Pakistan over the contested territory of Kashmir. Both countries claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety and are separated by the heavily guarded Line of Control.

Since 2003, a cease-fire has largely held despite regular small-scale skirmishes. Each side routinely blames the other for starting any violence and insists they are only retaliating.

India blamed Pakistani-supported Kashmir-based militants for a deadly Sept. 18 assault on a base in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 17 Indian soldiers.

On Sept. 29, the Indian military claimed to have carried out a “surgical strike” across the Kashmir border that destroyed what it called a “terrorist launching pad” used by Kashmir-based militants. Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in that barrage.

The latest spike in tensions has spilled over into a cultural and political stand-off. The Indian Motion Picture Artists Association announced it would ban Pakistani actors from Bollywood movies and several large Pakistani cinema chains announced they would stop showing Indian movies.

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Saturday's ceremony began with the march of two female border guards. Then a Pakistani Sikh soldier shook hands with his Indian counterpart; the soldier also shook his fist aggressively at the Indian soldier as the Pakistani crowd clapped in approval.

Among those who travelled to witness the ceremony Saturday was 70-year-old Mohammad Ahsan, who said he came from southern port city of Karachi.

"I am so happy that I saw today's parade and flag lowering ceremony. The way our soldiers sprint and march is a rare experience of my life," he said, as his daughters and others chanted, "long live Pakistan."

Anam Fatima, 17, said she came to Wagha along with her classmates and teachers to boost the morale of Pakistani soldiers.

"I did not know that our soldiers are so handsome, tall and brave and I saw them today closely and God willing no one can defeat our brave nation," she said.

5 decisions that made the Nobel Prizes look bad

By **KARL RITTER, Associated Press**

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Nobel Prizes cannot be revoked, so the judges must put a lot of thought into their selections for the six awards, which will be announced in the next two weeks.

A discovery might seem groundbreaking today, but will it stand the test of time?

Prize founder Alfred Nobel wanted to honor those whose discoveries created "the greatest benefit to mankind." Here are five Nobel Prize decisions that, in hindsight, seem questionable:

When a German who organized poison gas attacks won the chemistry prize

Fritz Haber was awarded the 1918 chemistry award for discovering how to create ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen gases. His method was used to manufacture fertilizers and delivered a major boost to agriculture worldwide.

But the Nobel committee completely overlooked Haber's role in chemical warfare during World War I. Enthusiastically supporting the German war effort, he supervised the first major chlorine gas attack at Ypres, Belgium, in 1915, which killed thousands of Allied troops.

When the medicine committee awarded a cancer discovery that wasn't

Danish scientist Johannes Fibiger won the 1926 medicine award for discovering that a roundworm caused cancer in rats.

There was only one problem: the roundworm didn't cause cancer in rats.

Fibiger insisted his research showed that rats ingesting worm larvae by eating cockroaches developed cancer. At the time when he won the prize, the Nobel judges thought that made perfect sense.

It later turned out the rats developed cancer from a lack of vitamin A.

Oops.

When chemistry prize honored man who found use for DDT, which was later banned

The 1948 medicine prize to Swiss scientist Paul Mueller honored a discovery that ended up doing both good and bad.

Mueller didn't invent dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, or DDT, but he discovered that it was a powerful pesticide that could kill lots of flies, mosquitoes and beetles in a short time.

The compound proved very effective in protecting agricultural crops and fighting insect-borne diseases like Typhus and Malaria. DDT saved hundreds of thousands of lives and helped eradicate malaria

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from southern Europe.

But in the 1960s environmentalists found that DDT was poisoning wildlife and the environment. The U.S. banned DDT in 1972 and in 2001 it was banned by an international treaty, though exemptions are allowed for some countries fighting malaria.

When the man who invented lobotomy won the medicine prize

Carving up people's brains may have seemed like a good idea at the time. But in hindsight, rewarding Portuguese scientist Antonio Egas Moniz in 1949 for inventing lobotomy to treat mental illness wasn't the Nobel Prizes' finest hour.

The method became very popular in the 1940s, and at the award ceremony it was praised as "one of the most important discoveries ever made in psychiatric therapy."

But it had serious side effects: some patients died and others were left severely brain damaged. Even operations that were considered successful left patients unresponsive and emotionally numb.

The method declined quickly in the 1950s as drugs to treat mental illness became widespread and it's used very seldom today.

When India's Mahatma Gandhi didn't win the peace prize

The Indian independence leader, considered one of history's great champions of non-violent struggle, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize no fewer than five times. He never won.

The peace prize committee, which rarely concedes a mistake, eventually acknowledged that not awarding Gandhi was an omission.

In 1989 — 41 years after Gandhi's death — the Nobel committee chairman paid tribute to Gandhi as he presented that year's award to the Dalai Lama.

Angry Brazilian voters looking to upend political order

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — In Brazil's biggest city of Sao Paulo, the leading mayoral candidate is a businessman who once fired people on air during a television reality show. In the country's crown jewel city of Rio de Janeiro, the front-runner is an evangelical pastor. And in Belo Horizonte, a former pro soccer player is leading the pack.

For the first time since a bruising impeachment fight led to the ouster of President Dilma Rousseff, Brazilians will get to vote on Sunday as municipal elections take place in more than 5,500 cities. If polls are any indication, voters are in a kick-the-bums-out mood, preferring novices to established politicians amid a deep recession and anger about a colossal corruption scheme that has led to the jailing of several top politicians.

"I don't want any of these traditional politicians. Not the current mayor, the ex-mayor, anyone who has governed before," said Maria Fernandes, a hairdresser in Sao Paulo who plans to vote for Joao Doria, an ex-host of "The Apprentice Brazil" who uses the slogan "I am not a politician, I am a businessman."

Outsiders like Doria seem to be on the upswing in Latin America's largest country, where major parties had long kept tight control on which candidates get put forward.

In the 26 state capitals where mayoral seats are at stake, only five incumbents are polling above the 50 percent necessary to avoid a runoff, according to polls aggregated by online news site UOL. Many candidates are going out of their way to present themselves as outsiders uncorrupted by the business-as-usual way of doing things that led to arguably the country's biggest political crisis since President Fernando Collor was impeached in 1992.

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In August, Rousseff was removed by the Senate for illegally shifting funds between federal budgets. The ouster was the culmination of a nearly yearlong fight that paralyzed Latin America's largest economy, already mired in its worst recession in decades.

Rousseff denied wrongdoing, arguing that an elite class, furious over the social welfare policies of her Workers' Party, was pulling off a modern-day coup d'état. The battle came against the background of revelations of a massive kickback scheme at state oil company Petrobras.

Fabio Wanderley Reis, a political science professor at Minas Gerais Federal University, said candidates who reject traditional politics are mirroring an overwhelming feeling among Brazilians.

"Politics are being criminalized in part by the politicians themselves," said Reis. He said that if outsiders triumph in the mayoral elections, "it could be a trend for the presidential elections in 2018."

One of the biggest upsets could be in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, the country's economic engine and traditionally a bellwether for the national stage. Even a year ago, incumbent Fernando Haddad of the Workers' Party was talked about as a leading contender for the presidency in 2018. Now Haddad is struggling just to qualify for a runoff.

Polls show a clear lead for Doria, a communications mogul who hosted a Brazilian version of Donald Trump's show "The Apprentice" and has owned magazines such as "Caviar Lifestyle."

Haddad is tangled in a three-way battle for second with TV consumer advocate Celso Russomano and former Mayor Marta Suplicy.

In Rio, the front-runner is Sen. Marcelo Crivella, an evangelical pastor known for religious songs on YouTube with titles like "Jesus Cures" and "I'm Israel." Crivella has run and lost in previous mayoral and gubernatorial elections.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil's sixth biggest city, former Atletico Mineiro goalkeeper Joao Leite is in a tight race with former Atletico Mineiro chairman Alexandre Kalil, whose slogan is even more anti-establishment than Doria's: "Enough of politicians. Vote for Kalil."

To be sure, career politicians are fighting back, arguing that governing takes a lot more than slick speeches and promises to upend the establishment.

"This could lead to an even bigger adventure that Brazil cannot afford," Haddad warned, adding that the way his opponents were presenting themselves was "no more than a trick."

Fernandes, the hairdresser, said such warnings are meaningless because they come from a corrupted political class.

"At least I know that (Doria) is going to dismantle the corruption schemes and he is already rich, which means he won't steal anything," she said, then added, "I mean, I think he won't."

13 dead, 20 still missing in China after typhoon landslides

BEIJING (AP) — Thirteen people have been confirmed dead in two landslides after a major typhoon lashed southeastern China, with the prospect of the toll rising further as rescue crews continued Saturday to search for 20 missing people.

The landslides Wednesday in Zhejiang province, south of the financial hub of Shanghai, followed Typhoon Megi, which brought heavy rains and high winds to China and Taiwan this past week.

Eight people were confirmed dead in Sucun village, according to a government statement published Saturday. Video published by the official Xinhua News Agency shows fast flood waters carrying rocks and debris down a mountain and into the adjacent hamlet, destroying homes and sending people fleeing.

The statement says 19 people are still missing three days later.

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The second landslide in Wencheng county killed five people, with one person still missing, an official at the county's flood control office said Saturday.

A photo published Friday afternoon by the official China News Service shows People's Liberation Army soldiers using picks to dig through mud, rocks and fallen trees.

In Taiwan, five people died in falls and other accidents during the storm, and the bodies of three people were discovered in a home swamped by a landslide in southern Kaohsiung county.

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 2, the 276th day of 2016. There are 90 days left in the year. The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 2, 1941, during World War II, German armies launched an all-out drive against Moscow; Soviet forces succeeded in holding onto their capital.

On this date:

In 1780, British spy John Andre was hanged in Tappan, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

In 1835, the first battle of the Texas Revolution took place as American settlers fought Mexican soldiers near the Guadalupe River; the Mexicans ended up withdrawing.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a serious stroke at the White House that left him paralyzed on his left side.

In 1939, the Benny Goodman Sextet (which included Lionel Hampton) made their first recording, "Flying Home," for Columbia.

In 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

In 1955, the suspense anthology "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1959, Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone" made its debut on CBS-TV.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally welcomed Japan's Emperor Hirohito to the United States during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

In 1985, actor Rock Hudson, 59, died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, after battling AIDS.

In 1996, an AeroPeru Boeing 757 crashed into the Pacific Ocean, killing all 61 passengers and nine crew members on board.

In 2002, the Washington D.C.-area sniper attacks began, setting off a frantic manhunt lasting three weeks. (John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were finally arrested for 10 killings and three woundings; Muhammad was executed in 2009; Malvo was sentenced to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Charles Carl Roberts IV, a milk truck driver, took a group of girls hostage in an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, fatally shooting five of them before committing suicide. Americans Andrew Z. Fire and Craig C. Mello won the Nobel Prize in medicine. Actress Tamara Dobson died in Baltimore at age 59.

Five years ago: Syrian dissidents formally established a broad-based national council designed to overthrow President Bashar Assad's regime, which they accused of pushing the country to the brink of civil war.

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One year ago: President Barack Obama said he wouldn't sign another temporary government funding bill after the current one expired Dec. 11, insisting that congressional Republicans and Democrats work out a long-term budget deal with the White House. Secretary of Education Arne (AR'-nee) Duncan announced his resignation, which President Obama reluctantly accepted. Irish playwright Brian Friel, 86, died in County Donegal. Former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, 78, who was deposed in 1988 after challenging then-dictator Manuel Noriega, died in Cleveland, Ohio.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer-musician Leon Rausch (Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys) is 89. Retired MLB All-Star Maury Wills is 84. Movie critic Rex Reed is 78. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 71. Cajun/country singer Jo-el Sonnier (sahn-YAY') is 70. Actor Avery Brooks is 68. Fashion designer Donna Karan is 68. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 67. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 66. Singer-actor Sting is 65. Actress Robin Riker is 64. Actress Lorraine Bracco is 62. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 62. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Freddie Jackson is 58. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 58. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 54. Former NFL quarterback Mark Rypien is 54. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 49. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 49. Country singer Kelly Willis is 48. Actor Joey Slotnick is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 46. Actress-talk show host Kelly Ripa (TV: "Live with Kelly") is 46. Singer Tiffany is 45. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 43. Actor Efrén Ramirez is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 43. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "American Idol") is 40. Actress Brianna Brown is 37. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 34. Tennis player Marion Bartoli is 32. Actor Christopher Larkin is 29. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 28. Actress Samantha Barks is 26. Actress Elizabeth McLaughlin is 23.

Thought for Today: "Heresy is another word for freedom of thought." — Graham Greene, English writer (1904-1991).