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Tuesday, Oct. 4

School Lunch: Submarines, sweet potato tots. fruit.
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.
Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breas, 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

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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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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Payday lending focus of two Nov. 8 ballot questions

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

The future of South Dakota's payday lending industry is on the line with two ballot issues offering widely disparate proposals.

The wording in the measures sounds similar, but the effects likely would be quite different.

Initiated Measure 21 would cap the interest rate a short-term lender could charge at 36 percent, a level that industry representatives say would drive the payday lenders out of business.

A second measure, Constitutional Amendment U, provides for an 18 percent interest rate cap on such loans, but allows for unlimited interest rates if agreed to in writing by the borrower. And, by placing these provisions in the state constitution, this measure could effectively protect the industry from further interest rate regulation by the legislature.

Initiated Measure 21 grew out of failed attempts in the legislature in recent years to regulate the short-term loan industry. Later, Amendment U was brought forward, supported by representatives of the payday loan industry, setting the stage for voters to make a potentially far-reaching decision.

At issue are so-called payday loans. The loans can be up to \$500 and are made for a short period of time, usually at high interest rates. A borrower agrees to repay the loan on the next payday.

Payday loan industry representatives have said they provide a necessary service to people who need emergency funds for a car, medical bill or other expense and have no access to more traditional lending options because of bad credit history, the lack of a checking account or other reasons.

If borrowers can't pay off the loan on the next payday, they can roll it over, incurring additional fees and interest. That happens often, according to financial officials. More than 80 percent of payday borrowers take out more than one loan, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

With fees added on as the loan is rolled over, a borrower can find that a \$300 loan has doubled or more in several months.

South Dakota law allows payday loans to be renewed four times.

IM 21 proponents say the loans trap low-income borrowers in a downward spiral that they can't escape, leading to further debt, bankruptcies and other family struggles.

"It is immoral for a lender to charge 574 percent interest on a low-income person," said Steve Hildebrandt, co-chair of South Dakotans for Responsible Lending and one of the organizers of Initiated Measure 21.

Hildebrandt said payday lenders are predators who prey on the poorest members of society. He said ministers from churches across the state have spoken to him about members of their congregation who are struggling to keep up with short-term loan debt.

"In many cases, consumers need protection from powerful corporations who have the ability to hurt them," Hildebrandt said.

A representative from the organization opposing the payday loan measure did not respond to an interview request. But in arguments the industry's representatives have authored on the ballot issue informational brochure distributed by the South Dakota Secretary of State, they make several arguments.

They say IM 21 would allow for more government intrusion into personal financial decisions and prohibit people from getting emergency loans for unexpected needs. Opponents also say the measure also would cost jobs for those who work for the loan companies.

There are about 100 payday loan stores operating in South Dakota.

Hildebrandt said most of those operations have out-of-state owners.

"Every dime they take away goes right out of South Dakota," he said.

State residents who find themselves strapped by expanding short-term loan payments don't have money to pay rent, buy groceries or spend money elsewhere, hurting the local economy, Hildebrandt said. He points to increased costs for taxpayers in housing assistance and other programs for those who can't make rent and other payments.

But industry representatives have said people seeking short-term loans usually don't have other op-

tions. They say low-income borrowers also struggle to pay bank fees charged for overdrafts or bad checks. The payday loan industry debate in the state has been emotionally charged and marked by legal challenges from both sides.

Opponents of Amendment U challenged the supporters' petition gathering process as well as the validity of petition signatures in trying to keep the proposed amendment from proceeding.

The Secretary of State determined that the petitions met the requirements for inclusion on the ballot.

Payday loan industry representatives filed a lawsuit, challenging the attorney general's explanation of IM 21 because it didn't indicate that passage of the law would put the industry out of business. A judge rejected that argument.

Hildebrand has accused the Amendment U proponents of being disingenuous in promoting a measure that protects unlimited interest rates by portraying it as a strict 18 percent rate cap.

"Virtually everything payday lenders say about their business is false," he said.

The proposed amendment lists an 18 percent cap on interest. But, that is misleading, opponents say, since the measure goes on to allow any interest rate to be charged if there is a written agreement with a borrower. They say nearly every loan would include a written contract, and that means most borrowers likely would face much higher interest rates.

Because the measure is a constitutional amendment, if approved, it also would limit the ability to set statutory interest rates in the future.

IM 21's interest rate limits apply to commercial and personal loans, including car-title loans.

It does not apply to state and national banks, bank holding companies, other federally insured financial institutions and state-chartered trust companies. The initiated measure also would not affect businesses that provide financing for goods and services they sell.

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.

Voters to decide candidate petitions, legislative districting

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

Voters this fall will review some changes state lawmakers made to election petition procedures and decide how best to determine legislative district boundaries.

Referred Law 19 challenges law changes made in 2015, including new deadlines for submitting nominating petitions and restrictions on who can sign petitions for Independent candidates.

A separate ballot measure, proposed Constitutional Amendment T, would change the process of drawing legislative district boundaries, removing that responsibility from legislators and giving it to a new redistricting commission.

Legislators took several actions in 2015, in an attempt to ward off abuses of current state laws regarding nominating petitions and other election processes.

They approved changes in the time frame for circulating nominating petitions, moving it from Jan. 1 through the last Tuesday of March to Dec. 1 through the first Tuesday in March. The measure changes signature requirements, sets other election-related deadlines and tightens the timeline for candidates who want to mail their petitions to meet the filing deadline.

The Secretary of State's office had initiated the petition timeline changes in order to allow more time to validate petitions. Several challenges to the current petition process had surfaced during the 2014 election.

But lawmakers also added amendments that made significant changes to signature requirements, particularly for Independent candidates trying to make the ballot.

Republicans at the time said the law changes would make elections fairer and help prevent abuses. They said the changes to Independent candidate petition requirements would make candidacy rules consistent for Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Cory Heidelberger, an online blogger from Aberdeen who led the petition drive to refer the law, said the

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changes make it harder for people to get on the ballot.

They have to decide to run sooner and then seek signatures in the busy month of December instead of the traditionally more weather-friendly month of March.

“This is a power play by Republicans,” Heidelberger said in an email. “This is about democracy. Don’t make it harder to run for office.”

One of the most disputed portions of the Referred Law 19, according to Heidelberger, involves the new rules on who can sign petitions. It would prohibit Democrats or Republicans from signing the nominating petitions of Independent candidates. Currently, there is no such restriction.

With only Independents able to sign Independent candidate petitions, the task becomes much harder, the law’s opponents say. It takes away 80 percent of the voters they can talk to, said Heidelberger.

“It’s a Republican attack on Independents,” he said.

Proponents in the Legislature said these measures provide uniformity to election procedures.

Referred Law 19 also places restrictions on replacing candidates who withdraw after the primary election.

AMENDMENT T – Redistricting changes

Supporters of the proposed redistricting amendment say the new method eliminates potential conflicts of interest that exist when lawmakers draw their own boundaries.

The proposed 9-member redistricting commission would be made up of voters from the two major political parties as well as those not affiliated with either.

“The most important aspect of Amendment T is the fact that it makes the redistricting process fairer, more inclusive and more protective of voters’ rights,” said Matt Sibley, legislative specialist with the South Dakota Farmers Union and a representative of the group supporting Amendment T.

The proponents of the amendment want to prevent legislators of a major party from altering district lines in order to favor or inhibit an incumbent. The measure would also block attempts to strategically place district boundaries to potentially favor the majority party.

But those opposing the amendment, say those abuses are not occurring and changing the decades-old redistricting system is simply unnecessary.

The state constitution requires the legislature to establish the districts every ten years. A committee made up of 15 legislators draws up the map.

“The proponents speak in generalities and say because there are problems in other states, we should change things here,” Rep. James Bolin, of Canton, said in an email. He served on the legislative committee responsible for the last redistricting process completed in 2011.

Keeping counties and neighborhoods intact in drawing legislative boundaries is a key protection, the amendment provides, according to Sibley. The measure also provides for public comment on the proposals.

Bolin points to results of the last redistricting commission as evidence that the existing system works in a bipartisan manner.

Representatives from both parties serve on the redistricting panel and offer input, he said. In one instance, the group voted to place Beadle County in one district as had been advocated by a Democratic representative.

“If we had wanted to be unfair to the Democrats, we could have listened respectfully and then voted to nullify her desires,” Bolin said. Instead, by a bipartisan vote “we voted to do the right thing” and make Beadle County whole, he said.

Some counties must be split, particularly in larger population areas such as Minnehaha and Lincoln counties. But, Bolin said, the last commission followed existing precinct lines in those counties.

“Our efforts to keep counties together should be applauded,” Bolin said “We split no voting precincts in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties.”

Lawmakers serve on the redistricting commission in proportion to their representation in the Legislature. Sibley said the panel’s makeup is part of the problem.

“It is built upon the fundamental principle that voters should choose their legislators. Legislators should not choose their voters,” Sibley said in an email.

Bolin counters that the amendment takes the responsibility for redistricting away from 105 legislators

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elected by the people and gives it to nine individuals, elected by no one.

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.

Two Nov. 8 ballot measure tackle workplace questions

By Maricarrol Kueter

For S.D. Newspaper Association

Two measures on the 2016 ballot would enact workplace changes in South Dakota.

Referred Law 20 asks voters to decide if a law setting a lower minimum wage for workers under 18 than for adults should go into effect.

Initiated Measure 23 would allow labor unions to charge fees to non-members for the work they provide in negotiating contracts and handling other services.

In November 2014, South Dakota voters approved raising the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour.

A few months later, the state legislature voted to set a lower minimum wage - \$7.50 an hour - for workers under 18. Opponents of that move petitioned to refer the matter to the state's voters.

In approving the youth wage, some legislators argued that authorizing a separate wage scale would help small businesses by permitting them to offer a lower training wage to young workers who don't have extensive experience.

In addition, if all workers earned the same wage, employers would be more likely to hire adults, lessening the opportunities for teens to enter the workforce, they said.

But those behind the referral say the legislature disrespected the will of voters in tinkering with the minimum wage.

"Proposing and voting for a lower minimum wage undermines the will of voters and disrespects our state's long-honored process of direct democracy," said Augustana College economics professor Reynold Nesiba in an email.

Nesiba said a higher minimum wage has not negatively affected the economy as some had warned. The labor market in South Dakota has continued to grow even with the minimum wage hike, he said.

INITIATED MEASURE 23 - Giving certain organizations the right to charge fees

The words "labor unions" do not appear in the text of Initiated Measure 23. It says only that the proposed law would give "certain organizations the right to charge fees."

But proponents, who are also labor union representatives, say the government should not be able to force any organization - including unions - to provide services for free.

Jason George, an official with the International Union of Operating Engineers, said currently people who work in a business that has a union contract can decide not to pay union dues or fees. They still get the benefits of the contract, under federal law.

"Think about it this way," he said in an email. "Many people belong to a health club where they pay a monthly fee to be a member of the club. If someone decides not to pay the fee, eventually, they are barred from using the services of the club. That's the way commerce works. You get something, you have to pay for it."

Unions, he said, can't prevent someone from using their services.

South Dakota is a right-to-work state, meaning you cannot be required to join a union in order to be hired for a job.

But, George said, the initiated measure would allow unions to charge what are called "fair-share fees," an amount less than the cost of a full union membership, to non-members who work in firms with union contracts. The amount of that fee would be determined by calculating the percentage of union members' dues that are spent on the negotiation and enforcement of contracts.

"I would hope that South Dakotans, even if they don't like unions, would agree that everyone should be

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treated fairly," said George.

Opponents say the initiated measure goes against the intent of the right-to-work provisions of the state constitution.

"Right to work addresses being forced to join a union," said David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in an email. "The payment of a fee without a membership versus being required to join the union is a distinction without a difference."

Owen said unions could instead choose to negotiate contracts only for their members and leave non-members to negotiate their own wages and benefits.

In addition, the vague wording of the initiative is confusing and could end up in court challenges, he said.

"People choose not to belong to unions for their own reasons. Forcing them to pay money to the unions hasn't been legal since the '70s and would render the right-to-work system meaningless," Owen said.

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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- Click on "Store Careers", then click on "Apply Online"
- Click "Search by Location -> Zip Code" to search for positions in Groton, SD 57445
- Log in to apply

Again thank you for your interest in Dollar General.

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Shopping locally is important

Letter to the Editor:

We all know there are many good reasons to shop locally. Not only do business owners benefit, but so does the community as a whole. Spending money at the local grocery store, hardware store or gas station gives us a sense of pride in contributing to the well-being of our neighbors. It also puts money directly back into the local economy.

You may not realize that by purchasing your electricity from the city of Groton, you're buying from a local public power utility. As we celebrate Public Power Week October 2-8, I'd like to share some of the value your local utility provides to the community, just like any other local business.

Public power utilities are supported by customer revenues which pay for maintenance and reinvestments in important infrastructure needs. Public power also creates local jobs. In public power, decisions are made locally, by elected officials and employees. Decisions aren't made with stockholders in mind. They're made with people in mind because public power is customer-focused.

Public power utilities are good neighbors. On average, public power utilities return to state and local governments in-lieu-of-tax payments and other contributions that are 31 percent greater than state and local taxes paid by private power companies. Public power utilities are committed to conservation, environmental stewardship and safety. They work to meet the needs of long-term community goals.

Each public power utility is different, reflecting its hometown characteristics and values, but all have a common purpose of providing reliable and safe electricity. Community citizens have a direct and powerful voice in utility decisions and policies, because public power is customer owned.

Heartland Consumers Power District provides wholesale power to the city of Groton and we're proud to offer a number of services to help the community thrive. Our energy efficiency incentives help consumers purchase efficient products and our economic development programs assist in creating local jobs. We are proud to be one of over 2,000 public power utilities serving 47 million people.

Sincerely,

Russell Olson, CEO
Heartland Consumers Power District

Highway 12 Centerline Rumble Strips To Be Installed

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation says work will begin to install centerline sinusoidal rumble strips on Highway 12 between Ipswich and Aberdeen on Wednesday, Oct. 5, depending on weather.

The project will begin just east of Ipswich to the four-lane divided highway, about four miles west of Aberdeen.

Sinusoidal rumble strips are also called "mumble" strips and are used to minimize noise disruption to those who live near the highway.

Rumble strips are an effective, low-cost countermeasure for preventing roadway departure crashes and cross-centerline crashes. Rumble strips are milled in a raised pattern that provides both an audible warning and a physical vibration to alert drivers they are crossing into opposing traffic or leaving the roadway.

The prime contractor on this \$213,000 project is Surface Preparation Technologies, LLC.

Traffic will be controlled with flaggers and motorists can expect a short delay.

The completion date for the project is Oct. 15.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com/sd or dial 511.

Netters edge Langford Area

It was a rough night for the host team as Groton needed four games to edge out Langford Area in volleyball action, 3-1.

Groton threatened to run away with the match as the Tigers won the first game, 25-10. But then Langford Area had other plans. The Lions took the lead and led by as many as 10 points in the second game before Groton rallied to tie the game at 21. The game was tied four more times and there were three lead changes as the second game went into extra points. Groton scored the last two points for the 27-25 win. Groton led in the third game by as many as five points, but the Lions rallied and tied the game at 18 and then took the lead. The game was tied at 23 and 24 as the third game went into extra points as well with Langford Area winning, 26-24.

The fourth game was a challenge for both sides as the game was tied 13 times and the lead changed hands five times before Groton Area pulled out the 25-23 win.

In the earlier matches, the seventh graders won, 25-18, 25-23, 25-16 and 19-12. The eighth graders won, 25-15, 25-10 and 25-16. And the junior varsity team won, 25-15 and 25-11.

Groton Area was 90 of 99 in serves with 13 ace serves. Katie Koehler was 18 of 21 with seven ace serves, Miranda Hanson was 19 of 20 with two ace serves and Payton Maine was 17 of 18 with two ace serves. Langford Area had 76 serves with one ace serve. Ady Dwight and Addy Taylor each had 17 serves and Madi Nelson had 13 with one ace serve.

In attacks, Groton Area was 149 of 178 with 52 kills. Gia Gengerke was 31 of 40 with 14 kills, Taylor Holm was 29 of 34 with 14 kills and Josie Doeden was 33 of 40 with 10 kills. Langford Area had 79 attacks with 15 kills. Maria Barker had 23 attacks and four kills, Ady Dwight had 21 attacks with six kills and Brandy Peterson had 18 attacks with two kills.

Groton Area was 150 of 153 in sets with 43 assists. Katie Koehler was 133 of 136 with 40 assists and Paityn Bonn was 13 of 13 with three assists. Chesney Olson had 102 sets and 11 assists.

Groton Area had 66 digs with Payton Maine having 18, Jessica Bjerke 15 and Katie Koehler nine. Langford Area had 58 digs with Madi Nelson having 19, Julia Swenson 14 and Ady Dwight nine.

Groton Area recorded no blocks. Ady Dwight had five for Langford Area with Maria Barker and Chesney Olson each having three.

Groton Area travels to Frederick tonight to take on the Titans.

SD Fire Marshal: Fire Prevention Week Chance to Practice Fire Safety

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota's fire marshal says this year's Fire Prevention Week is a chance for individuals and families to practice fire safety.

Fire Prevention Week starts Sunday, Oct. 9, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 15. State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says the week is a good opportunity for families to discuss what to do during a fire.

"We encourage families to hold fire drills in their home on a regular basis," says Merriman. "Everyone in the family should know how to escape the home in case there is a fire. It is too late to make a plan when an actual fire starts."

The theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Don't Wait. Check the Date!" This is the third year of a three-year campaign started by the National Fire Protection Association that focuses on the importance of smoke alarms.

"This year's message encourages homeowners to replace older smoke alarms every 10 years," Merriman says. "Smoke alarms are important and can help save lives. But they do no good when not properly maintained."

Smoke alarm messages for this week include:

- *** Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- *** Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- *** Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- *** Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- *** If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- *** Call the fire department from outside the home.

To learn more about smoke alarms, visit the National Fire Protection Association web site at www.firepreventionweek.org and www.sparky.org/fpw.

Merriman says many fire departments statewide will be holding events in observance of Fire Prevention Week.

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Graduated and On Your Own: Now What?

By Nathaniel Sillin

Fall is here and school is back in session but for many graduates, it's out for good. If you're a recent high school or college graduate, this might be the first time you're on your own. Living away from home and paying for your own housing, food and other necessities can be a tough adjustment. But being on your own for the first time is a new and exciting experience and it offers a perfect opportunity to set yourself up for success.

Make sure you have the right bank account for you. A lot may have changed since you opened your account, so consider changing your account to find the best one for your needs. If you are still sharing a bank account with your parents, consider opening your own. Opening an account can be simple and it's possible to do so online or over the phone – but you'll need a minimum deposit amount and documentation like your Social Security Number. For helpful tips, see the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) guide on opening a checking account.

Live within your means. As you begin your career it's essential to have reliable income and use it responsibly. A good budgeting guideline to start with is the 50/20/30 rule. Allot 50 percent of your income to necessary costs like housing, 20 percent to financial goals like repaying student loans and 30 percent to spending money. Remember that this is a rule of thumb and you can adjust it to fit your needs. Never spend more than you have, and always pay your bills on time.

Figure out taxes. The most important thing to know about taxes is that you must pay them on time or request a six month extension. If you've missed the deadline, don't ignore the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – follow their guidelines for repayment. There are multiple ways to pay your taxes and you can download the IRS2Go mobile app to make payments. Check with your parents before filing: if they claim you as a dependent, you won't be able to claim tax exemptions. Finally, check if you qualify for special exemptions like a student loan deduction.

Take charge of your student loans. First, confirm your loan status at the official Federal Student Aid website where you can also explore your payment options and estimate how long it will take to repay your loans. Always make the minimum payments on time, and if you're having trouble paying off your loans, don't ignore them. Contact your lender, explain your situation and pay as much as you can immediately while prioritizing paying off the rest.

Check up on your healthcare. Under the Affordable Care Act, you can stay on your parents' plan until you're 26. If you aren't currently on your parents' plan or wish to leave their plan, you have several options to explore. Under federal law, if you're not covered by health insurance you must pay a fee on your next federal tax return. You can explore the different levels of coverage available and estimate how much a plan will cost you at Healthcare.gov, the federal healthcare website.

Get ready for retirement – yes, really. The younger you start saving, the more valuable your savings are. According to this Bankrate example, starting your savings at age 25 at \$2,000 a year will yield a retirement account of \$560,000 (assuming your earnings grow at 8 percent every year). But starting 10 years later at age 35 will yield just \$245,000 at retirement – less than half the money you'd have if you started saving ten years earlier. The earlier you start saving, the more money you'll end up with – and if you take advantage of an employer-matched 401(k) fund, you can put away extra money for free.

Charge up your credit score. Building up credit as a young adult is important for big purchases down the road. Buying a house or purchasing a car are often significantly harder without a good credit score. It's smart to start building good credit while your expenses are relatively small. For more information, the CFPB has a database of frequently asked questions with everything you need to know about credit cards and credit scores.

Bottom line: Though the transition from student to independent adult may feel overwhelming, you can take this opportunity to get your finances organized and prepare for working life. Building a strong financial foundation early on will help you worry less about your money and allow you to fully enjoy other new aspects of your life after college.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

Farm Safety: Making It a Daily Habit

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Unfortunately, those of us working in agriculture often become complacent in our daily safety habits and focus more on task accomplishment, instead of safety. This harvest, SDSU Extension staff reminds producers across the state to slow down and put safety first.

"We know that agriculture ranks as one of the most dangerous occupations causing an estimated 167 lost-work-time injuries on a daily basis - and for many in agriculture, fall is the one of the busiest times of year," explained Tracey Erickson, SDSU Dairy Field Specialist.

She added that according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), of the injuries which occur each day on farms and ranches across the U.S. 5 percent result in permanent impairment. In addition, approximately 20 farm workers per 100,000 die annually, with the leading cause of these deaths being tractor overturns.

"It is so important to take time to train all employees on how to perform on-farm/ranch tasks safely," Erickson said. "Make sure to address incorrect performance immediately by showing and telling them how to perform a job correctly."

Below, Erickson outlines some basic tips to help increase safety this harvest.

Farm Safety Tips

- * Follow operating, maintenance and safety instructions in your operator's manual. Review them periodically.
- * Be personally fit and ready for a safe day at the wheel. Take occasional breaks to reduce fatigue.
- * Dress appropriately for weather and working conditions, including personal protective gear such as a bump cap, gloves, safety shoes, ear plugs, respirators, and safety glasses.
- * Make sure all equipment operators are well trained and competent.
- * Do not allow extra riders on equipment.
- * Keep all shielding in place and considering purchasing a roll-over protection system (ROPS) if the tractor is not already equipped with a ROPS or cab. Make certain hydraulic lines are properly connected and leak free.
- * Stop the power before unclogging or fixing a power-driven machine.
- * Match ground speed to operating conditions. Watch where you are going. Avoid obstacles, ditches and steep slopes.
- * Watch for overhead power lines.
- * When on the road, use your flashing lights. Make sure the slow-moving vehicle emblem is clean and visible. Obey all traffic rules. This includes NOT texting or using your personal smart phone for emailing or using apps, while driving equipment down roads.
- * Take the time to transport large equipment down public roads in an appropriate manner.
- * Turn off the engine before refueling. Do NOT smoke around hazardous chemicals.
- * When parking, set brakes, shift into "park" or "neutral".
- * Make sure there is a working fire extinguisher and first aid kit on your operating equipment and that all employees know where they are and how to access or operate.
- * Before emptying manure pits make sure it has been well ventilated and that you use a respirator to avoid exposure to toxic gases, wear a harness and have one person outside the pit who is able to summon help if necessary. Additional resource information can be found at <http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-safety/confined-spaces/manure>
- * Follow safety guidelines for safe grain bin entry so that personnel entrapment in grain does not occur. Wear a safety harness at all times and work in pairs with one person staying outside the bin being able to

summon help if needed. Additional resources can be found at <http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-safety/confined-spaces/flowing-grain/hazards-of-flowing-grain>

* Understand animal behavior and how an animal flight zone and balance point can be used to handle livestock in a safe and calm manner. Attend a livestock handling workshop as you and your employees improve your animal handling skill set.

* Make sure you have appropriate livestock handling facilities which will be safe for both you and your livestock.

* Lastly, and most importantly, watch out for the children on the farm yard. Make sure they understand NOT to play around equipment or facilities. In addition, we should also make an extra effort to know where they are at on the farm at ALL times.

Steps to Wellness Workplace Physical Activity Initiative Grant Applications Due Oct. 14 2016

BROOKINGS, S.D. - All South Dakota worksites are eligible to apply for Steps to Wellness Workplace Physical Activity Initiative grant funding.

"These grants are designed to assist worksites in implementing physical activity policy and physical activity environmental changes," explained Nikki Prosch, SDSU Extension Health & Physical Activity Field Specialist.

Prosch said that qualifying activities should be designed to create environmental and policy changes or provide opportunities not already offered to employees related to physical activity.

"These grant funds are meant to be used to enhance sustainable physical activity policy change within the workplace," she said of the funds provided through the South Dakota Department of Health Office of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion.

More about Steps to Wellness Program

The Steps to Wellness Toolkit is a guide to implementing the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans in the workplace. The resource is developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and offers evidence-based ideas and resources for creating a wellness culture through physical activity programs in the workplace.

Deadline is Oct. 14

Grant applications are due October 14, 2016. Eligible projects will be awarded up to \$2,000, with 10 applicants funded.

"Funding will be awarded to projects that strategically address environment and policy change related to promotion of physical activity," Prosch said.

She explained that health-related policies are formal or informal written statements that are designed to protect or promote employee health. Environmental change refers to the physical factors at or near the workplace that help protect and enhance employee physical activity.

Example of workplace projects include anything from dedicating an open office or unused space for engagement in physical activity or installing bike rack(s) on worksite property to developing policy to allow opening of stairwells during work hours and create an aesthetically pleasing environment in stairwells or encouraging and providing physical activity breaks during all meetings, conferences and events.

To learn more contact Prosch at nikki.prosch@sdstate.edu, for more information and to access grant applications visit the Physical Activity tab at <http://healthysd.gov/fundingopportunities/>.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

Heroes Don't Wear Capes; They Wear Dog Tags and Combat Boots!

It's a well-known fact that I am a Denver Broncos fan! Not that I am counting, but they have won eight AFC championships and three Super Bowls. Every week as they don the orange and blue, I can't help but think about our own football team within our veteran network.

Our Department, along with the veteran service organizations and the county and tribal veterans service officers, serve as the fullback, the left guard and the right guard. We are there to protect the quarterback – which is our veteran.

We have a playbook full of both offensive and defensive plays, all of which are used to assist veterans in filing claims and securing their benefits.

It is said that the action of a player who enables a teammate to score is said to be a champion. We want our team of advocates to be the champions for our veterans. We want to assist our veterans in receiving their benefits. We want to help them in securing their safeties, field goals and touchdowns.

From those brave patriots who fought for this Nation's independence straight through to the young men and women serving so valiantly in Iraq, Afghanistan and across every continent and ocean today, America's veterans have earned and deserve our respect and appreciation for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families.

Soldiers have a creed that in part, makes four simple, declaratory statements: I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; I will never leave a fallen comrade. To some, these may be just words, but they mean a lot more—no matter the uniform, no matter the nation, no matter the affiliation. These are, after all, promises that soldiers make to one another.

If you have lived that life, then you know the meaning of commitment to a greater cause. And if you have worked, as I have, with the men and women of our military, you know there is nothing they would not give to protect the people of this country.

That is why our team is always analyzing plays from previous seasons. We revamp plays in the gamebook. We keep track of the downs, the fumbles and the interceptions. Federal benefits are ever changing and we are not always able to run the same play. If the first play is unsuccessful, we go to the playbook to find a play that will work.

At the Department, we are successful because of our gamebook and our talent.

It is true that America is strong and free. But we would never have come this far without the heroes we call veterans.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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South Dakota's Pump Price Average Showing Some Stability

Oct. 3, 2016 – After rising a bit late last week, South Dakota's gasoline price average for self-serve regular reversed course over the weekend and dropped a bit. AAA says today's price, \$2.25 per gallon, is about the same as it was on Aug. 15, July 27 and May 23.

"Gas prices are playing a cat and mouse game with motorists," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "We never know where they're going to be from day to day, whether they'll be up or down. However, the state average has shown some stability since late May, residing in a range of between \$2.25 and \$2.35."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Aug. 29	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.259	\$2.275	-\$0.016	\$2.29	-\$0.029	\$2.426
Brookings	\$2.214	\$2.236	-\$0.022	\$2.32	-\$0.104	\$2.379
Huron	\$2.415	\$2.390	\$0.025	\$2.37	\$0.049	\$2.579
Mitchell	\$2.236	\$2.230	\$0.006	\$2.23	\$0.009	\$2.306
Pierre	\$2.341	\$2.383	-\$0.042	\$2.45	-\$0.109	\$2.545
Rapid City	\$2.280	\$2.301	-\$0.021	\$2.37	-\$0.089	\$2.472
Sioux Falls	\$2.057	\$2.090	-\$0.033	\$2.21	-\$0.155	\$2.228
Vermillion	\$2.313	\$2.167	\$0.146	\$2.12	\$0.189	\$2.194
Watertown	\$2.316	\$2.337	-\$0.021	\$2.33	-\$0.016	\$2.494
Yankton	\$2.303	\$2.308	-\$0.005	\$2.38	-\$0.077	\$2.469
South Dakota	\$2.254	\$2.261	-\$0.007	\$2.31	-\$0.056	\$2.394

Pump prices have climbed higher as compared to the previous week, even though many states have switched over to winter blend gasoline and there remain abundant crude oil supplies. The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline moved higher each of the past seven days reaching today's average of \$2.22 per gallon. Today's average price is two cents more than one week ago and 1 cent more than one month ago. Despite the slight rise in pump prices, drivers continue to experience year-over-year savings with today's average price about 7 cents per gallon less than the same date last year.

The national average has been relatively flat since September 3, and drivers in 21 states are paying less at the pump week-over-week. While national prices have been steady, pump prices in some regions have moved dramatically over this same period, largely due to disruptions on the Colonial Pipeline and refinery maintenance. As recently as last week, gas prices jumped in the Midwest as a result of scheduled and unscheduled maintenance at BP's Whiting refinery impacting supply in the region. Drivers may continue to see pump prices wobble higher or lower in the next few weeks as the market reacts to the OPEC production agreement, continued refinery maintenance and a possible hurricane along the East Coast.

Quick Stats

- Average gas prices are below \$2 per gallon in three states today including: New Jersey (\$1.98), Texas (\$1.98) and Missouri (\$1.99).

- The biggest weekly price increases are reflected in Ohio (+14), Kentucky (+10), Indiana (+9), Louisiana (+5), Michigan (+5), Texas (+4), Illinois (+4), Iowa (+4), Arkansas (+4) Mississippi (+3).

Great Lakes and Central States

Pump prices in the Great Lakes region continue to be the most volatile in the nation. Drivers saw significant increases over the past week with four states in the region landing on the top ten list of biggest weekly increases: Ohio (+14 cents), Indiana (+9 cents), Michigan (+7 cents) and Illinois (+4 cents). The jump in price can likely be attributed to issues at BP's Whiting refinery located in northwest Indiana. According to recent reports from OPIS, the refinery is still undergoing planned turnaround and unplanned maintenance related to problems with its largest crude distillation unit. The refinery is capable of producing 430,000 barrels of refined product per day, and the maintenance problems have created a noticeable impact on supply in the region.

Prices in the Central United States remain some of the cheapest in the country with three states in the region featured in the top 10 lowest: Missouri (\$1.99), Oklahoma (\$2.05) and Kansas (\$2.06).

Oil Market Dynamics

Crude oil futures traded higher Monday morning following OPEC's announcement that it had agreed to limit its oil production. OPEC has provided few details of the agreement or how it will implement the production freeze, but members will be meeting again on November 30. Traders will continue to watch for additional announcements from OPEC and will keep an eye on discussions surrounding the upcoming meeting. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI was up 41 cents to settle at \$48.24 per barrel.

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Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: A strong low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally heavier amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines. The heavy snow caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the loss of the battle.

1869 - A great storm struck New England. The storm reportedly was predicted twelve months in advance by a British officer named Saxby. Heavy rains and high floods plagued all of New England, with strong winds and high tides over New Hampshire and Maine. Canton CT was deluged with 12.35 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Denver, CO, received 9.6 inches of snow. October of that year proved to be the coldest and snowiest of record for Denver, with a total snowfall for the month of 31.2 inches. (Weather Channel)

1986 - Excessive flooding was reported along the Mississippi River and all over the Midwest, from Ohio to the Milk River in Montana. In some places it was the worst flooding of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six inch snow at Albany NY was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Southern California continued to "shake and bake". An earthquake was reported during the morning, the second in a matter of days, and during the afternoon temperatures soared well above 100 degrees. Highs of 100 degrees at San Francisco, and 108 degrees at Los Angeles and Santa Maria, were October records. San Luis Obispo was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 111 degrees. (The National Weather Summary).








1988 - Temperatures dipped below freezing in the north central U.S. Five cities in North Dakota and Nebraska reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 17 degrees above zero. Low pressure brought snow and sleet to parts of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the north central U.S., with freezing temperatures reported across much of the area from eastern North Dakota to Michigan and northwest Ohio. Thirteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Cloud MN, which was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

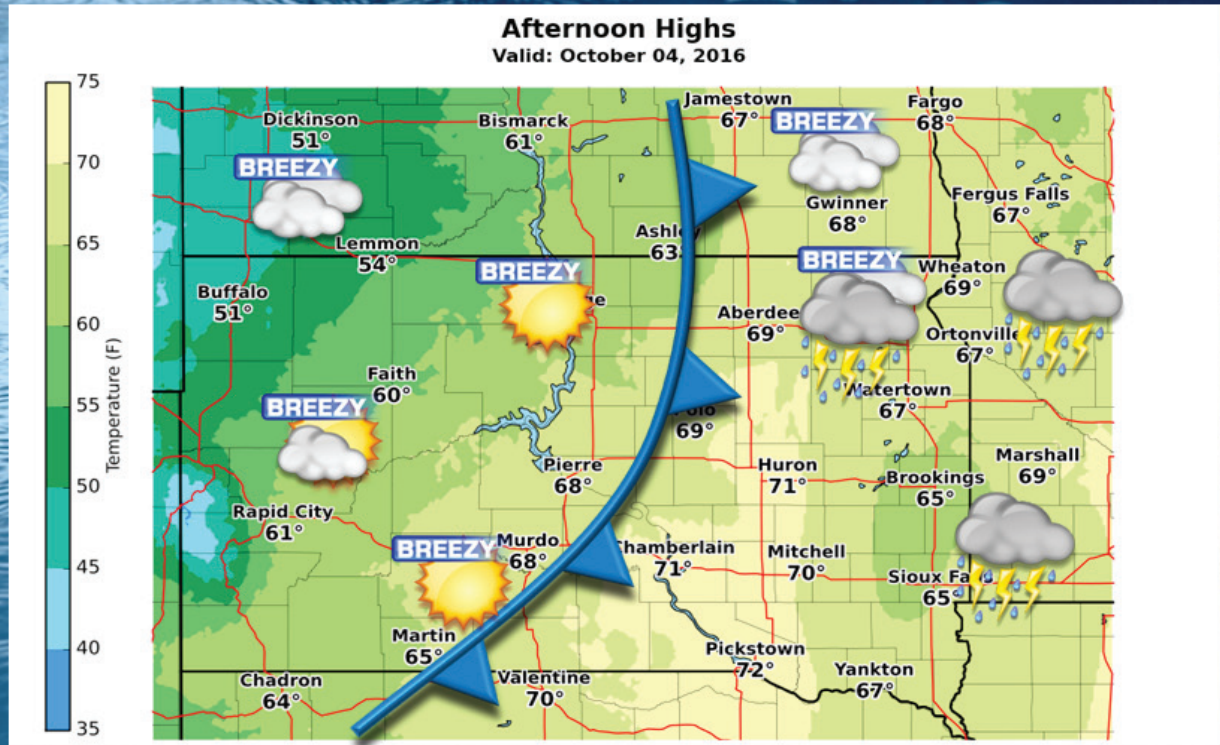
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Chance T-storms and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Areas Frost	Areas Frost then Mostly Sunny
High: 69 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 64 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 51 °F



Breezy – Showers & Storms Linger



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/4/2016 5:34 AM Central

Published on: 10/04/2016 at 5:43AM

A front moving across the area will provide the focus for additional showers and thunderstorms through the day. Dry and cool air will follow the front on a westerly breeze. Colder air arrives Wednesday and persists clear into the weekend. Much of the area could experience a hard freeze.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.3 F at 3:13 PM

Low Outside Temp: 60.5 F at 7:20 AM

High Gust: 40.0 Mph at 2:11 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1975

Record Low: 13° in 1894

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.32

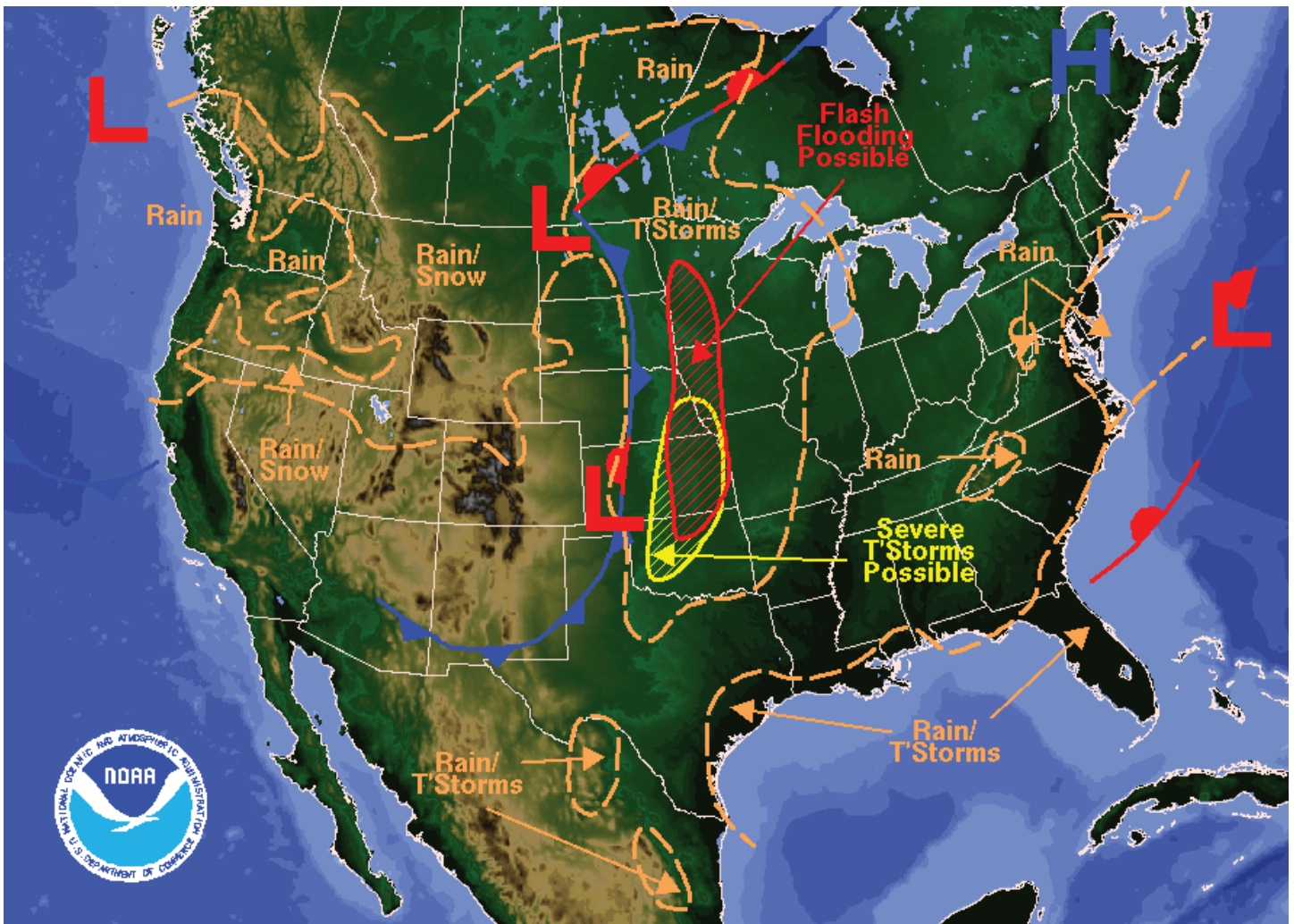
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.80

Precip Year to Date: 13.20

Sunset Tonight: 7:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Oct 04, 2016, issued 4:40 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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FAITHFUL UNTIL THE END

At seventy-five Grandma Faith learned that cancer would soon take her home to heaven. She had been a faith-filled Christian all of her life. Realizing that her time with her family on this earth would soon be over, she called all of them together. After they gathered around her bed she said in a calm, steady and joyful voice, "For many years I've shown you how to live like a Christian. Now I want to show you how to die like one!"

Life after life was important to Paul. He planned for it, prepared for it and personally looked forward to the time when he would be with his Lord. From the day he met his Savior, his values changed and his view of things on earth was different. Not only did he see life from an eternal perspective but the only thing he wanted others to do was to see life the way he did: through the eyes of the risen Christ.

His faith enabled him to confidently say that dying would be even better than living. He knew that only those who were ready to die could face life confidently and fearlessly. He realized that in death he would be removed from the problems and pains of this life and finally be with his beloved Savior for evermore.

Reading his words in Philippians is a testimony to his faith: he wanted others to see what he looked and longed for after his earthly life: "For me, living is living for Christ and dying is even better."

Prayer: We look to You, Heavenly Father, for faith for today, hope for tomorrow and purpose in between. Fill us with love for You and the lost whose lives are in our hands. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 1:20-26 – For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

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

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

Criminal charges being pondered in Yankton dog attack

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The Yankton County State's Attorney's Office is determining whether criminal charges are warranted in a dog attack that injured a Yankton woman and threatened a sheriff's deputy.

Tonya Juhnke tells the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2dAVoiH>) that she was bitten on her left arm and her legs while trying to protect her own dog from two pit bulls that had gotten loose from a neighbor's yard on Sept. 25. She went to a hospital emergency room for treatment that included 23 stitches on her arm. Her dachshund was killed.

Sheriff Jim Vlahakis says a deputy who responded to the scene also was charged by the dogs, and the officer shot and killed both of them. The investigation has now been turned over to county prosecutors for review.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Sioux Falls police arrest man who escaped from county jail

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An inmate who escaped from the Minnehaha County jail is back in custody. Sioux Falls police say officers responding to a citizen tip arrested 19-year-old Anthony Beck about 12:30 p.m. Tuesday after a brief foot chase.

The Lennox man was in custody on charges of possession of a stolen vehicle and false impersonation in Lincoln County and grand theft in Minnehaha County.

Authorities say he was a minimum-security prisoner being held on \$2,500 bond when he jumped a 5-foot chain-link fence at the jail Sunday afternoon while outside for recreation and fled on foot.

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Leola/Frederick, 25-11, 18-25, 25-4, 25-20

Avon def. Mitchell Christian, 25-16, 25-14, 25-23

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-17, 21-25, 25-12, 20-25, 15-13

Douglas def. Spearfish, 25-22, 25-19, 20-25, 25-21

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Vermillion, 3-2

Freeman def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-22, 25-23, 16-25, 27-25

Hanson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-9, 25-12, 25-6

Ipswich def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-9, 25-12, 25-22

McCook Central/Montrose def. Baltic, 15-25, 25-23, 22-25, 25-22, 15-10

Mobridge-Pollock def. Redfield/Doland, 25-16, 22-25, 26-24, 25-16

Timber Lake def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 26-24, 25-15, 25-18

Tri-Valley def. Garretson, 25-10, 25-16, 25-19

Wall def. New Underwood, 25-9, 30-28, 25-15

Waverly-South Shore def. Lake Preston, 25-19, 14-25, 25-10, 25-10

US Justice Department backs Nevada tribes on voting test

By SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The Justice Department is siding with two Nevada tribes' interpretation of a key part of the U.S. Voting Rights Act at issue in a legal battle with state and county officials over minority access to the polls.

Lawyers for the two Paiute tribes are scheduled to go before a federal judge in Reno Tuesday with their emergency request for a court order establishing satellite voting sites on their reservations before the November election.

They accuse Nevada's Republican Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, Washoe and Mineral counties of illegally denying tribe members voting access afforded to people in wealthier, mostly white neighborhoods.

The counties say the sudden change would cost too much, and the state argues it has no authority to intervene. But the Justice Department said in a new filing Monday all three appear to be confusing voting rights with "voting convenience."

The suit filed Sept. 7 is the latest in a series of recent challenges brought by Native American tribes challenging access to the polls in mostly western states, including Utah, Montana, Alaska and the Dakotas.

U.S. District Judge Miranda Du scheduled a hearing on the request for an emergency injunction for 9 a.m. Tuesday. It wasn't clear when she would rule.

Members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe living in Washoe County say they must travel 96 miles roundtrip to register to vote or to cast ballots in person in Sparks. Members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe in rural Mineral County say they have to go 70 miles roundtrip to Hawthorne.

The lawsuit says that's twice as far as voters who live on Lake Tahoe's affluent north shore would have to travel to vote if the county had not set up a satellite poll in upscale Incline Village.

The Nevada counties argue the tribal members who don't want to drive two hours or more roundtrip to cast ballots in person can still vote by mail or on the internet.

Nevada's Republican attorney general wrote in defense of Cegavske's opposition to the lawsuit last week that the smaller, rural Mineral County especially will "likely suffer financial and staff impacts that it cannot afford in these pressing times of a presidential election."

"While it may be somewhat inconvenient for residents of the Indian communities ... to travel to a place where they can register to vote and vote in person, it is more than a matter of inconvenience for the local elections officials there," senior deputy Attorney General Lori M. Story wrote on behalf of Attorney General Paul Laxalt.

"This is a hotly contested and unique presidential election which has put voters and candidates on edge, bringing challenges and questions that might otherwise not be present in a general election and taking staff time and resources to resolve," she said.

Justice Department lawyers said Monday they are not taking sides, but want to make clear that the state and counties have "inaccurately" stated the legal standard used to judge voting rights violations. They said the U.S. government has a "substantial interest" in the "proper interpretation and uniform enforcement" of the 1965 law nationwide.

"Defendants suggest that access to in-person early voting and in-person voter registration opportunities are merely a 'voting convenience'" and therefore not protected by the law, wrote Vanita Gupta, principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Gupta said other misstatements include claims that the tribes must prove "outright denials of the ability to vote or participate" and "an inability to elect candidates of their choice."

"These arguments are without merit and should be rejected," Gupta wrote.

South Dakota sees big jump in winter wheat production

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota saw a big jump in winter wheat production this year, resulting in a record yield.

The state's winter wheat crop totaled 63.8 million bushels, up 49 percent from 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported in its annual small grains summary. Harvested acres were up 13 percent from last year, while the average yield increased 32 percent to a record 58 bushels per acre. The previous record of 55 bushels per acre was reached in 2008 and matched in 2014.

The increase helped boost U.S. winter wheat production, which rose 22 percent to 1.67 billion bushels. Wheat-growing conditions in South Dakota were better this year, both in winter and summer, according to Reid Christopherson, executive director of the South Dakota Wheat Commission. In 2015, a large portion of the winter wheat crop planted in September 2014 didn't turn out well, and the fields were planted to other crops that year, particularly corn and soybeans, he told the Capital Journal.

Production of other small grains crops in South Dakota this year was down from 2015. Durum wheat dropped 6 percent to 231,000 bushels, spring wheat was down 22 percent to 47.3 million bushels and oats decreased 29 percent to slightly more than 9 million bushels.

Sioux Falls airport captures 86 percent of area travelers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More residents of South Dakota's largest city are no longer traveling to other Midwest cities to catch a flight.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2doUMeo>) reported that in 2009, the Sioux Falls Regional Airport captured about 55 percent of the city's market share of passengers. Since then the figure has increased to 86 percent.

An air service committee established several years ago marketed to potential travelers living within a 90-minute drive of Sioux Falls, focusing on the convenience of flying out of the city and airport improvements, such as more parking.

"What we really learned was increased destinations, increased number of flights are absolutely a function of people in seats," said Dr. Dave Kapaska, regional president and CEO of Avera McKennan and a member of the committee. "We took an approach that if people in seats were most important, how could we help with that?"

The airport also enhanced its U.S. Customs area, according to Kapaska it allows companies with a significant international footprint an important access point.

"Customs at the airport is very important for Canadian and Mexican business, but even Japan, China, Korea, we do a lot of business with those folks," Kapaska said.

The airport also included charter flights to countries that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to fly directly to and from Sioux Falls. Some of the destinations would include Aruba, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates.

Minneapolis draws 7.6 percent of the Sioux Falls market. That's more than Omaha, which has dropped to drawing 5.5 percent of Sioux Falls passengers.

Airport officials predict its annual capacity will be up 6 percent year-over-year by next spring. They hope to also attract direct service to Seattle and possibly add Alaska Airlines.

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Chelsea Clinton to campaign for mother in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Hillary Clinton's daughter is planning a stop in Sioux Falls to campaign for her presidential candidate mother.

Clinton's campaign says Chelsea Clinton's appearance is set for Wednesday. Other details weren't immediately released.

Democrat Hillary Clinton is running against Republican Donald Trump. Her husband, former president Bill Clinton, campaigned for her in Sioux Falls in May.

Mold issue shuts down Rapid City school for entire week

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — More than 400 Rapid City elementary students are getting a week off from classes after the discovery of mold in their school, though they eventually will have to make up the missed time.

Black Hawk Elementary is closed this week due to the discovery last week of mold in an interior wall. Testing is being done this week to determine the extent of the problem. Lab results are expected Wednesday.

School district spokeswoman Katy Urban tells The Associated Press that if the problem takes more than a week to address, officials will need to find another place for the Black Hawk students to attend classes.

Buildings manager Kit Cline tells the Rapid City Journal that none of the 410 students has reported any mold-related health problems.

Midwest economy: September state-by-state glance

By The Associated Press

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates an expanding economy over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for September:

Arkansas: The state's overall index declined to 45.7 from 47.5 in August. Components of the index were new orders at 41.2, production or sales at 45.1, delivery lead time at 42.6, inventories at 52.3, and employment at 47.4. "As in previous months, job losses for durable goods producers more than offset gains for nondurable goods manufacturers for September," Goss said.

Iowa: The state's overall index dipped to a frail 48 from August's 48.3. Components of the overall index were new orders at 41.6, production or sales at 45.6, delivery lead time at 52.3, employment at 49, and inventories at 52.3. "Significant declines in exports of machinery manufacturing, an important Iowa export, has had a negative impact on Iowa's manufacturing sector including metal producers. Despite the downturn in the export of processed food, Iowa's food processing industry continues to expand at a solid pace," said Goss.

Kansas: The state's overall index slumped to 43.9 in September from 47.6 in August. That included new orders at 40.7, production or sales at 44.6, delivery lead time at 52.1, employment at 45.9, and inventories at 36.1. "The state's machinery manufacturing industry continues to shed jobs and economic activity. On the positive side, food processors and aircraft and related manufacturers experienced posi-

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tive growth for the month," Goss said.

Minnesota: The state's overall index declined to 48.4 from 49.4 in August. Components of the overall index were new orders at 41.7, production or sales at 45.7, delivery lead time at 48, inventories at 54.1, and employment at 52.6. "The state's food processing industry continues to expand at a solid pace. The industry has increased employment by almost 5 percent over the past 12 months. Offsetting this growth were downturns among metal manufacturers and machinery producers," Goss said.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index declined to 47.3 from August's 48.5. Components of the overall index from the survey of supply managers were new orders at 41.5, production or sales at 45.4, delivery lead time at 48.1, inventories at 52.9, and employment at 48.5. "Fabricated metal producers and machinery manufacturers in the state continue to experience pullbacks in economic activity, especially for those firms linked to international markets," Goss said.

Nebraska: The state's overall index fell to 44.6 from 47.3 in August. Components of the index were new orders at 40.9, production or sales at 44.7, delivery lead time at 48.8, inventories at 42.3, and employment at 46.4. "Despite weakness among machinery manufacturers in the state, metal manufacturers are experiencing improving economic conditions. However, manufacturers linked to international markets continue to experience pullbacks in economic activity," said Goss.

North Dakota: North Dakota's overall index remained in negative territory below 50 but improved to 48.2 from August's 40.9. Components of the overall index were new orders at 48.8, production or sales at 45.6, delivery lead time at 48.9, employment at 49.2, and inventories at 48.3. "The negatives among North Dakota firms are getting much less negative. As per barrel oil prices stabilize over \$50, as anticipated by many oil analysts, North Dakota manufactures should begin to add jobs in the months ahead. If on the other hand, oil prices once again move to \$40 and below per barrel, the state will continue to lose manufacturing and related jobs," Goss said.

Oklahoma: The state's overall index fell to a regional low of 40.3 from 44 in August, also a regional low. Components of the overall index were new orders at 40.5, production or sales at 44.3, delivery lead time at 35.9, inventories at 35.8, and employment at 45.1, "Both durable goods producers and nondurable goods manufacturers in the state continue to lose jobs. If OPEC is successful in pushing per barrel oil prices in the range of \$55 to \$60, Oklahoma manufacturers will see improving economic conditions," Goss said.

South Dakota: The state's overall index declined to 51.1 from 53.2 in August. Contrary to the rest of the region, the state has been above growth neutral for nine straight months. Components of the overall index were new orders at 42.4, production or sales at 46.4, delivery lead time at 65.7, inventories at 49.9, and employment at 51.4. "Manufacturers in South Dakota linked to agriculture, energy and international markets are experiencing slower, but positive growth," Goss said.

Capitol flags to fly at half-staff for Hazeltine's funeral

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags to fly at half-staff at the state Capitol on Saturday in honor of former Secretary of State Joyce Hazeltine.

Hazeltine died last Friday in Custer, at age 81. Her funeral is this coming Saturday.

Hazeltine was South Dakota's longest-serving secretary of state. She was elected in 1986 and served through 2002.

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South Dakota crime bureau investigating Sisseton death

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is looking into a death in Sisseton, though it's not clear whether a crime is involved.

Attorney General Marty Jackley tells KWAT radio that an autopsy is planned to determine if the person who died was the victim of a homicide.

Jackley's office isn't immediately releasing any details about the death, citing the ongoing investigation.

Information from: KWAT-AM, <http://www.gowatertown.net>

South Dakota Supreme Court hearing Maricela Diaz appeal

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court is hearing arguments in the appeal of a Mexican national convicted of killing a teenager seven years ago.

Maricela Diaz is serving 80 years in prison for the 2009 death of 16-year-old Jasmine Guevara. Diaz was 15 at the time but was convicted in adult court.

She's appealing on several grounds, including that the case shouldn't have been transferred to adult court and that the jury wasn't made fully aware of abuse she allegedly received from her boyfriend, Alexander Salgado.

Authorities said Diaz and Salgado lured Guevara to a remote site near Mitchell, stabbed her and left her to die in the trunk of a burning car. They said jealousy was the motive.

Salgado pleaded guilty to murder and is serving a life sentence.

Weird science: 3 win Nobel for unusual states of matter

By KARL RITTER, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — British-born scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz were awarded this year's Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for studies on exotic matter that could result in improved materials for electronics or quantum computers.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences cited the three for "theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter."

Topology is a branch of mathematics that describes properties of objects.

The academy said the laureates' work in the 1970s and '80s opened the door to a previously unknown world where matter takes unusual states or phases.

"Their discoveries have brought about breakthroughs in the theoretical understanding of matter's mysteries and created new perspectives on the development of innovative materials."

The judges said there is now hope that "topological materials will be useful for new generations of electronics and superconductors or in future quantum computers," the academy said.

Nobel judges often award discoveries made decades ago to make sure they withstand the test of time.

Thouless, 82, is a professor emeritus at the University of Washington. Haldane, 65, is a physics professor at Princeton University in New Jersey. Kosterlitz, 73, is a physics professor at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Speaking by a phone link to a news conference in Stockholm, Haldane said he was "very surprised and very gratified" by the award, adding the laureates stumbled onto the discoveries.

"Most of the big discoveries are really that way," he said. "At least in theoretical things, you never set out to discover something new. You stumble on it and you have the luck to recognize what you've found

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is something very interesting.”

Kosterlitz, a dual U.K.-U.S. citizen, said he got the news while heading to lunch in Helsinki, where he is currently a visiting professor at Aalto University.

“I’m a little bit dazzled. I’m still trying to take it in,” he told The Associated Press.

While most people are familiar with objects in three dimensions, the Nobel laureates analyzed materials so thin they have only two dimensions, or even one.

Scientists had once been skeptical that any interesting atomic-scale behavior takes place in these settings, but the Nobel laureates proved them wrong, said Phillip Schewe, a physicist and writer at the University of Maryland in College Park.

For example, Kosterlitz and Thouless showed that, against expectations, two-dimensional materials could conduct electricity without any loss to resistance. That property is called superconductivity.

Kosterlitz said he was in his 20s at the time and that his “complete ignorance” was an advantage in challenging the established science because “I didn’t have any preconceived ideas.”

Their analysis relied on topology, which is the mathematical study of properties that don’t change when objects are distorted. A doughnut and a coffee cup are equivalent topologically because they each have exactly one hole. In topology, properties change only in whole steps; you can’t have half a hole.

Prize committee member Thor Hans Hansson explained the concept by holding up a cinnamon bun, a bagel and a pretzel with two holes in it to reporters in Stockholm.

Thouless was able to explain an experiment conducted with a very thin layer of material. Its electrical resistance varied in response to changes in a magnetic field, but while the strength of the field was changed smoothly, the resistance changed in sharply defined steps. This effect is so precise that it is now used to define the unit of electrical resistance, the ohm.

This year’s Nobel Prize announcements started Monday with the medicine award going to Japanese biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi for discoveries on autophagy, the process by which a cell breaks down and recycles content.

The chemistry prize will be announced on Wednesday and the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. The economics and literature awards will be announced next week.

Each prize has a purse of 8 million kronor (\$930,000). The winners also collect a medal and a diploma at the award ceremonies on Dec. 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel’s death in 1896.

Associated Press writers Keith Moore in Stockholm and Malcolm Ritter in New York contributed to this report.

Duterte tells Obama ‘you can go to hell’ in new tirade

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has told President Barack Obama “you can go to hell” in his latest tirade against the U.S. over its criticism of his deadly anti-drug campaign.

He also lashed out anew at the European Union in a speech Tuesday saying the 28-nation bloc, which has also criticized his brutal crackdown, “better choose purgatory, hell is filled up.”

Duterte, who took office in June, has been hypersensitive to criticisms over his anti-drug fight, which has left more than an estimated 3,000 suspected drug dealers and pushers dead in just three months, alarming the United Nations, the E.U., the U.S. and human rights watchdogs.

Angered by the U.S. criticism, Duterte has declared he wants to reduce the presence of U.S. troops in the country.

Syria peace efforts plunge as US suspends talks with Russia

By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — International efforts to end the fighting in Syria have been dealt a serious blow, with the United States suspending direct contacts with Russia on halting the war, and chilly relations are turning even frostier after Russia put a hold on a plutonium disposal deal with Washington.

The two decisions, announced in their respective capitals just hours apart Monday, were ostensibly unrelated but underscored deep mistrust and rising tensions between the former Cold War foes, who are increasingly at odds on a number of issues, particularly Syria and Ukraine.

The moves further reduce areas of Washington-Moscow cooperation, yet their most immediate impact may be the potential death blow delivered to halting attempts to revive a moribund ceasefire in Syria, get desperately needed humanitarian aid to besieged communities and begin negotiations on political transition that could mean the ouster of President Bashar Assad.

The Obama administration said it decided to cut off discussions on Syria because Russia had not lived up to the terms of last month's agreement to restore a tattered cease-fire and ensure sustained deliveries of humanitarian aid to besieged cities, such as Aleppo, which has been under bombardment from Russian and Syrian forces.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said: "What's clear is that there is nothing more for the United States and Russia to talk about with regard to trying to reach an agreement that would reduce the violence inside of Syria and that's tragic."

"This is not a decision that was taken lightly," State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement. "Unfortunately, Russia failed to live up to its own commitments ... and was also either unwilling or unable to ensure Syrian regime adherence to the arrangements to which Moscow agreed."

Kirby's statement said that Russia and Syria are pursuing military action in violation of the cease-fire agreement, and pointed to their targeting of hospitals as well as the Sept. 19 airstrike on a United Nations humanitarian aid convoy. The U.S. accused Russia of bombing that convoy, a charge both Russia and Syria have denied.

Russia holds the Security Council presidency this month, and Moscow's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin was asked at a news conference late Monday whether this was a new Cold War with the US and whether the next U.N. secretary-general was going to need a psychiatrist to deal with it.

"Of course I hope that there is not going to be a new Cold War," Churkin replied. "Actually, I think you sort of overdramatized the nature of our differences with the United States globally, after a long period when we have been trying to work as closely as possible with the United States in Syria. Apparently, there is a hitch. I hope this cooperation can be resumed under some other circumstances."

Russia intervened on behalf of its close ally Syria on Sept. 30 last year, joining Assad's bombardment of both anti-Assad rebel groups and militant groups such as the Islamic State and Fatah al-Sham Front, an al-Qaida spinoff formerly known as the Nusra Front. Russia is interested in propping up Assad in part because Russia's only naval facility outside the former Soviet Union is on the Syrian coast.

If it had been implemented, the cease-fire deal would have created a joint U.S.-Russian center to coordinate military and intelligence operations. President Barack Obama had overruled Pentagon objections to such cooperation and Secretary of State John Kerry made the offer.

According to a senior U.S. official, the Pentagon has ordered troops who had been deployed to set up the joint implementation center — fewer than 20 — to return to their bases. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, so the person spoke on condition of anonymity.

The suspension will not affect communications between the two countries aimed at keeping their planes from bumping into each other over Syria.

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And, U.S. officials said that despite the suspension of talks with Russia, they would continue to work for a truce and aid deliveries to Syria in other gatherings, including the International Syria Support Group, a collection of nations that includes Russia. In Geneva, the U.N. special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said he was disappointed by the suspension of talks but stressed the U.N. would continue to work on both the humanitarian aid and political fronts.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement, expressing "deep disappointment" about the U.S. move and blasting Washington for the failure to separate the rebels from al-Qaida's branch in Syria.

"Washington's decision reflects the inability of President Barack Obama's administration to fulfill the key condition for the continuation of our cooperation in overcoming the Syrian crisis," the statement said. "Or, perhaps, it never had an intention to do so. We are under a growing impression that in its striving for a much-desired change of power in Damascus Washington is ready to 'make a deal with the Devil' and forge a union with terrorists who want to turn history backwards and enforce their inhuman norms by force."

The ministry added that "the stakes are high," and warned that the "White House will bear the blame if Syria come under new blows by terrorists."

The U.S. had agreed to separate the rebel groups but noted it was an extremely slow process. The U.S. has relatively few personnel on the ground in Syria and even the moderate rebels have said they are frustrated with the pace of U.S. help.

The suspension in Syria talks was announced just hours after the Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin had signed a decree halting a joint program with the U.S. on the disposal of weapons grade plutonium.

The decree cited the "emerging threat to strategic stability as a result of U.S. unfriendly actions," as well as Washington's failure to meet its end of the cease-fire deal. It said, however, that Russia will keep the weapons-grade plutonium covered under the agreement away from weapons programs.

Under the agreement, which was expanded in 2006 and 2010, Russia and the U.S. each were to dispose of 34 metric tons of plutonium, enough material for about 17,000 nuclear warheads. When it was signed in 2000, the deal was touted as an example of successful cooperation between Washington and Moscow.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. has "done all it could to destroy the atmosphere encouraging cooperation." It cited U.S. sanctions on Moscow over its annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine and NATO's deployment of forces near Russian borders.

The White House and State Department voiced disappointment with Russia's decision to opt out of the program.

Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, Jamey Keaten in Geneva and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

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. TRUMP TAX DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED WITHOUT PERMISSION

But experts say The New York Times appears to be on solid First Amendment ground and prosecutors in three states remain mum.

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2. WHAT ROLE PENCE IS STEPPING INTO

In the upcoming vice presidential debate, the Indiana governor will again be tasked with cleaning up some of Trump's self-inflicted wounds.

3. US SUSPENDS CONTACTS WITH RUSSIA ON SYRIA WAR

Already chilly relations between Washington and Moscow turn even frostier as Russia put a hold on a plutonium disposal deal with the U.S.

4. WHAT TOP COP IN LA IS SAYING ABOUT POLICE SHOOTINGS

Officers who shot and killed men in two separate weekend shootings were justified in their use of deadly force, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck says.

5. HAITIANS BRACE FOR MATTHEW

The Caribbean country's southwestern peninsula preps for life-threatening winds, rains and storm surge as the Category 4 hurricane approaches.

6. VENEZUELA SCARY AND OFTEN DEADLY FOR THOSE WHO FALL ILL

The social and economic meltdown has made life precarious for the vulnerable as one case shows of a little girl's scraped knee which turned into a life or death matter.

7. GOOGLE EXPECTED TO UNVEIL NEW PHONES — AND MORE

The tech giant is also expected to roll out a new home-based intelligent assistant to compete with Amazon's Echo, a virtual-reality headset and more.

8. NOBEL PHYSICS PRIZE AWARDED TO 3 FOR TOPOLOGY WORK

David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz were cited for their "theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter."

9. HOW KIM KARDASHIAN IS DEALING WITH HEIST FALLOUT

The social media accounts of the reality TV star have gone silent after a terrifying encounter with armed robbers in Paris.

10. ROAD TEAMS FARE WELL IN WILD-CARD GAMES

This marks the fifth season of play-in games in Major League Baseball and that bodes well for visiting teams, who are 6-2.

Syrian pro-government forces press attack on city of Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian rebels say pro-government forces are pressing their assault on the eastern, rebel-held neighborhoods of Aleppo, this time attacking the city from the south in a bid to penetrate opposition-controlled areas.

The Islamic Front rebel coalition said on Twitter on Tuesday that its factions repelled an advance on the Sheikh Saeed neighborhood.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the government offensive is accompanied by airstrikes on the contested neighborhoods.

The monitoring group says more than 400 civilians have been killed in and around Aleppo since the collapse of a U.S. and Russian-brokered cease-fire two weeks ago, mainly in the rebel-held east of the embattled city.

In the offensive, health facilities and hospitals have repeatedly come under attack.

Clinton seeks support from women in suburban Philadelphia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton is campaigning in the Philadelphia suburbs on Tuesday with daughter Chelsea Clinton and actress Elizabeth Banks at an event aimed at making the case to female

voters.

Clinton is expected to talk about her agenda to help children and families and take questions from voters in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Her campaign is making a major push in the suburbs around Philadelphia and appealing to college-educated voters who have backed Republicans in past presidential elections.

Clinton will campaign later in the day in Harrisburg. Her campaign is looking to deny rival Donald Trump in Pennsylvania, which has supported a Democratic presidential nominee in every election since 1988.

Los Angeles chief defends latest shootings by officers

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police officers who shot and killed men in two separate weekend shootings were justified in their use of deadly force because they feared for their lives, the Los Angeles police chief says.

Carnell Snell, 18, turned toward officers with a gun before he was shot, and the other, a Hispanic man who still hasn't been identified, pointed a replica that looked like a real gun at police, LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said Monday.

The shootings come amid heightened tensions over police actions involving black people and other minorities across the country.

In Snell's shooting, officers tried to pull over a car he was in Saturday because it had paper plates that didn't match the year of the vehicle — a possible indication of a stolen car and something commonly seen in drive-by shootings, Beck said.

Snell, seated in the back, looked at officers and then ducked down "as if to hide from them," Beck said.

When officers tried to pull the car over, Snell jumped out holding his waistband and the foot pursuit began, he said.

After a chase of several hundred yards, Beck said, Snell took a gun from his waistband and turned in the direction of the pursuing officers, prompting the shooting.

Snell died at the scene and police recovered a fully loaded semi-automatic gun with one round in the chamber within 5 feet of where Snell lay, Beck said, adding that the weapon had not been fired.

Beck did not say whether one or more officers fired, how close they were to Snell, or whether the car turned out to be stolen.

The officers were not wearing body cameras, but a surveillance video from a business clearly showed Snell was armed, Beck said.

The shooting occurred in a Los Angeles neighborhood where nearly 450 people have been shot this year, making it the worst in the city for gun violence, Beck said.

"We are doing our absolute best to take guns out of the hands of those that would use them against others, and sometimes that leads to circumstances where Los Angeles police officers are put into peril and have to defend themselves," the chief said.

A group of people protested outside Beck's news conference, chanting, "No justice, no peace, no racist police." Three were arrested for unlawful assembly after refusing orders to leave police headquarters and take their demonstration to a public street.

The protesters rejected the police department's description of the shooting and called on them to release the video if they have nothing to hide, something Beck said was being considered but could only happen when all the evidence has been collected and analyzed.

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"We're so tired," said protester Jade Daniels, 24. "These kids don't want to die. What black person would point a gun at a group of cops?"

More protesters marched in South Los Angeles streets on Monday night, and another gathering is planned at Tuesday's police commission meeting.

In the other shooting Beck addressed, a man was shot when he pointed what turned out to be a replica handgun at police in another high-crime area on Sunday.

The man remained unidentified. He was only described as Hispanic. The officers were responding to reports of a man with a gun.

Snell was the third black man in five days to die in confrontations with police in Southern California.

Last Tuesday, Alfred Olango was fatally shot by an officer in the San Diego suburb of El Cajon when Olango took a "shooting stance" and pointed at an officer with what turned out to be a 4-inch vape pen — an electronic cigarette device.

On Friday, Reginald Thomas died after being shot with a Taser by police in Pasadena. He was armed with a knife and his wife described him as mentally ill.

Meanwhile, the family of a black man killed by police in Sacramento in July demanded murder charges Monday against two officers heard on a dash-cam video talking about trying to hit the man with their police cruiser before he was shot 14 times.

AP writers Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco contributed to this report.

In VP debate, Pence gets tasked with cleaning up for Trump

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Tuesday's vice presidential debate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence will step into a role that has become all too familiar during his time as Donald Trump's running mate: clean-up duty.

It was Pence, a mild-mannered Midwesterner with strong conservative credentials, who tried to soften Trump's criticism of a military family and toughen the businessman's stance on Russia. When Trump waffled over endorsing House Speaker Paul Ryan in his August primary, Pence weighed in with a solid vote of confidence in his former congressional colleague.

Pence's task has perhaps never been more critical than on the debate stage at Virginia's Longwood University, where he'll face off Tuesday evening against Sen. Tim Kaine, the Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's No. 2.

The vice presidential contest comes as Trump tries to recover from one of the worst weeks of his turbulent presidential campaign. He delivered an uneven — and at times undisciplined — performance in the first presidential debate, then became absorbed in a controversy over comments he made two decades ago about a beauty queen's weight.

That firestorm was quieted only by revelations that Trump suffered more than \$900 million in losses in 1995 that could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for as many as 18 years, according to records obtained by The New York Times.

With time running out to sway undecided voters ahead of the Nov. 8 election, Republicans say Pence needs to use his moment in the political spotlight to shift the campaign conversation away from Trump's self-inflicted wounds.

"His goal in this vice presidential debate is to continue to take the high road, but also take every opportunity he can to not get sidetracked on issues that aren't important," said Alice Stewart, who

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advised Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential campaign.

The single debate for the running mates is always a more low-key affair than the trio of presidential showdowns. That's particularly true in an election where the candidates at the top of the ticket are such outsized figures who have been in the public eye for decades.

While last week's first debate between Trump and Clinton drew a record-setting television audience of about 84 million people, the Pence-Kaine contest is expected to be watched by far fewer viewers.

For many of those who do tune in, the debate is likely to be one of their first opportunities to thoroughly assess the men who could be next in line for the presidency. In a recent Associated Press-GfK poll, more than half of registered voters said they didn't know enough about Kaine to venture an opinion about him and about 44 percent said the same for Pence.

Kaine is a friendly and earnest political veteran whose easygoing demeanor is similar to Pence. He's tried to serve as a validator of Clinton's character, eager to offset the questions many Americans have about her honesty and trustworthiness.

Kaine spent several days preparing for the debate in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in his hometown of Richmond, Virginia, which is about an hour west of the debate site. Washington lawyer Robert Barnett has been playing the role of Pence in Kaine's debate preparations.

Pence, too, has been meticulously preparing for the showdown, a contrast with Trump, who eschewed traditional study sessions and practice debates. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has stood in as Kaine in the prep sessions.

Since joining Trump's ticket in July, Pence has often been tasked with easing the anxieties of conservatives who worry about the Republican nominee's sometimes-fluctuating political ideology.

"There's Pence speak and there's Trump speak — Mike Pence using the language of conservative orthodoxy and Donald Trump using the language of a brash businessman," said Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union.

When Trump clashed with American Muslim parents whose son was killed serving the military in Iraq, it was Pence who issued a statement saying the family should be "cherished by every American."

And when Trump seemed to encourage Russia to find missing Clinton emails, Pence quickly warned Russia that there would "serious consequences" for interfering in the U.S. election.

In both cases, Pence tried to turn the matters around on Clinton by raising points about her handling of related issues, a strategy he's sure to rely on during Tuesday's debate.

Chart the path Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton must take on the Road to 270 to reach the White House with AP's Electoral College interactive map: <http://elections.ap.org/content/road-270-0>

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

Entering 5th year, wild-card games have favored visitors

By The Associated Press

Fervent fans and last at-bats haven't done the home teams much good in the first eight wild-card games.

As baseball enters its fifth season with its one-game, winner-take-all format prior to the Division Series, victorious visitors have become an unlikely trend. The road team is 6-2 in wild-card games — a good omen for the Orioles and Giants this year.

Baltimore, Toronto, the New York Mets and San Francisco are also trying to become the second team

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to go from wild-card winner to World Series champion — the Giants were the first, beating the wild-card winning Royals from the AL in the 2014 Fall Classic.

A look back at the first four years of wild-card games in preparation for Baltimore-Toronto on Tuesday and San Francisco-New York Mets on Wednesday:

SHUTOUTS APLENTY

Four of the eight wild-card games have been shutouts. The Pittsburgh Pirates have been the victims twice.

In 2013, Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb, who had missed part of the regular season after taking a line drive off his head, pitched out of jams three times in seven innings before the Rays' bullpen finished a 4-0 win at Cleveland.

In 2014, the Giants' Madison Bumgarner (who'll start against the Mets on Wednesday) struck out 10 and needed only 109 pitches in a four-hit, 8-0 shutout at Pittsburgh.

In 2015, Chicago's Jake Arrieta gave up four hits in a 4-0 road win over the Pirates, the Cubs' first postseason victory in 12 years.

Also in 2015, Dallas Keuchel faced the Yankees on three days' rest and allowed three hits over six innings, and three relievers finished up in a 3-0 victory.

FITTING BEGINNING

The wild-card games got off to an appropriately wild start. The first NL game in 2012 was Chipper Jones' last contest before retirement, and it included a 19-minute delay while beer cups, popcorn holders and other debris were cleaned off Turner Field following a disputed infield fly call.

Umpire Sam Holbrook made the ruling in the eighth inning when St. Louis shortstop Pete Kozma called for a popup in left field, but then Kozma veered away at the last moment and the ball dropped. The Braves thought they had the bases loaded with one out before realizing Holbrook's decision, and fans responded by littering the field with whatever they could find.

Atlanta lost the game 6-3 and the Cardinals advanced to the NL Championship Series before losing to the Giants in Game 7.

MOST FANTASTIC FINISH

The 2014 AL wild-card game is an easy winner. Kansas City trailed Oakland 7-3 in the eighth inning and 8-7 in the 12th before Salvador Perez's single down the left-field line produced a 9-8 walk-off victory in the Royals' first postseason game since 1985.

BIGGEST BAT

San Francisco's Brandon Crawford became the first shortstop to hit a postseason grand slam, going deep against the Pirates' Edinson Volquez in the fourth inning of what was a scoreless game in 2014.

WHO'D A THUNK?

Anything can happen in a one-game playoff, of course, but the Orioles' 5-1 win at Texas in 2012 might have been the biggest surprise in the short history of the wild-card games.

Joe Saunders, acquired in a late-season trade, was matched against Yu Darvish and allowed one hit over 5 2/3 innings as the Orioles won their first playoff game in 15 years and knocked out the two-time defending AL champion Rangers.

Google readies new phones, gadgets featuring its software

By **BRANDON BAILEY, AP Technology Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google may be getting serious about selling its own hardware gadgets.

On Tuesday, the search giant will ramp up its consumer electronics strategy with expected announcements of new gadgets including new smartphones and an internet-connected personal-assistant for

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the home similar to Amazon's Echo speaker. All are intended to showcase Google's software and online services.

A new virtual reality headset and other devices, such as a home router, could also be on tap, according to analysts and industry blogs. Google has declined to confirm any specifics, although it previously described some of these products back in May .

Google makes most of its money from online software and digital ads. But it's putting more emphasis on hardware as it faces rivals like Apple, Amazon and South Korea's Samsung.

HARDWARE IS HARD

New devices could help Google keep its services front and center in the battle for consumers' attention, said analyst Julie Ask at Forrester Research. Unlike a new mobile app or other software, she noted, it can be an expensive gamble to build and ship new hardware products. "But if you're Google, you can't afford to stop placing bets."

Google already sells smartphones and tablets under the Nexus brand, which it launched in 2010 as a way to show off the best features of its Android software. But it's spent relatively little effort to promote those devices, which have mostly ended up in the hands of Google purists. Tech blogs are reporting the company is now planning to launch two smartphone models under a new brand, Pixel, and Google has hinted it may invest in an extensive marketing campaign intended to introduce the phones to the mass market.

Android already powers the majority of smartphones sold around the world. But Samsung, the biggest maker of Android phones, has increasingly been adding more of its own software — even its own Samsung Pay mobile wallet — on the phones it sells. Another big rival, Apple, has built its own services, such as online maps and its own Siri personal assistant, to replace Google's apps on the iPhone.

HOME, BUT NOT ALONE

Google is also likely to begin selling a voice-activated "smart speaker" called Home, apparently modeled on Amazon's Echo . Analysts are expecting Google will announce more details, including price and availability, at Tuesday's event.

The "Home" device will feature Google's digital "Assistant" service, a voice-activated personal butler that can search the internet, play music or perform other useful tasks. "Assistant" is the company's answer to similar concierge services from rivals, including Siri, Amazon's Alexa and Microsoft's Cortana. The leading tech companies are all competing to assist consumers in their online activities such as shopping, since that gives the companies a better chance of selling advertising or other services.

Home-based systems like the Echo are taking on more importance with the advent of improved voice technology, said Forrester's Ask. "You can't assume somebody is going to go sit down at a computer or pick up a phone and type in a question anymore," she said.

Google may also provide a closer look Tuesday at some other products, including a new virtual-reality headset that it teased in May. Like the other devices, Google's virtual reality system could be a platform for a wide range of games and applications that are built on Google's software.

Follow Brandon Bailey at <https://twitter.com/BrandonBailey>

WHY IT MATTERS: Israel

By **MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE ISSUE: Support for Israel has been a mainstay of American foreign policy since the Jewish state's creation in 1948. Despite occasionally strong and even pointed differences, successive U.S. administrations of both parties have steadily increased financial, military and diplomatic

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assistance to Israel over the past six decades. The U.S. now provides Israel with roughly \$3 billion every year, making it the largest single recipient of American foreign aid, and the Obama administration boosted that amount to \$3.8 billion with a new memorandum of understanding on defense.

Public debate over Washington's pro-Israel position has intensified in recent years — notably over the Iran nuclear deal that Israel opposes, failed efforts to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and Israel's continued construction in territory claimed by the Palestinians. But the Democratic and Republican parties and their presidential candidates have never wavered from that stance and strong congressional backing for Israel makes any significant change in policy unlikely.

WHERE THEY STAND

Republican Donald Trump raised eyebrows during the primaries by saying he would be "neutral" in trying to resolve the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He has since said he loves Israel and he would be "somewhat neutral" in pursuing what he calls "probably the hardest negotiation there is." As a businessman who prides himself on his negotiating skill, Trump says he would try to get peace talks back on track but has offered no specific proposals on how he would do it.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, who as secretary of state oversaw a failed effort to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, has also pledged to continue work for a two-state solution — one that would create a Palestinian state alongside Israel — while offering strong support for Israel's defense and its co-called "qualitative military edge" in the tumultuous Middle East. She has boasted of helping to secure a cease-fire between Israel and the militant Hamas movement in Gaza, but was also a leading critic of Israel's settlement building while she was secretary of state.

WHY IT MATTERS

Although it has not been a major campaign issue thus far, Israel remains the staunchest U.S. ally in the volatile region, even after the well-publicized spat over the Iran deal and disagreements over the peace process.

With the war in Syria showing no sign of easing, Iraq on edge and an increasingly authoritarian government in Turkey, Israel is stable and at peace with neighbors Jordan and Egypt. And, U.S. presidents from both parties and Israeli leaders from across the political spectrum have hailed their shared values and democratic ideals.

Israel enjoys great support from members of Congress and American Jews, who are traditionally politically active and courted by politicians, as well as others. But a growing and vocal group of pro-Palestinian activists has tried to blunt U.S. backing for Israel. Given the stated pro-Israel positions of both Clinton and Trump, however, those efforts are not likely to yield much success no matter who wins in November.

This story is part of AP's "Why It Matters" series, which will examine three dozen issues at stake in the presidential election between now and Election Day. You can find them at: <http://apne.ws/2bBG85a>

Experts: No clear criminal case over Trump tax disclosure

By JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL VIRTANEN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump tax documents were published without his permission in The New York Times, but that doesn't necessarily make for a clear-cut criminal case against the newspaper or its source.

For one thing, it's not clear who did the divulging — the Times says it received the documents any-

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mously in the mail. And legal experts say the newspaper itself should be on solid First Amendment grounds if it used newsworthy, accurate information and did nothing illegal to get it.

"When you're in an election and you're looking at candidates' tax returns, I don't think it's dangerous" legally for the Times, said media lawyer James Goodale, the Times' general counsel when the federal government sought unsuccessfully in 1971 to stop the newspaper from publishing the "Pentagon Papers," a classified military study showing that the U.S. had secretly expanded the Vietnam War.

Trump's lawyers have threatened "prompt initiation of appropriate legal action" of their own over Saturday's story, which said the businessman had declared \$916 million in losses in 1995. The deduction was so big he could have forgone paying federal income taxes for 18 years.

The Times said Monday it hadn't heard further from Trump's lawyers.

"Our job is to report on matters of public concern, and that's what we did here," the newspaper said in a statement. "Nothing could be more central to the First Amendment than our right to publish, and the public's right to know, important information about presidential candidates."

Trump has built his campaign around his business acumen and financial success, while bucking a 40-year-long custom of presidential candidates releasing their income tax returns.

His campaign told the Times he had paid hundreds of millions of dollars in various forms of taxes, had a duty to his business, family and employees "to pay no more tax than legally required" and had gained a unique understanding of the tax code.

Trump himself has raised questions about publicly disclosing information rival Hillary Clinton has kept private. He urged Russia in July to find emails that Clinton deleted from her personal server, saying they were private, when she was secretary of state. Trump later said he was being sarcastic.

The Times published the first page of Trump's 1995 Connecticut, New Jersey and New York state tax returns and said his former accountant had authenticated them. All three states have criminal laws against disclosing such tax information without permission.

Connecticut Department of Revenue Services commissioner Kevin Sullivan said Monday his agency conducted internal checks and was confident no staffers had improperly looked up Trump's returns.

As for the Times, "there's not, to my mind a pattern, that would suggest anything that would be subject to prosecution," Sullivan said in an interview.

New York's Tax Department answered questions about the Trump records only with a general statement about protecting taxpayer information. The state attorney general's office, which has clashed with Trump over his foundation and the former Trump University real estate investing school, said it would need a referral from another agency to launch a criminal probe.

Representatives for New Jersey's attorney general didn't immediately respond to questions about the tax disclosure. A spokesman for Gov. Chris Christie, who heads Trump's transition team, said it would be inappropriate for the governor's office to comment because such matters are the attorney general's responsibility.

Courts have said news media can disseminate information others have illegally gathered, with some caveats: The news organization must not have participated in any illegal action, and the information has to be newsworthy and true.

For example, a 2001 Supreme Court ruling found in favor of a Pennsylvania radio station that broadcast an illegally recorded phone conversation among teachers' union officials discussing strike plans. An unidentified person had intercepted the call.

Some legal and media commentators have noted that Times Executive Editor Dean Baquet told a panel audience last month he'd push the Times' lawyers to publish Trump's tax records if the paper got them.

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But it would be a legal stretch to portray those remarks as inviting law-breaking, Goodale said.

About 2/3 of registered voters say it's somewhat or very important for presidential candidates to release their tax returns, with 46 percent saying it's very important, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll last month.

But regardless of public opinion, "journalists, in their role in holding the powerful accountable ... are going to be looking for information that people might or might not ask for, but the journalist believes helps them be better informed," said Aly Colon, a media ethics professor at Washington and Lee University.

Yet the Trump tax disclosure also comes at a time when waves of hacks and leaks are inuring people to the idea of invading privacy, notes Jonathan Zittrain, a Harvard Law School professor whose specialties include privacy.

It may be one thing when journalists are revealing information about as public a figure as Trump, but if everyone's information and communications come to be seen as fair game, "at some point, this is not, then, a phenomenon that is about public accountability," he said. "It's a phenomenon that could be chilling."

Virtanen reported from Albany, New York. Associated Press writers Michael Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, and Susan Haigh in Hartford, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

Hurricane Matthew drenches Haiti, threatens catastrophe

By DAVID MCFADDEN, Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The leading edge of dangerous Hurricane Matthew drenched Haiti on Monday night, flooding streets and sending people scrambling to emergency shelters as the Category 4 storm threatened to batter the hemisphere's poorest nation overnight with life-threatening winds, rains and storm surge.

A slightly strengthened Matthew had sustained winds of 145 mph (230 kph) late Monday, up from 140 mph (220 kph) earlier in the day. Its center was expected to pass near or over the southwestern tip of impoverished Haiti after dawn on Tuesday, then head for another landfall in eastern Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

"We are looking at a dangerous hurricane that is heading into the vicinity of western Haiti and eastern Cuba," said Richard Pasch, a senior hurricane specialist with the center. "People who are impacted by things like flooding and mudslides hopefully would get out and relocate because that's where we have seen loss of life in the past."

In the Port-au-Prince suburb of Tabarre, officials spent Monday urging shantytown residents living next to a muddy river to take shelter at a local school where cots were set up. While some went, many refused in fear their few possessions might be stolen.

"If we lose our things we are not going to get them back!" Toussaint Laine said as police and officials from the mayor's office urged the jobless man and his family to evacuate.

Haiti's civil protection agency reported the death of a fisherman in rough water churned up by the storm. Agency chief Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste said another fisherman was missing.

The confirmed death in Haiti brought the total for the storm to at least three. One man died Friday in Colombia and a 16-year-old was killed in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sept. 28 when the system passed through the eastern Caribbean.

Authorities went door to door in Haiti's south coast cities of Les Cayes and Jeremie to make sure

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people were aware of the storm. At least 1,200 people were moved to shelters in churches and schools. "We are continuing to mobilize teams in the south to move people away from dangerous areas," Jean-Baptiste said.

There is no shortage of people with flimsy houses set up in risky places in Haiti. In an unregulated sprawl of shacks built on hillsides near the northern edge of Haiti's capital, some poor families did what they could to reinforce their tin-and-tarp houses. But most were just hoping for the best.

"I know my house could easily blow away. All I can do is pray and then pray some more," Ronlande Francois said by the tarp-walled shack where she lives with her unemployed husband and three children.

In Port-au-Prince, schools were closed while cars lined up at gas stations and shoppers cleared shelves at supermarkets as rain fell.

Some worried the crowded capital might not fare well. "We are not prepared," unemployed mason Fritz Achelus said as he watched water pool on a downtown street.

Forecasters said the storm could dump as much as 40 inches (100 centimeters) of rain on some isolated areas of Haiti, raising fears of deadly mudslides and floods in the heavily deforested country.

In Jamaica, which lowered a hurricane warning to a tropical storm warning as Matthew tracked closer to Haiti, many people chose to stick out the rough rain and winds at home. Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie said all but four residents of the Port Royal area near the Kingston airport refused to board buses and evacuate.

Matthew briefly reached the top classification, Category 5, becoming the strongest hurricane in the region since Felix in 2007.

The U.S. 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 the U.S. East Coast.

"Although our track is to the east of Florida, interests there should remain vigilant and we can't rule out the possibility of impacts," Pasch said.

A hurricane warning was posted for much of the Bahamas, where the storm was expected to move along the eastern length of the island chain starting early Wednesday.

As of 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT), the storm was centered about 100 miles (155 kilometers) south of Tiburon, Haiti, and 190 miles (310 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince. It was moving north at 7 mph (11 kph).

Cuba's government declared a hurricane alert for six eastern provinces and removed traffic lights from poles in the city of Santiago to keep them from falling due to heavy wind.

Matthew's center was expected to make landfall in Cuba about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, where authorities evacuated about 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 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 to take a frontal assault if you will," Culpepper said.

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

Clinton tries economic appeal on Ohio voters

By JULIE PACE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Returning to Ohio for the first time in a month, Hillary Clinton tried to make up for lost time Monday with a fiery populist pitch aimed at upending rival Donald Trump in a battleground state where he's tapped into voters' economic anxieties.

"He abuses his power, games the system, and puts his own interests ahead of the country's," Clinton said during a rally in Toledo, one of two stops she was making in Ohio.

Clinton was away from Ohio nearly all of September. During that time, Trump displayed strength in the state in public opinion polls, helped along by his appeal with Ohio's white working-class voters. In another blow for Democrats, party groups have cut funding for their Senate candidate, Ted Strickland, the former Ohio governor who has struggled in a race that was once expected to be among the most competitive in the nation.

In previous election years, any sign of shakiness in Ohio — long a crown jewel of presidential politics — would have a campaign on edge. But Democrats' increasing reliance on minority voters to win presidential elections has opened new avenues to the White House for Clinton, and turned Ohio — where about 80 percent of the state's population is white — into a less essential state.

In a memo to supporters last month, Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook outlined several scenarios in which the Democratic nominee can win the election without carrying Ohio. "Hillary has a lot of paths," he said confidently.

While Clinton aides concede Ohio's demographics are less favorable than other political battlegrounds, they dispute any suggestion that they're not treating the state as a top-tier target.

Clinton arrived in Toledo Monday armed with a new endorsement from the state's biggest star: LeBron James, an Ohio native who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I hope to be elected president, but I know here in Ohio, LeBron will always be the king," Clinton said.

In her economic appeal to Ohio voters, Clinton condemned big corporate actors who she said protect their own profits at the expense of workers and their communities.

She also seized upon revelations reported by The New York Times that Trump may not have paid income taxes after a more than \$900 million loss in 1995, seeking to undercut his appeal to workers. "What kind of genius loses a billion dollars in a single year?" she asked incredulously.

During stops in Toledo and Akron, she accused Trump of indifference to the auto industry when it teetered on the brink of collapse in 2009, reprising an argument that President Barack Obama used effectively against Mitt Romney in 2012. "At the time of the worst financial crisis in Ohio in 2009, he would have let you twist and fall," she said.

With big cities and sprawling suburbs, booming college towns and Appalachian poverty, Ohio has long been viewed as a bellwether for the nation's political mood. It also has a storied place in presidential political lore: No Republican has ever won the White House without carrying the state.

In 2004, it was Ohio that tipped the election toward Republican George W. Bush in his close race against Democrat John Kerry. In 2012, the state was seen as a litmus test for whether economically frustrated voters were willing to give Obama another four years to bolster the post-recession recovery.

As a result, Obama was a constant presence in Ohio. He held five rallies there in September 2012 and another five in October. He also headlined six events in Ohio in the final four days of campaigning, going on to win the state by three points.

Curt Steiner, an Ohio Republican who worked for the state's former governor and senator George Voinovich, said that pattern seems unlikely to replicate itself in the final stretch of the 2016 race.

"I don't think we're going to see the candidates as often as we have in the past," said Steiner, though he believes the race between Clinton and Trump remains competitive in Ohio.

A flood of Clinton surrogates has spent time in Ohio during the candidate's September absence. Former President Bill Clinton will roll through on a two-day bus tour this week and Obama will headline the state's Democratic Party dinner later this month.

Clinton's campaign has spent more than \$17 million on television and radio advertising in Ohio during the general election — nearly 6 times more than Trump, according to data from Kantar Media's political ad tracker. The Democrat also has about 400 paid staffers working in the state and 61 campaign offices, with a few more opening this week, according to her campaign.

"No one wins Ohio without hard work and we invested in Ohio early — and continue to do so," said Chris Wyant, Clinton's Ohio state director.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Ken Thomas at <http://twitter.com/kthomasDC>

Family of black man shot 14 times by police wants charges

By ALISON NOON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The family of a man killed in July by Sacramento police after 911 callers reported he was waving a knife and acting erratically demanded Monday that two officers face murder charges after dash-cam video revealed they talked inside their police cruiser about running him down. He dodged the cruiser twice and was shot 14 times less than a minute later by the same two officers.

The officers "behaved like big game hunters closing in on an animal," said John Burris, a lawyer for the family of Joseph Mann, who was mentally unstable and homeless.

The demand for the murder charges came as Los Angeles police chief Charlie Beck defended his officers in the fatal shootings of a black man Saturday who police say was armed with a loaded semi-automatic gun and a Hispanic man on Sunday who officers say was wielding replica handgun.

The latest police shootings happened amid heightened tensions over police actions involving black people and other minorities across the country, and followed two more fatal encounters between California police and black men last week in San Diego and Pasadena.

In the Sacramento case, police have said Mann was waving a knife in the air and doing karate moves in the streets just before police responded. But Burris told reporters he was not threatening anybody and that the two officers who shot him, John Tennis and Randy Lozoya, should face a U.S. Justice Department civil rights investigation in addition to murder charges.

The officers can be heard on the recording saying "I'm gonna hit him" and "OK, go for it" before appearing to drive their cruiser twice at Mann, who managed to scramble out of its way both times. The officers then stopped the cruiser, got out of it, pursued him on foot and opened fire.

"Mann was standing stationary on a sidewalk with no one in close proximity when the officers unloaded their guns," Burris wrote in a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Sacramento police spokesman Matthew McPhail said police are "encouraged to assess each circumstance and think critically about the tools at their disposal."

McPhail and other police spokespeople did not immediately respond to a request to interview Tennis and Lozoya. Sacramento Police Officers Association President Timothy Davis did not respond to telephone and email messages seeking comment on behalf of the two officers.

Sacramento City Attorney James Sanchez declined to comment on whether police were aware of what

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Tennis and Lozoya said in the car. McPhail did not respond to messages asking the same question.

The Sacramento District Attorney's Office is reviewing the recordings and police reports, spokeswoman Shelly Orio said.

Tennis and Lozoya were put on a brief leave after the July 11 shooting and returned to work on desk duty instead of patrol the following week. An administrative review of their actions is underway.

"It doesn't service anybody's interest with the public or the city, even the officers themselves or the family of the deceased, to have any sort of determination to be made before the investigation is complete," McPhail said.

Surveillance videos show Mann doing the karate moves, zigzagging as he walked around a down-and-out commercial neighborhood in north Sacramento where many businesses are shuttered.

On police 911 recordings, callers said a man was waving a knife in the air, had a gun in his waistband and appeared to be mentally ill. Police found a knife but no gun after Mann was killed.

Family members have described Mann as a college graduate who loved politics and economics, and succeeded in several careers before deteriorating into mental illness about five years ago. They said he had been living on the streets and struggled with drugs before his death.

Toxicology tests revealed Mann had methamphetamine in his system the day he died, police said.

The videos released showed a first police cruiser that arrived alongside Mann as he was walking down a street. Mann turned away from that vehicle when another cruiser with the two officers approached him, talking inside their cruiser about hitting Mann.

When Mann ran out of the car's way, the officer driving the cruiser backed it up and turned to aim in Mann's direction again. It accelerated toward Mann, who ran across a median. The cruiser stopped and the officers got out.

Mann is heard on audio from the video saying he did not have a gun.

About 15 seconds later, 18 shots were fired — 14 hit Mann.

It was extremely rare for audio to be captured describing what the officers were thinking as the events leading up to Mann's shooting unfolded, said Kevin LaHue, a private attorney in Los Angeles who has worked on numerous federal civil rights cases involving police tactics.

"Having this sort of real-time insight into the thought process of the officers and their use of force, I think that is very unique," LaHue said.

Mann's death is the latest of at least five fatal police shootings in Sacramento over the past three years of people who did not comply with officers' orders and had a weapon other than a firearm, said Francine Tournour, who oversees city public safety accountability.

"I'm seeing a pattern," Tournour said.

Tournour said she plans to recommend that the department change its approach to de-escalating crisis situations, introduce scenario-based training and possibly add a staff position.

The chief of police answers to the city manager but maintains discretion over police training and policies.

Clinton tears into Trump on taxes; he says he'll save nation

By KEN THOMAS and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Hillary Clinton tore into Donald Trump's tax maneuvering, business skills and trustworthiness Monday as she sought to capitalize on news that the New York real estate mogul may have paid no federal taxes for years. Unfazed, he boasted of using U.S. tax laws "brilliantly" and cast himself as a savvy business survivor poised to save a reeling nation.

Campaigning at a Toledo train station, Clinton castigated Trump as a cold-hearted and bungling busi-

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nessman who "represents the same rigged system that he claims he's going to change." She called for a new law requiring presidential candidates from major parties to release their tax returns, as Trump has refused to do, and she accused him of shirking his responsibility as a taxpayer.

"He's taken corporate excess and made a business model out of it," she said. "It's Trump first and everyone else last."

The Democrat's broadside was her first response to a weekend New York Times report that Trump claimed a loss of nearly \$916 million in a single year on his personal tax filings. The Times said the size of the loss could have allowed him to avoid federal taxes for nearly two decades, an assertion his campaign neither confirmed nor disputed.

Nor did Trump.

Instead, at a Colorado rally, he portrayed himself as a man who bounced back from financial losses, will recover from a currently difficult stretch of the campaign and propel the nation to a similar turnaround.

"On Nov. 8, America's comeback begins," he told cheering supporters in Pueblo.

As for questions about his tax history, Trump said he had "brilliantly used those laws ... legally used the tax laws to my benefit and to the benefit of my company, my investors and my employees."

"The unfairness of the tax laws is unbelievable. It's something I've been talking about for a long time, despite, frankly, being a big beneficiary of the laws," Trump told the crowd in Pueblo. "But I'm working for you now. I'm not working for Trump."

He acknowledged business failures as well as successes but declared, "I'm still here."

He said that "our country is in need of a major comeback," just like the one he was able to pull off after near-financial collapse in the 1990s — and the one, he implied, he would make from his recent drop in the polls after a difficult campaign week.

At another rally hours later in Loveland, Colorado, he returned to the argument, racing through his tax explanation as if it were already part of his usual rally rhetoric and drawing cheers from the packed arena crowd. But moments earlier, he complained about the nation's crumbling infrastructure, repairs to which could potentially be funded by taxes Trump may not have paid.

Several of Trump's surrogates also rallied to note that the Times report did not allege wrongdoing and they contended the Republican presidential candidate was a "genius" for using the tax system to rebuild his fortune.

At the same time, the Clinton campaign seized on the comment with a new TV ad, asking, "If not paying taxes makes him smart, what does that make the rest of us?"

In her remarks in Ohio, Clinton mocked: "What kind of genius loses a billion dollars in a single year?"

Other Trump troubles mounted.

Former cast and crew members from the reality TV show "The Apprentice" described for the first time his treatment of women on the set. Show insiders told The Associated Press that Trump rated female contestants by the size of their breasts and talked about which ones he'd like to have sex with.

The campaign issued a broad denial, calling the claims "totally false."

Also Monday, the New York attorney general's office ordered the Trump Foundation to immediately stop fundraising in the state, saying it isn't registered to do so.

The back-to-back bad news piled on a week of Trump missteps and his increasingly aggressive personal attacks on Clinton. Since a rocky debate last week, Trump has engaged in a distracting feud with a former beauty queen he called "Miss Piggy" because she gained weight during her reign. He seemed to try to shift the conversation Saturday night when he suggested, without evidence, that Clinton may have cheated on her husband.

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Trump's campaign is searching for a way to rattle Clinton — while also getting control of its own message. The new revelations only make that harder. While the incomplete tax records published by the Times show no irregularities, the size of Trump's loss cuts at a core tenet of his presidential bid — his remarkable business success. Meanwhile, his boorish comments are threatening to turn away female voters.

Trump was more disciplined Monday both in Pueblo and at a forum in Virginia hosted by the Retired American Warriors PAC.

Seizing an opportunity he missed on the debate stage last week, Trump went after Clinton's commitment to fighting cybersecurity threats and pointed to her use of a private, email server when she served as secretary of state.

He said Clinton's handling of classified emails on the server makes her "totally unfit" for the Oval Office.

But Trump's taxes dominated the conversation.

In a story published over the weekend, the Times said it received the first pages of Trump's 1995 state income tax filings in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut from an anonymous person. The filings showed a net loss of \$915,729,293 in federal taxable income for the year — losses of a magnitude that they might have allowed Trump to avoid paying taxes for years.

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

Lemire reported from Pueblo, Colorado. AP writers Kathleen Hennessey, Laurie Kellman and Jeff Horwitz in Washington and Ken Thomas in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed.

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After emerging from hideouts, Colombia's rebels now in limbo

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — As peace talks in Colombia advanced over the past year, 7,000 rebel fighters began slowly emerging from their jungle hideouts hoping for, if not a hero's welcome, at least an outstretched hand from fellow Colombians tired of a half century of bloody combat.

But with the peace deal's stunning defeat in a referendum Sunday, the future of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's rebels is now in limbo just a few days after they unanimously ratified the accord and began planning a return to civilian life.

For now, a return to the battlefield in a war that has already killed 220,000 people and displaced 8 million seems unlikely. Within hours of defeat, FARC leader Rodrigo Londono reaffirmed the group's commitment to peace, saying its only weapon going forward would be the power of its word. On Monday, he said his troops would honor its commitments to the government and stick by a permanent cease-fire.

The government has vowed the same and President Juan Manuel Santos quickly dispatched his negotiators to Cuba to try to salvage the accord. He also extended an olive branch to arch-rival former President Alvaro Uribe, inviting the hard-line conservative who led the opposition to the accord to join him in a bid to renegotiate and strengthen it.

But the rebels' ambition, enshrined in a 297-page document that would have allowed them to avoid jail time and form a political movement with seats in Congress, is now at risk. As part of the deal, rebels

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who confess their crimes to special peace tribunals were to be spared prison sentences and instead perform development work in areas hard-hit by the conflict.

Colombians overwhelmingly loathe the FARC, who they blame for dozens of crimes from drug-trafficking and the forced recruitment of child soldiers to kidnapping and attacks on civilians. That hatred was only reinforced by Sunday's results. The FARC always opposed Santos' idea of a referendum and instead favored ratifying the accord in a constitutional convention.

"In all these years the guerrillas caused a lot of damage," said Alcibiades Escue Musicue, the mayor of the mostly indigenous town of Toribio, where the FARC in 2011 carried out a bus bomb attack on a market, killing three people and injuring dozens. "At some point they must have calculated this could happen."

That contrasts with widespread international support among foreign leaders who heralded the accord as a model for resolving disputes in a world beset by political violence 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 the FARC leader signed the deal less than a week ago in an elaborate, emotion-filled ceremony in the historic city of Cartagena.

Noting that "democracy can be messy at times," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Sunday's referendum "might be the latest example of that."

"The good news is that all sides, including the voters, I think are still focused on trying to reach this negotiated peace," he said.

But if the FARC was politically weakened by the referendum, it's not clear how many concessions it is now willing to make. Nobody expects the rebels to turn in their weapons just to wind up in jail.

On Monday, Londono warned that the referendum's results "don't have any legal effect whatsoever" because the peace accord was signed and deposited for storage with the Swiss Federal Council as a special humanitarian agreement between warring parties under the Geneva Conventions.

"This confers it undeniable and irrevocable legal effects," he said.

A FARC leader, who agreed to discuss the situation but only on condition of anonymity so as not to deepen divisions, said the rebels never had a Plan B for the accord losing in the referendum. Although the group's commitment to demobilizing remains intact, the group isn't willing to accept unilateral impositions by the government that go against its aim of building a political movement, the leader said.

In the absence of flexibility from the guerrillas, Santos' options are few: He could ratify the accord in congress, taking the unpopular step of disavowing the referendum's results, or call a constitutional convention, which might hand even more leverage to the guerrillas.

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.

In an encouraging sign, both leaders named three representatives each on Monday to initiate a dialogue seeking consensus on a way forward. Uribe also proposed granting an immediate amnesty for rank-and-file rebels who committed crimes, such as rebellion, that don't constitute serious human rights violations.

"We'll have to act quickly and put deadlines because the uncertainty and lack of clarity about what's going to happen put at risk all that has been built so far," Santos said in a televised address Monday night, in which he repeated his call for national unity.

A few dozen students marched outside congress Monday to cheer on Santos' campaign to save the peace deal.

Despite the strong rhetoric, the FARC, having come this far in their transition to a political movement,

may not want to scuttle the progress made during four years of grueling negotiations. There is a precedent in Colombia's recent history: In 1989, another rebel group, the M-19, reached a peace agreement with the government only to see it derailed as it made its way through Congress.

Sen. Antonio Wolff, one of the leaders of the now-defunct M-19, said his rebel comrades decided to go ahead anyway and renegotiate the deal.

"It's possible the FARC is in the same situation we were in and has already crossed a point of no return," Wolff told The Associated Press.

"It's not going to be easy, it's not going to happen quickly, but it's possible the FARC may accept a renegotiation," he said. "We all have to campaign hard so that the FARC allows the peace negotiations to continue."

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Trump angers with suggestion that vets with PTSD are weak

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

HERNDON, Virginia (AP) — Donald Trump is drawing scorn from veterans' groups after he suggested that soldiers who suffer from mental health issues might not be as strong as those who don't.

Trump was speaking at an event organized by the Retired American Warriors political action committee Monday when he was asked about his commitment to faith-based programs aimed at preventing suicides and helping soldiers suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and other issues.

"When you talk about the mental health problems — when people come back from war and combat, and they see things that maybe a lot of the folks in this room have seen many times over, and you're strong and you can handle it. But a lot of people can't handle it," he said.

"And they see horror stories. They see events that you couldn't see in a movie, nobody would believe it," he added.

The comment drew condemnation from critics as well as veterans' groups that have been working for years to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues in an effort to encourage soldiers to seek treatment.

David Maulsby, the executive director of the Texas-based PTSD Foundation of America, told The Associated Press that, at first, he hoped Trump's remarks had been taken out of context. But after watching a recording of the exchange, he said the Republican nominee's words were detrimental to veterans struggling with PTSD symptoms.

"At the very least, it's a very poor choice of words. PTSD is basically a rewiring of the brain as the result of trauma or prolonged trauma. That is not a reflection of a person's strength, character, stamina — any of that," Maulsby said.

"Our veterans who are struggling with post-traumatic stress as a result of their combat need to be encouraged to seek help, and not be told they are weak or deficient in character in any way, shape or form," he said.

Zach Iscol, a Marine veteran and executive director of the nonprofit Headstrong Project, which helps provide free care for veterans suffering from PTSD, said Trump's comments weren't "just wrong, they're dangerous."

"The biggest barrier we have to people getting help is the stigma of getting help," he said. "It just shows a complete misunderstanding of what post-traumatic stress disorder is."

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, a top Trump adviser, responded with a statement that accused the media of taking the GOP nominee's words out of context "to deceive voters and veterans."

Flynn said Trump has been highlighting the challenges veterans face when returning home and "has always respected the service and sacrifice of our military men and women."

Trump has vowed to make improving veterans' mental health services a top priority if he makes it to the White House.

Trump previously angered veterans when he suggested that Sen. John McCain, a former POW, was only considered a war hero because he was captured.

Colvin reported from Washington.

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 Monday.

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

She left Paris Monday morning a few hours after the incident, and flew to Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. From there she traveled in a motorcade to her apartment building in downtown Manhattan, where there was a heavy security presence.

Paris police are hunting for five suspected assailants after the robbery, which has raised new concerns about security in the French capital after a string of deadly extremist attacks.

But Johanna Primevert, chief spokeswoman for the Paris police department, said the attack on Kardashian West shouldn't put off anyone thinking of coming to Paris.

"This kind of incident is extremely rare in Paris. This is a star who is famous worldwide. Do not confuse what happened to Ms. Kardashian and probably was the result of an organized team who had planned their action with the assault of a tourist in front of Notre Dame (cathedral) or another tourist spot in Paris," Primevert said in an interview with the AP at the Paris police headquarters Monday night.

The police spokeswoman suggested possible imprudence from Kardashian West in showing her valuable jewels on social networks and a possible lack of security in that private residence.

"Clearly when you have a star like Kim Kardashian who has, I think, more than 48 million followers on Twitter ... I think this could have happened abroad just as easily as in Paris. It was really the celebrity who was targeted, with possessions that had been seen and noticed via social media, and it was these goods that the attackers targeted," Primevert said.

"It's not the safety in Paris that is involved, it's maybe the security situation in that residence," she insisted.

Primevert said the robbery was "the result of people who obviously posed as policemen." Police and authorities were not aware that Kardashian West was staying in that private location, Primevert said.

The thieves entered the 19th-century luxury residence in Paris' chic eighth district after the concierge let them in around 2:30 a.m. local time, according to two police officials. Handcuffed and at gunpoint, the concierge led them to the starlet's flat.

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

The officials said the five 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 prosecutor's office said that only two of the five suspects forced their way into the apartment.

Kardashian's stylist was also in the residence at the time, and alerted police, but Kardashian's bodyguard was not present, according to the prosecutor's office.

The couple's two children, 3-year-old daughter North and 10-month-old son Saint, were not with Kardashian West when the robbery happened. It's unclear if they accompanied her on the trip to France.

Police said the actress' family was placed under police protection at the George V hotel after the incident. Her sister Kendall Jenner appeared with Kardashian at Paris fashion shows in recent days and often appears on the catwalk herself.

Kardashian's 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.

Kardashian West has the habit of showing her jewels and whereabouts in her social media, including in recent days when she posted pictures of her attending fashion week shows. A few days ago, she also flashed a big ring on Twitter and Instagram.

Kardashian West was 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 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 2014.

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 "very rare" incident "in no way calls into question police work or security of public space" in Paris.

Hidalgo also urged politicians across the spectrum not to exploit the incident for political gains in the lead-up to the presidential election.

"In a complicated context for tourism, in which boosting attendance must be the priority of all, using this incident for polemical purposes would amount to directly harming the tourism sector, which represents 500,000 jobs" in the Paris region, Hidalgo said.

AP entertainment writer Sandy Cohen in Los Angeles and Philippe Sotto in Paris contributed to this story.

AP: 'Apprentice' cast and crew say Trump was lewd and sexist

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 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 ban-

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ter." 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, slob 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 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

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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," said Dowd, who was interviewed before his September 18 death.

"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 at-

tractive — 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.”

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Follow Garance Burke on Twitter: [@garanceburke](https://twitter.com/garanceburke)

Turkey-backed Syrian rebels lose 15 in battles with IS

By SUZAN FRASER and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Fighting in northern Syria between Turkey-backed Syrian rebels and Islamic State militants killed at least 15 rebels as the opposition pressed toward a town of symbolic importance for the extremists, an activist group and Turkish officials said Monday.

The Syrian government continued to strike besieged, rebel-held parts of eastern Aleppo, hitting the area's largest hospital, according to activists. A monitoring group said more than 400 civilians have been killed in and around Aleppo since the collapse of a U.S. and Russian-brokered cease-fire two weeks ago, mainly in the rebel-held east.

In central Syria, meanwhile, two suicide bombers struck the city of Hama close to an office of President Bashar Assad's Baath party, killing three people and wounding at least 11, state news agency SANA said. IS claimed responsibility in an online statement.

SANA said a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-packed belt in Hama's al-Assi Square, and another suicide bomber struck 15 minutes later. One of SANA's photographers, Ibrahim Ajaj, was wounded as he was covering the explosions, the agency said, adding that he is in stable condition.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the two explosions killed three people and wounded 14.

Suicide attacks in government-held areas are not uncommon, but blasts in the city of Hama, which is firmly under the control of Assad's forces, have been rare. The twin bombings came as various insurgent groups have been on the offensive north of the city.

Another suicide bombing struck a wedding outside the northeastern Syrian city of Hassakeh, killing at least 30 people, according to the SANA state news agency. SANA said 90 people were wounded, including its own correspondent in the area. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The death toll among the Syrian rebels near the Turkish border is the highest since Turkey sent troops and tanks into Syria in August to help rebels recapture IS strongholds in the area and curb the advance of a Syrian Kurdish militia, which Ankara views as an extension of Turkey's outlawed Kurdish separatists.

Turkish military officials said 15 Syrian opposition fighters were killed and about 35 wounded in their offensive, which seeks to capture seven residential districts south of the town of al-Rai. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The Observatory, which relies on a network of activists across Syria, said 21 rebels were killed and more than two dozen wounded, adding that many of the casualties were due to land mines and booby-traps planted by the extremists.

The Observatory said the Turkey-backed rebels are trying to reach the town of Dabiq, which occupies a central place in IS propaganda.

The extremists, citing ancient prophecy, believe Dabiq will be the scene of an apocalyptic battle be-

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tween Christianity and Islam. The group named its online magazine after the town, which it has occupied since August 2014.

The Observatory said IS has been preparing for the battle in Dabiq for weeks, planting mines and explosives and sending some of its most experienced fighters to defend the town.

The epicenter of the civil war remains in Aleppo, however, where Syrian and Russian warplanes have been pounding rebel-held areas since the breakdown of the cease-fire on Sept. 19.

The Observatory said Russian and Syrian warplanes, and government artillery, have killed at least 387 civilians in rebel-held Aleppo and its rural surroundings, including 72 children and 24 women, since the truce broke down. In the rebel-held part of the city alone, 294 were killed. The group recorded 19 civilians killed in government-held Aleppo.

In the offensive, which includes a limited ground operation, health facilities have repeatedly come under attack.

On Monday, Adham Sahloul of the U.S.-based Syrian American Medical Society, which supports various hospitals in rebel-held areas, said a bunker-busting bomb gouged out a 10-meter-deep crater where it landed near the entrance of one of the largest emergency hospitals in the rebel-held part of Aleppo. This is the third time the hospital has hit in a week, including once with several bombs. This time, the attack rendered it "not salvageable," said Sahloul.

Sahloul said at least three maintenance staff were killed, including one found 100 meters (330 feet) away, apparently thrown by the impact of the explosion.

The workers were carrying out repair work at the hospital following last week's attacks. Rescue workers are still searching for people under the rubble, and there were fears the building would collapse, Sahloul said. He added that since 2014 most of the hospital's facilities were set up underground to protect it.

The Observatory confirmed the bombing, but put the death toll at six.

In the central Hama province, a medical relief group and the Observatory said airstrikes have damaged and put one of Syria's most secure hospitals, which had been dug into a mountain, out of service.

The International Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations, or UOSSM, said the Dr. Hasan Al-Araj Hospital — also known as "Cave Hospital" — was struck twice on Sunday.

The Observatory said Russian warplanes carried out the attacks that hit the hospital, adding that it's one of the largest hospitals in rebel-held parts of the country. UOSSM said there were minor injuries from the attack.

Dr. Abdallah Darwish, the hospital's director and health care chief in Hama province, was quoted in the UOSSM statement as saying that the hospital was likely struck by "bunker-buster" missiles as it was "well-fortified in a cave and impervious to previous attacks."

The bomb completely destroyed the hospital's emergency ward and caused major damage throughout the facility, he said.

"These vicious and atrocious campaigns are literally choking the life out of civilians, they are deplorable and unacceptable," said Dr. Khaula Sawah, CEO of UOSSM USA.

Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Beirut, and Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 4, the 278th day of 2016. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 4, 1976, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz resigned in the wake of a controversy over an obscene joke he'd made that was derogatory to blacks.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1822, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, was born in Delaware, Ohio.

In 1931, the comic strip "Dick Tracy," created by Chester Gould, made its debut.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit. The television series "Leave It to Beaver" premiered on CBS.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1966, the African kingdom of Lesotho (leh-SOO'-too) gained its independence from Britain.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1985, Islamic Jihad issued a statement saying it had killed American hostage William Buckley. (Fellow hostage David Jacobsen later said he believed Buckley had died of torture injuries four months earlier.)

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

Ten years ago: The domain name wikileaks.org was registered (the website began publishing leaked classified information in Dec. 2006). Ousted Hewlett-Packard Chairwoman Patricia Dunn, a company officer and three investigators were charged with violating California privacy laws in a corporate spying scandal. (The charges were later dropped, with a judge calling their conduct a "betrayal of trust and honor" that nonetheless did not rise to the level of criminal activity.) American Roger D. Kornberg won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. New York Times correspondent R.W. Apple Jr. died in Washington at age 71.

Five years ago: Three U.S.-born scientists, Saul Perlmutter, Brian Schmidt and Adam Riess, won the Nobel Prize in physics for discovering that the universe is expanding at an accelerating pace. The NBA canceled the entire 114-game preseason schedule because a new collective bargaining agreement had not been reached with the National Basketball Players Association.

One year ago: President Barack Obama paid tribute to firefighters who had died in the line of duty and cited the sacrifices they'd made in service to a grateful nation during an annual memorial service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Pope Francis opened a divisive meeting of the world's bishops on family issues by forcefully asserting that marriage was an indissoluble bond between man and woman, but saying the church had to "seek out and care for hurting couples with the balm of acceptance and mercy."

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 87. Actress Felicia Farr is 84. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 82. Actor Eddie Applegate is 81. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 75. Author Anne Rice is 75. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 72. Actor Clifton Davis is 71. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 70. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 70. Actress Susan Sarandon is 70. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 68. Playwright Lee Blessing is 67. Actor Armand Assante is 67. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 66. Actor Christoph

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Waltz is 60. Actor Bill Fagerbakke (FAY'-guhr-bah-kee) is 59. Music producer Russell Simmons is 59. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 59. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 58. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 57. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 56. Actor David W. Harper is 55. Singer Jon Secada is 55. TV personality John Melendez is 51. Actor Liev Schreiber is 49. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 47. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 46. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 43. Actress Alicia (ah-LEE'-see-ah) Silverstone is 40. Actress Dana Davis is 38. Actor Phillip Glasser is 38. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 38. Actor Brandon Barash is 37. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 37. Actor Tim Peper is 36. Actor Jimmy Workman is 36. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (3lw) is 29. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 29. Actress Melissa Benoist is 28. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 28. Actress Dakota Johnson is 27. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 27. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnock (Little Mix) is 25. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 20.

Thought for Today: "He who confers a favor should at once forget it, if he is not to show a sordid, ungenerous spirit." — Demosthenes, Greek statesman (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).