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Monday, October 3

School Lunch: Chicken drumstick, tiny baked potato, carrots and dip, fruit.

School Breakfast: Egg wrap, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.

State Golf in Rapid City

Oral Interp at Milbank

Volleyball with Langford Area at Groton (7th and 8th play at 4:30 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. with the varsity match to follow).

JV football game at Sisseton has been cancelled

7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, Oct. 4

School Lunch: Submarines, sweet potato tots, fruit.

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

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breaes, creamy noodles, spinach salad, baked apple slices, dinner roll.

State Golf Meet in Rapid City

Volleyball at Frederick (7th at 4:30, 8th at 5:30, JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow)

1:30 pm: St. John's Good Cheer Circle

7:00 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Call Committee meets

Apts for Rent

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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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Many Groton Area activities are Livestreamed by the



605/397-NEWS (6397)

Your Main Source for Community News, Sports and Important Announcements

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

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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)

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GHS 55TH CLASS REUNION

GHS class of 1961 had their 55th class reunion on Jungle Day, on Base Kamp Lodge, on Main street. Classmates came from Groton, and far away as Florida. 1961 homecoming king, Dennis Swanson, Florida; and queen, Joyce Ragels Darling, Deadwood were honored. Joyce Ragels Darling and Lee Schinkel were co-chairmen of the reunion. The class held their 50th in Groton, five years ago, and already planning their 60th reunion.

General election ballot to test voters with 10 questions

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

South Dakota voters will face a broad menu of potential law changes on this year's election ballot.

Ten separate ballot issues will seek answers to questions such as:

- How much should a teenager earn on the job?
- Should Democrat and Republican party labels come off the ballot?
- What, if anything, should happen to payday lending in South Dakota?

In addition to three initiated laws, there are five proposed Constitutional amendments and two referred laws.

Here is a breakdown of what is at stake:

Two measures that deal with regulations on the payday loan industry are probably the most familiar of this year's ballot issues.

Initiated Measure 21 would cap interest rates on payday loans at 36 percent.

Amendment U would provide for an 18 percent cap on payday loans, but also allow unlimited interest rates by written agreement with the borrower.

Less familiar, perhaps, are other measures including:

Amendment S. Known as Marsy's Law, this measure would give crime victims' certain rights, including the right to notice when criminal perpetrators have court hearings or are scheduled for release from custody.

Amendment R would create a new oversight system for the state's four technical schools. The schools would be governed by a board, set up by the legislature, independent of local school boards and the Board of Regents.

Initiated Measure 23 would allow organizations, including labor unions, to charge fees to non-members for services provided.

Two laws passed by the legislature have been referred to the ballot. Voters will decide if the laws go into effect.

Referred Law 19 involves changes legislators made to election procedures, including requirements for obtaining petition signatures and filing deadlines for the petitions.

Referred Law 20 sets a youth minimum wage at \$7.50 an hour, less than the \$8.55 per hour rate voters approved in the 2014 election.

Two measures could make substantive changes to election and campaign laws.

Initiated Measure 22 would allow public money to be used in political campaigns. It would also set new campaign finance and lobbyist spending limits and create an ethics commission.

Amendment V would set nonpartisan elections for federal, state and county offices in South Dakota. All candidates would run on one primary ballot and the top two vote getters regardless of political party would move on to the general election.

Amendment T would change the way legislative district boundaries are determined, transferring the responsibility for setting boundaries from a committee of legislatures to a bipartisan panel of voters.

Early voting for the general election began Sept. 23. Election day is Nov. 8.

You can learn more about the questions on the 2016 general election ballot at the South Dakota Secretary of State's website.

Victims' rights, tech schools among 10 ballot measures

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

Crime victims would be told when perpetrators appear in court or get out of jail under proposed Constitutional Amendment S on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

Proponents say the measure, known as Marsy's Law, is needed to protect crime victims and to allow them to participate in the judicial process.

But opponents say the victims-right measure is too expansive and would drain county budgets while stressing prosecutors.

The measure is named for Marsalee (Marsy) Nicholas, a California university student who was stalked and killed by an ex-boyfriend. Her family members saw the accused man in a store a week later. They did not know he had been released from jail.

Nicholas' brother pushed for the bill's passage in California. Illinois also has approved it and it has been proposed in seven states in addition to South Dakota.

Proponents say the amendment offers crime victims constitutional protections already afforded to accused offenders.

"No rapist should have stronger rights than their victim," said Jason Glodt, the state director of Marsy's Law for South Dakota in an email.

In addition to requiring notifications, the proposed amendment would guarantee victims input into the prosecution of their cases and would allow them to confer with prosecutors before any plea agreement was finalized.

The South Dakota State's Attorneys Association and State Bar of South Dakota have opposed the measure. Representatives of those organizations say its requirement for prosecutors to notify and involve crime victims in all cases will be time-consuming and could potentially interfere with prosecutors' ability to spend time on the most serious crimes.

And, says Ryan Kolbeck, a Sioux Falls lawyer, the extensive notice requirements will cost budget-strapped county governments money they don't have.

"The counties are broke," Kolbeck, president of the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense lawyers, said in an email. "If this passes, the counties will bear the responsibility of the majority of the costs of enforcing."

Kolbeck said expensive enhancements would need to be made to the statewide computer court records system in order to provide the required notice and to allow more expansive tracking of court cases.

Opponents say state law currently provides rights to victims of violent crime. Any possible expansions would be better made through the legislative process, not through constitutional amendment. In addition, they say some of the proposed law's provisions could conflict with the rights of the accused.

But Glodt said existing crime victim protections currently apply only to those who are victims of certain serious crimes. Victims of arson, simple assault and hate crimes, for example, are not included in the protections.

South Dakota is "one of the last remaining states to pass constitutional rights for crime victims." Glodt said.

Thirty-two states have at least some protections for victims written into their constitutions.

AMENDMENT R - New governance for technical institutes

South Dakota's four technical institutes are essential players in the state's continuing efforts to develop and attract workers.

Constitutional Amendment R would put into the state constitution a new governing structure for those schools.

Supporters of the amendment say the current system of oversight for Lake Area Technical Institute, Mitchell Technical Institute, Southeast Technical Institute and Western Dakota Technical Institute doesn't

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allow them to be focused exclusively on workforce training needs.

Amendment R would shift responsibility for that oversight from local K-12 school boards to a new governing board determined by the legislature. The new board would not be under the South Dakota Board of Regents, which has oversight of the state's public universities.

Tech schools have a different mission than the degree-granting universities, supporters say.

Proponents say the change would help the technical institutes be more responsive in developing skills training as needed to meet the state's workforce needs.

Rep. Mark Mickelson, Sioux Falls, said in an email that the amendment would provide for "dedicated decision making" for technical education issues.

Such a change would necessitate the establishment of a new, unelected governing board that would be heavily influenced by lobbyists and favored industries, according to Rep. Elizabeth May, of Kyle, who opposes the change.

She also pointed to concerns that other laws ultimately might shift the cost of technical schools from the state budget onto local governments.

Mickelson said details on the governing board structure are yet to be decided, but it "would likely consist of a citizen board" with some employer representation.

The technical schools and the Board of Regents as well as state business and industry representatives support the proposed changes.

Ten questions are on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. You can learn more about the various ballot questions at the S.D. Secretary of State's website.

-30-

Campaign finance, nonpartisan elections are two ballot questions

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

South Dakota voters will have the opportunity to completely overhaul the state's election system, potentially doing away with the current primary system and infusing public funding into campaigns.

Those are key elements of two significant election reform issues - Initiated Measure 22 and Constitutional Amendment V - on the 2016 ballot.

Initiated Measure 22 would rewrite campaign finance laws to limit contributions, require additional reporting, regulate lobbyist activities, create an ethics commission and set up a system for publicly funded campaigns.

Amendment V would provide for nonpartisan ballots in federal, state and county elections.

Proponents of both measures say the political system needs reform because current laws stymie public participation in elections and limit candidates for public office.

"We aren't going to drive big money out of politics, but we want to reduce the influence of big money in politics," said Don Frankenfeld, a former legislator from Rapid City and co-chair of the Initiated Measure 22 campaign.

A much-discussed portion of the measure would set up a publicly funded campaign finance program. Each registered voter would receive two, \$50 credits. Voters could assign those credits to participating candidates who would then redeem them for money from a fund set up by the state. That fund would be capped at \$12 million, according to the proposed law.

"You become literally invested," Frankenfeld said of the financing system, adding that voters are then more likely to participate in the process.

He thinks the measure could have national significance as states look to institute similar reforms.

Ben Lee, state director for the South Dakota Chapter of Americans for Prosperity and chairman of Defeat22, disagrees.

"It isn't what it appears to be," he said of the proposed law.

Using taxpayer money to fund election campaigns and potentially pay for robocalls, ads and other ma-

terials is "simply wrong," he said.

Lee called the 34-page ballot measure, a "monster" of a policy change that would affect more than 70 state laws.

And, since the credit program is topped at \$12 million, only 120,000 of the state's more than 535,000 registered voters could take part, he noted. Everyone's tax dollars would go into the fund, but only one in five would determine how the money was spent, Lee said.

Frankenfeld acknowledged that the measure is lengthy, but says the various parts of the proposal work together.

Campaign contribution caps and disclosure requirements will limit the involvement and influence of special interests and reduce their control on elections, proponents say.

"We hope to empower average voters to participate in the election process," Frankenfeld said.

South Dakota is the only state that does not limit gifts lobbyists can give to elected officials, he said. This measure would add those limits.

Lee said the general fund appropriation that would go to the campaign fund means less tax money will be available for other state needs.

The added disclosure requirements go too far, as well, he said, and would limit privacy rights of individuals.

AMENDMENT V - Adopt nonpartisan elections

Advocates of Amendment V want to eliminate the state's partisan primary and general election system. Democrats and Republicans currently vote in primaries to select candidates who then represent their parties on the general election ballot.

This amendment would create nonpartisan elections, instead. Candidates for elected federal, state and county offices would not be identified by party affiliation on primary or general election ballots.

Voters could vote for any candidate. The top two candidates with the most votes would advance to the general election.

Supporters of the measure say it would mean more candidates and more voters, which are good things, according to Joe Kirby, Sioux Falls, a spokesperson for Vote Yes on V.

"We want people to vote on individuals and issues and not just on a party endorsement," Kirby said.

The change also would open up primary voting to Independent voters. They currently can vote in the Democratic primary, but not in the Republican primary.

This measure would reduce partisanship and could lead to more moderate candidates winning office, according to Kirby. That can help eliminate partisan gridlock and provide for more cooperation among elected officials, he said.

"It re-defines the role of parties and they'd no longer be gatekeepers to the system," Kirby said.

But the opponents say the measure provides less transparency and takes away information from voters.

"When you look at Republican or Democrat (designations) then you know what that means," said Will Mortenson, chairman of the Vote No On V group. "Voters can be trusted with that information."

He said attempting to drastically change state laws in order to try to get certain people elected is wrong. You shouldn't change the system to try to provide for "favored political outcomes," Mortenson said.

The measure actually limits voters' choices since a third option would never be available in the general election, he said.

It also would favor candidates with money since name recognition would be a major factor.

Amendment V would be a major constitutional overhaul that would require the rewriting of state election laws and that is unnecessary, Mortenson said.

"This could be the first ballot measure in South Dakota history that comes in and tries to take information away," said Mortenson.

Ten questions are on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. You can learn more about the various ballot questions at the S.D. Secretary of State's website.

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Today in Weather History

October 3, 1985: High winds of 60 to 75 mph occurred across much of western South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 3rd into the early morning hours of the 4th. The winds blew down power lines and caused power outages for many locations in the Black Hills. The strong winds uprooted trees in Rapid City and blew the roof off of a barn near Newell in Butte County.

1780: A hurricane, which formed on October 1st, destroyed the port city of Savanna-la-Mar on the island of Jamaica on this day. By some estimates, this storm caused 3,000 deaths. This storm is documented in the Jamaica Archives and Record Department.

1841 - An October gale, the worst of record for Nantucket, MA, caught the Cap Cod fishing fleet at sea. Forty ships were driven ashore on Cape Cod, and 57 men perished from the town of Truro alone. Heavy snow fell inland, with 18 inches near Middletown, CT. (David Ludlum)

1903: An unusual late season tornado moved northeast from west of Chatfield, Minnesota, passing through and devastating St. Charles, Minnesota. Seven people were killed and 30 injured as 50 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

1912 - The longest dry spell of record in the U.S. commenced as Bagdad, CA, went 767 days without rain. (David Ludlum)

1964 - Hurricane Hilda struck Louisiana spawning many tornadoes, and claimed twenty-two lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1979: An F4 tornado struck the towns of Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Suffield in Connecticut, causing an estimated \$400 million in property damage, on this day. The New England Air Museum, which housed more than 20 vintage aircraft, was destroyed. This tornado also caused a United Airlines flight to abort a landing at the Bradley International Airport because the pilot saw the tornado.

1986 - Remnants of Hurricane Paine deluged Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas with 6 to 10 inch overnight rains. Hardy, OK, was drenched with 21.79 inches. Heavy rain between September 26th and

October 4th caused 350 million dollars damage in Oklahoma. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Twenty-five cities in the Upper Midwest, including ten in Iowa, reported record low temperatures for the date. Duluth MN, Eau Claire, WI, and Spencer, IA, dipped to 24 degrees. Temperatures warmed into the 80s in the Northern and Central High Plains Region. At Chadron, NE, the mercury soared from a morning low of 29 degrees to an afternoon high of 88 degrees. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in southern California. The high of 108 degrees at Downtown Los Angeles was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

Worrel Pumpkin Patch






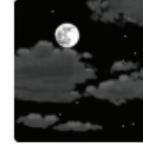



**Hours are
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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Chance T-storms and Breezy	Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 80 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 53 °F

Weather this Week

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				
Windy, 20-30 mph	Showers and Thunderstorms	Storms in the East	Dry, but Cooler	Much Cooler
Highs: Mid 70s to the Low 80s	Lows: 50s	Highs: Low 60s to the Low 70s	Highs: Mid 50s to the Mid 60s	Highs: 50s Lows: 30s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/3/2016 5:35 AM Central

Published on: 10/03/2016 at 5:41AM

Low pressure system will approach the region today with strong southeasterly winds ahead of it. Showers and thunderstorms will move from west to east across the area later today through tonight. Much cooler temperatures are in store for the end of the week with possible frost and freeze conditions developing.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.4

Low Outside Temp: 52.8

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1922

Record Low: 20° in 1897

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.25

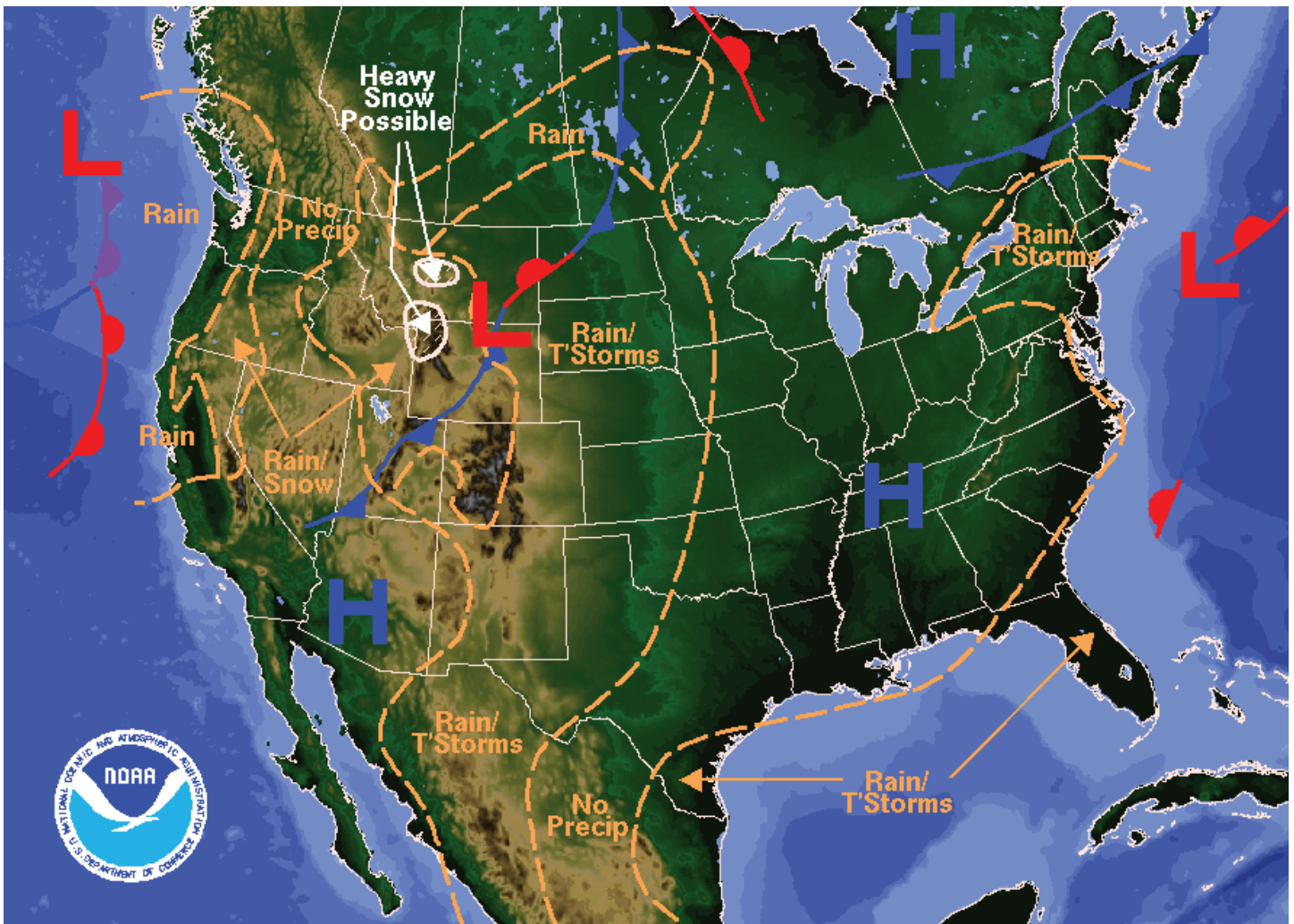
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.73

Precip Year to Date: 13.20

Sunset Tonight: 7:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Oct 03, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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DID GOD REALLY CAUSE THE FIRE?

Shortly after a new nightclub was opened near a church, the members decided to call an all night prayer meeting. While they were praying a powerful thunderstorm engulfed the city and lightning struck the club and burned it to the ground.

The owner became angry and decided to sue the church. At the hearing, however, the church denied any and all responsibility for the destruction of the club.

Confused, the judge exclaimed, "I'm not sure where the guilt may lie. On one hand the nightclub owner believes in prayer but the members of the church don't."

On one occasion when Jesus was teaching His followers and disciples about eternal life someone asked, "But who can be saved?" He replied, "Humanly speaking, it is something man cannot do. But with God, all things are possible."

Prayer is asking and receiving. It is not hoping or wishing or wondering. It is receiving. Yet, it is not unusual for Christians to be amazed, even surprised, when God answers a prayer that exceeds their faith. How interesting.

Perhaps that's why Jesus made that statement when talking about salvation. Consider this: if God can redeem us from our sinful state and grant us eternal life, can He not do anything we ask in His name and for His glory?

Prayer: Help us, Father, to have a faith that is bigger than our problems, stronger than the attacks of Satan and larger than any doubt that would ever defeat us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."



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Survey suggests economy will remain weak in Midwest, Plains

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of business leaders suggests the economy will continue slowing in nine Midwest and Plains states because of weakness in agriculture and energy businesses.

The overall economic index for the region declined to 45.5 in September from August's 47.8. Any score below 50 suggests the economy is weakening.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says energy and agriculture manufacturing is especially weak in the region.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Fossil History attracts paleontologists in South Dakota

By Lance Nixon, Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) —

They are a party of explorers going up the Missouri River but also stepping back in time, for somewhere near the mouth of the White River — probably in what is now Gregory County of South Dakota - they find themselves standing on the floor of an ancient seabed.

And the creature they find there is at least as fearsome as the white bears they have been hearing about. The journals of Lewis and Clark make note of it on Sept. 10, 1804:

"Passed the lower point of an island covered with red cedar, situated in a bend on the L.S. This island is about 2 miles in length. Below this on a hill on the L.S. we found the backbone of a fish, 45 feet long, tapering to the tail. Some teeth &c. Those joints were separated, and all petrified."

The Capital Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2dxhhkb>) many scientists believe it was probably not a fish, but an ancient sea-going reptile called a Mosasaur that the Lewis and Clark party discovered that day. Science will never know for sure because the fossilized bones the explorers sent back to Washington are now lost.

But it's clear, without any doubt, that it is a Mosasaur that a trapper discovers near the Big Bend of the Missouri some three decades later, because that one - after being displayed in the garden of an Indian agent in St. Louis and subsequently purchased by a German prince - survives.

What is becoming apparent to people in the 19th century is that the area now known as South Dakota is home to a rich variety of fossils. The Mosasaurs that roamed the shallow seas in the Cretaceous Period are only the start.

That is why, on May 31, 1843, the renowned wildlife painter and naturalist, John James Audubon, stopping in Fort Pierre on his journey up the Missouri River to paint the mammals of North America, muses wistfully in his journal about the distant headwaters of the Teton, or Bad River.

"We are about one and a half miles above the Teton River, or, as it is now called, the Little Missouri, a swift and tortuous stream that finds its source about 250 miles from its union with this great river, in what are called the Badlands of Teton River, where it seems, from what we hear, that the country has been at one period greatly convulsed, and is filled with fossil remains."

Audubon's geography is inexact on the distance and the river involved, but in the crucial point he is exactly right — the Badlands of South Dakota, mostly along the White River, is still the world's richest

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area for some kinds of fossils.

In that same year that Audubon is writing, 1843, part of a fossilized jawbone of an ancient mammal now known as a titanotherium is taken from the Badlands to St. Louis as a curiosity, where Dr. Hiram Prout studies it and publishes a paper about it in 1846.

The National Park Service dates the scientific community's interest in the fossils of the Badlands from that paper. The region's impact on the relatively young discipline of paleontology is clearly visible in the fact that by 1854, when paleontologists counted a total of 84 different species of prehistoric animals that had been found in North America, 77 of them were known from the White River Badlands. To this day, no other place on earth is known to be as rich in fossils of Oligocene mammals.

But South Dakota has much older fossils from the two great ages of dinosaurs; and marine fossils from that last great age of dinosaurs when oceans covered the central part of the state.

"For a paleontologist like myself, South Dakota is an absolute dream to work in," says assistant professor Darrin Pagnac, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City. "We have fossils that span almost the entire evolutionary history of what we call multicellular organisms - organisms that are not single-celled. Our oldest fossils date back to as far back as around a little over 500 million years ago and we have a comparatively complete record right up until the end of the last ice age and even further. So it's just an amazing place to work."

That would put the first signs of life in South Dakota in what's called the Cambrian Period. But there are also tantalizing clues, if no clear proof, of earlier life in South Dakota, from what is called the Precambrian Period.

"I had some stuff that I thought was Precambrian fossil stuff, but I could never convince the paleontologists," said Jack Redden, a retired geologist from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. "There's little doubt in places that life had begun back then. The problem with the Precambrian here is that all of the Black Hills has been metamorphosed."

Because those rocks have been transformed by heat and pressure, traces of life, if there were any, may have been distorted or erased. But what remains from the Cambrian Period on in South Dakota is a long record. A lot of other places have a rich fossil history but far more constrained to specific time periods, Pagnac said.

"It's difficult to go anywhere else in North America and see the level of diversity that we have in South Dakota. It's really amazing. In comparison Montana has wonderful fossil resources, but they're primarily Cretaceous. Nebraska has fantastic fossil resources but they're primarily Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene.

"That's one of the reasons I love working here so much, because I get to see such an amazing variety of fossils. I get a phone call from our volunteers down in the museum saying, 'Someone has a fossil they want to show you.' I can expect anything - absolutely anything. And I love that."

Pete Larson, one of the owners of the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research Inc., agrees.

"South Dakota is extremely rich, especially western South Dakota. South Dakota and Wyoming are two of the richest states in the union for fossils. Wyoming matches South Dakota for richness," Larson said. "Montana in a different way is also pretty rich. The nice thing about South Dakota is in a very short period of time you can literally go through all the ages. In Wyoming things are a little more scattered."

Though fossils can show up from any area of the state, Pagnac singled out at least four major zones that have attracted paleontologists over the years, starting with the fossils that first attracted the attention of Lewis and Clark.

Marine Cretaceous: "What you're finding near Pierre is from what's called the Pierre Shale. Those are those very black rocks with little yellow stringers, we call them, little yellow beds of volcanic ash, basically," Pagnac said.

"Certainly by Pierre you're going to be getting these Cretaceous marine organisms that existed prob-

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ably around 75 to 80 million years ago. These include a lot of the things you see in our museum, the long-necked plesiosaurs that we always say looked like the Loch Ness monster, or what that's supposed to be, the swimming mosasaurs, which are basically a fully aquatic variety of lizards like Komodo dragons. They are very closely related to those animals, and in lieu of legs, they just evolved flippers and a big strong tail. They share ancestors with Komodo dragons."

Larson added that South Dakota is also among the places where Archelon, the largest sea turtle ever known, has been found.

"If you want to look for fossils in the Marine Upper Cretaceous, South Dakota's the place to come," Larson said.

In fact, Redden adds, the Pierre Shale formation in which those fossils are found, though it extends from Canada to New Mexico in the Great Plains, is named for Fort Pierre, since it was there that the formation was easily exposed and could be easily studied. Geologists first described it almost exactly 150 years ago, in 1862.

Cretaceous terrestrial: The counterpart of what is happening in the oceans around Pierre in the Cretaceous Period is what is happening on dry land.

For example, the Hell Creek Formation — named for a site in Montana but extending into the Dakotas and Wyoming - is rich in fossils.

"The Hell Creek Formation has the end of the age of dinosaurs," Larson said. "It has the Tyrannosaurus rex and the various food groups for the Tyrannosaurus rex. If you want to look at the very end of the age of dinosaurs, this is the place to come. Then the asteroid came and left lots of job openings which mammals filled."

That Hell Creek Formation includes the corner of South Dakota that bumps up against Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota.

"You're going to be finding those dinosaurs up in the northwest part of the state," Pagnac said. "And the reason they're limited to up in the northwest part of the state is that this is the part of the state that wasn't covered by this ocean. You can at one point trace the boundary of this inland sea where we find the plesiosaurs, the mosasaurs, you can sort of trace that boundary up along the northwest edge of the state, and once you hit, say, Harding County, that's where you're going to get those dinosaurs that lived at the very end of the age of dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus, Triceratops, lots of what we call duck-billed dinosaurs, or hadrosaurs, and armored dinosaurs called Ankylosaurus - big club-tailed dinosaurs - and dome-skulled dinosaurs, Pachycephalosaurus. Those are very, very common up in the northwest part of the state."

New finds from this part of South Dakota continue to add to what is known about dinosaurs, or in some cases, simply to raise new questions.

For example, Christopher Ott and Pete Larson described a new kind of horned dinosaur in 2010 from the Hell Creek Formation in northwest South Dakota that they named "Tatankaceratops," blending the Lakota word for 'bison,' 'tatanka,' with a Latin root to come up with a name meaning "bison horn face." They date it to 65.5 million years ago.

"We named it in honor of the Lakota people," Larson said.

But scientists since the discovery have discussed the possibility that it might not be a new species, but perhaps a juvenile Triceratops, or perhaps a deformed one. It might also be a dwarf species of Triceratops, some believe.

Jurassic: Part of what gives South Dakota its amazing diversity of fossils, Pagnac said, is the uplift of the Black Hills that brings to light rocks much older than those of the Cretaceous Period.

"Here in the Black Hills in a small ring around the edge of the Hills, we have sediments that contain

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much older dinosaurs as well. These are dinosaurs from the end of the Jurassic Period and these are going to be about 150 million years old. This is a whole suite of different dinosaurs but ones that are very familiar to everyone. These are the long-necked, plant-eating sauropod dinosaurs, the ones that got utterly immense, things like Apatosaurus, Diplodocus, Barosaurus, Camarasaurus."

But for a past generation of people who learned about Brontosaurus, console yourselves . that name is gone.

"It turned out that two different researchers named the same animal, and we figure that out, the one that was named first gets the name, and so Apatosaurus stuck," Pagnac said. "It's too bad - Brontosaurus is kind of a cooler name: 'Thunder lizard.'"

Some of the Jurassic formations in South Dakota also yield some other famous characters from pre-history.

"That's also where we get Stegosaurus, the big plated dinosaur with spikes, and the big carnivorous dinosaur at that time would have been Allosaurus," Pagnac said.

Badlands mammals: The other really big source of fossils in South Dakota, Pagnac said, is the Badlands region.

"The Badlands preserve fossil mammals that lived from around 35 to maybe 20 million years ago. These include all kinds of really fantastic animals, things like brontotheres that were elephant-sized animals related to rhinos. They had a big slingshot-shaped horn on their nose. Lots of camels, animals called oreodonts that are really difficult to describe, and carnivorous animals. There were small saber-toothed cats at that time. Large animals called hyenadonts that were wolf-like, even bear-like carnivores."

Eastern South Dakota: Pagnac said fossils can turn up from other parts of the state, but not as readily.

"The reason we find so many more marine fossils around Pierre and not so many in the eastern part of the state doesn't necessarily have to do with the lack of rocks over in the eastern part of the state. The Pierre formation is still over there in the eastern part of the state," Pagnac said.

The problem is that the glaciers bulldozed their way across eastern South Dakota in the last ice age. Since the Missouri River marks the western edge of where the last ice sheet reached, East River is entirely covered in glacial sediment. The fossil-bearing rocks are there, but buried.

"In order to get at those fossils, you would either have to drill through this glacial sediment, or in certain specific areas such as down along the Missouri River on the Nebraska-South Dakota border, the rivers will cut deep enough to begin to expose these rocks."

And in that glacial sediment itself, east of the Missouri, the fossils are not as old.

"You will find fossils in these glacial sediments, but these are some of the youngest fossils we find - lots of mammoth remains, lots of bison remains, even on occasion some very large camel and horse remains. Of course these are animals that were around during the last ice age," Pagnac said.

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

Young man embraces life and works nearly 100 hours a week

By Ryan T Heuer, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some people trudge through their roughly 40-hour work week. Others zip through theirs without complaint.

Then, there's Jordan Miller.

The 28-year-old has a full-time job as a personal trainer at GreatLIFE Woodlake Athletic Club.

He also owns a business, Run2Gun, aimed at fitness training for hunters.

And he hosts and produces an outdoors TV show.

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Miller estimates he works 90-100 hours each week across his different gigs— not including his duties as a husband and a father, the Argus Leader reported (<http://argusne.ws/2cYxbQ0>).

How does he keep going?

"The people when I'm just absolutely exhausted that (are) jacked up because of a result — when they succeed, that jacks me up. That's how I get through a lot of my days and a lot of my weeks—their excitement."

This is not to say Miller dreads the work he does. Quite the opposite.

"I embrace the long hours," said Miller. "I feel like it's another way of living beyond average. The whole goal of what I do is just to help people live a life beyond average. ... It takes some sacrifice. If I'm not sacrificing, I can't preach it."

Living beyond average — a pretty fitting motto for a guy who works nearly 100 hours each week helping people reach health and wellness goals.

Miller was born in Murdo, S.D. His family began molding him into a hunter almost immediately. Whether it is anxiously waiting for his father to return from hunting trips at age 4, shooting his first pellet gun at 5 or tagging along on pheasant hunts at 6, hunting has always been in his blood.

"I've always had a passion for being outside, and I've always had a passion for fitness," Miller said. "(Run2Gun) was just kind of a no-brainer."

Miller said the idea first started when he was in college. His grandfather and great uncles stopped going on big game hunting trips— which were a big part of their life — because of fitness concerns.

"Seeing them stop their hunting careers earlier, I wanted to help that," Miller said. "I wanted to help guys prolong their hunting careers."

A local Sioux Falls gym hired Miller right out of college to be a personal trainer. Despite having a new career, Miller still wanted to turn his hunting fitness idea into reality.

He met some people at an outdoors convention who liked his idea. They worked for a large gun company on the east coast, and they flew him out to their headquarters in 2011 to film a series of YouTube videos titled "Hunter Fitness."

Miller suddenly had every small business owner's dream at his fingertips: a far-reaching platform he could use for free publicity.

But there was a problem.

His business was still just an idea.

"That was the motivation for me to get my business off the ground before those videos released," Miller said. "If people watched it and they had no way to find (my business), it was a waste of great promotion."

With the help of people he'd trained at his full-time job, he filmed promotional videos and built a website just before the YouTube videos came out.

One of those videos, a 60-second promo, made Miller realize his business could reach a wider audience.

"We kind of realized, man, this would be a sweet concept for a TV show," he said. "So we pitched it to Midco Sports (Network)."

Midco picked up the show in 2012 and Miller started filming a year later. Miller's brother Matthew does all of the filming and producing for the show.

Miller doesn't train Run2Gun clients in person. With clients as far as Mexico City and Florida, that's just not realistic.

Whether it be a face-to-face workout with a GreatLIFE client or a phone call holding a Run2Gun client accountable, Miller motivates his trainees with enthusiasm.

He and a group of GreatLIFE team leaders once read a book called The Energy Bus team-building

activity. He uses lessons learned in that book when he trains people.

"When a leader is leading with enthusiasm rather than always pointing out what's wrong, it makes a huge difference," Miller said. "I try to carry over what GreatLIFE teaches me into (Run2Gun)."

Miller says that same passion is what makes his work as a trainer for Run2Gun and GreatLIFE unique. "Since Day 1, it hasn't been about me," he said. "It's always been about our clients. It's been about changing lives and helping people make a difference in their life."

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

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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."

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>

Artists inspired to create by North Dakota pipeline protest

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Several artists have been inspired to create art in different mediums by recent protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Artists have shown up at the encampment near the Cannonball and Missouri rivers, where people

from across the country have gathered to join the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest over the construction of a four-state, \$3.8 billion oil pipeline, the Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2dqUjKs>) reported.

Musicians, including Joan Baez, Frank Waln and Nahko Bear, have performed at the encampment. Charles Rencountre, a sculptor from Santa Fe, New Mexico, recently arrived at the camp to create a personal tribute to the protest.

Rencountre is creating a sculpture titled "Not Afraid to Look." The sculpture is a large abstract form of a man sitting, arms crossed over his raised knees, while he looks toward the Cannonball river and pipeline equipment. It is a replica of one Rencountre made for the Museum of Contemporary Native Art at Santa Fe.

"It means a lot to me to gift this to my people, here along the river," Rencountre said. "For most artists, it's about selling art to the elite, and it's in private homes where no one sees it. This is public art, it belongs to the world."

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

'Ghost claims' complicate water rights in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A looming dispute over water rights near Rapid City highlights a thorny issue facing South Dakota: How to handle claims so old or outdated that one expert calls them "ghost claims."

The case at hand involves a stretch of Rapid Creek. The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2dhQR2u>) that a local rancher, Richard Rausch, who leases nearby land wants to keep water rights first claimed there more than a century ago.

The state Water Management Board will likely have a hearing on Rausch's case later this year.

David Ganje, an attorney who specializes in natural resource cases, has used the phrase "ghost claims" to describe water rights before 1907, the year the Legislature passed laws requiring state-issued permits for future water rights.

The state has more than 400 sets of water rights filed prior to the adoption of state water-use laws in 1907 that are technically still in force. Many of the rights are for large amounts of water, and some are attached to famous names like Seth Bullock, the legendary lawman of the Deadwood gold-rush era who still technically owns a water right on the Redwater River in Butte County.

Ganje said state regulators have to be careful how they treat the old claims because water rights are property rights and anyone with a claim to property is entitled to certain protections.

Eric Gronlund, who works in the modern Water Rights Program of the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said his office tries to chip away at the ghost claims when it can. But the office has an even bigger backlog of modern permits, which constitute permission for an applicant to develop a water right. If development occurs, the state is supposed to conduct a re-inspection for the potential issuance of a water license.

There are now nearly 2,000 permits lingering in the state water-rights database, including modern permits and the pre-regulatory ghost claims. Gronlund said the state has hired two water-rights inspectors to attack the backlog.

Rausch, who has rented his land since 1982, hadn't known of the old water rights when he was visited by a state water-rights inspector in August, according to the inspector's written report. That report said Rausch consented to their cancellation. A water management board hearing for that purpose had been scheduled for Oct. 8.

Then, on Sept. 8, Rausch notified the state's Water Rights Program that he had changed his mind.

"If given the chance," wrote Rausch, "we would do what is required to keep the 1896 water rights in place." The Journal said he declined an interview request.

Rausch's change of heart triggered an automatic postponement of the hearing until November or December.

Ganje said if Rausch wants to keep the rights, he'll have to show a chain of land ownership that stretches back to the men who first filed the water rights claim in 1891 and again in 1896. He said Rausch will also have to produce evidence from the past that he intended to keep the old water rights—proof of digging or piping projects, letters of inquiry to engineers about potential irrigation work, etc.

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

Spearfish housing study shows more rental units needed

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A study looking at the current and future housing needs of Spearfish suggests the city in western South Dakota needs additional rental units.

The Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2cYVDRa>) reports the housing study was conducted this year by Minnesota-based Community Partners Research.

Using data from the 2010 U.S. Census, the report shows 49.2 percent of all households in Spearfish are rented. The report includes 28 findings and recommendations, including the development of over 200 general occupancy conventional market rate rental housing units and the development of at least 12 subsidized units with three or more bedrooms.

The report also recommends the construction of at least 20 senior, independent-living rental units.

The study followed a state initiative that provided cost-sharing incentives to rural communities to examine affordable housing options and workforce development.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Group in Crow Creek Rez gets \$169K to help minority farmers

FORT THOMPSON, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation is among several organizations across the country sharing \$8.4 million in federal grants to help socially disadvantaged, tribal and veteran farmers and ranchers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded over \$169,000 to Fort Thompson-based Hunkpati Investments Inc., which helps individuals and businesses through education, access to capital and entrepreneurial development services.

Hunkpati Investments offers entrepreneurs micro loans starting at \$500, as well as other small business loans. Individuals with past credit troubles or no credit history can also apply to receive a loan through a plan designed to help them increase their credit score.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the grants will "help bring traditionally underserved people into farming, as well as veterans who want to return home to rural areas."

Onetime Miller pastor gets prison time in sex sting case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A onetime pastor in Miller has been sentenced to more than three years in federal prison after admitting to trying to solicit sex from someone he thought was a teenage girl.

The office of U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Joseph Raleigh was sentenced Monday in federal court in Pierre. Raleigh earlier pleaded guilty to attempted trafficking with respect to involuntary servi-

tude and forced labor.

As part of a plea deal, prosecutors dropped two charges, including attempted commercial sex trafficking of children.

The 35-year-old Raleigh was arrested last October in Blunt in a law enforcement online sting operation. Authorities say Raleigh in emails with undercover agents negotiated a price and arranged to have sex with a 15-year-old girl.

Raleigh resigned from the Miller church within days of his arrest.

Armed jewelry thieves target Kardashian West in Paris

By ANGELA CHARLTON and SAMUEL PETREQUIN, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Armed robbers forced their way into a private Paris residence where Kim Kardashian West was staying, tied her up and locked her in a bathroom before making off with more than \$10 million worth of jewelry, police officials said.

A spokeswoman for Kardashian West said the reality TV star, who was in Paris attending fashion week shows, was badly shaken but physically unharmed. Police said she left Paris Monday morning.

A Paris police official said five assailants, who were still at large, stole a jewelry box containing valuables worth 6 million euros (\$6.7 million) as well as a ring worth 4 million euros (\$4.5 million.) In a message to The Associated Press, the Paris prosecutors' office said that only two of the five suspects forced their way into the apartment.

Police said the thieves entered the 19th-century luxury residence in Paris' chic eighth district after the concierge let them in. Handcuffed and at gunpoint, he led them to the starlet's flat.

Two police officials said the robbers tied up Kardashian West and locked her in the bathroom before escaping on bikes. They were not authorized to be publicly named speaking about ongoing investigations.

It's unclear whether the couple's two children, 3-year-old daughter North and 10-month-old son Saint, were with Kardashian West when the robbery happened. Police said the actress' family was placed under police protection at the George V hotel.

Her husband, Kanye West, abruptly ended his performance at the Meadows Music and Arts Festival in New York on Sunday night.

"I'm sorry, family emergency, I have to stop the show," West told the audience.

With France under a state of emergency following extremist attacks that left more than 200 people dead in the last 20 months, news of the robbery immediately sparked criticism from political opponents of the Socialist government.

Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, a right-wing member of Paris council and a potential candidate in next year's presidential election, said the robbery was proof that "there is a general emergency on security" in the French capital.

"Regardless of all the very expensive advertising we do to promote 'I Love Paris,' tourism and the image of Paris, all these ads have been brutally canceled by the Kim Kardashian case," Kosciusko-Morizet told Europe 1 radio.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, a close ally of Socialist president Francois Hollande, condemned the assault and said Kardashian West will "always be welcome in Paris."

Hidalgo said she is confident police will quickly identify and arrest the suspects and that the incident "in no way calls into question police work or security of public space" in Paris.

Kardashian West was also ambushed last week by a serial celebrity accoster who attempted to assault her as she was entering a restaurant. She was also attacked outside of a Paris fashion week show in

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2014. She wasn't hurt in either incident.

Paris has been a special place for Kardashian West and her husband, who spent the weekend there before marrying in Florence in May of 2014.

AP entertainment writer Sandy Cohen in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. HOW TRUMP'S 'APPRENTICE' MOVED FROM CAPITALISM TO SEXISM

In his years as a reality TV boss on "The Apprentice," Donald Trump repeatedly demeaned women with sexist language, according to show insiders, AP finds.

2. COLOMBIA FACES DEEP UNCERTAINTY AFTER PEACE DEAL REJECTED

Both President Santos and leaders of the FARC, having come this far after four years of grueling negotiations, vowed to push ahead, giving no hint they want to resume a war that has already killed 220,000 people and displaced 8 million.

3. CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE BEARS DOWN ON HAITI

Forecasters say Hurricane Matthew could dump as much as 40 inches of rain on some isolated areas of Haiti, raising fears of mudslides and heavy floods in the poor nation.

4. INSIDE THE MIND OF A MAN WHO CARRIED OUT AN 'HONOR' KILLING

A strict Muslim from Pakistan who admits to fatally shooting his sister because she married a Christian attempts to justify his actions.

5. GUNMEN ROB KIM KARDASHIAN OF MILLIONS IN JEWELS

The reality star was "badly shaken but physically unharmed" after men dressed as police tied her up at gunpoint and took more than \$10 million in jewelry, a spokeswoman says.

6. WHICH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE IS RIDING WAVE OF POPULARITY

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, aka Notorious RBG, is enjoying her rock-star celebrity by releasing a compilation of her writings, including some of her spiciest dissenting opinions.

7. ACTIVISTS WANT NAMES, ANSWERS FOR FATAL POLICE SHOOTING

Demonstrators press the Los Angeles police to publicly identify the officers involved in the deadly shooting of an 18-year-old black man near his home.

8. JAPANESE SCIENTIST WINS NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE

Yoshinori Ohsumi discovered the mechanisms of autophagy, referred to as a fundamental process for degrading and recycling cellular components.

9. WHY MANY ALASKANS ARE GRUMBLING OVER ANNUAL OIL DIVIDEND

The state's multibillion dollar deficit has shrunk the checks from a high of \$2,072 per person last year to \$1,022 this year.

10. AMERICANS WIN BACK RYDER CUP IN ROUT

The 17-11 victory over Europe is the biggest victory for U.S. in 35 years at the Ryder Cup.

Powerful Hurricane Matthew a threat to Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba

By DAVID MCFADDEN, Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Vulnerable Haiti braced for flash floods and violent winds from the extremely dangerous Hurricane Matthew as the powerful storm kept on a path early Monday aiming at

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the hemisphere's poorest country.

The eye of the approaching Category 4 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) early Monday, was expected to pass to the east of Jamaica and then cross over or be very close to the southwestern tip of Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. It was predicted to hit the lightly populated eastern tip of Cuba on Tuesday afternoon.

Forecasters said as much as 40 inches of rain could fall on some isolated areas of Haiti, raising fears of deadly mudslides and floods in the heavily deforested country where many families live in flimsy houses with corrugated metal roofs.

"Some of us will die but I pray it won't be a lot," said Serge Barionette in the southern town of Gressier, where a river recurrently bursts its banks during serious storms.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Haiti, Jamaica and parts of Cuba. Rain was already lashing parts of Jamaica and flooding some homes, but forecasters said the southern Haitian countryside around Jeremie and Les Cayes could see the worst of the rains and punishing winds.

"Wherever that center passes close to would see the worst winds and that's what's projected to happen for the western tip of Haiti," said John Cangilosi, a hurricane specialist at the U.S. center. "There is a big concern for rains there and also a big concern for storm surge."

Matthew is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes in recent history and briefly reached the top classification, Category 5, becoming the strongest hurricane in the region since Felix in 2007. The hurricane center said the storm appeared to be on track to pass east of Florida through the Bahamas, but it was too soon to predict with certainty whether it would threaten any spot on the U.S. East Coast.

Officials with Haiti's civil protection agency said there were roughly 1,300 emergency shelters across the country, enough to hold up to 340,000 people. Authorities broadcast warnings over the radio telling people to swiftly heed evacuation warnings, trying to counter a common tendency for people to try to stay in their homes to protect them during natural disasters.

In a brief address carried on state radio, interim President Jocelerme Privert urged Haitians to listen closely to official warnings and be ready to move. "To those people living in houses that could collapse, it's necessary that you leave these houses to take refuge in schools and churches," he said.

Teams of civil protection officials walked the streets of Les Cayes and other areas urging residents to secure their homes, prepare emergency kits and warn their neighbors. They also evacuated people from some outlying islands.

As of 5 a.m. EDT (0900 GMT), the storm was centered about 290 miles (470 kilometers) southwest of Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince. It was moving north at 6 mph (9 kph).

A hurricane warning was posted for the southeastern Bahamas. A hurricane watch was in effect for the Cuban province of Camaguey, the central Bahamas and the Turks and Caico Islands, and a tropical storm warning was issued for parts of the Dominican Republic, where authorities began mandatory evacuations of areas at risk for flooding. A tropical storm watch was in effect for parts of the Dominican Republic.

The hurricane earlier had been projected to be closer to Jamaica, but still was a danger to the island of less than 3 million inhabitants.

"The center of the system is looking more likely that it will pass to the east of Jamaica but it won't miss it by that much, so they are still going to see impacts," Cangilosi said. "The impacts are maybe going to be a little lower there than they would be in Haiti and eastern Cuba."

After passing Jamaica and Haiti, Matthew was projected to reach Cuba. The center was expected to pass about 50 miles east of the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, where authorities evacuated about

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700 spouses and children of service members on military transport planes to Florida.

The U.S. installation has a population of about 5,500, including 61 men held at the detention center for terrorism suspects. Navy Capt. David Culpepper, the base commander, said emergency shelters had been set up and authorities were bracing for 80 mph winds and storm surge and heavy rain that could threaten some low-lying areas, including around the power plant and water desalination facility.

"We have no choice but to prepare ourselves for to take a frontal assault if you will," Culpepper said.

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Miami, Evens Sanon in Haiti and Ramon Espinosa in Santiago, Cuba, contributed to this report.

Trump has a challenging week with a tax revelation

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **LAURIE KELLMAN**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ever defiant, Donald Trump and his Republican allies embraced a report that said the New York businessman may not have paid federal income taxes for nearly two decades after he and his companies lost nearly \$916 million in a single year.

The unexpected weekend revelation punctuated a week of missteps and aggressive personal attacks from the Republican presidential contender, with early voting already underway in some states and Election Day quickly approaching.

If there was a bright spot to the explosive story about his taxes in The New York Times, Trump supporters said, it was that it may shift the national conversation away from Trump's weeklong feud with a former beauty queen he called "Miss Piggy" as he shamed her for gaining weight, and his unfounded suggestion Hillary Clinton may have cheated on her husband.

"He's not been on message," said Barry Bennett, a former Trump adviser. "A week was wasted where he could have been talking about the heroin epidemic and jobs and ISIS. All the money in the world can't get that time back."

The mounting challenges injected a new sense of urgency into Trump's White House bid with the next presidential debate less than a week away.

Trump is deciding whether to use the debate stage to attack Clinton's role in the infidelities of her husband, former President Bill Clinton. That's according to a person with intimate knowledge of Trump's thinking as his senior advisers huddled Sunday for a rare session of debate preparation. The person was not authorized to discuss publicly the private conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Publicly, however, Trump's team was aggressively defiant on Sunday.

Neither New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie nor former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, both top Trump supporters, disputed the report that said Trump's loss in 1995 was big enough that he could have legally avoided paying taxes for as many as 18 years.

On "Fox News Sunday," Christie declared it "a very, very good story for Donald Trump." Giuliani called him "a genius at how to take advantage of legal remedies that can help your company survive and grow" on ABC's "This Week."

"Don't you think a man who has this kind of economic genius is a lot better for the United States than a woman? And the only thing she's ever produced is a lot of work for the FBI checking out her emails," Giuliani said.

Trump did not appear publicly on Sunday, but weighed in on social media, saying he was singularly qualified to fix the nation's tax system.

"I know our complex tax laws better than anyone who has ever run for president and am the only one

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who can fix them," he tweeted.

Clinton made no mention of Trump's taxes during her events in North Carolina on Sunday. But the Democratic presidential nominee reposted a tweet from Trump, who wrote in 2012 that "HALF of Americans don't pay income tax despite crippling govt debt..."

"Now that's pretty rich coming from a guy who paid \$0 in taxes for 18 years," Clinton tweeted.

On Saturday night in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Trump questioned her loyalty to her husband.

"Why should she be, right?" he asked. "Why should she be?"

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.

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.

His campaign said that Trump had paid "hundreds of millions" of dollars in other kinds of taxes over the years.

Trump has refused to release his tax returns, breaking with four decades of presidential campaign tradition.

Kellman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jeff Horwitz in Washington and Ken Thomas in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Follow Steve Peoples and Laurie Kellman on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/sppeoples> and <http://twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

AP: How Trump's 'Apprentice' moved from capitalism to sexism

By GARANCE BURKE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In his years as a reality TV boss on "The Apprentice," Donald Trump repeatedly demeaned women with sexist language, according to show insiders who said he rated female contestants by the size of their breasts and talked about which ones he'd like to have sex with.

The Associated Press interviewed more than 20 people — former crew members, editors and contestants — who described crass behavior by Trump behind the scenes of the long-running hit show, in which aspiring capitalists were given tasks to perform as they competed for jobs working for him.

The staffers and contestants agreed to recount their experiences as Trump's behavior toward women has become a core issue in the presidential campaign. Interviewed separately, they gave concurring accounts of inappropriate conduct on the set.

Eight former crew members recalled that he repeatedly made lewd comments about a camerawoman he said had a nice rear, comparing her beauty to that of his daughter, Ivanka.

During one season, Trump called for female contestants to wear shorter dresses that also showed more cleavage, according to contestant Gene Folkes. Several cast members said Trump had one female contestant twirl before him so he could ogle her figure.

Randal Pinkett, who won the program in December 2005 and who has recently criticized Trump during his run for president, said he remembered the real estate mogul talking about which female contestants he wanted to sleep with, even though Trump had married former model Melania Knauss earlier that year: "He was like 'Isn't she hot, check her out,' kind of gawking, something to the effect of 'I'd like

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to hit that.' "

The Trump campaign issued a general denial. "These outlandish, unsubstantiated, and totally false claims fabricated by publicity hungry, opportunistic, disgruntled former employees, have no merit whatsoever," said Hope Hicks, Trump's campaign spokeswoman. "The Apprentice was one of the most successful prime-time television shows of all time and employed hundreds of people over many years, many of whom support Mr. Trump's candidacy." She declined to answer specific questions that were emailed and declined an interview request.

Former producer Katherine Walker said Trump frequently talked about women's bodies during the five seasons she worked with him and said he speculated about which female contestant would be "a tiger in bed."

A former crew member who signed a non-disclosure agreement and asked not to be identified, recalled that Trump asked male contestants whether they would sleep with a particular female contestant, then expressed his own interest.

"We were in the boardroom one time figuring out who to blame for the task, and he just stopped in the middle and pointed to someone and said, 'You'd f... her, wouldn't you? I'd f... her. C'mon, wouldn't you?'"

The person continued: "Everyone is trying to make him stop talking, and the woman is shrinking in her seat."

Other cast and crew interviewed said they had positive, professional experiences with Trump, and added that they had never heard comments that made them uncomfortable.

"He was extremely supportive. You could tell there was so much respect there on all sides, especially with the female athletes," said contestant and U.S. softball star Jennie Finch, a two-time Olympian. "Obviously, he was complimentary, but never in an inappropriate way."

Contestant Poppy Carlig, who performed the twirl, said she considered Trump's request "playful banter." She added: "I don't immediately jump to the conclusion that people are having bad intentions with what they are saying. He said I reminded him of his daughter and I thought that was really touching because I know how much he values his family."

Twelve former contestants or members of the crew spoke on the record about what they described as Trump's inappropriate behavior. Another nine spoke to the AP about their concerns regarding Trump's treatment of female colleagues but said they did not want to be identified because they signed non-disclosure agreements, or were concerned about wrecking their careers or retaliation from Trump.

Most offered no opinion on the November election in the course of their interviews, but the majority of those who did said only that they were not supporting Trump.

Trump points to his record of hiring women, but he has often been accused of sexist behavior; at the first Republican debate, in August 2015, Fox anchor Megyn Kelly asked whether a man who has called women "fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgusting animals" has the temperament to be president. After that debate, Trump attacked Kelly and her questioning, "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever."

The remarks of former Miss Universe Alicia Machado, who said Trump called her "Miss Piggy" because she'd gained weight during her reign, became campaign fodder last week following the first presidential debate. Trump used to own the pageant.

NBC, which broadcast the hit series, referred questions to executive producer Mark Burnett, whose studio referred calls to a public relations firm. The public relations firm did not respond to multiple voicemails and emails seeking comment. AP previously asked Burnett to provide original footage for review, but those calls were not returned.

Debuting in 2004, "The Apprentice" and a spinoff, "Celebrity Apprentice," propelled Trump to national

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stardom following a string of bankruptcies and bad business deals in the 1990s that had splintered his New York-based real estate empire. The series, meant to showcase Trump's business acumen, became a major hit and Trump's name became a global brand that helped launch his political career.

But on the set, usually inside Trump Tower, the former cast and crew members say, the businessman's treatment of women was sometimes far from professional.

Walker, who said she was the only high-level female producer during the first season, said Trump turned to her during a break outside of the control room to ask who he should fire. Walker demurred, she said, but noted that team members had told her one contestant had caused her team to lose their business task. Trump raised his hands and cupped them to his chest to ask whether it was a contestant with large breasts, she said.

"He said, 'You mean the one with the' — and he puts his hands out in a gesture to signal the girl with the giant boobs. He didn't even know her name," Walker said, adding that the contestant, Kristi Frank, was fired at the end of the episode.

"I thought he noticed my hard work, but I guess he didn't," said Frank, a former restaurant owner who studied industrial engineering.

She said that after Trump delivered his punch line "You're fired!" he told her fiancé that "of all the girls," she was the contestant he would have chosen to marry.

"It makes me a little sick," Frank said. "It's kind of sweet, but it makes me feel like 'OK, he's checking me out again.'"

In portions of boardroom sessions never broadcast, Trump frequently would ask male contestants to rate the attractiveness of their female competitors, former crew members and contestants said.

"If there was a break in the conversation, he would then look at one of the female cast members, saying 'you're looking kind of hot today, I love that dress on you,' then he would turn to one of the male cast members and say 'wouldn't you sleep with her?' and then everyone would laugh," said a former crew member who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a non-disclosure agreement. "There would be about 10 or 12 cameras rolling and getting that footage, which is why everybody was like, this guy just doesn't care."

Trump would carry on with the questions even if all involved were married, said Gene Folkes, who appeared on the program in 2010.

"If you didn't answer, he would dig in and say, 'Do you think so and so is attractive? Would you sleep with her? Well, what about if you really had to, would you?'" Folkes said. "It was so bizarre, because he (otherwise) seemed so professional."

Folkes said he also remembered that Trump "asked one of the women their breast size at one point, or said, 'are those real or natural?'"

Jim Dowd, who did public relations for Trump, NBC and "The Apprentice" shows between 2003 and 2009, said Trump was a "lover of women" and a "guy's guy."

"Was he complimenting the women? Of course. Was he behind closed doors with just the guys rating the women, who were the hotter ones on the show? Yes, he certainly was prone to that," Dowd said.

"I never heard him say anything about women's bodies, but he was definitely unscripted," said former producer Michael Dietz.

Eight former crew members said Trump took a fancy to a particular female camera operator, and frequently gave her attention that made many on the set feel uncomfortable. Two former crew members said the woman made it clear to them privately that she did not like Trump's comments.

Walker, the former producer, said it was clear Trump was attracted to the camera operator as far back as 2003.

"He said something like she was cute and she had a nice ass, and it was brought to my attention by someone else that he had a crush on her," Walker said. "We all knew, so that's uncomfortable in and of itself. I remember it being too much, that he made it obvious."

Rebecca Arndt, a camera assistant who worked on the show following Trump's 2005 marriage, said Trump would stop production to make comments about the camera operator's looks in front of the crew.

"I remember being in the foyer once with eight or 10 cameras set up and he said something about her being so pretty," Arndt said. "He would make it about his line of sight, like 'There is a beautiful woman behind that camera, so I only want to look at that.' It was supposed to be considered a compliment, but of course it was inappropriate."

German Abarca, another former camera operator, said most of the camera crew knew that Trump was attracted to their colleague.

Abarca said the woman was the frequent subject of ribbing by others in the crew, almost all of whom were much younger than Trump. "I think she mostly tried to ignore it."

Arndt said that Trump would publicly discuss the woman's beauty and how her blue eyes and blonde hair compared to his daughter Ivanka's looks.

"He would just mention it all the time. I remember him comparing Ivanka to her and saying that only Ivanka was prettier," she said.

The woman did not respond to a voicemail seeking comment. The AP spoke in person twice with her husband, who said his wife did not wish to be interviewed, "doesn't have a problem with Donald Trump" and denied she had been subjected to repeated, unwanted attention from Trump.

One former contestant, Tyana Alvarado, said she wasn't offended when Trump told her she was attractive — but noted that he played by his own rules.

"Most men have to behave because they are in a workplace, but he could do what he wanted," Alvarado said. "In all jobs, people have to sign sexual harassment paperwork, but Mr. Trump was putting on a TV show so he got to do it."

The AP National Investigative Team can be reached at investigate@ap.org
Follow Garance Burke on Twitter: @garanceburke

Crowdsourcing effort takes aim at deadliest breast cancers

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Forget the pink ribbons. Spitting in a tube for science is what unites a growing group of breast cancer patients taking part in a unique project to advance treatment for the deadliest form of the disease.

For many of the 150,000-plus patients nationwide whose tumors have spread to bones, brains, lungs or other distant organs, the hue heralding breast cancer awareness and survival each October is a little too rosy. They know cancer will likely kill them. And they've often felt neglected by mainstream advocacy and medical research.

But now they have a way to get involved, with a big new project that aims to gather enormous troves of information about their diseases in hopes of finding new and better ways of treating patients like them — women whose cancer has spread, or metastasized, and left them nearly out of options.

"Patients want to live and we know that research is the way that we're going to be able to live," said Beth Caldwell, a former civil rights attorney in Seattle diagnosed with metastatic disease in 2014.

The idea is to gather molecular and genetic clues from as broad a group of metastatic breast cancer

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patients as possible. With data from thousands of people, researchers think they will be better able target treatments or come up with new ones by answering important questions about the disease. For example: Is there something unique about tumors that spread to the brain, or that recur many years after diagnosis? What allows a very few women to outlive others by many years despite the same prognosis?

Most breast cancer patients are treated at centers that don't do research on tumors, so participating in studies at academic medical centers far from home is cumbersome at best. Patients sick or dying from their disease face additional hurdles.

This project is different. Patients sign up online, mail in saliva kits for genetic testing, and allow use of their tumor tissue samples and medical records. Researchers use social media to keep them posted about progress, and periodically invite participants to visit the Cambridge, Massachusetts, lab where their specimens are being analyzed.

Using word of mouth and social media, the Metastatic Breast Cancer Project, run by scientists at Harvard and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Broad Institute, has enrolled more than 2,600 patients so far since launching last October. It's a pace nearly unheard of in medical research.

"I enrolled from my recliner in my living room. I did my spit tube in bed," Caldwell said.

The mother of two turns 40 on Thursday, and cancer has reached her brain, lungs, bones and liver. She tries to stay positive, but October "is a month where I just want to hide under the covers and check out," Caldwell said. "I just don't want to be confronted with all this pink garbage."

Lara MacGregor, who runs a Louisville, Kentucky-based nonprofit group for cancer patients, said she feels the same way.

"Everything about breast cancer is about survivors and beating cancer," MacGregor said. "And we're sitting in the wings saying, 'I'm never going to celebrate the end of treatment.'"

MacGregor was pregnant when diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer in 2007. She had both breasts removed plus chemotherapy, and went on with her life thinking she was cured until two years ago, when tests for nagging back pain revealed cancer had returned and spread to her bones.

Now 39, MacGregor read about the project online, decided immediately to take part, and emailed dozens of friends and connections who also signed on.

Before she mailed her saliva kit, "my 8-year-old drew a picture on the box and said, 'thanks for helping my mom,'" MacGregor said. "I hope that real data about real people is going lead to better treatment options," she said. "My life depends on it."

More than 200,000 people, mostly women, are diagnosed with breast cancer nationwide each year. Most are diagnosed when cancer is at an early, potentially curable, stage. For about 6 percent, or 15,000 patients, the disease has already spread at diagnosis.

And for about 30 percent of patients diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, the disease will eventually recur in distant parts of the body. The average survival for patients with metastatic disease is about three years.

According to a 2014 analysis from an alliance of breast cancer advocacy groups, less than 10 percent of government and nonprofit groups' investment in breast cancer research in recent years went to studying metastatic disease.

"Metastatic breast cancer in general is an understudied area," says Mark Hurlbert of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. "We don't know, for example, how the tumor has changed. Is it the same makeup as it was before? Do cells have a different molecular profile than cancer that started first in the breast?"

By gathering large numbers of tissue samples and information about how the diseases progresses in

different people, the project may be able to uncover useful trends. It has produced a few enticing clues already, including small groups of patients who've responded unusually well to standard chemotherapy or to new immunotherapy drugs — some have survived for 10 years or more. The researchers hope DNA analyses will help explain why and lead to treatments that will improve the odds for all patients with the disease.

Data will be posted on a special online site and with the National Cancer Institute's genomic data program — making it available to other scientists and boosting the odds of finding better ways to treat patients with metastatic disease.

And proof that crowdsourcing can draw thousands of patients to medical research is an important discovery itself, given how hard that can be, said Dr. Nikhil Wagle, a project leader and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard and Dana-Farber.

"This project makes them feel empowered, makes them feel like they are making a difference — if not to help themselves, then maybe the next generation of patients," Wagle said.

Online:

Metastatic Breast Cancer Project: <http://www.mbcprojedct.org>

Breast cancer statistics: <http://bit.ly/1sicnbs>

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at <http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner>.

Colombia in uncharted territory with peace deal's defeat

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — After a stunning referendum defeat for a peace deal with leftist rebels, Colombians are asking what comes next for their war-torn country, which like Britain following the Brexit vote has no Plan B to save an accord that sought to bring an end to a half century of hostilities.

The damage from Sunday's vote is still sinking in. Instead of winning by an almost two-to-one margin as pre-election polls had predicted, those favoring the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia lost by a razor-thin margin, 49.8 percent of the votes to 50.2 percent for those against the deal.

Both President Juan Manuel Santos and leaders of the FARC, having come this far after four years of grueling negotiations, vowed to push ahead, giving no hint they want to resume a war that has already killed 220,000 people and displaced 8 million.

"I won't give up. I'll continue search for peace until the last moment of my mandate," Santos said in a televised address appealing for calm.

But it's not clear how the already unpopular Santos can save the deal given the stunning political defeat he suffered. For now, he has ordered his negotiators to return to Cuba on Monday to confer with FARC's top leaders, who watched the results come in with disbelief after earlier ordering drinks and cigars at Club Havana, once Cuba's most exclusive beach club.

"The FARC deeply regret that the destructive power of those who sow hatred and revenge have influenced the Colombian people's opinion," the FARC's top commander, a guerrilla known as Timochenko, told reporters later.

The loss for the government was even more shocking considering the huge support for the accord among foreign leaders, who have roundly heralded it as a model for a world beset by political violence

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and terrorism. Many heads of state as well as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry were present when Santos and Timochenko signed the deal less than a week ago in an elaborate, emotion-filled ceremony.

With the outlook uncertain, all eyes are on Santos' former boss and chief rival: Alvaro Uribe, the powerful former president who led the grass-roots campaign against the accord. With none of the government's huge PR machine an angry Uribe gave voice to millions of Colombians, many of them victims of the FARC like him, who bristled at provisions in the 297-page accord sparing rebels jail time if they confessed their crimes and instead reserved them 10 seats in congress.

Uribe, in prepared remarks from his ranch outside Medellin after the results were in, called for a "big national pact" and insisted on "correctives" that guarantee respect for the constitution, respect for private enterprise and justice without impunity. But he didn't specify whether he would join Santos in trying to salvage the deal, and took more swipes at the FARC, who he demanded put an end to drug-trafficking and extortion.

"The entire accord was full of impunity," said Ricardo Bernal, 60, celebrating the victory for the "no" side in a Bogota neighborhood where opponents were gathered. "We all want peace but there has to be adjustments made."

Across town, hundreds of supporters of the peace deal who had gathered in a hotel ballroom for what they expected would be a victory party with Santos wept in despair.

The FARC's 7,000 guerrilla fighters are unlikely to return to the battlefield any time soon. For now, a cease-fire remains in place.

One option for Santos would be to reopen negotiations, something he had ruled out previously and his chief negotiator said would be "catastrophic." The president, who has a little under two years left in office, could also seek to bypass another popular vote and ratify the accord in congress or by calling a constitutional convention, something both the FARC and Uribe have previously favored.

"I've always believed in a wise Chinese proverb to look for opportunities in any situation. And here we have an opportunity that's opening up, with the new political reality that has demonstrated itself in the referendum," Santos said Sunday night before descending to the steps of the presidential palace to address a small group of supporters, some of waving white flags symbolizing peace.

But bringing Santos and Uribe together might be harder than achieving peace with the FARC. Santos served as Uribe's defense minister, when they worked together with the U.S. to drive the FARC to the edge of the jungles, but the two haven't spoken for years and frequently trade insults.

One of the reasons for the surprise defeat was low turnout, with only 37 percent of the electorate bothering to vote, a further sign to some analysts that Colombians' enthusiasm for the ambitious accord was lacking. Heavy rains from Hurricane Matthew especially dampened voting along the Caribbean coast, where the government's electoral machinery is strongest and the "yes" vote won by a comfortable double-digit margin.

The campaign exposed deep rifts in Colombian society, dividing many families and making clear the road to reconciliation would have been long and torturous even had the accord passed. Colombians overwhelmingly loathe the FARC, which the U.S. considers a terrorist group, and many considered the accord an insult to victims of the long-running conflict.

"In the end, hate toward the FARC won out over hope for the future," said Jason Marc Zack, an expert on Latin America at the Washington-based Atlantic Council.

Associated Press writer Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman>.

Andrea Rodriguez is on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARodriguezAP>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/andrea-rodriguez>.

Colombia's leader to push ahead on peace after shock defeat

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombians rejected a peace deal with leftist rebels by a razor-thin margin in a national referendum Sunday, scuttling years of painstaking negotiations and delivering a strutting setback to President Juan Manuel Santos, who vowed to keep a cease-fire in place and forge ahead with his efforts to end a half-century of war.

Final results showed that 50.2 percent opposed the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia while 49.8 percent favored it — a difference of less than 54,000 votes out of a total of 13 million. Pre-election polls had predicted the “yes” vote would win by an almost two-to-one margin.

“I won’t give up. I’ll continue search for peace until the last moment of my mandate,” Santos said in a televised address appealing for calm and in which he tried to reassure voters he was in control of the situation.

To save the accord, Santos ordered his negotiators to return to Cuba on Monday to consult with FARC leaders who watched the results come in from the communist island. He also promised to listen to opponents in a bid to strengthen the deal, which he said is Colombia’s best chance for ending a conflict that has killed 220,000 people and driven almost 8 million people from their homes.

“I’ve always believed in a wise Chinese proverb to look for opportunities in any situation. And here we have an opportunity that’s opening up, with the new political reality that has demonstrated itself in the referendum,” he said before descending to the steps of the presidential palace to address a small group of supporters, some of them crying and waving white flags symbolizing peace.

The shock outcome, comparable to Britain’s decision to leave the European Union in the Brexit vote, opens an uncertain outlook for an agreement that was signed less than a week ago by Santos and the FARC in a ceremony attended by heads of state, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry — all of whom heralded the accord.

Opposition to the accord, led by influential former President Alvaro Uribe, argued that the government was appeasing the FARC and setting a bad example that criminal gangs would seize on by sparing rebels jail time if they confess their crimes and guaranteeing the group 10 seats in congress through 2026. If the “no” vote prevailed, Uribe said, the government should return to the negotiating table.

But that is an option Santos has previously ruled out.

With the government’s ability to govern now in question all eyes are on Uribe, the country’s most-popular politician and whose almost decade-long military offensive forced the FARC to the negotiating table. In his home state of Antioquia, the country’s second-most populous, the “no” vote won by a whopping 24 points.

In prepared remarks delivered at his ranch outside Medellin, Uribe called for a “big national pact” and insisted on “correctives” that guarantee respect for the constitution, respect for private enterprise and justice without impunity.

“We want to contribute to a national accord,” Uribe said, without explicitly saying whether he supports Santos’ call to continue seeking a peace deal with the FARC. “We know that our compatriots who voted ‘yes’ will listen to us upon receiving our message of good will.”

President Santos served as Uribe’s defense minister but the two haven’t spoken for years, leading

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many pundits to joke that bringing the two former allies together is harder than achieving peace with the FARC.

Early in the day, FARC leaders, including Timochenko and Ivan Marquez, sat in leather recliners at Club Havana, once Cuba's most exclusive beach club, watching the referendum results on a flat-screen TV. Initially the atmosphere was festive, with the guerrillas laughing and joking while snacking on cheese-and-olive hors d'oeuvres, smoking cigars and visiting an open bar.

But the mood soured as results began to come in, and the rebel commanders talked in hushed tones on cellphones, conferred quietly and asked journalists to leave the room.

"The FARC deeply regret that the destructive power of those who sow hatred and revenge have influenced the Colombian people's opinion," Timochenko told reporters later.

He said the rebel group's commitment to peace remains intact.

"The FARC reiterates its desire for peace and our willingness to use only words as a weapon for building the future," he said.

Turnout was low, with only 37 percent of the electorate bothering to vote, a further sign to some analysts that Colombians' enthusiasm for the ambitious accord was lacking. Heavy rains from hurricane Matthew especially dampened turnout along the Caribbean coast, where the "yes" vote won by a comfortable double-digit margin.

The campaign exposed deep rifts in Colombia's society, dividing many families and making clear that the road to reconciliation would have been long and torturous even had the accord passed. Colombians overwhelmingly loathe the FARC, which the U.S. considers a terrorist group, and many considered the accord an insult to victims of the long-running conflict.

In the past month, ever since the deal was announced in Cuba after four years of grueling negotiations, the government spent heavily on television ads and staged concerts and peace rallies around the country to get out the vote. It even enrolled the help of U2's Bono and former Beatle Ringo Starr. And for the first time in an election, it made ballots available in Braille so blind Colombians could vote.

The FARC had also made an effort to show its commitment to peace is real. Twice this week leaders of the group traveled to areas hit hard by violence to apologize for massacres committed by their troops and discuss with communities how they can compensate victims. Even ahead of implementation, they voluntarily destroyed in front of United Nations observers 620 kilograms of grenades and light explosives.

AP Writer Michael Weissenstein contributed to this report from Havana, Cuba.

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman> .

Andrea Rodriguez is on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ARodriguezAP> . Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/andrea-rodriguez> .

Task completed as Americans win back Ryder Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — Patrick Reed shook his fists with fury for every big putt he made. Phil Mickelson leaped higher than when he won his first Masters. Ryan Moore delivered the final point in this American masterpiece Sunday at the Ryder Cup.

The 17-11 victory over Europe was their biggest rout in 35 years at the Ryder Cup.

Only this was more than just three days of exquisite golf at Hazeltine. This victory began two years ago in Scotland, when Phil Mickelson publicly criticized U.S. captain Tom Watson and a process that he

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felt put the Americans in position to fail far too often.

"When put in the right environment, the U.S. team brought out some amazing golf," Mickelson said. "And we're bringing back the Ryder Cup because of it."

Sure enough, that 17-inch gold trophy was gleaming on a table, right next to a couple of champagne bottles on ice.

This wasn't about being maybe the best team ever assembled.

The Americans were a team, and that was all that mattered. For the first time since 1975, every U.S. player won at least one match. And for the first time since 2008, the Ryder Cup is staying in America.

Four years after Davis Love III saw his team blow a 10-6 lead at Medinah, he watched them make more birdies and eagles than he could count as they filled the scoreboard with American red and took any suspense out of the outcome.

"There was a lot of pressure on these guys over the last couple years," Love said. "We haven't had a good run lately, and I'm thrilled for them that they got the win. ... This team has been questioned and beat up for a long time, and I'm proud of the way they came together."

Europe, going for its fourth straight victory, never really had a chance.

Reed outdueled and outshouted Rory McIlroy in a match so dynamic that they halved three straight holes with birdies. McIlroy holed a 60-foot putt up the slope on the par-3 eighth and cupped his hand to his ear to a loud and occasionally obnoxious crowd. Reed followed with a 35-foot birdie putt, wagging his finger at McIlroy. They bumped fists and patted each other on the back. McIlroy's putter went cold, and Reed holed a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to secure the 1-up victory.

Mickelson and Sergio Garcia combined for 19 birdies, eight of them over the last five holes. Mickelson made an 18-foot birdie on the final hole, crouched and then leaped in the air, capping off a big week under more pressure than usual because of his strong voice in all these changes.

One of the changes from the Ryder Cup Task Force that Europe mocked was to spread out the captain's picks until the very end. The last one went to Moore, who was added to the team only last Sunday. A week later, he was celebrating a 1-up victory over Lee Westwood that clinched the cup.

"You're only as strong as your 12th man right there," Brandt Snedeker said to him.

There wasn't much Europe to do. Thomas Pieters had the best showing of any European rookie by going 4-1. That was a lone bright spot.

"They did everything I asked of them. They tried their heart out. They worked hard. They fought hard," European captain Darren Clarke said. "The American Ryder Cup team deserved to win. And we're all gutted and disappointed. And we will be back stronger to fight in two years' time in Paris."

Mickelson already was looking ahead.

He had said the work of the task force — primarily for players and former captains to have more input in an event run by the PGA of America — was not about this year but the next 10 years of the Ryder Cup.

Even so, it was sweet to see that trophy just a few feet away.

"We need to build on this," Mickelson said. "Otherwise, it's all for naught. We created a very solid foundation this year. ... Yes, it's great that we had success this week, but it's not about one year or one Ryder Cup. It's about a multitude, for decades to come."

About that time, Love popped the cork off a bottle of champagne.

"That's my cue to shut up," Mickelson said.

He spoke volumes in Scotland, and on the golf course.

The Americans stood atop a bridge to the left of the 18th green and sprayed champagne on themselves and the crowd, an enormous gathering that sent endless cheers of "U-S-A" and "Red, white,

blue" across Hazeltine for three straight days.

Every U.S. player contributed a point.

For Europe, Westwood was among four players who ended the week without a point.

The Ryder Cup Task Force was dismantled after Love was named captain for the second time, though Mickelson and Tiger Woods remain on a committee for the next Ryder Cup in 2018 in France. Europe has not lost consecutive Ryder Cups since 1993.

52 confirmed dead in stampede at Ethiopia religious event

By ELIAS MESERET, Associated Press

BISHOFTU, Ethiopia (AP) — Dozens of people were crushed to death Sunday in a stampede after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse an anti-government protest that grew out of a massive religious festival, witnesses said. The Oromia regional government confirmed the death toll at 52.

"I almost died in that place today," said one shaken protester who gave his name only as Elias. Mud-covered and shoeless, he said he had been dragged out of a deep ditch that many people fell into as they tried to flee.

The first to fall in had suffocated, he said.

"Many people have managed to get out alive, but I'm sure many more others were down there," he said. "It is really shocking."

The stampede occurred in one of the East African country's most politically sensitive regions, Oromia, which has seen months of sometimes deadly demonstrations demanding wider freedoms.

An estimated 2 million people were attending the annual Irrecha thanksgiving festival in the town of Bishoftu, southeast of the capital, Addis Ababa, when people began chanting slogans against the government, according to witnesses.

The chanting crowds pressed toward a stage where religious leaders were speaking, the witnesses said, and some threw rocks and plastic bottles.

Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, and people tried to flee. Some were crushed in nearby ditches, witnesses said.

In its statement, the Oromia regional government blamed "evil acts masterminded by forces who are irresponsible," and it denied that the deaths were caused by any actions by security forces.

Mulatu Gemechu of the opposition Oromo Federalist Congress told The Associated Press that his sources at hospitals said at least 52 people were dead as of Sunday evening, but he thought the figure would rise.

The protesters were peaceful and did not carry anything to harm police, he said.

Before the stampede, an AP reporter saw small groups of people walking in the crowd and holding up their crossed wrists in a popular gesture of protest.

The reporter also saw police firing tear gas and, later, several injured people.

The crossed-wrists gesture has been used widely as a sign of peaceful resistance and is meant to symbolize being handcuffed by security forces.

It was in the spotlight at the Rio Olympics, when Ethiopian marathoner Feyisa Lilesa, who is from the Oromia region, crossed his wrists while finishing in second place. He hasn't returned to the country since, saying his life could be in danger.

Ethiopia's government, a close security ally of the West, has been accused often of silencing dissent, at times blocking internet access.

The months of anti-government protests and the sometimes harsh government response have raised international concern.

The U.S. recently spoke out against what it called the excessive use of force against protesters, describing the situation in Ethiopia as "extremely serious."

On Sunday, many people in Ethiopia turned their Twitter and Facebook profiles to solid black and expressed anger at the government over the deaths.

The regional government declared three days of national mourning.

Syrian military calls on Aleppo rebels to surrender

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian rebels and pro-government forces clashed Sunday on several fronts around Aleppo as the country's military command called on militants to lay down their weapons and evacuate the contested city.

A day after pro-government forces captured the strategic al-Shuqeef hill north of the city, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group reported fierce fighting in areas near the hill and in the Bustan al-Basha neighborhood.

The two sides also clashed in Aleppo's southern Sheikh Saeed neighborhood.

The government's attempt to penetrate Aleppo's opposition-held eastern side has been accompanied by a relentless campaign of airstrikes by Russian and Syrian warplanes.

President Bashar Assad's forces are depending on the Russia bombardment and Iran-backed militias for support.

A spokesman for the Nour el-Din el-Zinki rebel faction told The Associated Press that foreign fighters were actively participating in the government's ground campaign. He said rebels could identify Lebanese and Iraqi militias by their flags.

An airstrike, meanwhile, targeted a rebel headquarters near the central city of Hama, killing at least six militants, the Observatory said. It was a setback for the rebel campaign to advance on the government-controlled city.

The U.N.'s humanitarian chief, Stephen O'Brien, reported that eastern Aleppo's health system has been "all but obliterated" by shelling and bombardment.

"Medical facilities are being hit one by one," O'Brien said in a statement that called for a 48-hour humanitarian pause to the fighting each week. The U.N. estimates 275,000 people are trapped by the government siege.

"We are in a race against time to protect and save civilians in eastern Aleppo city. They need our urgent action to bring an end to their living hell," O'Brien said.

One of Aleppo's largest hospitals, located in the eastern Sakhour neighborhood, was knocked out of service Saturday by the airstrikes, doctors and activists reported.

The Syrian military command said in a statement on state media that government forces would guarantee gunmen safe passage out of opposition-held neighborhoods.

Russia announced a month ago that the Syrian government would give safe passage to civilians wanting to leave eastern Aleppo. Few have accepted the offer.

The U.N. says at least 320 civilians have been killed since the government announced its offensive Sept. 22.

The European Union offered to help evacuate patients in Aleppo's hospitals and deliver food, water and medical aid to besieged eastern districts.

In a statement, EU foreign policy chief Frederica Mogherini urged international players to unite to make the aid effort work "for the sake of humanity and the political future of Syria."

The EU is mobilizing \$25 million in emergency aid and offering to move patients to other medical facilities, including in Europe, if needed.

Britain will launch Brexit by April , prime minister says

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain will begin the formal process of leaving the European Union by the end of March, Prime Minister Theresa May said Sunday, seeking to ease concern about the nation's future and the threat of reduced foreign investment and the weakening of the economy.

Members of the ruling Conservative Party applauded wildly as May said the British people had made it clear that they wanted a clear date for exiting the EU and that she was going to deliver. European leaders and company executives have pushed the government to say when it plans to trigger Article 50 of the EU treaty, starting talks on the U.K.'s departure, so they can begin preparing for a post-EU Britain.

"We will invoke it when we are ready, and we will be ready soon," she said. "We will invoke Article 50 no later than the end of March next year."

While the prime minister had previously hinted that she planned to initiate Britain's exit early next year, many observers had speculated she would wait until the conclusion of France's presidential election in May or perhaps even the German elections in late summer or fall of next year.

But basking in the glow of party acolytes, a beaming May sounded as if she had campaigned for Britain to leave the EU all along — even though she had opposed that outcome before the June 23 referendum. In what sounded like a stump speech for "leave," she hit on the emotive issues of sovereignty, immigration and world status.

She insisted there would be no unnecessary delays in bringing Brexit to pass — and that Britain would fight any legal challenges intended to derail the move. She sternly rejected the idea that the government would circumvent the result, making a face as she commented on those still fighting to stay.

Analysts said the deadline for starting the talks was welcome, but businesses still need more detail about what Brexit will mean for trade and immigration.

While Britain seeks to control immigration from the EU, free movement of labor is a founding principle of the bloc. This means that any restrictions on immigration are likely to result in barriers to trade between Britain and the EU, said Jonathan Portes, a senior fellow at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

"That means continued uncertainty for businesses, both those who trade with the EU and those who employ EU nationals," Portes tweeted. "What we cannot do is delude ourselves that we can 'have our cake and eat it.'"

In addition to setting out her timetable, the prime minister said she would ask Parliament to repeal the European Communities Act, which automatically makes EU rules the law of the land in Britain. At the same time, the government will incorporate all EU laws into British law and then repeal measures as necessary on a case-by-case basis, she said.

"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 EU to begin preliminary work that will help the negotiations go smoothly once they begin. EU leaders so far have rejected any such discussions.

The president of the 28-nation EU's governing European Council, Donald Tusk, offered support for her position. He had told her at a recent Downing Street meeting that the "ball is now in your court."

"PM May's declaration brings welcome clarity on start of Brexit talks," he tweeted Sunday. "Once Art. 50's triggered, EU27 will engage to safeguard its interests."

One of the biggest sticking points in any talks will be immigration.

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The perception that EU 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 that 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.

May also flatly rejected the idea that elements within the United Kingdom might be able to negotiate a deal for themselves. The message was clearly aimed at Scotland, which only narrowly rejected an independence move in 2014 and had voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU. Scotland wants a place at the table because of its numerous trade ties with the EU.

"We will negotiate as one United Kingdom and we will leave the European Union as one United Kingdom. There is no opt-out for Brexit," May told the conference. "I will never allow divisive nationalists to undermine the precious union between the four nations of our United Kingdom."

Critics quickly pounced on the first tangible moves on the process in weeks. Conservative Anna Soubry, a former minister who is in the Tory pro-Europe wing of the party, told ITV that she was concerned that May would trigger the article so soon, warning that companies such as Nissan might leave without a deal on the single market.

"Triggering Brexit as early as March really concerns me, troubles me hugely, because we won't have had the French elections, we won't have had the German elections, and I'm sorry, it is going to take a lot of time and effort to disentangle ourselves and get the right deal," she said.

The opposition Labour Party asked for more clarity on the proposals. Stephen Kinnock, a member of Parliament from Aberavon, said May has yet to say what leaving will mean in practice.

"The Brexit process will give this government more power to re-shape Britain than any government has had since the Second World War," he said in a statement. "And yet what Brexit means is still unclear, and the government has no specific mandate for its negotiating position, assuming that it has one."

Pope Francis praises religious tolerance in Azerbaijan

By NICOLE WINFIELD and AIDA SULTANOVA, Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Pope Francis praised Azerbaijan on Sunday as a model for a world divided by violent extremism, sidestepping criticism of the government for the sake of encouraging religious tolerance in an often-volatile region where Catholics are a minority.

Francis avoided direct mention of criticism in the West over allegations of human rights abuses in Azerbaijan and a recent government referendum that extends the president's term and gives him new powers.

The pope addressed a gathering of Muslim, Jewish and Orthodox leaders in Azerbaijan's main mosque before heading back to Rome after a weekend Caucasus visit that first took him to Georgia.

"From this highly symbolic place, a heartfelt cry rises up once again: No more violence in the name of God!" Francis said. "May his most holy name be adored, not profaned or bartered as a commodity through forms of hatred and human opposition."

The pope spent his 10 hours in the Azeri capital of Baku celebrating one of the world's smallest Catholic communities and the good relations it enjoys with Azerbaijan's Shiite Muslim majority and its Jewish, Orthodox and other religious minorities. There are only about 300 Azeri Catholics in Azerbaijan, though the community also includes several thousand foreigners.

"These good relations assume great significance for peaceful coexistence and for peace in the world,"

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Francis told President Ilham Aliyev and government officials. "They demonstrate that among followers of different religious confessions, cordial relations, respect and cooperation for the common good are possible."

As a case in point, Francis celebrated Mass in Baku's new Catholic Church, which was built with the financial help of Muslims and Jews, according to the Salesian priests who preside there. The Azeri government donated a plot of land on the outskirts of the capital after St. John Paul II visited in 2002, but it took the help of non-Christians to get the structure built.

"Have courage! Go on, without fear! Go ahead!" Francis urged the 400 Catholic faithful in the church and another 450 seated outside in the courtyard.

At the end of the Mass, 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.

"I cannot contain my boundless joy," parishioner Eva Agalarova, 61, said of Francis' visit.

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, and created new vice presidential jobs and cancelled age limits.

Aliyev's opponents, as well as human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Freedom House, said the moves would cement a dynastic rule in the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation. The Azerbaijani government has rejected the criticism, saying the constitutional amendments aim to cut red tape and speed up economic reforms.

Francis didn't address the criticism directly, though he spoke of the "significant efforts" Azerbaijan has made over the 25 years since its independence to strengthen civic institutions. Such a general exhortation suggested Francis didn't want to rock the boat for his small flock here given the good relations the Catholic Church enjoys with the government.

Aliyev, for his part, called Francis' visit historic.

"You are sending a clear message to the world here from Baku that multiculturalism, interfaith dialogue and goodwill has to prevail," he said to applause in the striking Zaha Hadid-designed Baku conference center, one of the many modern buildings that have sprung up in Baku in recent years.

Francis' visit to Azerbaijan bookended his 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.

In his speech, Francis expressed his solidarity with "those who have had to leave their land" and urged the countries involved to "courageously" find paths of peace. With the help of the international community, he urged both sides in the conflict to "grasp every opportunity" to end the conflict.

Zemfira Mamedova, 70, said the pope's call for a peaceful resolution was the key expectation of his 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."

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.

Clinton could put away Trump by carrying North Carolina

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Republican Donald Trump can do little to stop Democrat Hillary Clinton from winning the presidency if she carries North Carolina, where their close race reflects the national liabilities of both candidates.

Trump is struggling with conservative Democrats, especially women in the big and booming suburbs of Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham, who've long been part of the GOP's winning formula in North Carolina.

Clinton has her own worries: Younger voters who helped Barack Obama win the state in 2008 and come close in 2012 are far more hesitant to back her.

In a scenario playing out across the most contested states, Clinton's pursuit of new supporters is aided by a huge, data-driven ground force in North Carolina, while Trump is sticking with his come-what-may plan.

"Both candidates have problems here," said Paul Shumaker, an adviser to U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who is seeking re-election. "But I think the Clinton people are more attuned about fixing their problems than Trump's are."

Clinton, in a visit Sunday to Charlotte, addressed congregants at a black church less than two weeks after the police-involved shooting death of a black man. The shooting led to two nights of violent protests and a debate over race relations.

"We've got to take action. We've got to start now, not tomorrow. Not next year, now," Clinton said.

Polls suggest North Carolina, Ohio and Florida are among the most competitive states expected to decide the final steps on the path to the 270 electoral votes required to win the White House.

In all but one of the past nine presidential elections, the Republican nominee has taken North Carolina. Clinton's apparent strength in once reliably Republican Virginia and swing state Colorado may mean a perilously narrow route to an electoral majority for Trump.

If Clinton captures North Carolina, Trump would have to carry perennially tight Ohio and Florida, plus Democrat-leaning Pennsylvania, and sweep less populous close states that appear increasingly out of reach.

Shumaker says GOP support for Trump is lower than usual in North Carolina, as estimated in private GOP and public polling. 2012 nominee Mitt Romney received more than 90 percent of the GOP vote in North Carolina, according to exit polls; Trump appears markedly short of that.

Trump promised to win over conservative Democrats, who are common in Cary, a suburb of roomy brick homes and newer retail developments west of Raleigh.

Such a voter is Sunday Petrov, who is grudgingly backing Clinton. "It's more like I'm voting against Trump," she said. "What bothers me most is his disrespect for Hispanics, for Muslims, his unprofessional demeanor."

Trump has little outreach aimed at specific voter groups in North Carolina; Clinton does. She needs it with younger people, with whom her polling margins pale next to Obama's in 2008 and 2012.

After last Monday's debate with Trump, she pleaded her case during a rally at Wake Tech Community College. The election, she said, "is more about the future of young people and children than it's ever been," and she talked about her plan for government-subsidized, tuition-free college. Later in the week, Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, visited Asheville and Greenville, stopping at Eastern Carolina University to focus on college debt.

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"North Carolina feels like Virginia in 2012," said Dan Kanninen, the Clinton campaign's top adviser in the state.

Obama won Virginia in 2008 and 2012, after 10 consecutive GOP victories there, by attracting younger, ethnically diverse and more educated adults, especially those flowing into northern Virginia's tech and defense sectors.

Clinton is putting that same strategy to work in North Carolina. Universities, high-tech companies such as Cisco Systems and the financial sector, including Fidelity Investments, have attracted thousands of young professionals to the Raleigh area alone since 2012.

In the past four years, North Carolina has added roughly 300,000 voters, mostly in metropolitan areas that account for half of the state's vote. They are predominantly college-educated, which is good news for Clinton in a close race.

"Trump's biggest problem is college-educated whites," said Republican strategist Michael Luethy, who charts legislative races. "If he solves his problem there, he wins. Easier said than done."

Perhaps the biggest unknown heading into the Nov. 8 election is whether African-Americans will turn out for Clinton at near the historic levels they twice did for Obama, the first black president.

Clinton dominates Trump among African-Americans, who make up 22 percent of North Carolina's voters, the biggest share of any of battleground state. Trump has done little to turn around long-standing support for Democrats by black voters.

Clinton has organizers on or near campuses of the state's 12 historically black colleges and universities.

Moreover, early-voting restrictions enacted in 2013 by North Carolina's Republican-controlled Legislature and GOP Gov. Pat McCrory were overturned after being ruled discriminatory toward black voters.

McCrory is up for re-election in November and trails Democrat Roy Cooper in a rare case where a down-ballot race could generate turnout for the presidential campaign.

"I think Democratic intensity on that issue — the attempt at voter suppression — is going to keep African-American turnout at the levels we've had lately," said Ken Eudy, a Democratic campaign strategist. Shumaker, the GOP senator's aide, said that may be enough to lift Clinton in a close race.

"It's going to come down to the wire," he said. "And we're a 2-point state."

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Clinton says wave of shootings show need to protect children

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Hillary Clinton said Sunday that the spate of gun violence in the United States should call the nation to do more to protect "all of God's children."

Clinton addressed congregants at Little Rock AME Zion Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, fewer than two weeks after the shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott touched off two nights of violent protests in the city's downtown.

"Protecting all of God's children is America's calling," the Democratic presidential nominee said. Clinton said too many black families have been forced to deal with the same tragedy as Scott's family.

"Our entire country should take a moment to really look at what's going on here and across America, to imagine what we see on the news and what we hear about, imagine it through our children's eyes," she said.

Clinton had planned to visit the city last week but delayed the trip after city officials said their re-

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sources were stretched thin. North Carolina is among the nation's top battleground states and Clinton's campaign has invested heavily in the state won by Republican Mitt Romney in the 2012 election.

Clinton did not mention Republican Donald Trump by name but referenced her opponent's calls for "law-and-order" during the campaign.

"There are some out there who see this as a moment to fan the flames of resentment and division. Who want to exploit people's fears even though it means tearing our nation even further apart," Clinton said. "They say that all of our problems would be solved simply by more law and order. As if the systemic racism plaguing our country doesn't exist."

The former secretary of state has made gun control and criminal justice reform a centerpiece of her campaign, speaking after high-profile shootings in Texas, Louisiana and South Carolina. She pointed to the shootings of police officers in Dallas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Philadelphia; and said their families deserved prayers.

"It's been a hard year, hasn't it?" Clinton asked, as people in the congregation responded, "Yes." "Think about how many times President Obama has had to console our nation about another senseless tragedy, another shattered family, another distressed community and our children are watching and they feel it too."

During the services, Clinton invited 9-year-old Zianna Oliphant to join her at the pulpit, recalling the black child's tearful address to the city council on race relations. Zianna recently told city leaders that she couldn't "stand how we're treated," a speech that Clinton said moved her to tears.

Clinton acknowledged the gap in how white and black children are treated. She said that while she worries about her two grandchildren, her worries "are not the same as black grandmothers" noting her daughter's children are related to a former president and secretary of state.

"Let's be honest, they won't face the same kind of fear we heard from the young children testifying before the city council," she said. Clinton later met privately with community leaders at a downtown soul food restaurant.

Scott was shot Sept. 20 while standing outside his vehicle. Police say he was armed but video released by Charlotte-Mecklenburg authorities was inconclusive. The officer who shot Scott is also black.

Editorial Roundup: Excerpts from recent editorials

By The Associated Press

Excerpts from recent editorials in the United States and abroad:

Sept. 27

The Arizona Republic on endorsing Hillary Clinton for president:

Since The Arizona Republic began publication in 1890, we have never endorsed a Democrat over a Republican for president. Never. This reflects a deep philosophical appreciation for conservative ideals and Republican principles.

This year is different.

The 2016 Republican candidate is not conservative and he is not qualified.

That's why, for the first time in our history, The Arizona Republic will support a Democrat for president.

The challenges the United States faces domestically and internationally demand a steady hand, a cool head and the ability to think carefully before acting.

Hillary Clinton understands this. Donald Trump does not.

Clinton has the temperament and experience to be president. Donald Trump does not.

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Clinton knows how to compromise and to lead with intelligence, decorum and perspective. She has a record of public service as First Lady, senator and secretary of state.

She has withstood decades of scrutiny so intense it would wither most politicians. The vehemence of some of the anti-Clinton attacks strains credulity.

Trump hasn't even let the American people scrutinize his tax returns, which could help the nation judge his claims of business acumen.

Make no mistake: Hillary Clinton has flaws. She has made serious missteps.

Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of State was a mistake, as she has acknowledged. Donations to the Clinton Foundation while she was secretary of State raise concerns that donors were hoping to buy access. Though there is no evidence of wrongdoing, she should have put up a firewall.

Yet despite her flaws, Clinton is the superior choice.

She does not casually say things that embolden our adversaries and frighten our allies. Her approach to governance is mature, confident and rational.

That cannot be said of her opponent.

Clinton retains her composure under pressure. She's tough. She doesn't back down.

Trump responds to criticism with the petulance of verbal spit wads.

That's beneath our national dignity.

When the president of the United States speaks, the world expects substance. Not a blistering tweet.

Clinton has argued America's case before friendly and unfriendly foreign leaders with tenacity, diplomacy and skill. She earned respect by knowing the issues, the history and the facts.

She is intimately familiar with the challenges we face in our relations with Russia, China, the Middle East, North Korea and elsewhere. She'll stand by our friends and she's not afraid to confront our enemies.

Contrast Clinton's tenacity and professionalism with Trump, who began his campaign with gross generalities about Mexico and Mexicans as criminals and rapists. These were careless slaps at a valued trading partner and Arizona's neighbor. They were thoughtless insults about people whose labor and energy enrich our country.

Trump demonstrated his clumsiness on the world stage by making nice with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto only a few hours before appearing in Phoenix to deliver yet another rant about Mexican immigrants and border walls.

What's more, Arizona went down the hardline immigration road Trump travels. It led our state to SB 1070, the 2010 "show me your papers" law that earned Arizona international condemnation and did nothing to resolve real problems with undocumented immigration.

Arizona understands that we don't need a repeat of that divisive, unproductive fiasco on the national level. A recent poll shows Arizonans oppose both more walls and the mass deportations Trump endorses.

We need a president who can broker solutions.

Clinton calls for comprehensive immigration reform, a goal that business, faith and law enforcement leaders have sought for years. Her support for a pathway to citizenship and her call for compassion for families torn apart by deportation are consistent with her longtime support for human rights.

As secretary of state, Clinton made gender equality a priority for U.S. foreign policy. This is an extension of Clinton's bold "women's rights are human rights" speech in 1995.

It reflects an understanding that America's commitment to human rights is a critically needed beacon in today's troubled world.

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Trump's long history of objectifying women and his demeaning comments about women during the campaign are not just good-old-boy gaffes.

They are evidence of deep character flaws. They are part of a pattern.

Trump mocked a reporter's physical handicap. Picked a fight with a Gold Star family. Insulted POWs. Suggested a Latino judge can't be fair because of his heritage. Proposed banning Muslim immigration.

Each of those comments show a stunning lack of human decency, empathy and respect. Taken together they reveal a candidate who doesn't grasp our national ideals.

Many Republicans understand this. But they shudder at the thought of Hillary Clinton naming Supreme Court justices. So they stick with Trump. We get that. But we ask them to see Trump for what he is — and what he is not.

Trump's conversion to conservatism is recent and unconvincing. There is no guarantee he will name solid conservatives to the Supreme Court.

Hillary Clinton has long been a centrist. Despite her tack left to woo Bernie Sanders supporters, Clinton retains her centrist roots. Her justices might not be in the mold of Antonin Scalia, but they will be accomplished individuals with the experience, education and intelligence to handle the job.

They will be competent. Just as she is competent.

Trump's inability to control himself or be controlled by others represents a real threat to our national security. His recent efforts to stay on script are not reassuring. They are phony.

The president commands our nuclear arsenal. Trump can't command his own rhetoric.

Were he to become president, his casual remarks — such as saying he wouldn't defend NATO partners from invasion — could have devastating consequences.

Trump has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin, a thug who has made it clear he wants to expand Russia's international footprint.

Trump suggested Russia engage in espionage against Hillary Clinton — an outrageous statement that he later insisted was meant in jest.

Trump said President Obama and Hillary Clinton were "co-founders" of ISIS, then walked that back by saying it was sarcasm.

It was reckless.

Being the leader of the free world requires a sense of propriety that Trump lacks.

We understand that Trump's candidacy tapped a deep discontent among those who feel left behind by a changed economy and shifting demographics.

Their concerns deserve to be discussed with respect.

Ironically, Trump hasn't done that. He has merely pandered. Instead of offering solutions, he hangs scapegoats like piñatas and invites people to take a swing.

In a nation with an increasingly diverse population, Trump offers a recipe for permanent civil discord.

In a global economy, he offers protectionism and a false promise to bring back jobs that no longer exist.

America needs to look ahead and build a new era of prosperity for the working class.

This is Hillary Clinton's opportunity. She can reach out to those who feel left behind. She can make it clear that America sees them and will address their concerns.

She can move us beyond rancor and incivility.

The Arizona Republic endorses Hillary Clinton for president.

Online:

<http://www.azcentral.com/>

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Sept. 27

The Telegraph, United Kingdom, on the resignation of England soccer manager Sam Allardyce: Managing the England football team is more than a job. The incumbent is not merely responsible for the performance of the national team of the country that invented the game, he is a figurehead and standard-bearer for a sport that stirs emotions to unique depths. He is a leader, or should be.

Sam Allardyce has manifestly failed to live up to the standards expected of an England manager. His willingness to engage in detailed conversations with people he believed represented wealthy foreign business interests about how to get around football's rules show that he is not the man to champion probity and honesty in the game. It is right that he has gone.

Mr Allardyce's early departure from the job is necessary, but not sufficient, to address the deep and troubling problems in football identified by this newspaper's investigations. Those problems are partly organisational and partly cultural.

Football's cultural problem is, of course, about money. The sums of cash that wash around the global game are almost unimaginable to the people who ultimately provide it, the fans in the stands and — increasingly — on the sofa at home.

The role of big money in football is much discussed, and it should be remembered that it is often a force for good: better stadiums, better facilities, better broadcasting and possibly even better football are among the results.

To a man of Mr Allardyce's age, the financial transformation of the game must seem scarcely believable: his generation of players earned wages comparable with those of well-paid tradesmen. Today's teenage stars can earn millions, even for less than stellar performances.

Huge wealth has become the norm in professional football. Perhaps this dramatic shift in what is normal in the world of football explains why a man paid £3 million a year would appear so recklessly keen to accept another £400,000.

Mr Allardyce's behaviour may also be explained partly by one of the institutional failures we have highlighted. In perhaps his most telling comments to our reporters, he said that any deal with our fictitious Asian company would have to be agreed by the Football Association, then immediately began discussing business trips to Asia. That suggests blithe confidence the FA would approve his arrangements, not fear of a rigorous watchdog.

That brings us to the organisational problems with English football and the FA in particular. In the short term, the FA has questions to answer about the decision to appoint Mr Allardyce without apparently considering other candidates. Given the previous concerns about his conduct, did the association subject him to adequate scrutiny before handing him this most sensitive of posts?

More broadly, the FA is supposed to be the game's regulator, the body that sets and enforces the rules that are needed to retain public confidence in the sport's conduct. Yet the FA fails to meet that standard, not least because of its own structure.

Despite repeated recommendations from MPs on the Commons culture committee and the Government, the FA still gives a majority of seats on its ruling board to representatives of football clubs, not independent executives and outside experts. The FA is thus less of an independent regulator than a trade body dominated by the interests of the clubs.

Are the big clubs — who deal most frequently with the agents and middlemen that broker transfer deals — truly committed to ending dubious financial practices?

And are they truly committed to ensuring that an appropriate share of football's riches trickles down to the grassroots game in England, which is still painfully lacking in professional coaching support and thus ill-equipped to produce the home-grown stars that would give England a better national team?

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Sadly, much of the evidence suggests that the answer to those questions is "No".

If the big clubs are happy to turn a blind eye to the dark side of football's recent enrichment, they are unwise in the extreme. Corruption in football is not a victimless crime. The cash involved comes from fans who pay because they want the best possible sporting entertainment, not to buy new sports cars and holiday homes for agents and managers.

Their loyalty to their clubs has been sorely tested by rising prices and squads devoid of players with any local connection. It may not survive the idea that the game is largely a racket run for the benefit of fixers and middlemen: if managers, agents and players are willing to bend the rules on transfers, might they also do so when it comes to results on the pitch?

This affair is about much more than one manager's career. Confidence in football as a whole hangs in the balance. The river of money that flows from fans' pockets into the professional game may not run forever. The FA and the clubs have much to lose if they fail to recognise what is at stake here.

Online:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Sept. 26

The Wall Street Journal on the first presidential debate:

The two most unpopular presidential candidates in modern history had their first debate Monday, and the best we can say is that they lived up to those expectations. Hillary Clinton offered a relentless assault on Donald Trump's business record and qualifications to be President, but she offered little reason to believe she would lift the country out of its economic and psychological funk. Mr. Trump made the case for change, but in a blunderbuss fashion that will have voters wondering if he knows enough for the job.

There's little doubt that Mrs. Clinton won on debating points. She can master a briefing book, and from the first answer she dumped most of it on Mr. Trump. The central argument of her campaign is to elect her because the New Yorker is "unfit" to be President, and her strategy was to taunt him with attacks on his business record that always seem to drive him to distraction.

And sure enough, Mr. Trump often took the bait, wasting time on details about his company's history while barely going on offense against the Clinton Foundation. He also couldn't resist a long, defensive explanation of his opposition to the Iraq war and why he hasn't released his tax returns.

These columns warned Mr. Trump — and GOP voters — during the primaries that by not releasing his returns he was giving Democrats an opening to assert what he might be "hiding." Mrs. Clinton took full advantage, offering a list of imagined horrors and even suggesting he might have paid "zero" taxes.

On policy Mrs. Clinton rolled out her list of seemingly endless programs that amount to the agenda of the last eight years, only more so. She has a government solution to every social and economic anxiety, and if you like the current economy she is your candidate.

That unhappy status quo remains Mr. Trump's opening, yet he missed more chances than he hit. Offered a lay-up opportunity at the start on the economy, he sounded a Donny-one-note on trade — as if cutting imports is the magic cure for 1% growth. He eventually got around to touting his tax cut, albeit with few specifics, but he barely mentioned the burden of regulation.

The Republican did better on race and crime, showing a sympathy on the question while calling for "law and order." He also had a better grasp of the legal history of New York's "stop and frisk" policing than moderator Lester Holt, who took the liberal line that it was declared "unconstitutional." That ruling was by a lower court judge whose bias was rebuked by an appellate court, and then New York's new mayor dropped the city's appeal.

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Speaking of Mr. Holt, he clearly took to heart the liberal media assault on his colleague Matt Lauer three weeks ago, as his questions and fact-checking tilted in Mrs. Clinton's direction. Mr. Holt challenged Mr. Trump on his dubious claim that he opposed the Iraq war before the invasion, but he didn't challenge Mrs. Clinton on her false claim that George W. Bush decided the U.S. should pull out of Iraq in 2011. If you think we're wrong, watch who praises Mr. Holt this week.

For all of Mr. Trump's substantive weaknesses, the challenger did score points by portraying Mrs. Clinton as an architect of America's current malaise. His taunt that she has been around "for 30 years" strikes home. The central question in the election is coming down to whether an American majority that wants a change in direction is willing to take the risk on Mr. Trump to deliver it. It's still a question after Monday night.

Online:

<http://www.wsj.com/>

Sept. 26

The Washington Post on the U.S., Russia and Syria:

"WHAT RUSSIA is sponsoring and doing" in the Syrian city of Aleppo "is barbarism," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said on Sunday. She's right: For days, Russian and Syrian planes have rained bombs — including white phosphorus, cluster munitions and "bunker-busters" designed to penetrate basements — on the rebel-held side of the city. Hundreds of civilians have been killed; as many as half are children. U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura described "new heights of horror." Ms. Power said that "instead of helping get lifesaving aid to civilians, Russia and (Syria) are bombing the humanitarian convoys, hospitals and first responders who are trying desperately to keep people alive."

It goes without saying that this war-crimes-rich offensive, which Syria's U.N. ambassador said is aimed at recapturing east Aleppo, has shredded the Obama administration's attempt to win Russian and Syrian compliance with a cessation of hostilities. So naturally reporters asked senior officials as the attack was getting underway how the United States would respond. "I don't think .??. this is the time to say where we will go from here," one answered. Said another: "We're waiting to see what the Russians come back with."

In other words: Hem, haw.

By Monday, the administration's response seemed clear: It will hotly condemn the assault on Aleppo, but do absolutely nothing to stop it. On the contrary, Secretary of State John F. Kerry insisted he will continue to go back to the regime of Vladimir Putin with diplomatic offers, hoping it will choose to stop bombing. "The United States makes absolutely no apology for going the extra mile to try and ease the suffering of the Syrian people," he grandly declared after a meeting Thursday on Syria. By "extra mile," he doesn't mean actual U.S. steps to protect civilians — just more futile and debasing appeals to Moscow.

The Putin and Bashar al-Assad regimes are well aware that the only U.S. action President Obama has authorized is diplomatic, and that they are therefore under no pressure to alter their behavior. They already obtained, via Mr. Kerry, U.S. agreement to the principle that the Assad regime should remain in power while the United States and Russia join in fighting those rebels deemed to be terrorists. The regime then took advantage of a mistaken bombing of Syrian soldiers in eastern Syria to launch the assault on Aleppo, and Russia joined in. If it succeeds, Damascus will have essentially won the civil war and will have no real need for the negotiations Mr. Kerry says the cease-fire should lead to. If the offensive stalls, Mr. Putin can send Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov back to renew the deal with Mr. Kerry. Either way, Russia wins.

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The losers are the civilians trapped in eastern Aleppo — 250,000 to 275,000 human beings — who are cut off from supplies of food and medicine and being bombed mercilessly. They are being offered the same choice the regime has successfully imposed on other towns across the country: surrender or starve. Those who try to approach the evacuation corridors Russia says have been established are shot at. They are, indeed, victims of barbarism — but the rhetoric of U.S. diplomats, and continued petitioning to Mr. Putin, won't help them much.

Online:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Sept. 25

The Miami Herald on the death of Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez:

It's amazing — the nightmares that José Fernandez survived and the common reward of the American Dream that he didn't. The Marlins pitcher with the golden arm made it across the Florida Straits to this country on a boat fleeing Cuba. This, after failed attempts landed him in prison on the island.

Early Sunday, another boat ride, this one for fun, ferried him away forever. A 32-foot SeaVee on which he was riding with two friends smashed into the unforgiving rocks of Government Cut. All three died. Mr. Fernandez was 24.

Mr. Fernandez was the other Mr. 305, our biggest hometown sports star today, and its most joyful. And his loss has sapped so much of that infectious joy out of our community, our team and Major League Baseball.

Mr. Fernandez was an engaging ambassador, the face of exile and success, a young man who found the American Dream by throwing a ball — extremely well — and, in the process, lifted his family and Greater Miami into a better way of life.

Whether or not you are a sports fan, you were charmed by Mr. Fernandez. He wasn't the least bit embarrassed to put his love for his mother and grandmother on heartwarming public display. His grandmother made it here from the island thanks to his fame. And he was about to become a dad. He recently went on social media to announce that he and his girlfriend were expecting a child.

Mr. Fernandez usually played his best baseball to the home crowd. The young phenom was a marvel on the mound, striking out hitters like no other Marlins pitcher before him.

Despite his youth, Mr. Fernandez was one of the team's leaders, an enthusiastic teammate who played with joy and abandon, a cheerleader for the team, a young man full of life, never too busy for fans. Sportswriters say a frequent phrase that he uttered was, "I'm lucky."

But what did Oprah Winfrey call luck? "Preparation meeting opportunity." Mr. Fernandez, who, as a child hit baseball-sized rocks with sturdy tree branches, clearly was ready when chance gave him a wink.

He knew that fame, wealth and a Major League baseball career were not originally in the cards. At a tearful Marlins news conference Sunday, team president David Samson said Mr. Fernandez often tried to explain how far he had come in a journey that began after he finally escaped the island on a boat at age 15.

"He would say to me: 'You were born into freedom, you don't understand,'" Mr. Samson told reporters.

And things were going his way. After elbow surgery last year, Mr. Fernandez was getting his mojo back. His last start against the Washington Nationals was the best of his four-year career, he told a teammate. He allowed no runs, only three hits and struck out 12 batters — just the latest indication of how great he was going to be. The Marlins definitely needed him, but Major League Baseball hungered

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for a star like him, too.

After that stellar showing last week, the usually stern-faced former Major League slugger Barry Bonds, now a Marlins hitting coach, hugged and squeezed the young pitcher in the dugout in front of fans and cameras. Mr. Fernandez laughed like a kid.

That's one of the final public images of him: joyful. And, no doubt, it will be one of the most enduring. He was a pitcher primed for the record books. Instead, there is this final, heartbreaking stat: Miami Marlins pitcher José Fernandez, 1992-2016.

Online:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/>

Sept. 25

The Orange County Register on a Freedom of Information Request regarding last year's San Bernardino shooting:

After the attack in San Bernardino last December that killed 14 people and wounded 22 others, the FBI hired a private hacker to unlock the iPhone of one of the two dead terrorists. Perhaps the FBI learned some of Syed Rizwan Farook's evil secrets. But it also created unsettling secrets of its own.

The mysteries left over from the episode start with these: Who is the unnamed private party the FBI paid to break the smartphone's security device? How much taxpayer money did the agency pay?

News organizations that have been stiff-armed by the FBI in their Freedom of Information Act request now are suing the bureau for answers.

We hope they succeed. The public should be able to know more about how the FBI cracked the privacy safeguards on the terrorist's Apple phone. This is about more than one investigation and one wrongdoer's phone — it's about the threat that the government's ability to break into electronic devices could pose to anybody's online privacy and safety, especially if the tools fell into the wrong hands.

As the lawsuit, filed last week by the Associated Press, the Gannett media company and the Vice Media digital and broadcasting company, said: "Understanding the amount that the FBI deemed appropriate to spend on the tool, as well as the identity and reputation of the vendor it did businesses with, is essential for the public to provide effective oversight of government functions and help guard against potential improprieties."

Of course, there may have to be limits on what civilians can know about law enforcement's methods without compromising their effectiveness. But the proper limits almost certainly are fewer than government officials would claim.

Last winter, the FBI tried to force Apple to devise a way to unlock Farook's work phone, while tech companies argued this would undercut all smartphone owners' privacy. A day before a scheduled showdown in a Riverside court, the FBI announced it had hired someone to hack the phone. The question remains whether the FBI had been bluffing, claiming it needed the power to compel private companies to cooperate with it when it really didn't.

But first questions first. Americans should cheer the AP-led lawsuit.

Online:

<http://www.ocregister.com/>

Sept. 24

The Charlotte Observer on the release of dashcam and body camera videos showing the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott:

The dashcam and body cam videos released Saturday neither prove that the shooting of Keith Lamont

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Scott was justified nor that it was unjustified. They are one batch of evidence that tells us certain things but not others.

The dashcam video shows that Scott was walking backwards with his hands at his side when Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officer Brentley Vinson fired four shots at him. Scott does not appear to lift his hand, was not aiming a gun at an officer and did not make any abrupt movements. The videos also don't show a gun on the ground near Scott's feet, where a highly publicized photo on social media showed it.

The videos do not show conclusively, though, whether Scott had a gun in his hand. CMPD Chief Kerr Putney said he did. The videos leave that question unresolved.

Both sides can claim the videos support their view of the case. Those who think Scott was unjustifiably killed can reasonably say the video shows Scott did not pose an imminent threat to Vinson. Police can reasonably say the totality of the evidence justifies Vinson's claim that he felt threatened and that the videos do not disprove that.

Even though the videos were inconclusive, Putney and Mayor Jennifer Roberts were right, if late, to release them. They did so only after claiming that they couldn't because the videos were in the custody of the State Bureau of Investigation — and the SBI correcting them on that point. Now the public can see, in part, what happened, as it should. Residents on all sides of the issue now need to be patient and let the SBI complete its independent investigation.

Online:

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/>

Sept. 23

China Daily on the refugee crisis:

On Monday, at the first United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, UN members pledged, through the New York Declaration, to protect and help refugees, and better respond to the refugee crisis.

On Wednesday, more than 40 lives were lost in the Mediterranean off Egypt's north coast when a boat carrying hundreds of migrants, reportedly Italy-bound, capsized.

If the current refugee-induced and refugee-related troubles in Europe illustrate the challenges in accommodating those who have already reached European shores, the latest incident is a tragic reminder of the broader refugee crisis.

That makes the commitments of world leaders in New York worthy of imminent action. They are of utmost importance to improving international humanitarian guarantees and services for this vulnerable group. If all the promises made in New York can ultimately be honored, it would help to end the refugee crisis.

But just as a UN official conceded: "We have been able to give the basics to refugees, like blankets, medicine, some food. But what refugees want also is a future, is education, is jobs."

We are talking about the largest refugee crisis since World War II, with 65 million people considered refugees and migrants. Yet the New York Declaration treats only the tail end, not the root causes, of the ongoing crisis.

The massive inflow of refugees adds extra burden to destination countries, which are already struggling financially. The rest of the world has a moral obligation to help such countries to help those unfortunate newcomers.

Indeed, the refugee flow into Europe has dropped significantly over the past year. But that is mainly an outcome of tighter border control. On the other hand, the civil war in Syria, sectarian strifes in Iraq

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and Afghanistan, and domestic conflicts in some parts of Africa have never stopped creating new refugees, only it is a lot more difficult for them to make it to foreign countries.

The short-lived ceasefire in Syria and the corresponding finger-pointing between the United States and Russia are symbolic of the difficulty in restoring basic security and basic order there, which US President Barack Obama said "has broken down".

Therefore, besides organizing better responses to the refugee crisis, the world needs to place equal, if not more, emphasis on tackling its root causes, and maneuver and broaden consensus on solving the most devastating refugee-creating conflicts.

Because people will continue fleeing their homelands as the "cycles of conflict and suffering", Obama lamented, perpetuate.

Online:

<http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/>

Sept. 21

The Toronto Star on genetic testing and discrimination:

A well-founded fear of discrimination is keeping Canadians with potentially deadly genetic conditions from agreeing to be tested. To protect their privacy, they forego screening that could guide them in making sound medical and lifestyle choices.

The result is bad for the health care system and a stain on Canada's record of advancing human rights.

A bill now before Parliament would provide a necessary fix by outlawing discrimination based on genetic testing. It deserves unanimous support, but there's a catch: Canada's powerful insurance industry firmly opposes the measure.

The Genetic Non-Discrimination Act, or Bill S-201, would forbid employers, insurers or anyone else from demanding the results of a person's genetic test. It would amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the ground of genetic characteristics, and would change the Canada Labour Code explicitly to keep employees from having to undergo such testing.

This change is necessary given rapid developments in genetic science, including testing that can provide meaningful insight into a person's vulnerability to Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, early onset Alzheimer's disease, breast cancer and a host of other serious conditions.

In many cases, people could take steps to ease these dangers. But despite this potential benefit, there's strong evidence that many people are refusing to be tested for that fear an employer or insurance company will obtain their records and use the information against them.

Unlike most other Western countries, Canada doesn't protect against a third party demanding access to genetic test results, with those results used "often to one's detriment," warns Sen. James Cowan, the author of Bill S-201. "That is what is called genetic discrimination."

His measure received unanimous Senate support earlier this year and has moved to the House of Commons, where it is being advanced by Liberal MP Rob Oliphant. He recently expressed concern that the government may water down some provisions, but it's important that the protections offered by Bill S-201 remain intact.

The legislation is primarily aimed at insurance companies, and that's where the most fervent opposition resides. To be fair, the industry has understandable concerns. Companies typically require disclosure of health problems and lifestyle risk factors before setting a rate and agreeing to provide coverage.

If Bill S-201 passes, however, there would be nothing to stop someone from having a genetic test, learning of a serious health problem, and then investing heavily in life or other insurance. Industry

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officials warn the public would be stuck with higher premiums to cover this extra burden on insurers. Perhaps. But this cost would be off-set, at least in part, by savings to the health care system as more people learn of the genetic threats they face and make greater efforts to reduce their risk. Preventive steps range from the simple, such as losing weight, to the extreme, including undergoing a double mastectomy to deter breast cancer.

People shouldn't be blocked by fear from obtaining useful information about their health in the form of a genetic test. Even if it carries extra costs, protecting the vulnerable from discrimination based on the content of their DNA is the right thing to do.

Online:

<https://www.thestar.com/>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 3, the 277th day of 2016. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1951, the New York Giants captured the National League pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca of the Brooklyn Dodgers in the "shot heard 'round the world."

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington declared November 26, 1789, a day of Thanksgiving to express gratitude for the creation of the United States of America.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton, D-Ga., became the first woman to be appointed to the U.S. Senate (however, she served only a day).

In 1932, Iraq became independent of British administration.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again." "The Maltese Falcon" — the movie version starring Humphrey Bogart and directed by John Huston — opened in New York.

In 1962, astronaut Wally Schirra became the fifth American to fly in space as he blasted off from Cape Canaveral aboard the Sigma 7 on a 9-hour flight.

In 1974, Frank Robinson was named major league baseball's first black manager as he was placed in charge of the Cleveland Indians.

In 1981, Irish nationalists at the Maze Prison near Belfast, Northern Ireland, ended seven months of hunger strikes that had claimed 10 lives.

In 1990, West Germany and East Germany ended 45 years of postwar division, declaring the creation of a reunified country.

In 1991, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman (however, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial).

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: North Korea triggered global alarm by saying it would conduct a nuclear test, but the

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North also said it was committed to nuclear disarmament, suggesting a willingness to negotiate. A Turkish man hijacked a jetliner traveling from Albania to Istanbul, forcing it to land in southern Italy, where he surrendered and released all the passengers unharmed. Americans John C. Mather and George F. Smoot won the Nobel Prize in physics.

Five years ago: An Italian appeals court freed Amanda Knox of Seattle after four years in prison, tossing murder convictions against Knox and an ex-boyfriend in the stabbing of their British roommate, Meredith Kercher. Three scientists, Bruce Beutler of the U.S., Jules Hoffmann of France and Canadian-born Ralph Steinman (who had died three days earlier), won the Nobel Prize in medicine. Arthur C. Nielsen Jr., 92, who'd acquired the famous TV ratings company from his father, died in Winnetka, Illinois.

One year ago: Vice President Joe Biden, addressing the Human Rights Campaign dinner in Washington, threw his unequivocal support behind letting transgender people serve openly in the U.S. military, as the Obama administration considered whether and when to lift the longstanding ban (which it did in June 2016). A U.S. airstrike on a Doctors Without Borders hospital in the northern Afghanistan city of Kunduz killed 14 staff and 28 patients and caretakers. Max Scherzer pitched his second no-hitter of the season for Washington, leading the Nationals over the NL East champion New York Mets 2-0 for a doubleheader sweep.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Steve Reich is 80. Rock and roll star Chubby Checker is 75. Actor Alan Rachins is 74. Former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 73. Magician Roy Horn is 72. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 67. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 66. Blues singer Keb' Mo' is 65. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is 62. Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton is 62. Actor Hart Bochner is 60. Actor Peter Frechette is 60. World Golf Hall of Famer Fred Couples is 57. Actor-comedian Greg Proops is 57. Actor Jack Wagner is 57. Actor/musician Marcus Giamatti is 55. Rock musician Tommy Lee is 54. Actor Clive Owen is 52. Actress Janel Moloney is 47. Singer Gwen Stefani (steh-FAH'-nee) (No Doubt) is 47. Pop singer Kevin Richardson is 45. Rock singer G. Love is 44. Actress Keiko Agena (KAY'-koh ah-GAYN'-ah) is 43. Actress Neve Campbell is 43. Actress Lena Headey (HEE'-dee) is 43. Singer India.Arie (ah-REE') is 41. Rapper Talib Kweli (tuh-LIB' kwah-LEE') is 41. Actress Alanna Ubach is 41. Actor Seann (cq) William Scott is 40. Actress Shannyn Sossamon is 38. Rock musician Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 37. Actor Seth Gabel is 35. Rock musician Mark King (Hinder) is 34. Actor Erik Von Detten is 34. Singer-musician Cherrill Green (Edens Edge) is 33. Actress Tessa Thompson is 33. Actress Meagan Holder (TV: "Pitch") is 32. Actress-singer Ashlee Simpson is 32. Rapper A\$AP Rocky is 28. Actress Alicia Vikander is 28.

Thought for Today: "The worst disease in the world is the plague of vengeance." — Dr. Karl Menninger, American psychiatrist (1893-1990).