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Friday, Oct. 7

School Lunch: Soft shell taco, lettuce and tomato, fruit, broccoli and dip.

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

7 p.m.: Football at Wagner

Saturday, Oct. 8

9:00 am: Volleyball tourney in Redfield

Wagner Weather

In case you are planning to make the trek to Wagner, here is the forecast:

7 p.m.: 52 degrees, N wind at 7, Sunny

8 p.m.: 49 degrees, NE wind at 7, Clear

9 p.m.: 48 degrees, NE wind at 7, Clear

Apts for Rent

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

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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GDILIVE.COM

livestream

Many Groton Area activities are Livestreamed by the



605/397-NEWS (6397)

Your Main Source for Community News, Sports and Important Announcements



Hanlon Brothers

Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

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Bus Drivers Wanted

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

Bates Township Mowing Notice

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

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

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Bates Township Right-Of-Way Notice

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

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

THE CIRCUS SPORTS BAR & GRILL



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

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

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

**For orders of 20
wings or more,
please call
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FOOD FAIR & SHELL EXPRESS
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Groton's First Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Groton City Park



to and from the
Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Painting



Face Painting

Train
Rides for
Little Ones



Inflatables

Fall Mini Photo Sessions
by Jamie Simon

Call 397-2593 or 281-0530 for an appointment.
Limited spots available.



Lunch Served 11-1

Alternate Date: 10/9/2016 ~ Thanks to our many sponsors!!



Three golfers compete at state

Three Groton Area golfers qualified for the state golf meet by placing in the regional golf meet held in Madison. The state meet was held in Rapid City at the Hart Ranch.

Pictured left to right are: Hunter Schaller - he placed 22nd at the regions with a score of 99 and he placed 92nd at the state meet with a score of 208 over the two-day event; Landon Marzahn - he placed 20th at the region with a score of 98 and 61st at the state with a score of 186; and Cade Guthmiller - he placed 21st at the region with a score of 98 and 89th at the state with a score of 205. (Photo courtesy Tina Guthmiller)



Landon Marzahn gets ready to hit the ball at the state golf meet held in Rapid City. (Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.)

Groton Area take down Cyclones in three games

Groton Area's volleyball team had an easy time with Clark/Willow Lake Thursday night at the Groton Arena, winning three games and ending the match at 8:06 p.m.

Audrey Wanner returned to the court after being out since the Roncalli match, having 11 kills on the night.

Groton Area led for most of the first game, taking a 10-5 lead, but the Cyclones rallied to tie the game at 15 and 17 before taking an 18-17 lead. The game was tied at 18 and Clark/Willow Lake held a 19-18 lead. Then the Tigers scored seven straight points to finish off the game and secure the win, 25-19. Jessica Bjerke had two ace serves and Gia Gengerke had one in the first game.



Payton Maine

Bjerke started out the serving in the second game and a combination of Bjerke's two ace serves and two scored blocks by Gia Gengerke propelled the Tigers to an 8-0 lead. Taylor Holm also had a scored block while Katie Koehler and Miranda Hanson each had an ace serve as Groton Area won the second game, 25-12.



Katie Koehler

Taydon Glover, Paityn Bonn, Jennie Doeden and Katie Koehler each had an ace serve in the third game as the Tigers went on to win, 25-13.

Groton Area was 69 of 76 in serves with 15 ace serves. Jessica Bjerke was 23 of 24 with six ace serves, Miranda Hanson was nine of 10 with three ace serves and katie Koehler was 10 of 12 with two ace serves. Clark/Willow Lake was 32 of 35 in serves with one ace serve, that by Abbie Bratland. Mikenna Burke was 11 of 11 and Bratland five of six.



Jessica Bjerke

In attacks, Groton Area was 81 of 91 with 36 kills. Audrey Wanner was 28 of 30 with 11 kills, Paityn Bonn was 10 of 11 with six kills and Jessica Bjerke was 11 of 12 with six kills. Clark/Willow Lake was 74 of 86 with 17 kills. Mikenna Burke was 15 of 15 with three kills, Abbie Bratland was 26 of 29 with four kills and Janae

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Paityn Bonn

Kolden was 18 of 24 with eight kills.

Groton Area was 96 of 96 in sets with 34 assists. Katie Koehler had 90 sets and 30 assists and Paityn Bonn had five with three assists. Clark/Willow Lake was 80 of 83 in sets with 16 assists. Jen Hurlburt was 68 of 71 with 13 assists.

Groton Area had 59 digs with Payton Maine having 15 and Jessica Bjerke 11. Clark/Willow Lake had 36 digs with Audrey Ruml having eight and Alyssa Even-son six.

Groton Area had four blocks with Gia Gengerke having two solo blocks and Taylor Holm and Katie Koehler each having an assist on a block.

The game was broadcast live on GDIL-IVE.COM. The broadcast was sponsored by Harry Implement of Ferney, Leading Edge Industries with Shawn Gengerke, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson and Blocker Construction.

Groton Area, now 10-3 on the season, will play in the Redfield Tournament on Saturday, playing Miller, Belle Fourche and Eureka/Bowdle along with one other team. The Tigers will host Hitchcock/Tulare on Tuesday. Clark/Willow Lake, now 6-12, will travel to Lake Preston on Monday.

Groton won the junior varsity match, 25-18 and 26-7. The Groton eighth grade team lost its match, 2-1, with game scores of 8-25, 20-25 and 25-22. The seven graders lost its match, 2-1, with game scores of 22-25, 23-25 and 25-8.



Audrey Wanner hits the ball over with Taylor Holm in the back left and Katie Koehler to the right.

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Roncalli 3, Groton Area 1

Game Scores: 20-25, 25-19, 22-25 and 22-25.

Serving: 83-33, 3 ace (Audrey Wanner 20-20, 2 ace; Katie Koehler 13-15, 1 ace).

Attacks: 170 of 198, 39 kills. (Gia Gengerke 31 of 37 with 13 kills, Audrey Wanner 48 of 56 with 10 kills).

Sets: 178 of 181 with 40 assists. (Katie Koehler 153 of 155 with 35 assists. (Katie Koehler 153 of 155 with 35 assists, Paityn Bonn nine of 10 with three assists).

Digs: 104 (Payton Maine 33, Katie Koehler 22, Audrey Wanner 22).

Blocks: 3 (Gia Gengerke 2, Paityn Bonn 1).

Roncalli won the JV match, 25-15, 20-25 and 15-8.

DOLLAR GENERAL IS HIRING!

Dollar General is a national discount retailer with over 13,000 stores employing more than 100,000 people. We offer the challenge and growth opportunities you desire. We are seeking energetic & hands-on team players to fill important roles in our stores!

New Store Opening in Groton, SD.

Need all Candidates to apply right away as the store will open in early December:

Store Manager

Assistant Store Manager

Lead Sales Associates

Sales Associates

To apply, go to www.dollargeneral.com/careers

- 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.

Dollar General Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

DOLLAR GENERAL®

Save time. Save money. **Every day!**

Service Notice: Richard "Herb" Johnson

Services for Richard "Herb" Johnson, 73 of Conde will be 1:30 p.m., Sunday, October 9th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial will follow in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday with family sharing at 7 p.m.

Herb fell asleep October 3, 2016 at his home.



The new speed limit signs have been installed on Main Street, north of 11th Avenue. The new posted speed limit is now 15 mph from 11th Avenue to US 12.

Today in Weather History

October 7, 1970: On October 7th through the 9th, 1970 a record breaking early season snow storm hit parts of southern South Dakota. Snowfall of 5 to 9 inches was common across the southwest and south central on the 7th. Late on October 8th and into the 9th of 1970 the southeast portion of the state was hit. Vermillion received 6 inches of snow on the 9th and that is the largest amount ever recorded there for so early in the season. The 5 inches that fell in Sioux Falls is the earliest significant snow on record for the area.

The heavy snows also affected portions of western Iowa and western Minnesota. Amounts of up to 7 inches were recorded in northwest Iowa. The heavy, wet snow snapped many tree branches and downed power lines. Sioux City recorded their heaviest snow for so early in the season. The snow was very wet and heavy, but melted quickly over the next several days.

1825: Raging forest fires in Miramichi region of New Brunswick, Canada, destroys over 3 million acres of forest. As many as 500 people were killed. The blaze has been partly attributed to unusually hot weather in the fall and summer of 1825, coupled with outdoor fires by settlers and loggers.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunder-

storms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

The Livestream logo features a red and white stylized leaf or flame icon to the left of the word "livestream" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.








**Football Tonight
in Wagner, 7 p.m.**

**Check Out The Interview with April and
Peggy about Saturday's Pumpkin Fest!**

gdilive.com

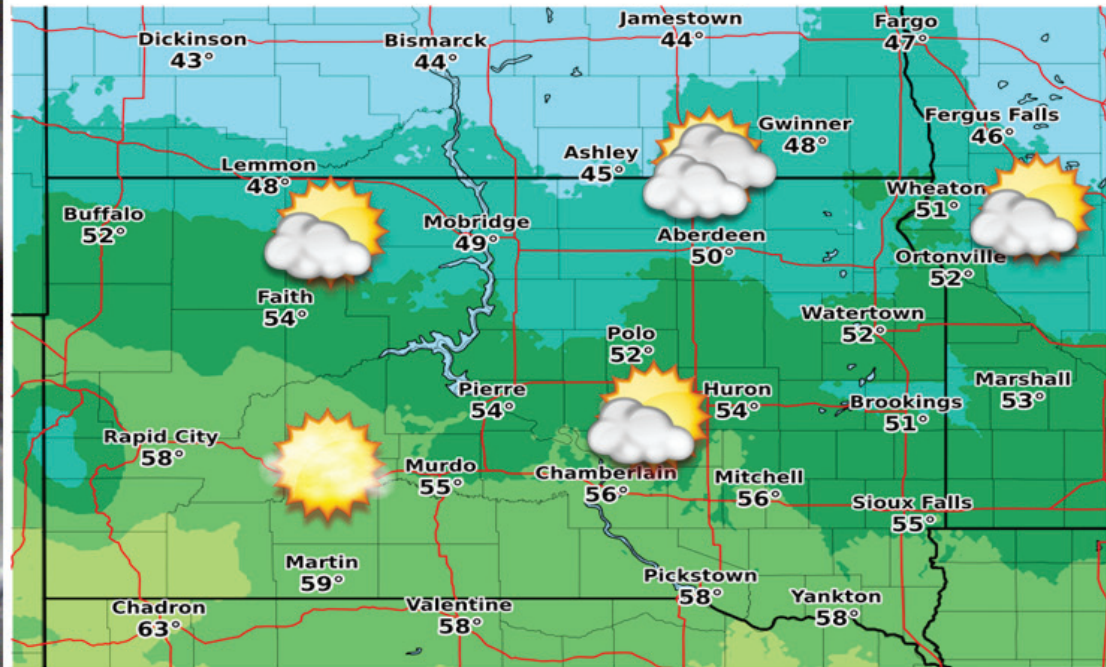
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Columbus Day
						
Frost then Sunny	Frost	Frost then Mostly Sunny	Frost	Frost then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 50 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 72 °F

Another Chilly Day

Afternoon Highs
Valid: October 07, 2016



Hard Freeze Possible Again Tonight



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 10/7/2016 4:02 AM Central

Published on: 10/07/2016 at 4:04AM

Another chilly start to the day - and high temperatures again will struggle to get very far into the 50s. There will also be another round of sub freezing temperatures possible tonight.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 47.1 F at 4:28 PM

Low Outside Temp: 31.2 F at 6:42 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 4:43 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 88° in 1966

Record Low: 14° in 1952

Average High: 62°F

Average Low: 36°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.54

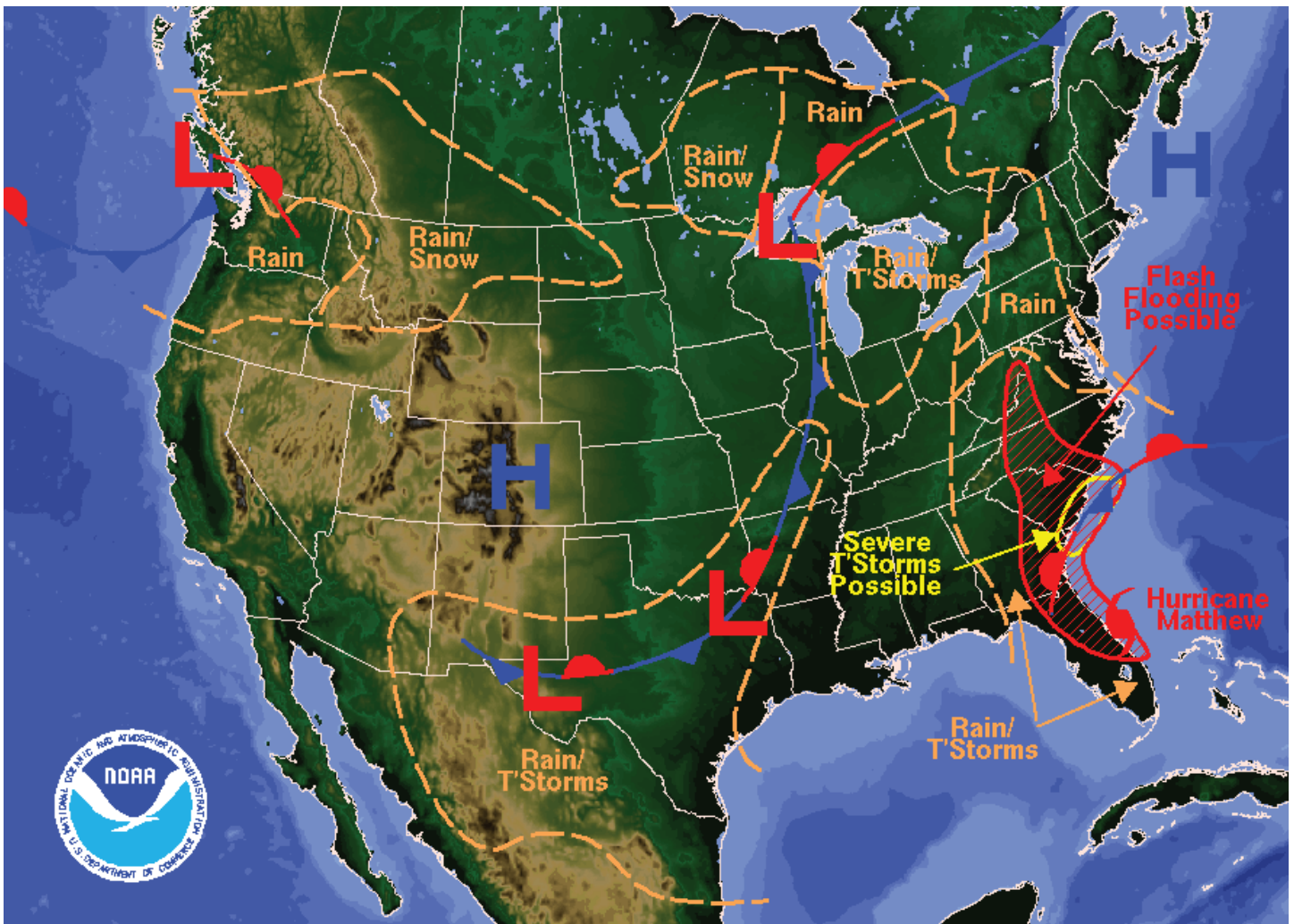
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.63

Average Precip to date: 19.02

Precip Year to Date: 13.83

Sunset Tonight: 7:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:41 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Oct 07, 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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GIVING IN OR GROWING IN HIM?

We all have had days filled with discouragement and disappointments. Perhaps more than we care to recall. Often they can be used by the devil to defeat and destroy us.

Think of discouragement. It comes from being dissatisfied with things in the past, a distaste of the present or quite possibly a distrust in the future. When we allow ourselves to become discouraged, we are surrendering our courage to what we have allowed to overcome us. Discouragement is a signal from God that the devil is trying to take away the hope He has given us in Christ. When we feel discouraged we need to take away the "d" and replace it with an "H" and call for "His-courage" to enable us to be victorious.

We also need to realize that our disappointments are, in fact, His-appointments! Nothing enters our life by chance - only by and through Christ. Often when things do not go as we intended them to go, we consider them to be one of life's disappointments. However, what we need to realize is that God Himself is intervening in our life. He is attempting to get our attention. He wants us to make an adjustment to what we are doing with our lives that is not in line with the plans He has for us.

Not everything that happens to us can be considered "good" - but everything will eventually be "good" for us.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to believe that You love us too much to abandon us, care for us too much to harm us and too gracious to keep what we need from us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

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

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

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News from the  Associated Press

South Dakota commission upholds nonresident duck licenses

MOBRDIGE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Commission has rejected a request by two hunting groups to restrict the area in which out-of-state residents can hunt waterfowl.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Waterfowl Association had asked the commission to invalidate 2,000 three-day nonresident licenses. The groups maintain Legislature-approved expansions of hunting territory for nonresidents encroach on residents' hunting rights.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2dYABa6>) the commission voted 7-0 Thursday to leave the legislative changes in place. The commission's attorney advised the group that it didn't have the authority to override state lawmakers and the governor.

The issue of extending waterfowl hunting rights to out-of-staters has been contentious for years. Wildlife Federation Vice President George Vandell says the groups brought the petition to draw attention to the issue.

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

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Webster, 25-19, 25-16, 27-25
Alcester-Hudson def. Beresford, 17-25, 25-19, 25-23, 18-25, 15-11
Arlington def. Lake Preston, 25-13, 25-10, 25-12
Avon def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-16, 25-23, 25-13
Baltic def. Viborg-Hurley, 23-25, 25-17, 25-13, 25-19
Belle Fourche def. Red Cloud, 25-13, 25-12, 25-14
Bison def. McLaughlin, 25-11, 25-15, 25-20
Bon Homme def. Freeman, 25-15, 25-21, 25-18
Burke/South Central def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-13, 25-17, 27-25
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McIntosh, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19, 25-20
Colome def. Todd County, 25-14, 22-25, 25-21, 25-17
Custer def. Spearfish, 25-20, 28-26, 25-18
Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 25-7, 25-12, 25-13
Douglas def. Sturgis Brown, 27-25, 19-25, 25-21, 25-18
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 17-25, 25-21, 24-26, 25-21, 15-10
Estelline def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-8, 22-25, 25-20, 25-23
Florence/Henry def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-18, 23-25, 23-25, 25-19, 15-5
Great Plains Lutheran def. Langford, 25-16, 25-14, 10-25, 21-25, 15-6
Groton Area def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-19, 25-12, 25-13
Hamlin def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-22, 25-22, 25-21
Hanson def. Mitchell Christian, 25-12, 25-18, 25-11
Herreid/Selby Area def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-9, 25-8, 25-10
Howard def. Canistota, 26-24, 29-31, 25-21, 15-25, 15-11
Huron def. Brandon Valley, 25-20, 21-25, 20-25, 25-17, 15-9
Jones County def. Dupree, 25-20, 19-25, 25-15, 25-16
Kimball/White Lake def. Parkston, 25-15, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18
Madison def. Sioux Valley, 25-22, 25-18, 25-13
McCook Central/Montrose def. West Central, 25-22, 25-13, 23-25, 13-25, 15-9
Milbank Area def. Ortonville, Minn., 25-23, 25-8, 25-19

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Miller def. James Valley Christian, 25-22, 25-19, 25-17
Mitchell def. Aberdeen Central, 25-22, 25-23, 25-17
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Chamberlain, 25-18, 25-19, 25-12
Northwestern def. Faulkton, 25-8, 25-10, 25-15
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. DeSmet, 25-16, 25-12, 25-18
Parker def. Scotland, 25-10, 25-14, 25-12
Platte-Geddes def. Gregory, 25-12, 25-14, 25-16
Potter County def. Edmunds Central, 18-25, 25-15, 25-13, 25-18
Rapid City Christian def. Hill City, 25-23, 26-24, 25-18
Redfield/Doland def. Britton-Hecla, 25-15, 25-18, 25-21
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-12, 25-20, 25-19
Sioux County, Neb. def. Edgemont, 25-19, 23-25, 15-25, 25-15, 15-10
Sioux Falls Christian def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-11, 25-21, 17-25, 22-25, 15-6
Sisseton def. Deuel, 25-14, 25-18, 25-21
St. Thomas More def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-11, 25-20, 25-23
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Iroquois, 25-21, 25-21, 15-25, 21-25, 15-11
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-22, 25-18, 25-22
Wilmot def. Waubay/Summit, 25-18, 25-19, 25-23
Winner def. White River, 25-23, 25-20, 25-12
Wolsey-Wessington def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-19, 28-30, 25-19, 25-20

USD offering popular criminal justice minor program online

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Students can now take a University of South Dakota criminal justice minor online. The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved offering the popular minor online. University officials made the delivery request because of growing demand for criminal justice classes. USD already offers the minor at its Vermillion campus, at University Center-Sioux Falls and at Black Hills State University-Rapid City.

Oglala Sioux spokesman: 3 dead in Pine Ridge duplex blast

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A spokesman for the Oglala Sioux Tribe says three people have been reported dead after a duplex exploded in Pine Ridge.

Tribe spokesman Kevin Steele says the explosion occurred Thursday afternoon. He says several people injured in the incident were transported to surrounding hospitals.

Steele says tenants in the two-family duplex in the eastern part of town smelled gas and were searching for a leak before the explosion.

Steele says crews are searching through the rubble of the house on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Man sentenced to over 17 years for second-degree murder

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison for his role in the death of a 30-year-old man.

The 23-year-old Terry Goings III, of Pine Ridge, pleaded guilty in April to second-degree murder.

Authorities say Goings was among a group of people who killed Ferris Brings Plenty with a machete, a stick and a cinder block on July 12, 2015.

Officials say the cause of death was blunt trauma injuries to the head.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Viken sentenced Goings to 210 months in custody and five years of supervised release.

Groups spar over contributions to amendment campaign

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit funding a ballot measure campaign to establish nonpartisan elections is denouncing allegations that the group ran afoul of state campaign finance law.

Amendment V opponents say outside groups TakeItBack.Org, of Sioux Falls, and New York-based Open Primaries violated state law by contributing money to supporters that was collected for the purpose of influencing the ballot question.

Amendment opponent Will Mortenson, chairman of No on V, says any illegal contributions should be returned.

Jeremy Gruber of Open Primaries called the allegations false, saying a fundraising tool under scrutiny solicited all donations directly to the Vote Yes on V campaign.

A TakeItBack.Org spokesman says the group believes it's complying with disclosure requirements, but is checking to make sure.

A Secretary of State's office spokesman didn't immediately return a request for comment.

National sheriffs group pledges help with pipeline policing

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A national law enforcement group said Thursday it is lending its support to authorities who are policing the Dakota Access pipeline protest in North Dakota.

Sheriffs around the country are willing to send officers and lend their expertise to Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, said Laramie County, Wyoming, Sheriff Danny Glick, who is the past president of the National Sheriffs' Association and has spent the last few days in North Dakota.

"When we get a call from Sheriff Kirchmeier that he needs assistance, we are ready to respond," Glick said during a news conference in Bismarck.

Kirchmeier said his department of 34 officers welcomes the help. He said a total of 268 local law enforcement officers and 154 Highway Patrol troopers from around the state have been in Morton County over the last two months.

"We have basically tapped the resources to a level that we have never seen in North Dakota for one particular incident," Kirchmeier said.

Thousands of people have joined the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe encampment in what has been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century. Some of the protests have expanded to other construction sites along the pipeline route, which crosses through North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois.

Kirchmeier said he supports the right for people to "peacefully and lawfully" protest, but cited the "influence of outside agitators" as a problem. He said 82 of the 96 people arrested since mid-August are from outside of North Dakota, including from 25 states and two Canadian provinces.

Judge sets \$1M bond for doctor accused of human trafficking

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A state judge has set bond at \$1 million cash only for a Sioux Falls doctor accused of human trafficking.

The Argus Leader reports that 36-year-old Jonathan Cohen appeared in court Thursday. He faces charges including human trafficking, sexual exploitation of a minor and promoting prostitution.

Authorities say Cohen met the 16-year-old victim through an online dating site and that they had a sexual relationship. Police say the victim traveled to South Dakota from Georgia, including once this month.

Authorities say Cohen coerced the victim in some way.

Officials say the victim called 911 Tuesday after an argument with Cohen. An attorney for Cohen didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment from The Associated Press.

South Dakota hunting groups cry foul on waterfowl permits

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota hunting groups want to keep out-of-state waterfowl hunters out of the north central part of the state.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Waterfowl Association are asking the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to revoke nonresident waterfowl licenses available for use outside of a five-county Missouri River unit.

The petition came this year after the Legislature added five north central counties to the list of those in which 1,500 three-day licenses can be used by out-of-state hunters.

The two hunting groups contend the nonresident licenses might have been issued illegally.

The groups also say the expansion violates their hunting rights.

"There are a whole lot of South Dakotans who feel like they've lost pheasant hunting to out-of-staters, and they've lost West River deer to out-of-staters," said George Vandel of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. "Waterfowl is what we have left."

The heated discussion of licenses began after a negotiation deal in 1998 between resident duck and goose hunters and landowners in central South Dakota. The deal created a waterfowl access area which leased private land for public hunting. In return resident hunters agreed to support issuing 2,000 three-day waterfowl licenses that would only be valid on private land.

"The landowners in the northeast and north central parts of the state just want to live off of what central South Dakota landowners did. We're just calling them on it," said Chris Hesla, executive director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

The petition also seeks to invalidate 500 licenses for eight northeastern South Dakota counties that the Legislature added in 2002.

Supporters of the expansion such as Rep. Dick Werner believe it could potentially give the north central counties an economic boost.

"These five counties have had to work hard to find out how to make their communities thrive," Werner said.

Sioux Falls man allegedly enters home, hits man with car

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of breaking into another man's home and then hitting him with a car.

Authorities say the 21-year-old man entered a home without permission and got into a fight with the 22-year-old resident. Officials say the 21-year-old man got into his car and hit the man after the fight moved outside.

The victim was hospitalized for injuries that weren't a threat to his life. Authorities also accuse the assailant of punching a woman who intervened in the alleged fight.

Court records don't list an attorney for the 21-year-old man.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Oct. 6, 2016

Minimum wage for youth deserves support

After state voters approved increasing the minimum wage in 2014 from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour, the Legislature responded by passing a bill in 2015 to create what is called a training wage of \$7.50 an hour for youth 18 and under.

Proponents of the ballot measure that increased the minimum wage have responded to the new law with Referred Law 20, which asks voters to reject the Legislature's passage of the youth minimum wage.

Those who referred the law to voters argue that the Republican-dominated Legislature created a sub-minimum wage as a way to undermine the will of the voters, who passed the first measure by 55 to 45 percent. They also claim it is unfair to teenagers who would earn less and adults who could lose their jobs

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to less costly workers.

Those who support the new law say the lower wage will create entry-level opportunities for young workers who need to gain workplace experience before they become adults.

So will experienced workers lose their jobs or be denied opportunities if an employer can hire teenagers and pay them less or will it be teenagers who can't find work if they are paid at the same rate as adults?

At this time, it seems the new law will have little, if any, effect on the overall workforce. While many jobs in South Dakota pay less than in other states, most still offer starting wages of at least \$9 or \$10 an hour and that includes part-time jobs.

It's also no secret that many employers in Rapid City are struggling to find good, reliable workers and are willing to pay more than minimum wage to get and retain them. Teenagers, on the other hand, are only going to be part-time, temporary employees.

It also is important to note that the law passed by the Legislature prohibits employers from terminating workers or reducing their hours and benefits in order to hire teen-aged workers.

While we understand that those who celebrated the voters' overwhelming approval of an increased minimum wage in South Dakota feel this law is simply a retaliatory measure by the Legislature, the law still needs to be judged on its merits.

Referred Law 20 does give employers an incentive to hire and train teenagers, who do need to learn how to work in order to prepare for the future, which benefits all of us in the long run.

At the same time, we don't expect this will hurt the few adults who might be competing for similar jobs, especially in an area where the unemployment rate is consistently below 3 percent.

We recommend a "yes" vote for Referred Law 20 as it will likely have little effect on the workforce while at the same time giving our youth opportunities to learn the value of having a strong work ethic.

Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan, Yankton, Oct. 4, 2016

State Budgets And Marijuana

It's interesting to ponder the fact that marijuana legalization was actually a topic of discussion during Monday's District 18 legislative forum.

Relatively speaking, it wasn't so long ago that such a discussion would be utterly out of place at this kind of event. But times and attitudes have changed, and now the issue is a genuine point of contention in legislative circles.

This piece doesn't advocate one way or another on the matter (except, perhaps, for the legalization of industrial hemp, which has a lot of potential manufacturing uses). Instead, we offer up Monday's discussion of marijuana legalization as an indicator of where we are as a society.

In recent years, four states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana, while 21 other states (including Minnesota) have given their approval to medicinal marijuana. Efforts have been made unsuccessfully in South Dakota to legalize medicinal marijuana; this effort will no doubt be tried again in the future.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of the debate is the main reason most advocates promote in calling for legalized marijuana: the economic benefits. Legalizing it and taxing it would allow the state to not only control the substance but also create a potential windfall for the tax coffers. Thus, it's seen as a potential answer to the state's revenue issues.

Colorado, which has legalized recreational marijuana, is frequently used as the poster child for the possibilities of legalization. According to one report, that state generated nearly a half-billion dollars in tax revenue from marijuana during the first five months of this year. Time magazine reported a year ago that legalized marijuana now generates more tax revenue for Colorado than alcohol.

While potential numbers in South Dakota and Nebraska would certainly vary due to the smaller populations, it's nonetheless a temptation for cash-strapped states.

There are, of course, drawbacks to legalization, as law enforcement and substance abuse officials would point out. This is a potential cost of another kind, although how much of a social toll it is may be open to debate.

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The issue is worth discussing at legislative forums and other public venues because it won't be going away: Now that the door of legalization has been opened, the economic temptation (if that is the word) will always be there.

And so, too, will the questions: Are we presently foregoing a lot of badly needed revenue, or are we keeping the lid on a dangerous Pandora's box?

The public will have the final say on whatever direction South Dakota or Nebraska go on this matter in the years to come. It would be wise, then, to keep an eye on the issue and on the economics of embracing — or rejecting — this path.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Oct. 4, 2016

Was lake decision approved due to lack of choices?

Progress has finally been made to improve our lake.

The Mitchell City Council on Monday night approved a \$73,725 study to be used to restore Lake Mitchell and reduce its algae problems.

The 6-2 vote came more than one year after discussions to solve the lake's woes heated up by the volunteer Lake Mitchell Advisory Committee, which recommended the project to the council.

Omaha-based Fyra Engineering will now look to define the lake's problems, develop a nutrient mass balance, determine pollutant loads, develop a lake response model and initiate community-based planning.

Certainly, it's exciting to see some action, but we wonder if this phase was passed because there really wasn't another viable option on the table. Perhaps the Lake Mitchell Advisory Committee and some members of the Mitchell City Council felt if progress was going to be made now, the Fyra plan had to move forward.

We hope these public officials had what's best for Mitchell in mind, rather than just approving the study because they hadn't found a better alternative. Clearly, there aren't many companies out there that will study, plan and restore a lake.

Initially, some lake committee members weren't impressed with Fyra after seeing the company's work first-hand on a project it completed at the Nebraska-Iowa border near Omaha.

But after waiting and seeking alternative methods to fix Lake Mitchell, the lake committee later agreed Fyra's first phase was the best play.

We realize the lake committee was in a no-win situation in trying to solve Lake's Mitchell's problems. We commend those volunteers and Mayor Jerry Toomey for spending their time and effort on a difficult subject, but, to be fair, their slow-and-steady approach probably took too long.

We wonder what the next step would be had the Mitchell City Council killed the lake committee's recommendation Monday night.

Would we be waiting around another year, or more, for the next viable option?

What's refreshing is the council approved funding for just one phase of Fyra's plan. Phase two is estimated to cost between \$100,000 and \$300,000 and there's no set cost for the third and final phase to put plans into action.

So, while the lake committee and the council reflect on the recently approved Fyra work, there's still a chance other routes could be explored if those public officials are unhappy with the results.

That's definitely positive and makes us significantly more comfortable with the council's decision.

Pine Ridge judges fired over custody case of slain toddler

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council has fired three tribal judges involved in giving custody of a 2-year-old boy to a mother who is now accused of killing him.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2dxUIZY>) that the council voted in a special session Monday to remove the judges, all of whom had been suspended in late August.

The judges were involved in a custody case in which the boy was taken from his guardian aunt and given to his birth mother, Katrina Shangreaux.

Authorities allege Shangreaux killed her son over potty-training issues in late July. She has pleaded not guilty to murder and child abuse. Shangreaux's mother, Sonya Dubray, has pleaded not guilty to hindering

the investigation.

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

South Dakota sanctuary loses federal license in settlement

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A beleaguered western South Dakota wildlife sanctuary that had 18 animals transferred away this week has lost its federal license for exhibition as part of a settlement agreement.

U.S. Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Tanya Espinosa says the Wednesday agreement means the agency won't pursue enforcement action based on September inspections of the Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

The department conducted a routine inspection Sept. 28. Since, nine tigers, one lion, one wolf and seven bears have been transferred to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado. Executive Director Pat Craig says nearly all of the animals were underweight.

Espinosa says the license revocation means the department will no longer look into the Monday escape of a tiger from its enclosure. The tiger injured the sanctuary director and was fatally shot.

South Dakota governor appoints new state circuit court judge

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed state Education Department attorney Bobbi Rank to a state circuit court judgeship.

Rank will move from Pierre to Winner and succeed Sixth Circuit Judge Kathleen Trandahl, who is retiring this week. Rank grew up on her family's ranch near Winner and graduated from high school in the town.

The Sixth Circuit includes the counties of Bennett, Gregory, Haakon, Hughes, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Todd and Tripp.

Prison inmate missing more than a month back in custody

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A minimum-security state prison inmate who walked away from a community service job in Rapid City more than a month ago is back in custody.

Thirty-six-year-old Michael Merrival went missing Aug. 23. Corrections officials say he was apprehended in Rapid City overnight.

Merrival is serving 10 years for a grand theft conviction in Pennington County. He's also now facing a felony escape charge that carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison.

11-year-old invents innovative way to carry her binder

By Megan Raposa, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Allie Weber solves her problems with inventions.

So when the sixth-grader learned that Edison Middle School doesn't allow backpacks in classrooms, she didn't panic. She went to work.

Weber carries herself with poise beyond her 11 years. She's used to media attention — her inventions have earned her national awards and international renown — and she tosses around the thought of becoming a patent lawyer, that is, if she doesn't get a job at NASA.

"Making things is really fun," Weber said. "And if you solve a problem at the same time, it's a win-win."

The Argus Leader reported (<http://argusne.ws/2cUHeJQ>) that Weber knew that in lieu of backpacks, most middle school students carry their classwork in large three-ring binders that zip shut. The binders have one strap, but she said it's flimsy and bad for posture. Some online research taught her that hauling a bag on one shoulder is particularly bad for a young spine that's still developing.

She repurposed straps from an old backpack to create a two-shoulder removable strap she calls the "Got Your Back Binder Strap."

She hopes her friends and classmates will see its value, but she's also thinking broadly and researching patents.

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"I always imagined I'd be on 'Shark Tank,'" Weber said.

The middle of the strap — the part that rests on the back of the wearer's neck — attaches to the center of the binder's spine with two carabiners. Carabiners at the bottom of each strap attach to the sides of the binder using the hooks already in place for the "flimsy" strap.

When Weber puts on the strap, the binder rests comfortably against her back.

"I just figured out how to make a binder into a backpack without breaking school rules," Weber said.

Allie Weber, a sixth grader at Edison Middle School, invented a strap to attach to her binder for easier carrying to and from class.

It's not a rebellion against school rules, Weber's mother, Kara Weber, insists. She just doesn't like binders and wants to make sure her posture remains straight.

It's solving an important issue, said chiropractor Trent Gusso. Weber showed Gusso her prototype, which he said correctly distributes the binder's weight on both shoulders.

Heavy backpacks with unevenly distributed weight causes problems for many children and teens, Gusso said. It's such a widely known problem that each year South Dakota's chiropractic association promotes the correct way to wear backpacks and awareness that they shouldn't be heavier than needed.

Allie Weber, a sixth grader at Edison Elementary School, invented a strap to carry her binder. The strap helps evenly distribute the weight of her books for easier carrying.

This year, Weber's strap will bring awareness to the damage a heavy binder can do.

"I think she's identified a challenge that these kids are experiencing," Gusso said. "Instead of waiting for a more long-term problem to arrive, she's coming up with a solution to it."

Kara Weber has always supported her daughter's desire to create. She's no stranger to Walmart trips to pick up grommets or breaking out the hot-glue gun in the afternoon.

"When we see her get an idea, we always just encourage her to follow through," Kara Weber said.

So far, that follow-through has paid off.

That robot also earned her first place in the school science fair.

Weber doesn't know what the future holds, but she hopes her inventions will keep solving problems.

"I like fixing things."

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

Beloved South Dakota summer camp awaits fate

By Geoff Preston and Chris Huber, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — For more than 50 years, the pine-studded grounds of Camp Bob Marshall have served as a summertime destination for thousands of South Dakota children.

Canoes, campfires and crafts have filled the days for two generations at the 4-H summer camp located near Custer.

But despite assurances the camp is safe; recently proposed federal legislation has brought the camp's future into question.

The Rapid City Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2dxeNQj>) that in July, a bill was introduced in Congress asking for a federal and state land swap to potentially create a new state park in Spearfish Canyon.

A piece of that legislation also calls for a federal and state land swap to take place at Bismarck Lake, which is home to Camp Bob Marshall.

The swap would take the lake out of the control of the U.S. Forest Service and put it inside Custer State Park boundaries and under management of the state. The 524-acre piece of land at Bismarck Lake is adjacent to Custer State Park's current boundaries, and roads leading to the lake pass through Custer State Park's land, forcing visitors to pay an entrance fee to use the lake.

So far, the message from Al Nedved, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks assistant parks director, has been clear: That as of now, there are no plans to change anything about Camp Bob Marshall if the land swap passes.

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"It's our intent to work with that camp and honor any contracts and anything with the Forest Service," he said. "Right now, there's no proposal to alter or change anything."

The camp was issued a special use permit by the National Forest Service to allow it to serve as a 4-H camp until Dec. 31, 2028. Even with that long of a time frame, Nedved said he doesn't see GF&P moving on proposing a new function for the camp.

"We would take a look at that and be willing to honor that," he said. "If we can renegotiate we might, but we haven't had any discussions."

Camp manager Gary Holst walked the grounds in August, pointing out cabins and recreation buildings that were built by Civilian Conservation Corps crews in the late 1930s. Holst has been working at the camp for 23 years and his love for the site and its history is evident. He says he does the work, "because it is worth doing."

Holst said the same families and groups and have been coming to the camp for generations. One group, the South Dakota Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp, has been holding camp there every summer for 53 straight years. The fear that the camp could be changed after the state takes control weighs heavily on members of the organization.

One group at the camp told Holst in August that if the bulldozers ever came, to let them know because they plan on lying down in front of them. Holst then added, "I think I will probably join them."

U.S. Sen. John Thune introduced the land swap bill in the Senate with co-sponsorship by U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds. U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem introduced a companion bill in the House.

But it was Gov. Dennis Daugaard who actually presented the land package to the delegation to be introduced. The governor was unable to speak about the issue, but the Journal spoke to a member of his staff.

"Our plans for Camp Bob Marshall is to run it exactly the same way it is run now," Hunter Roberts, the policy adviser for Daugaard said in a phone interview.

Roberts said the main reason Bismarck Lake and Camp Bob Marshall were included in the land package sent to Congress is because visitors to the lake have to enter through Custer State Park. He says that has created confusion among campers as to which land they are really on, and caused some Forest Service campers to use facilities on state land.

Roberts reiterated that the state will honor contracts that are already in place with the camp.

"It's not like we are going to change things overnight," Roberts said. "We don't want to pull the rug out from anyone, but we do think we can come in, make some improvements and make it a seamless part of Custer State Park."

One improvement Roberts pointed to was upgrading the sewer system at Camp Bob Marshall and the facilities at the Bismarck Lake Campground.

Nedved said the next step is for the state to hire a consultant who will develop a master plan for Bismarck Lake, including Camp Bob Marshall, next month.

"We have not had any direct discussions or proposals that would do anything different," Nedved said. "We want to do some master planning and give people a chance for public comment."

Western Dakota 4-H Camp Association Board Member Brad Kiezer said he trusts the state will stand by its word and honor any deals currently in place with the Forest Service and the camp.

"I have absolutely no reason to not believe in them," he said. "They've always been good to work with."

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

Philippines tells US no joint patrols in South China Sea

By TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine defense chief said Friday he told the U.S. military that plans for joint patrols and naval exercises in the disputed South China Sea have been put on hold, the first concrete break in defense cooperation after months of increasingly strident comments by the country's new president.

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Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also said that 107 U.S. troops involved in operating surveillance drones against Muslim militants would be asked to leave the southern part of the country once the Philippines acquires those intelligence-gathering capabilities in the near future.

President Rodrigo Duterte also wants to halt the 28 military exercises that are carried out with U.S. forces each year, Lorenzana said. Duterte has said he wants an ongoing U.S.-Philippine amphibious beach landing exercise to be the last in his six-year presidency as he backs away from what he views as too much dependence on the U.S.

"This year would be the last," Duterte said of military exercises involving the Americans in a speech Friday in southern Davao city where he lashed out at the U.S. anew and repeated his readiness to be ousted from office for his hard-line stance.

"For as long as I am there, do not treat us like a doormat because you'll be sorry for it," Duterte said. "I will not speak with you. I can always go to China."

Duterte, who took office in June and describes himself as a leftist politician, has had an uneasy relationship with the U.S., his country's longtime treaty ally and former colonial master.

Duterte has lashed out against U.S. government criticism of his deadly crackdown against illegal drugs, which has left more than 3,600 suspects dead in just three months, alarming Western governments and human rights groups.

But while some Filipino officials have walked back on Duterte's sometimes crude anti-U.S. pronouncements — early this week he told President Barack Obama "to go to hell" — Lorenzana's comments show for the first time that the Duterte administration will act by rolling back cooperation with the U.S. military.

With the turquoise backdrop of the South China Sea, U.S. Marines and allied Filipino combat forces barged ashore Friday on amphibious vessels in a mock assault on a Philippine beach in San Antonio town in northwestern Zambales province.

Pounding rain prevented military aircraft from joining the beach assault drills, but the U.S. and Filipino forces managed to rapidly come on shore to take out a "notional target," said Maj. Roger Hollenbeck, a U.S. military spokesman for the drills.

Asked to comment on the possibility that the joint maneuvers will be the last under Duterte, Hollenbeck replied, "If it's the last, so be it."

"I have nothing to do with that and we are going to continue to work together, we've got a great relationship," he said.

Lorenzana said some U.S. military officials have expressed concern about where the countries' 65-year-old treaty alliance is headed under Duterte.

Duterte's moves to limit the presence of visiting American troops will impede Washington's plans to expand the footprint of U.S. forces in Southeast Asia to counter China.

"President Duterte's shoot-from-the-hip style of parochial democracy is deeply troubling," said Carl Thayer, an expert on the South China Sea. "If Duterte moves to curtail U.S. rotational military presence from bases in the Philippines, this would undermine the U.S. ability to deter China not only in defense of Philippines sovereignty but regional security as well."

Despite the difficult stage in the countries' relations, Lorenzana remained optimistic that those ties would eventually bounce back.

"I think it's just going through these bumps on the road," Lorenzana told a news conference. "Relationships sometimes go to this stage ... but over time it will be patched up."

Duterte's falling out with Washington will not necessarily spread to U.S. allies such as Japan, for example, which has committed to deliver patrol ships for the Philippine coast guard and has signed a deal to lease five small surveillance planes the country can use to bolster its territorial defense. The planes may arrive as early as next month, Lorenzana said.

The U.S. and Japan have helped the Philippines develop its capabilities to safeguard and defend its territorial waters amid China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea. Under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, the U.S. and Philippine militaries twice staged naval exercises near the disputed waters.

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While taking a critical stance on U.S. security policies, Duterte has reached out to China and Russia. Lorenzana said he has been ordered by Duterte to travel to Beijing and Moscow to discuss what defense equipment the Philippines can acquire from them.

Associated Press writer Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, contributed to this report.

Matthew hammers Florida, begins dayslong beating of coast

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Matthew spun dangerously close to Florida's Atlantic coast Friday morning, scraping the shore with howling wind and heavy rain and that left more than 400,000 without power.

Matthew was downgraded to a Category 3 hurricane overnight with the strongest winds of 120 mph just offshore as the storm pushed north around dawn, threatening more than 500 miles of coastline in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. A 107 mph gust was recorded in Cape Canaveral.

Two million people were warned to flee inland to escape a potentially catastrophic blow from a storm that left more than 280 dead in its wake across the Caribbean, but many hunkered down and hoped for the best despite dire warnings.

People who refused to evacuate from central Florida's Atlantic coast found themselves cut off and were calling for help as Matthew's western eyewall brushed past Cape Canaveral, officials said.

Brevard County Emergency Operations spokesman David Waters said he talked to families who said things like, "We're scared. We wish we hadn't stayed." One family called in that the roof "just flew off their home on Merritt Island," Waters said.

Robert Tyler had feared a storm surge flooding his street, which is only two blocks from the Cape Canaveral beach. But he and his wife, Georgette, felt fortunate Friday morning when they looked out the front door of their one-story cinder block apartment and there wasn't much water.

"Overnight, it was scary as heck. That description of a freight train is pretty accurate," he said.

In Cape Canaveral, John Long rode out the storm in his 32-foot camper in a park about half a mile from the beach.

He lost power shortly before dawn but quickly fired up his generator. Small tree branches battered the vehicle but the large ones on the park's giant oak trees didn't fall.

"It was kind of loud and kind of shaky but nothing that caused too much concern," he said.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott called it a "blessing" Friday morning that so far Florida was avoiding a direct hit as the storm sliced northward.

Still Scott stressed during a television appearance on "CBS This Morning" and NBC's "Today" show that there was still time for people living in the Jacksonville area to evacuate. The storm was expected to bring a large volume of water onshore and Scott noted there are a lot of low-lying areas in northeast Florida.

"There's no reason to be taking a risk," he said.

More than 1.5 million people in Florida were asked to evacuate ahead of Matthew, the first major hurricane storm to hit the state in 11 years.

The number of homes and businesses without power jumped by the hour as the storm edged closer to the coast. More than 420,000 were in the dark by Friday morning.

As of 7 a.m. EDT Friday, the hurricane was brushing Cape Canaveral, according to the National Hurricane Center. Matthew was centered about 35 miles east of Cape Canaveral and moving north-northwest around 14 mph.

After Florida, forecasters said Matthew would probably hug the coast of Georgia and South Carolina over the weekend before veering out to sea — perhaps even looping back toward Florida in the middle of next week as a tropical storm.

The hurricane had been a potentially catastrophic Category 4 storm, but weakened slightly early Friday to a Category 3. Forecasters said it could dump up to 15 inches of rain in some spots and cause a storm

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surge of 9 feet or more.

They said the major threat to the Southeast would not be the winds — which newer buildings can withstand — but the massive surge of seawater that could wash over coastal communities along a 500-mile stretch from South Florida to the Charleston, South Carolina, area.

President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency for Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, freeing up federal money and personnel to protect lives and property.

The Fort Lauderdale and Orlando airports shut down. Airlines canceled more than 3,000 flights Thursday and Friday, many of them in or out of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Amtrak suspended train service between Miami and New York, and cruise lines rerouted ships to avoid the storm, which in some cases will mean more days at sea.

Orlando's world-famous theme parks — Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and SeaWorld — all closed.

"I never get time off. I'm a little sad," tourist Amber Klinkel, 25, of Battle Creek, Michigan, lamented at Universal.

Patients were transferred from two Florida waterfront hospitals and a nursing home near Daytona Beach to safer locations.

Thousands of people hunkered down in schools converted to shelters, and inland hotels in places such as Charlotte, North Carolina, reported brisk business.

At the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, NASA no longer has to worry about rolling space shuttles back from the launch pad to the hangar because of hurricanes, since the shuttle fleet is now retired. But the spaceflight company SpaceX was concerned about the storm's effect on its leased seaside pad.

The last Category 3 storm or higher to hit the U.S. was Wilma in October 2005. It sliced across Florida with 120 mph winds, killing five people and causing an estimated \$21 billion in damage.

With hurricane-force winds extending outward up to 60 miles, Matthew could wreak havoc along the U.S. coast even if its center stayed offshore.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal ordered an evacuation of the entire Georgia coast, covering more than a half-million people. It was the first hurricane evacuation along the Georgia coast since 1999, when the state narrowly escaped Floyd.

"We have a house that sits right here on the water and we kind of said goodbye to it thinking that, you know, the house ... might not be here when we get back," said Jennifer Banker, a resident of Georgia's dangerously exposed St. Simons Island. "You know, we pray a lot and trust God to provide."

Kennedy reported from Fort Lauderdale. Associated Press reporters Holbrook Mohr in Orlando; Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Jennifer Kay, Freida Frisaro, Curt Anderson in Miami; Marcia Dunn in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Janelle Cogan in Orlando, Florida; Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jeffrey Collins on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; Jack Jones and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; and Bruce Smith in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Colombian leader Juan Manuel Santos wins Nobel Peace Prize

By MARK LEWIS and KARL RITTER, Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his efforts to end a five-decade civil war that has killed more than 200,000 people — and said he received the award in the name of the Colombian people.

The award came just days after Colombian voters narrowly rejected the peace deal that Santos helped bring about. Nobel judges conspicuously did not honor his counterpart, Rodrigo Londono, the leader of the rebels.

"The referendum was not a vote for or against peace," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said, insisting the peace process wasn't dead. "What the 'No' side rejected was not the desire for peace, but a specific

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peace agreement.”

Santos said the Colombian people deserved the honor.

“Especially the millions of victims that have suffered in this war that we are on the verge of ending,” Santos said in an interview posted on the Nobel Foundation’s Facebook page. “We are very, very close. We just need to push a bit further to persevere.”

Reacting to the award on Twitter, Londono said “the only prize to which we aspire” is one of social justice for Colombia, without far-right militias or retaliation.

Santos and Londono — the leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, better known by his nom de guerre Timochenko — signed a peace deal last month to end Latin America’s longest-running conflict after more than four years of negotiations in Cuba.

Six days later, Colombians rejected it by the narrowest of margins — less than a half percentage point — over concerns that the rebels, who were behind scores of atrocities, were getting a sweetheart deal. Under the accord, rebels who turned over their weapons and confessed their crimes would be spared jail time and they would be given 10 seats in congress through 2026 to transition to a political movement.

In Bogota, 20 activists camped out in front of Colombia’s congress to demand the peace deal not be scuttled shouted “Peace deal now!” and “Colombia wants peace!” at the news.

“This is a big help, but we’re not leaving until there’s peace,” said Juliana Bohorquez, a 31-year-old artist.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it believes that Santos, despite the “No” vote, “has brought the bloody conflict significantly closer to a peaceful solution.”

It said the award should also be seen “as a tribute to the Colombian people who, despite great hardships and abuses, have not given up hope of a just peace, and to all the parties who have contributed to the peace process.”

Committee secretary Olav Njoelstad said there was “broad consensus” on picking Santos as this year’s laureate — the first time the peace prize went to Latin America since 1992, when Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchu won.

Santos, 65, is an unlikely peacemaker. The Harvard-educated scion of one of Colombia’s wealthiest families, as defense minister a decade ago, he was responsible for some of the biggest military setbacks for the rebels, known by their Spanish acronym FARC. Those included a 2008 cross-border raid into Ecuador that took out a top rebel commander and the stealth rescue of three Americans held captive by the rebels for more than five years.

Yet awarding Santos alone was a departure from the Nobel committee’s tradition of honoring both sides in a peace process, like it did in 1994 for an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord and in 1998 for peace talks in Northern Ireland.

“I can’t think of another time when they didn’t give to both sides,” said Nobel historian Asle Sveen, who isn’t connected to the committee. “But the referendum made it difficult. The opposition who won the referendum would have been provoked. I suspect the committee took the FARC out at the last minute.”

The committee recognized that the referendum result had “created great uncertainty” about Colombia’s future.

“There is a real danger that the peace process will come to a halt and that civil war will flare up again,” it said. “This makes it even more important that the parties, headed by President Santos and FARC guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londono, continue to respect the cease-fire.”

Prize committee chair Kaci Kullmann Five said the prize should be seen as encouragement to the FARC as well.

“Giving the prize to Santos is not a belittlement to any of the other parties,” she told The Associated Press. “The FARC is obviously a very important part of this process. We note that the FARC has given important concessions.”

Santos and Londono met only twice during the entire peace process: last year when they put the final touches on the most-controversial section of the accord — how guerrillas would be punished for war crimes — and last month to sign the accord before an audience of world leaders and U.N. Secretary

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General Ban Ki-moon.

The Colombian vote Sunday was also seen as a referendum of sorts on Santos, who has staked his presidency on securing peace but in the process, critics say, neglected the economy and other pressing issues. Santos' approval rating in July was near the lowest it has been since he took office in 2010.

Norway, along with Cuba, has been a sponsor of the Colombian peace process since the outset. The public phase of talks began in Oslo in 2012 and the Norwegian government's bald-headed, mustached representative to the talks, Dag Nylander, has become a minor celebrity among Colombians, who have followed every announcement from Havana on TV.

A record 376 candidates were nominated for this year's award, which carries a prize of 8 million Swedish kronor (about \$930,000).

Last year's peace prize went to Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet for its efforts to build a pluralistic democracy.

The 2016 Nobel Prize announcements continue with the economics prize on Monday and the literature award on Thursday. All awards will be handed out on Dec. 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

Ritter reported from Stockholm. Joshua Goodman in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

Backpage.com raided, CEO arrested for sex-trafficking

By DON THOMPSON and TERRY WALLACE, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — State agents raided the Dallas offices of adult classified ad portal Backpage.com and arrested Chief Executive Officer Carl Ferrer following allegations that adult and child sex-trafficking victims were forced into prostitution through escort ads posted on the site.

Ferrer, 55, was arrested on a California warrant after arriving Thursday in Houston on a flight from Amsterdam. Authorities also issued warrants for the arrest of the site's controlling shareholders, Michael Lacey, 68, and James Larkin, 67.

"Making money off the backs of innocent human beings by allowing them to be exploited for modern-day slavery is not acceptable in Texas," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, said in a statement.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris said that Ferrer was arrested on felony charges of pimping a minor, pimping, and conspiracy to commit pimping. He is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond and will face an extradition hearing before he can be returned to California.

Under California's law, felony pimping is defined as making money off prostitutes or soliciting customers for prostitution.

"Raking in millions of dollars from the trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable victims is outrageous, despicable and illegal," said Harris, a Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate in next month's election. "Backpage and its executives purposefully and unlawfully designed Backpage to be the world's top online brothel."

An attorney representing Backpage.com, Liz McDougall, did not immediately respond to telephone and email messages left by The Associated Press.

Lacey and Larkin are former owners of the Village Voice and the Phoenix New Times. An attorney who previously represented the two men, Michael Manning, did not immediately respond to a telephone message from The AP.

Backpage.com advertises a wide range of services, but the California arrest warrant alleges that internal business records obtained through a search warrant show that 99 percent its revenue came from its adult services section between January 2013 and March 2015. California officials said the site collects fees from users who use coded language and nearly nude photos to offer sex for money.

Worldwide revenue from sex ads topped \$3.1 million in just one week last year, according to a court affidavit. It says Ferrer expanded Backpage.com's share of online sex marketing by creating affiliated sites including EvilEmpire.com and BigCity.com with related content.

Larkin and Lacey each received \$10 million bonuses from the website in September 2014, according to the court filing. It says Backpage.com was created in 2004, but since 2014 has been owned by a Netherlands-based company that has Ferrer as its only named partner.

California authorities said the state's three-year investigation found many of the ads include victims of sex trafficking including children under the age of 18.

One of the advertisers, identified only as 15-year-old "E.S.," "was forced into prostitution at the age of 13 by her pimp," according to an affidavit filed with the complaint. She used other online advertising services until they were shut down, the court filing says, when she turned to Backpage.com.

"I mean really, coming from someone my age, there is too much access, like it's too easy for people to get on it and post an ad," she told California Special Agent Brian Fichtner, according to his affidavit.

California officials said their investigation was prompted in part by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which reported 2,900 instances to California authorities since 2012 when suspected child sex trafficking occurred using Backpage.com.

The criminal complaint includes allegations that five minors, three of them including "E.S." under age 16, paid to post advertisements on Backpage.com.

The charges against Ferrer could bring him nearly 22 years in prison, while Larkin and Lacey face a maximum six years.

A U.S. Senate subcommittee that has investigated the company estimated its annual revenues at more than \$150 million.

Thompson reported from Sacramento, California. Associated Press Writer Bob Christie contributed from Phoenix.

This story has been corrected to clarify that the portal's name is Backpage.com, not Backpage.

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. HURRICANE MATTHEW PUMMELS FLORIDA



Lailoni Kent, 8, of Lake Worth, screams when the pull of the wave was stronger than she thought while playing on the beach and getting photo.

The storm, packing 120 mph winds and torrential rains, moves up shoreline in what's expected to be a ruinous, dayslong battering of the Southeast coast.

2. HAITI BRACES FOR MORE GRIM NEWS

More than 280 have perished, but the overall death toll is not clear as officials try to get to isolated areas. HURRICANE MATTHEW-CARIBBEAN

3. WHERE AP FINDS POWERFUL SYNTHETIC OPIOID FOR SALE

An Associated Press investigation reveals some Chinese companies offer to export a toxic drug called carfentanil, which has been killing unsuspecting drug users or can potentially be used as a chemical weapon.

4. COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

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The Nobel committee praises Juan Manuel Santos "resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end."

5. 'I HOPE THIS WILL BE A REALITY FOR EVERYONE THAT NEEDS IT'

Emelie Eriksson, the first woman to have a baby after receiving a uterus from her mother in a revolutionary operation, tells her story to AP.

6. WHAT 1990S SCANDAL HAUNTS WHITE HOUSE CAMPAIGN

Donald Trump hints at Bill Clinton's marital problems, including the former president's affair with Monica Lewinsky some 20 years ago.

7. WING PIECE FROM FLIGHT 370 FOUND ON INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND

The section of wing flap from the missing Boeing 777 was discovered on the island of Mauritius.

8. BACKPAGE.COM CEO ARRESTED FOR SEX-TRAFFICKING

The arrest follows allegations that adult and child sex-trafficking victims were forced into prostitution through escort ads posted on the site.

9. ASIAN ANIMAL CAFES GO FROM MERE CATS TO MEERKATS

In the Far East, where the first cat cafe opened more than a decade ago, the concept has moved well beyond felines.

10. HOW 2 CUBS SUPPORTERS HOPE TO EXCORCISE CURSE

Two Cubs fans want to banish the Curse of the Billy Goat this postseason by slaughtering one of their own goats.

Campaign stop latest bump in rocky Ryan-Trump relationship

By **ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's long been clear that House Speaker Paul Ryan is, shall we say, not wholly comfortable with Donald Trump's presidential candidacy.

The announcement of Ryan's and Trump's first joint appearance of the campaign on Saturday in Wisconsin — just four weeks before the election — was simply the latest reminder.

The awkwardly worded missive on Thursday said that Ryan would appear with top Wisconsin Republicans, including Gov. Scott Walker and Sen. Ron Johnson.



FILE - In this May 12, 2016, file photo, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Oh, and by the way, the third paragraph of Ryan's release says that Trump "will also join Wisconsin Republicans" at the annual party festival in Elkhorn, a small city in Ryan's congressional district.

In the news business, that's known as "burying the lead."

The announcement also doesn't say that Ryan is actually campaigning for Trump, just that they are appearing at the same event.

Asked Thursday why he hasn't appeared with Trump, Ryan said: "I've been busy doing my job."

"I want to win up and down the ballot, but my primary responsibility is re-election of House Republicans," Ryan said during a brief interview after appearing at a campaign stop for GOP House candidate Lloyd Smucker,

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who is expected to win an open GOP seat in a district near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A recap of the greatest hits of the awkward Trump-Ryan relationship:

NO ENDORSEMENT (RYAN)

Jaws dropped in May when Ryan withheld his endorsement of Trump just days after the billionaire businessman effectively clinched the nomination. "I'm just not ready to do that at this point. I'm not there right now," the Wisconsin Republican said on CNN. Ryan came on board the Trump train a month later: "It's no secret that he and I have our differences. I won't pretend otherwise. ... But the reality is, on the issues that make up our agenda, we have more common ground than disagreement."

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Even after Ryan endorsed him, Trump declined to return the favor as Ryan faced a tea party primary challenge from Paul Nehlen. Trump even praised Nehlen, saying he was running "a very good campaign" and telling The Washington Post, "I like Paul, but these are horrible times for our country" and "I'm just not quite there yet. I'm not quite there yet." Days later, Trump endorsed both Ryan and GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

MUSLIM BAN

Ryan joined a chorus of Republicans last December and again this summer in condemning Trump's proposed ban on Muslims entering the U.S. "This is not who we are as a party or a country," Ryan told fellow House Republicans in a December closed-door meeting. When Trump reiterated the call for a ban in June, Ryan said: "I do not think a Muslim ban is in our country's interest. I don't think it is reflective of our principles, not just as a party but as a country."

ATTACKING A JUDGE

Immediately after endorsing Trump, Ryan weighed in to criticize him for saying a federal judge of Mexican-American heritage was biased against him in a lawsuit involving Trump University. Ryan said Trump's comments were "the textbook definition of a racist comment."

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When Khizr Khan, a Muslim-American whose son Humayun Khan died while serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, criticized Trump during the Democratic National Convention in July, Trump went on the attack. Ryan was among those who rebuked Trump and used the occasion to say again that a Muslim ban would be a mistake. "Many Muslim-Americans have served valiantly in our military, and made the ultimate sacrifice. Capt. Khan was one such brave example. His sacrifice — and that of Khizr and (Khan's wife) Ghazala Khan — should always be honored. Period."

TRUMP'S TAXES

As the GOP's vice presidential nominee in 2012, Ryan released his tax returns. In September, he urged Trump to release his. "I released mine. I think we should release ours," Ryan said, referring to GOP nominees. "I'll leave it to him when to do it."

DAVID DUKE AND THE KLAN

When Trump in February declined to condemn the Ku Klux Klan or decline the endorsement of former Klansman David Duke, Ryan joined a chorus of outraged establishment Republicans. "If a person wants to be the nominee of the Republican Party, there can be no evasion and no games," Ryan said. "They must reject any group or cause that is built on bigotry."

RYAN'S BUDGET

In a South Carolina campaign event in February, Trump repeated his opinion that Ryan's budget plan, which called for sharply curbing benefit programs like Medicare, helped cost Republicans the 2012 election. "That was the end of that campaign, by the way, when they chose Ryan," Trump said.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram in Rheems, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

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2016 campaign can't shake Bill Clinton's scandals

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky tends to avoid politics these days, after becoming instantly famous nearly 20 years ago as the White House intern who had an affair with President Bill Clinton.

Unfortunately for Lewinsky, the 2016 presidential race keeps getting stuck in the past.

In the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, the Republican hinted at the Clintons' marital problems and brought up Bill Clinton's infidelities directly soon after. For now, Trump says he won't discuss the subject at the debate on Sunday. But he has been known to change his mind.

"Let's see what happens," Trump said at a town-hall event Thursday night in New Hampshire, referring to whether he will hold off on the topic. "I think we're all better off if we can do that because it is about issues, it is about policies."

Hillary Clinton may not want to relive this period. But Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said any attack by Trump on the topic would backfire, showing Trump to be "combustible and erratic." Some political analysts said Trump risks showing Clinton in a sympathetic light as the wronged wife — hardly helpful as he struggles to draw support from women.

Yet it's a fraught subject for both of them. Bill Clinton aides moved aggressively to discredit women who alleged sexual contact with him, while Hillary Clinton stood by her husband publicly in much of that era and cast his accusers as part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

Still, Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University, said the Lewinsky episode humanized the Clintons for many Americans. "People felt sorry for her," she said.

Lewinsky declined to be interviewed for this story. After staying out of the public eye for many years, she recently re-emerged as an anti-bullying advocate. She has talked about the public shaming she experienced in a well-received 2014 Vanity Fair essay and a TED Talk.

"I've decided, finally, to stick my head above the parapet so that I can take back my narrative and give a purpose to my past," Lewinsky wrote in Vanity Fair.

In June of that year, Hillary Clinton told ABC's "Nightline" that she wishes Lewinsky well, adding: "I hope that she is able to think about her future and construct a life that she finds meaning and satisfaction in."

The end? No.

Trump in 2016 threatened to bring up Bill Clinton's infidelities and congratulated himself for refraining in the first of three presidential debates. Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said Thursday he does not plan to



FILE - In this June 25, 2015, file photo, Monica Lewinsky attends the Cannes Lions 2015, International Advertising Festival in Cannes

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talk about Lewinsky or others during Sunday's showdown.

Bill Clinton has long been dogged by allegations of womanizing, extramarital affairs and abuse. During his 1992 campaign, Betsey Wright, a longtime aide to the Clinton, dubbed the problems "bimbo eruptions," a demeaning label that appeared aimed at discrediting them.

But the most damaging episode was his relationship with Lewinsky. The two met in 1995 when she was a 22-year-old intern and she later revealed they had a series of sexual encounters over a roughly 18-month period, some in the Oval Office. Clinton initially denied the relationship, but eventually admitted it and said he "misled people, including even my wife."

The president was impeached over the episode, accused of obstruction and perjury, and acquitted by the Senate.

In her book "Living History," Hillary Clinton wrote that she believed her husband when he initially denied the relationship. She described the moment in August 1998 when he told her that he had lied. She said she could hardly breathe, and screamed in rage.

"I was dumbfounded, heartbroken and outraged that I'd believed him at all," she wrote.

Lewinsky is not the only relationship baggage for Clinton. In 1998, he agreed to an \$850,000 settlement with Paula Jones, an Arkansas state worker, who had accused Clinton of exposing himself and making indecent propositions when Clinton was the governor. The settlement included no apology or admission of guilt.

Juanita Broaddrick, a nurse, in 1999 claimed she was raped by then-state Attorney General Clinton at a Little Rock hotel in 1978. Clinton's attorney denied the claim at the time and Clinton was never charged. Kathleen Willey, a White House volunteer, claimed Clinton fondled her when she met privately with him at the White House in 1993 to seek a job. Clinton has denied the allegations by both women.

Hillary Clinton's involvement in efforts to undermine the credibility of her husband's accusers remains the subject of speculation; what's known is that people close to her or Bill Clinton spared little effort on that front.

Writings about the Clinton White House years suggest she was active behind the scenes, helping to drive political and legal strategy to defend her husband during the Lewinsky investigation. Her friend Diane Blair wrote in her diary that Hillary Clinton had called Lewinsky a "narcissistic loony tune." Former Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos, in his 1999 memoir, recalled Hillary Clinton in 1992 saying of one woman who claimed to have been propositioned by her husband, "We have to destroy her story."

After the first debate, Trump supporter Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor, raised the Lewinsky affair, arguing that Hillary Clinton attacked Lewinsky after the revelations and saying that "if you didn't know the moment Monica Lewinsky said that Bill Clinton violated her that she was telling the truth, then you're too stupid to be president."

Clinton has stayed above the fray, but in her efforts to connect with women she has highlighted Trump's long history of derogatory comments about women and used the first debate to revive the story of a former Miss Universe who says Trump shamed her for gaining weight.

Democratic consultant Lis Smith said that if Lewinsky or infidelity comes up on Sunday, it could give Clinton an opportunity "to drop the facade, drop the mask and have a real human moment."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Professor: American killed in Ethiopia had bright future

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

DAVIS, Calif. (AP) — An American researcher killed in a rock attack by protesters in Ethiopia this week was a talented scientist with a bright future, family members and mentors said Thursday.

Sharon Gray, 31, was a leader in the study of how climate change affects plants, said Savithramma Dinesh-Kumar, chairman of Gray's plant biology department at the University of California, Davis.



In this September 27, 2016, photo provided by Margo Smit, is Sharon Gray instructing lab members on how to harvest tomato roots.

"She's really an always-smiling slip of sunshine. She's a smart, energetic scientist," Dinesh-Kumar said. "She had a very bright future ahead of her. And everyone knew she was going to be the star in the plant biology research area."

Gray, a post-doctoral researcher, was in the East African country for a meeting to kick off a research project when she was killed Tuesday. She was traveling in a car in the outskirts of the capital, Addis Ababa, an area that has seen months of deadly protests.

A family statement said Gray was "such a bright human being." "Sharon was a passionate scientist, friend, spouse, sister, daughter, aunt, godmother, and a colleague," the statement said. "We are picking each other up and growing together in her absence."

The family has started a fundraising webpage aimed at mentoring young women in science in her name.

Gray is the first foreigner killed in the massive anti-government protests that have claimed the lives of hundreds of protesters since November 2015. At least 55 were killed in a stampede last weekend when police tried to disrupt a demonstration amid a massive religious festival that has been followed by clashes between security forces and protesters.

The circumstances of the attack that killed Gray are still unclear, Dinesh-Kumar said. Another UC Davis professor who was in Ethiopia was shaken but not hurt and is returning home, he said.

The U.S. Embassy on Wednesday attributed the death to head injuries from a rock thrown by "unknown individuals."

Gray earned her doctorate at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2013 before moving to UC Davis with her husband, who is also a post-doctoral researcher. She was recently awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant to study how growing levels of carbon dioxide affect plants.

She traveled to Ethiopia for her first meeting to discuss a separate research project she planned to conduct with the Netherlands Institute of Ecology and charitable organizations.

The U.S. State Department is assisting Gray's family, said UC Davis Interim Provost Ken Burtis and Mark Winey, dean of the College of Biological Sciences, in a message to the campus community.

"On behalf of the entire UC Davis campus, our hearts and condolences go out to Sharon's husband and extended family," they wrote. "Even in tragedy, we hope that we all can find some comfort in the wonderful work Sharon was engaged in that will better the lives of so many around the world."

Haiti braces for a grim, rising death toll from Matthew

By DAVID McFADDEN and PIERRE RICHARD LUXAMA, Associated Press

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — Haitians braced for a grim, rising death toll Friday as help slowly trickled into marooned areas of the country's southwestern peninsula that was pummeled by Hurricane Matthew, the first Category 4 storm to hit Haiti in decades.

At least 283 people died in just one part of Haiti's southwest, the region that bore the brunt of the storm, Emmanuel Pierre, an Interior Ministry coordinator in Les Cayes, told The Associated Press late Thursday.

The overall death toll in Haiti is not clear. Authorities expect the number of deaths to increase, with local officials in isolated areas reporting higher numbers. Most deaths are believed to have occurred in the southwest region.

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A girl lugs buckets of drinking water after the passing of Hurricane Matthew in Les Cayes, Haiti, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016.

"Devastation is everywhere," said Pilus Enor, mayor of Camp Perrin, a town near the port city of Les Cayes on the peninsula's south shore. "Every house has lost its roof. All the plantations have been destroyed. ...This is the first time we see something like this."

Officials were especially concerned about the department of Grand-Anse on the northern tip of the peninsula, where they believe the death toll and damage is highest. The 283 deaths reported by Pierre did not include Grand-Anse or its surrounding areas.

When Category 4 Hurricane Flora hit Haiti in 1963, it killed as many as 8,000 people.

More bodies began to appear Thursday as waters receded in some places two days after Matthew's 145 mph (235 kph) winds smashed concrete walls, flattened

palm trees and tore roofs off homes, forcing thousands of Haitians to flee.

Those killed in Haiti included a woman and her 6-year-old daughter who frantically abandoned their flimsy home and headed to a nearby church to seek shelter as Matthew surged in early Tuesday, said Ernst Ais, mayor of the town of Cavaillon.

"On the way to the church, the wind took them," Ais said.

Officials said that food and water were urgently needed, noting that crops had been leveled, wells inundated by seawater and some water treatment facilities destroyed.

In Les Cayes, many people searched for clean water as they lugged mattresses and other belongings they were able to salvage.

"Nothing is going well," said Jardine Laguerre, a teacher. "The water took what little money we had. We are hungry."

Officials with the Pan American Health Organization warned about a possible surge in cholera cases because of the widespread flooding caused by Matthew. Haiti's cholera outbreak has killed roughly 10,000 people and sickened more than 800,000 since 2010, when it was introduced into the country's biggest river from a U.N. base where Nepalese peacekeepers were deployed.

Haiti's government has estimated at least 350,000 people need some kind of assistance in what is likely to be the country's worst humanitarian crisis since the devastating earthquake of January 2010.

International aid groups are already appealing for donations for a lengthy recovery effort in Haiti, the hemisphere's least-developed and most aid-dependent nation.

In the coming days, the U.S. military expects to help deliver food and water to hard-hit areas via helicopter.

After passing over Haiti, Matthew hit Cuba's lightly populated eastern tip Tuesday night, damaging hundreds of homes in the easternmost city of Baracoa but there were no reports of deaths. Nearly 380,000 people were evacuated and measures were taken to protect infrastructure.

Matthew advanced up the length of the Bahamas on Wednesday and Thursday, tearing roofs away, toppling trees and causing flooding that trapped some people in their homes. There had been no reports of casualties by late Thursday as the storm headed toward Florida's coast.

Before hitting Haiti, the storm was blamed for four deaths in the Dominican Republic, one in Colombia and one in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Latest: Hurricane conditions expected in next few hours



People stand on the pier as waves crash below as Hurricane Matthew approaches on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016 in St. Augustine, Fla.

MIAMI (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storm Nicole (all times local):

11:15 p.m.

Forecasters say hurricane conditions are expected to reach the Florida warning area in the next few hours.

The National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Matthew still has maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (215 kph) but is forecast to weaken to a Category 3 in the next two days, when it moves north into Georgia and South Carolina.

President Barack Obama on Thursday night declared a state of emergency for Georgia. He had already issued states of emergency for Florida and South Carolina.

Matthew is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

Florida Power and Light reports

that about 95,000 customers — about 42,000 in Palm Beach County alone — are already without electricity.

9:30 p.m.

Officials say winds are picking up and thousands are without power in Florida as Hurricane Matthew approaches.

The National Hurricane Center says the eye of Matthew is northwest of Grand Bahama Island, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) east of West Palm Beach, Florida, and a wind gust of 50 mph (80 kph) has been recorded at Palm Beach International Airport.

Florida Power and Light says more than 30,000 customers — about 24,000 in Palm Beach County alone — are already without electricity.

Matthew is still a Category 4 storm with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (210 kph). It is moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

9:10 p.m.

The coordinator for Haiti's Interior Ministry in the area hit hardest by Hurricane Matthew says the confirmed death toll in that southwestern zone is now 283.

Emmanuel Pierre told The Associated Press late Thursday that he expects the toll to rise as authorities reach remote places that were left isolated by the storm.

The overall death toll in Haiti is not clear. Shortly before Pierre spoke, the headquarters for Haiti's Civil Protection Agency had put the number of confirmed deaths for the whole country at 122.

Bodies have started to appear as waters recede in some areas two days after Matthew smashed concrete walls, flattened palm trees and tore roofs off homes.

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8:30 p.m.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott maintains that state and local officials are prepared for Hurricane Matthew, even as he called the storm bearing down on the state a "monster."

"Matthew is likely to produce devastating impacts," Scott says.

Scott says people in the northeast part of the state still have time to evacuate and residents could still choose to go to a shelter.

Authorities have told roughly 1.5 million people across the state to evacuate. The mass exodus led to crammed highways, full hotels and the need to open dozens of hurricane shelters. The looming storm also has led to gas shortages, though Scott said the state still has five days' worth of fuel supplies.

Officials are expecting massive power outages across the region once Hurricane Matthew hits full-force.

Although the state has food and water supplies ready for after the storm, Scott cautioned that people need to be able to take care of themselves for the first three days.

8:10 p.m.

The National Hurricane Center says the center of Hurricane Matthew is over the western end of the Grand Bahama Island and tropical storm conditions are lashing the east coast of Florida.

At 8 p.m. EDT, the storm had weakened slightly and had 130 mph (210 kph) sustained winds, down from 140 mph (225 kph). Matthew is about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of West Palm Beach, Florida.

The storm left more than 100 dead in its wake across the Caribbean, and 2 million people across the Southeast have been warned to flee inland.

It's the most powerful storm to threaten the U.S. Atlantic coast in more than a decade.

7:45 p.m.

Hurricane Matthew prompted two college football postponements, and has the NFL plotting just-in-case scenarios for games scheduled in Tampa and Miami this weekend.

A pair of college games set to be played Saturday — LSU at No. 18 Florida, as well as Charlotte at Florida Atlantic — were postponed.

Saturday night's game that has No. 23 Florida State visiting No. 10 Miami remains on as scheduled, though officials remain somewhat cautious. The fate of Saturday's Georgia at South Carolina football game also remained unclear.

A major issue with games in Florida this weekend isn't the weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday, because those days look to be generally fine around the state. It's whether police, first responders and other key personnel needed at football games that draw massive crowds will be deployed to assist in areas that will take the brunt of Matthew's wrath.

7:30 p.m.

The Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency says authorities have rescued at least 30 people who were trapped in their homes by floodwaters from Hurricane Matthew on the island of New Providence.

There has been extensive flooding across the island but no reports of any deaths or injuries. The island includes the capital, Nassau.

New Providence was drenched by Hurricane Matthew throughout Thursday. Forecasters predicted up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain and storm surge of around 15 feet (5 meters) over normal tide across the most populous island in the Bahamas.

Agency spokeswoman Lindsay Thompson said the government was still conducting a full assessment of damages across the island chain east of Florida and were waiting until the storm was clear of Grand Bahama before declaring the all clear for the country.

From Associated Press writer Ben Fox in Miami

6:45 p.m.

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President Barack Obama has declared an emergency in South Carolina and has ordered federal aid to help respond to Hurricane Matthew.

Earlier Thursday, Obama made the declaration for Florida. Obama's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate efforts to protect lives, property and alleviate the suffering caused by the hurricane.

Emergency declarations are designed to help provide emergency services to protect lives and property, and to lessen the threat of a catastrophe.

6 p.m.

The White House says President Barack Obama has spoken by telephone with each of the governors in states bracing for Hurricane Matthew.

The most powerful storm to threaten the U.S. Atlantic coast in more than a decade is moving toward Florida with winds of 140 mph.

The White House says Obama committed to providing the necessary federal resources to help the states respond to the hurricane.

The calls were with Govs. Nathan Deal of Georgia, Nikki Haley of South Carolina, Pat McCrory of North Carolina and Rick Scott of Florida. All are Republicans.

The White House says people in the path of the hurricane need to take the storm seriously and says Obama has "directed his team to be as proactive as possible" in its response.

NASA is bracing for its first hurricane without space shuttles to worry about. Now it's SpaceX and Boeing fretting about hurricane-force wind and equally devastating storm surges.

Before the shuttle fleet's retirement in 2011, rollbacks from the launch pads were commonplace during hurricane season at Kennedy Space Center. Now both pads are empty, at least for the time being.

NASA is modifying Launch Complex 39B for its still-in-development Space Launch System mega-rockets intended for outer-space travel. SpaceX is leasing the other pad, 39A, from where Apollo astronauts departed for the moon and multiple shuttle flights began.

SpaceX was counting on this historic pad to get its rockets flying again, possibly in November, once modifications were complete. The SpaceX pad at neighboring Cape Canaveral Air Force Station was damaged Sept. 1 when a Falcon rocket exploded during prelaunch testing.

5:30 p.m.

Police are patrolling St. Augustine, Florida, neighborhoods, announcing through a bullhorn that the area is in a mandatory evacuation zone as Hurricane Matthew approaches the state.

Dana Harrison, who lives on a barrier island across from Anastasia State Park, said she planned to wait out the storm with an out-of-town friend and her cat.

The 57-year-old Harrison says she used to live in St. Thomas and survived Hurricane Hugo in 1989, though the storm destroyed her house. She said she feels more secure in her current home.

About 1.5 million people in Florida have been told to flee inland as the dangerous and life-threatening Category 4 storm makes its way toward the state.

5 p.m.

Officials in the Florida Keys say the island chain got lucky and did not receive major damage from Hurricane Matthew.

Monroe County spokeswoman Cammy Clark said any schools, libraries, parks and government offices that had closed would be reopened on Friday.

All roads and bridges in the islands are open. The Key West and Marathon airports will open Friday, though flights may be delayed or canceled due to the hurricane's effects elsewhere.

Coastal waters throughout the Keys were expected to rise up to 2 feet above ground, flooding some neighborhood roads but not the narrow Overseas Highway that links the islands with Florida's peninsula.

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4:15 p.m.

South Carolina officials are extending the deadline to register to vote in this fall's elections due to Hurricane Matthew.

The South Carolina Election Commission said Thursday that applications postmarked by Tuesday, October 11 will be accepted.

South Carolina's deadline to register to vote by mail had been set for Saturday, October 8. Post offices are closed Monday due to the Columbus Day federal holiday, and that's another reason officials say they're moving the deadline.

Online, email or fax applications are due by midnight, October 9. Due to Hurricane Matthew, some counter voter registration offices are closed through Saturday.

4 p.m.

Turns out this wasn't the best week to plan a cruise — at least for those who signed up to float from Baltimore to the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos on the Carnival Cruise line's Carnival Pride.

A total of 1,600 passengers bought tickets for a seven-day trip to Freeport and Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, and the island of Grand Turk in the Turks and Caicos. The ship was rerouted at the last minute before it set sail Sunday, and instead of going to the Caribbean, headed north to New York.

After it left the Big Apple, the ship was supposed to make a stop in Saint John, New Brunswick, before heading south back to Baltimore. But because of heavy weather conditions, it was forced to enter the Chesapeake Bay. It is now scheduled to arrive back in Baltimore next Sunday.

Annette McKenny Neufeld of Ontario, Canada, is one of the disappointed passengers.

Neufeld had been dreaming about a tropical beach vacation, but after several days aboard the rerouted ship, she says the only thing she wants "is to get off and head home."

Neufeld shared her thoughts with The Associated Press through Facebook Messenger on Thursday, while still 478 nautical miles from Baltimore's harbor.

2:45 p.m.

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says that although the city that draws millions of tourists a year is known widely for its hospitality, he wants everyone to leave town as Hurricane Matthew approaches.

City officials warn that the heavy rains and storm surge from Matthew could combine to cause flooding worse than the floods the city saw a year ago.

During a news conference Thursday afternoon, Tecklenburg asked residents to pack up what they need, secure their property and get out of town.

City officials say that the first rains from the storm are expected to move in late Friday and conditions will deteriorate into Saturday.

Police Chief Greg Mullen warns that at the height of the storm, police and emergency personnel will be pulled off the streets and there won't be the usual rapid response to 911 calls.

2:15 p.m.

The National Weather Service is posting flash-flood watches for the entire South Carolina coast and warning that the combination of storm surge and rains from Hurricane Matthew could cause worse flooding in downtown Charleston than the October storm of a year ago.

During the October 2015 flooding, the city was closed for several days.

Forecasters are posting flash-flood watches on the coast from Friday morning through Saturday night.

An advisory warns that 8 to 14 inches of rain are expected with locally higher amounts. It said residents should be prepared for the possibility of widespread street flooding and property damage on the Charleston peninsula.

Forecasters say the storm could bring severe flooding even though the center of Matthew is expected to stay offshore.

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1:50 p.m.

President Barack Obama has declared an emergency in the state of Florida and has ordered federal aid to supplement state, tribal, and local response efforts to Hurricane Matthew.

Obama's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by the hurricane. The directive applies to more than two dozen counties in Florida.

Emergency declarations are designed to help provide emergency services to protect lives and property, and to lessen the threat of a catastrophe.

1:45 p.m.

Airlines are canceling hundreds of flights as Hurricane Matthew pelts the Florida coast with high winds and heavy rain.

The Fort Lauderdale airport shut down on Thursday morning, and farther north the Orlando airport expected to do the same by nighttime.

Before 2 p.m. Eastern time, flight-tracking service FlightAware.com reported that 1,500 Thursday flights within the U.S. had been scrapped, with the largest numbers at Fort Lauderdale and Miami. American Airlines, which has a major hub in Miami, was the hardest-hit carrier, followed by Southwest Airlines and JetBlue Airways.

FlightAware said airlines had already canceled 1,300 more flights scheduled for Friday. Delta Air Lines said cancellations were likely to spread to coastal Georgia and South Carolina on Saturday.

Airlines often cancel flights before storms hit to prevent passengers from being stranded at airports and to keep their planes in position to recover after the bad weather passes.

1:30 p.m.

With dangerous Hurricane Matthew approaching Florida's coastline, officials at Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and SeaWorld say they'll be shutting down until the storm passes.

Disney officials said on the company's website Thursday afternoon that theme parks, water parks, Disney Springs, the miniature golf course and the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex would close at 5 p.m. The theme park will remain closed through Friday.

Alyson Lundell is director of public relations for Universal Orlando. She said in a statement that Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal Citywalk would close at 5 p.m. and remain closed on Friday.

Earlier Thursday, SeaWorld announced on its website that the park would close at 2 p.m. and remain closed on Friday.

1 p.m.

The death toll in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew has risen to at least 108.

Interior Minister Francois Anick Joseph announced the figure in the capital on Thursday as authorities and aid workers work to gauge the extent of the deaths and damage in the impoverished country.

Details on the deaths were not immediately available.

Previously, officials said there had been at least 23 deaths from the storm in Haiti. There were also four people killed in the neighboring Dominican Republic, one in Colombia and one in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Hurricane Matthew roared across the tip of the peninsula on Tuesday but authorities have struggled to reach people in the most remote areas including around the town of Jeremie and throughout the Grande Anse area.

12:30 p.m.

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Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center are warning that large waves pushed by Hurricane Matthew could threaten lives and property hours before the Category 4 storm's eye nears the shore.

Jamie Rhome is leader of the storm surge team at the hurricane center in Miami. Rhome says levels were up to a foot higher than normal as far north as Jacksonville on Thursday as a strengthening Matthew tore through the Bahamas toward Florida.

Rhyme said parts of Florida, such as the Cape Canaveral area or communities along the St. Johns River, could see waters rise up to 9 feet above ground — a level well overhead for most adults.

Rhyme says such levels are life-threatening because they are accompanied by "waves and currents and floating debris."

The hurricane center has issued storm surge watches and warnings for life-threatening flooding from Boca Raton in South Florida all the way up the coast north of Charleston, South Carolina.

12:30 p.m.

Forecasters are warning that Hurricane Matthew could inundate the coast of South Carolina just a year after what was called a 1,000-year flood closed Charleston for several days.

A forecast map issued by the National Weather Service shows that as much as 14 inches of rain could fall in the Charleston and Georgetown areas between Thursday night and Sunday night as the hurricane passes at sea.

It was just a year ago that as much as 2 feet of rain fell in some areas of South Carolina. Streets in Charleston were flooded so badly that police kept people from coming downtown to the peninsula for several days.

A section of Interstate 95 near Orangeburg was also closed for a time. The Matthew forecast predicts between 5 and 8 inches of rain could fall in that area before the weekend is over.

11:45 a.m.

The White House is imploring Americans in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew to follow any evacuation orders given.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says the Category 4 storm's impact is likely to be "quite significant." He says the White House is strongly encouraging people to heed the warnings and instructions given by local officials.

Earnest is also urging people to stay abreast of the latest weather forecasts. He said Thursday was a "pivotal day" for preparations, as some parts of the Florida coast were expected to experience tropical storm conditions as early as the afternoon.

President Barack Obama received his latest update about hurricane preparations on Thursday morning.

11:30 a.m.

Gov. Rick Scott is warning Florida residents living in evacuation zones to "get out."

Scott was in Stuart on Thursday afternoon to address concerns as powerful Hurricane Matthews barreled toward Florida.

He said anyone living in low-lying areas or on barrier islands should "evacuate, evacuate, evacuate." He says tolls have been lifted on all roadways to help make evacuations easier. Scott says more than 1.5 million people are living in evacuation zones.

Remarking that "this is game day," Scott warned people to stay off beaches up and down Florida's Atlantic coastline Thursday, adding that "no one needs to be on the beach doing anything."

The governor has activated another 1,000 National Guard members, bringing the total to 2,500. He says they'll be available to help with evacuations and getting people to shelters.

11:30 a.m.

Gov. Nathan Deal has ordered mandatory evacuations along the entire Georgia coast as Hurricane Matthew approaches.

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Deal said Thursday that everyone east of Interstate 95 should flee Georgia's six coastal counties — Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn and Camden. Those counties have a combined population of more than 522,000 people.

The governor had asked coastal residents to evacuate on a voluntary basis Wednesday. He called for mandatory evacuations as the National Hurricane Center placed all 100 miles of coastal Georgia under a hurricane warning Thursday.

Officials say powerful winds and heavy rains from Matthew could begin to arrive in coastal Georgia late Thursday. The storm is forecast to pass Saturday.

The Georgia coast hasn't seen a hurricane evacuation since a near-miss with Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

11 a.m.

Hurricane Matthew has strengthened to a catastrophic Category 4 storm as it barrels toward the heavily populated coast of Florida.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm's maximum sustained winds had strengthened to 140 mph as of late Thursday morning and were expected to maintain their strength as the storm approaches the Florida coast.

Hurricane conditions were also still affecting the Bahamas. The storm was expected to start affecting Florida by early afternoon Thursday.

10 a.m.

Gov. Nikki Haley says parts of two counties along South Carolina's northern coast are being evacuated ahead of Hurricane Matthew.

Haley told reporters Thursday morning evacuation orders go into effect at noon Thursday for parts of Horry and Georgetown counties.

Haley warned anyone in an evacuation zone not to take the orders lightly. She says surge from the storm could be as high as 8 feet and affect not only the coast but also areas farther inland.

So far, Haley says 175,000 people have evacuated from the coast. On Wednesday, the state reversed the eastbound lanes of Interstate 26 from Charleston to Columbia, allowing more motorists to move inland at once.

Forecasters say they expect Matthew to strengthen to a Category 4 hurricane before making landfall in Florida, turning north and passing just off the South Carolina coast late Friday or early Saturday.

9:45 a.m.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory says the latest predictions show that his state will avoid a direct hit from Hurricane Matthew.

But emergency workers are continuing to prepare for high winds, rain and storm surge.

McCrory says North Carolina cities like Jacksonville and Morehead City could still see wind gusts of up to 60 mph beginning Saturday. Widespread power outages are possible. There could be a foot of rain in some areas.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami says the hurricane is strengthening and called it dangerous and life-threatening. About 1.5 million people in Florida have been ordered to evacuate.

9:05 a.m.

A motorist shot during an altercation with South Carolina deputies over a Hurricane Matthew evacuation route has died.

Berkeley County Chief Deputy Coroner George Oliver says 35-year-old Lucas M. Felkel of Moncks Corner died shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Sheriff Duane Lewis says it happened about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Moncks Corner when a motorist came to a checkpoint, knocked down some traffic cones and sped off.

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The sheriff says when deputies finally caught up with the driver a few miles away he pointed a gun at deputies and started shooting. The sheriff says the deputies shot back, wounding the man who was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

No deputies were wounded, but the sheriff says that four deputies have been placed on administrative leave.

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating. The coroner says an autopsy is scheduled.

9 a.m.

Officials at Florida's major airports are monitoring conditions as Hurricane Matthew bears down on Florida.

On its website, Fort Lauderdale International Airport announced plans to close at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Officials advised travelers to check with individual airlines about flight plans.

In Miami, officials at Miami International Airport will continue monitoring the storm and warned of possible flight cancelations. On its website, officials noted that generally "airports don't operate in sustained crosswinds that exceed 35 mph."

On Twitter, Miami airport officials said 341 arrivals and 305 departures had been canceled by midmorning Thursday, "which is about 90% of our daily flight schedule." Officials also tweeted that "it's expected by noon most flights will stop flying," but the airport "technically remains 'open' and ready for when flights resume."

The Palm Beach International Airport website doesn't say when flights will be suspended, but asked travelers to stay away, noting that the airport is not intended for use as a shelter.

In Orlando airport officials are preparing for hurricane conditions. In a note on its website, officials at Orlando International Airport say they plan to be "reducing flights into Orlando and altering schedules starting Thursday, lasting through Friday." They, too, advise travelers to get in contact with individual airlines for flight plans.

The Jacksonville International Airport website also advises travelers to check flight status with the airlines before heading to the airport.

8:30 a.m.

City officials in Charleston, South Carolina, which weathered Category 4 Hurricane Hugo almost 30 years ago, say the city has run out of sandbags after distributing more than for any other storm.

The city has distributed more than 15,000 sandbags as residents prepare for Hurricane Matthew. There were long lines of motorists waiting to get sandbags at one distribution point on the city's north side late Wednesday.

Charleston is prone to flooding even in summer thunderstorms and if people need to sandbags now, they will have to get them at hardware or home stores.

The upscale community of Kiawah Island southwest of Charleston plans to close at noon Thursday when officials barricade the entrance to the gated community. Fire and emergency equipment will be moved to the mainland.

8 a.m.

Forecasters say the first outer rain bands from Hurricane Matthew already have begun to approach Florida as the big storm crosses the Bahamas toward the state.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami says Matthew is still a Category 3 hurricane as of 8 a.m. Thursday, packing top sustained winds up to 125 mph. It's still expected to become an even more powerful Category 4 storm in coming hours as it approaches Florida's east coast starting Thursday night.

The storm is centered about 215 miles southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida and moving northwest toward the state at 12 mph.

7:45 a.m.

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Authorities say a motorist in South Carolina was shot and wounded by deputies during an altercation over a Hurricane Matthew evacuation route.

Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis tells local news outlets it happened about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Moncks Corner when a motorist came to a check point, knocked down some traffic cones and sped off.

The sheriff says when deputies finally caught up with the driver a few miles away he pointed a gun at deputies and started shooting. The sheriff says the deputies shot back, wounding the man who was taken to the hospital. His name and condition were not immediately released.

No deputies were wounded, but the sheriff says that four deputies have been placed on administrative leave.

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating.

APNewsBreak: Barely half of illegal border crossers caught

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Immigration authorities caught just over half of the people who illegally entered the U.S. from Mexico last year, according to a report commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security that offers one of the most detailed assessments of border security ever compiled.

The report found that 54 percent of people who entered illegally between border crossings got caught in the 2015 fiscal year. That's much lower than the 81 percent success rate that Homeland Security cited publicly using a different counting method.

The 98-page report was completed in May, and Homeland Security officials have declined to release it, despite urging from some members of Congress. The Associated Press obtained a copy from a government official involved in border issues who acted on condition of anonymity because the department has not made the report public.

The department said Thursday that the report was "one building block provided by a research organization" toward developing more reliable measures of border security and that its methodology needed refinement.

"DHS does not believe it is in the public interest to release, and it would be irresponsible to make policy or other judgments on the basis of analysis that is incomplete and remains a work in progress," spokeswoman Marsha Catron said.



FILE - In this Jan. 4, 2016 file photo, a U.S. Border Patrol agent drives near the U.S.-Mexico border fence in Sunland Park, N.M. U.S. immigration authorities caught barely half the people who illegally entered the country from Mexico last year, according to an internal Department of Homeland Security report that offers one of the most detailed assessments of U.S. border security ever compiled. The report found far fewer people are attempting to get into the U.S. than a decade ago and that 54 percent of those who tried were caught in the year ending Sept. 30, 2015. (AP Photo/Russell Contreras, File)

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The report offers some of most detailed measures yet of how secure the border with Mexico is — a major issue in a presidential campaign that features Republican nominee Donald Trump calling for a wall along the entire 1,954-mile border. The report includes enough material to argue that the government has made big strides or that it is falling woefully short.

In terms of people, 170,000 eluded capture during the 2015 fiscal year, 210,000 the previous year, and 1.7 million in 2005. The number of people who eluded capture is larger when including those who escaped detection at border crossings or who entered by sea, which is the responsibility of Homeland Security agencies outside the Border Patrol. Adding those, 200,000 people got away last year, 260,000 in 2014, and 1.9 million in 2005.

The huge drop in illegal entries over the last decade coincides with major increases in border security spending, which has reached \$14 billion annually. The report notes more serious consequences imposed on illegal crossers during that period, which include jail time.

Immigration experts have also cited the significant decline in job opportunities after the Great Recession that began at the end of 2007. Still, sharp declines in illegal entries have continued in recent years as the economy improved.

“This is the first solid evidence we have that the border buildup of the last 20 years has indeed made some significant difference in deterring and reducing illegal entries across the southern border,” said Edward Alden, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Border Patrol’s capture rate on the Mexican border was 55 percent in 2014 and 36 percent in 2005, according to the report prepared for Homeland Security by the Institute for Defense Analyses, a federally funded research organization. The Border Patrol achieved an 11-point improvement in 2014 after years of slow but steady gains. The report does not offer an explanation for the sudden improvement.

The report, which includes an appendix of more than 100 pages on methodology and a review of previous efforts to count border crossers, offers detailed analysis going back to 2000, shortly before the U.S. erected hundreds of miles of fences along the Mexican border, added surveillance gear and doubled the number of Border Patrol agents. Homeland Security has been under pressure to show if those multibillion-dollar investments yielded results.

The primary measure that Homeland Security has released for public consumption is the number of Border Patrol arrests, which tells how many people got caught but not how many got away. Arrests dropped to the lowest level in 44 years in 2015, down 80 percent from a peak of nearly 1.7 million in 2000.

For the last two years, the department has released an “interdiction effectiveness rate” that measures the percentage of people who got caught among all who attempted to enter between crossings on the Mexican border. The figure includes those who set foot in the U.S. and turned around and asylum-seekers. It was 81 percent in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2015.

The report obtained by the AP takes a different approach. It does not credit the government for people who turn around or turn themselves in to agents to seek asylum, a common occurrence among Central American women and children who have entered the country in large numbers over the last five years, many of them fleeing drug-fueled violence.

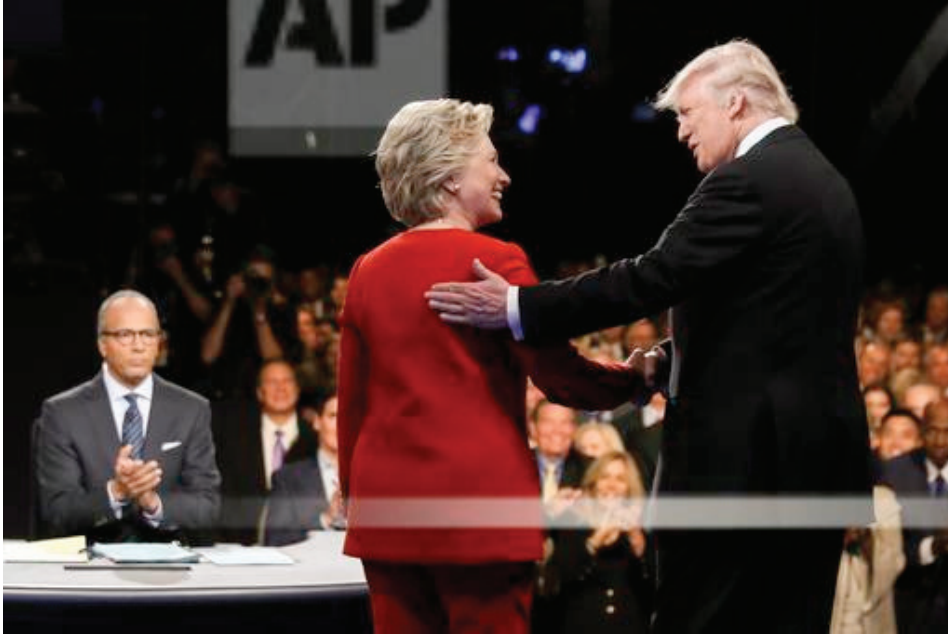
The report says there were 140,000 asylum seekers on the Mexican border last year and 170,000 in 2014, compared to about 20,000 a year a decade ago. Homeland Security’s practice of counting those as captures goes a long way toward explaining why its success rate was so much higher.

The report also counts people who entered the country illegally at border crossings — typically by presenting fake or stolen documents to immigration inspectors. Homeland Security does not publish those numbers. The report says 28,000 escaped detection last year, down from 46,000 in 2014. The capture rate improved to 39 percent from 29 percent.

Counting border crossers who elude capture is a mammoth and imprecise task but one that many experts believe is necessary to judge whether the border is secure. Homeland Security approaches the job by tracking physical evidence, such as footprints in the desert and other signs of human presence, and by agent sightings. The internal report uses that information, along with migrant surveys and techniques developed by social scientists.

Debate minefield: Town hall will test candidates' stagecraft

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press



FILE - In this Sept. 26, 2016 file photo, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump shake hands during the presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. For presidential candidates, the town hall debate is a test of stagecraft as much as substance. When Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump meet in the Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016, contest, they'll be fielding questions from undecided voters seated nearby. In an added dose of unpredictability, the format allows the candidates to move around the stage, putting them in unusually close proximity to each other. (Joe Raedle/Pool via AP, File)

may rise or fall on his ability to avoid falling into that trap. The Republican repeatedly interrupted Clinton in their opening contest and grew defensive as she challenged his business record and recited his demeaning comments about women.

The GOP nominee has reviewed video of this year's first presidential debate, and his aides have stressed a need to stay calm and not let Clinton attacks get under his skin in the second of three contests. The campaign has built in more rehearsal time ahead of Sunday's showdown in St. Louis.

Trump, who prefers drawing big crowds to rallies, has done only sporadic town halls and has rarely been challenged by voters face to face, except when his rallies are interrupted by protesters. In a nod to the challenge posed by Sunday's format, he agreed to advisers' suggestion that he get in some practice at a real town hall Thursday night in New Hampshire — but then publicly pushed back on the idea that he needed to rehearse.

"This isn't practice, this has nothing to do with Sunday — this isn't practice, we just wanted to be here," Trump told a small, invitation-only crowd in Sandown. He was joined by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who excelled at the town hall format during his failed presidential run and is helping coach Trump.

While the event had some of the trappings of what Trump will face Sunday, including a two-minute countdown clock on answers, it was hardly a rigorous rehearsal.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George H.W. Bush conspicuously checked his watch. Al Gore got too close for comfort. Mitt Romney strode across stage to confront President Barack Obama face to face.

For presidential candidates, a town hall debate is a test of stagecraft as much as substance. When Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump meet Sunday night in St. Louis, they'll be fielding questions from undecided voters seated nearby. In an added dose of unpredictability, the format allows the candidates to move around the stage, putting them in unusually close proximity.

"There's a lot more interaction, physical interaction," says Judd Gregg, the former New Hampshire senator who helped President George W. Bush prepare for debates. He said a candidate who is too aggressive in a town hall, either with the voters or a rival, "can come across looking really chippy, not looking presidential."

After an uneven showing in his first debate, Trump's candidacy

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Trump didn't actually interact with the audience, instead only conversing with a friendly moderator who read the questions — which were nearly all softballs.

Presidential town hall debates, meanwhile, are typically serious affairs and lack the liveliness of campaign trail events.

Clinton is far more practiced in the format and prefers smaller events with more direct voter engagement. Aides said she won't shy away from raising recent revelations about Trump's tax history or reminding voters of his pre-dawn Twitter attacks on a Miss Universe winner, but will aim to keep her focus more on the voters sitting on stage.

Seeking to raise the bar for the businessman, Clinton advisers said they do expect Trump to be more measured than in the last debate.

"But even if he does show up a little more disciplined than last time, I don't think he'll get a second chance to make a first impression," Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said of the town hall format.

The first town hall debate was held during the 1992 election and featured incumbent President George H.W. Bush and challenger Bill Clinton, along with third-party candidate Ross Perot. As a voter stood to ask Bush about the national debt, the president glanced down at his watch — a fleeting moment but one that seemed to reinforce criticism that he didn't have empathy for Americans.

The wild card in the town hall debate is the physical choreography on stage. Candidates are seated but with no lectern or table to hide behind. They're given hand-held microphones and are free to roam the stage to answer questions or challenge each other.

Four years ago, Obama and Romney circled each other on stage throughout the night. During one particularly heated exchange, Romney kept moving toward the standing president until they were arguing with just a few feet between them.

During the 2000 election, George W. Bush was answering a question on leadership when Vice President Gore stood up from his chair and walked unnaturally close to his Republican rival. Bush turned to Gore, and with a slightly puzzled look on his face, gave him a nod and smile. The audience broke into laughter.

That seemingly natural Bush reaction? It was well-rehearsed, according to Gregg, who played the role of Gore in Bush's debate prep. Gregg said he'd expected Gore would try to intimidate the Texas governor, so he practiced walking close to him during their mock debates.

"His reaction was the exact same with Al Gore as it was with me — to look at me with a bemused smile and move on to his answer," Gregg said. "We practiced."

Lemire reported from Sandown, New Hampshire. Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/JonLemire>

Pakistan's lawmakers toughen penalty for 'honor' killings

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Despite objections from religious hard-liners, lawmakers Thursday took the first significant move to curb mounting numbers of "honor" killings in Pakistan, stiffening the penalties and closing a loophole that allowed such killers to go free.

Public outrage has been growing in Pakistan in the wake of a string of particularly gruesome slayings.

More than 1,000 women were killed last year in so-called honor killings in Pakistan, often by fathers, brothers or husbands who believed the victims had tainted the family name by marrying the man of her choice — or even meeting or being seen sitting with a man.

Those who carry out such killings are almost never punished. In accordance with Islamic Shariah law, Pakistan's legal code since the 1990s has allowed families of victims to forgive the killer. Since the killers in these cases are usually close relatives, the family almost always forgives them.

The measure passed Thursday imposes a mandatory 25-year prison sentence for anyone convicted of killing in the name of honor and bans family members from forgiving them.

Relatives can only forgive an honor killer who has been condemned to death, in which case the sentence

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Pakistani legislator Sherry Rehman, right, from Pakistan's People's party who moved the bill against honor killing, talks to media with other lawmakers outside the Parliament in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016. Rehman warned: "Remove these clauses which allow the option of forgiveness, otherwise these killings will keep happening." Despite objections from religious hardliners, Pakistani lawmakers on Thursday passed a law that stiffens the penalty for convicted "honor" killers and closed a loophole that often allowed them to go free. (AP Photo/B.K. Bangash)

lawmakers attended the session, but debate was raucous, with the loudest opposition coming from hard-line Islamists.

Conservative Sen. Hafiz Hamdullah said parliament should instead address elopements by women, claiming 17,000 had done so since 2014.

"Why don't we see what are the reasons behind such killings? Why are girls eloping from their homes?" he said.

Speaking later to The Associated Press, he echoed a stance taken by many hard-liners that the law is bringing Western-style independence for women.

"They are trying to impose Western culture over here. We will not allow (it)," he said. "We will impose the law that our holy Quran and Sunnah (tradition) say."

Conservatives demanded that the Islamic Ideology Council, a body of conservative Muslim clerics, weigh in on the bill before the vote. Supporters flatly refused, saying the council routinely vetoes legislation aimed at protecting women. The council once ruled it was permissible for a man to "lightly" beat his wife, though recently it did say that honor killings are "un-Islamic."

In the end, a voice vote was held, with a strong "yes" vote and a low mumbling of those opposed.

Government lawmakers, who had pushed the law, said they spent nearly a year negotiating with Pakistan's many political parties to get a draft that had a chance of passing.

Zafarullah Khan, a legal adviser to Sharif, said the bill was a compromise.

"This was the best possible solution," Khan said in an interview. It offered a concession to religious parties, while still ensuring a convicted killer spends 25 years in jail, he said, adding that what needs to

is commuted to prison.

Activists and liberal opposition members who backed the law said it was a step in the right direction, although they said it should have gone further to eliminate forgiveness.

"Remove these clauses which allow the option of forgiveness, otherwise these killings will keep happening," warned Sherry Rehman, an opposition legislator and fierce champion of women's rights in a speech to parliament.

She pointed to the Oscar-winning documentary "Girl in the River" that told the story of a girl who survived an attempt by her uncle and father to kill her but then was forced to forgive them.

"We should be ashamed. We should all be ashamed. You should all be ashamed," she said of the forgiveness provisions. The film prompted Pakistan's conservative Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to promise legislation to end the practice.

Only about a third of the 446

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change is the "mindset" of fathers and brothers, families and witnesses.

"The problem is societal behavior," Khan said. "It has nothing to do with laws."

Honor killings are rooted in traditions by which a family's honor is bound up with a woman's chastity. Such killings often are met with acceptance, even approval, by neighbors and relatives.

A man who killed his sister for marrying without family approval described how his co-workers taunted him relentlessly, even telling him he should kill her.

But public outrage over the practice has also been growing as proliferating TV channels and more access to social media have lifted the secrecy that once surrounded the killings.

In recent months, a social media celebrity, Qandeel Baluch was choked to death by her brother; a mother, with the help of her son, strangled and set fire to her daughter because she married the boy of her dreams; a teenage girl was tied up in a car and set ablaze on orders of tribal leaders because she helped a friend elope.

The legislation was originally introduced nearly a year ago by the opposition People's Party. But because the practice of forgiveness is part of Shariah, Parliament deferred it to a committee to try to build a consensus. The conservative Pakistan Muslim League took up the bill but added the possibility of forgiveness for the death penalty as a concession to religious parties.

"We have to work within certain confines ... but we have taken this step and we have come so far," said Shaista Pervaiz Malik, a government lawmaker.

A second bill was also passed Thursday that sought to make it more likely to get a conviction in the case of rape.

The measure, passed with little debate, allowed medical evidence to be admitted in court as well as the use of DNA, which had been opposed by religious hard-liners. It's not clear what prompted them to suspend their objection.

Previously, medical evidence was not enough for conviction, and instead four witnesses to the rape were necessary under Islamic law. In the past, the culprit simply accused the victim of being a willing partner, which often landed her in jail.

Associated Press writer Asif Shahzad contributed to this report

Can't compete with Matthew: Candidates cut Florida campaigns

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY and GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Like thousands of other Americans, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton abruptly upended their plans Thursday in Florida, where Hurricane Matthew threatened to wreak havoc on final-stretch presidential campaigning in a critical swing state.

The campaigns rushed to move staff and volunteers, close offices and cancel events in the path of the storm. And as many Floridians heeded calls to evacuate, both candidates began the delicate and difficult task of pursuing votes during a crisis.

"Even if you want to do politics, no one is there to listen," said Steve Schale, a Democratic consultant who directed or advised Barack Obama's campaigns in Florida in 2008 and 2012.

Clinton's campaign asked the state for more time to register voters — a request Florida Gov. Rick Scott rejected — and the Trump team pulled its negative TV ads.

"It looks like it's a big one and it's going to be a bad one," said Trump at a town hall in New Hampshire. "Please know that we are praying for you and everyone in the path: You've got to take care of yourself, you've got to get out of the area, you've got to listen."

The hurricane is expected to hit Trump's prized Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach. Campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks said, "Mr. Trump spoke with employees yesterday to ensure they are safe and following instructions from local officials."

Clinton tweeted: "Hurricane Matthew is a major storm. ... Stay safe Florida."

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Michael Blackman, left, and Sam Titus board up a bar a few blocks off the beach Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Hurricane Matthew continues to churn its way toward Florida's east coast. The bar is planning on staying open during Matthew. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

Both stayed far away, preparing for their second debate, a town hall-style faceoff on Sunday in St. Louis. Trump was holding a dry run town hall in Sandown, New Hampshire, while Clinton was speaking at fundraisers in New York.

Along the Southeast coast, Matthew was expected to bring dangerous conditions to Georgia, South Carolina and, possibly, North Carolina. But it was the impact on vote-rich Florida, a must-win state for Trump, that had the campaigns on high alert. The hurricane closed in just as both sides ramped up their early-vote push and just days before a voter registration deadline.

Vote-by-mail ballots are being sent to voters across the state this week, leaving the potential for ballots to arrive just as voters temporarily abandon their homes.

So far, a record 2.5 million people — nearly one-third of those who voted in 2012 — have made requests for the early ballots.

Scott said Thursday evening that he would not consider extending the Oct. 11 voter registration deadline. "Everyone has had a lot of time to register," Scott said, adding, "I don't intend to make any changes."

Scott, a Republican, is a strong supporter of GOP nominee Donald Trump and chairman of a Super PAC running Clinton-bashing television ads.

Officials said they were hoping that any disruption to voting would be less severe than with Superstorm Sandy, which struck New Jersey and New York just before the 2012 presidential election and kept many voters away from polls.

At least half of Florida voters typically cast ballots early, either by mail or in person, compared with just a fraction in New York and New Jersey.

Still, disruptions in Florida campaigning were immediate.

In Palm Beach County, local Republican Chairman Michael Barnett said Matthew already had forced cancellations, including phone-banking operations and an event where Ivanka Trump was the headliner. Local GOP officials also will miss an opportunity for outreach to Latino leaders, because an annual gala of a local Hispanic civic group was canceled.

"There is no good time, but this is just the worst time," Barnett said. "Whatever happens, I think we can make up for the lost time, as long as we are not cleaning ourselves out from under a catastrophic mess."

Democrats, too, prepared for high-power campaigning to grind to a halt in affected areas. Television advertising often fails to reach voters preoccupied by an impending storm and the aftermath.

How and where to advertise became an immediate flashpoint between the campaigns. After Clinton ads were spotted on the Weather Channel, the Trump campaign accused her of a "tone deaf" attempt to capitalize on the situation.

A Clinton spokesman said ads had been scheduled on local Weather Channel stations in Florida and other states. But the storm's potential severity prompted the campaign to cancel the Florida portion.

The storm posed unusual challenges and opportunities for the candidates, particularly Trump, who is

trying to prove his leadership.

The New York businessman has sometimes appeared clumsy in his response to crises — including sending out tweets in which he seemed to pat himself on the back for predicting terror attacks.

In the aftermath of the flooding in Louisiana earlier this year, Trump and his running mate, Mike Pence, rushed to the Baton Rouge area to tour the damage. During the trip, Trump criticized the president and later Hillary Clinton for failing to do the same, despite request from local officials to steer clear.

Associated Press Writers Hope Yen, Steve Peoples, Jill Colvin and Julie Bykowicz in Washington; Jonathan Lemire in Sandown, New Hampshire; Bill Barrow in Columbus, Ohio; and Ken Thomas and Lisa Lerer in New York contributed to this report.

FBI: Minnesota mall attacker newly interested in Islam

By AMY FORLITI, Associated Press



Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall reads a letter Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016, clearing off-duty officer Jason Faulkner in the shooting of Dahir Adan after Adan stabbed multiple people at Crossroads Center in St. Cloud, Minn., on Sept. 17. The man who stabbed multiple people at Crossroads Center had become interested in Islam in the last several months, withdrew from his friends and encouraged female relatives to be more religious, the FBI said Thursday. (Dave Schwarz/ the St. Cloud Times via AP)

that investigators described. "They believed he was doing as good as he used to do," Osman said. "That is not the son they knew."

Witnesses told the FBI that Adan, who was armed with two steak knives and later shot and killed, referenced Islam during the attack at Crossroads Center mall.

"We have numerous credible witness accounts of him asking victims during the attack if they were Muslim and at least one instance yelling 'Allahu akbar' while stabbing one of his victims and others heard him yelling 'Islam Islam' during the attack," Thornton said, adding that it appeared to be premeditated.

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — The man who stabbed 10 people at a Minnesota mall had become interested in Islam in the last several months, withdrew from his friends and encouraged female relatives to be more religious, the FBI said Thursday.

"We were told (he) had not previously shown an interest in religion," but after 20-year-old Dahir Ahmed Adan did, he went from being a high academic performer to failing out of college "almost overnight," Minneapolis FBI Special Agent in Charge Rick Thornton said at a news conference in which authorities gave the public its first look at surveillance video of some of the Sept. 17 attacks.

"The totality of Dahir Adan's behavior and the actions suggest he may have been radicalized either with the influence of others or on his own," Thornton said.

The attorney for Adan's family, Abdulwahid Osman, said his parents and close family members did not see the behavioral changes

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Aside from Adan's supposed increased interest in the religion, Thornton offered no other evidence linking Adan, who was Somali-American, to extremist groups. Right after the attacks, an Islamic State-run news agency claimed Adan was a "soldier of the Islamic State" who had heeded the group's calls for attacks in countries that are part of a U.S.-led anti-IS coalition.

Thornton also said investigators are looking at Adan's digital footprint, including social media accounts, and are assessing "legal and technical options" to unlock his iPhone. He didn't elaborate, and agency spokesman Kyle Loven said he couldn't comment further because of the ongoing investigation.

The FBI hired an outside company to help it hack into an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, California, shooters, Syed Rizwan Farook, who with his wife killed 14 people at a 2015 holiday work gathering. Apple had rejected the government's demand that it create software to bypass the phone's security features. The FBI has refused to name the company that developed the tool or say how much it paid for it.

The mall videos shown at the news conference showed Adan swinging wildly at an electronics store clerk and stabbing him at least once before the man scrambled away, as well as customers running from a candy store and the store's clerk pulling down a barrier just as Adan approached.

Another graphic video showed a bloody Adan crawling and trying to get up after he was shot six times by an off-duty officer.

Law enforcement shared the videos with the family Thursday, Osman said.

"They continue to mourn and grieve for the loss in their family and express profound sympathy to the victims," he said.

In arguing that it appeared the attack was premeditated, Thornton said compelling evidence included Adan not changing out of his security guard uniform between shifts as he usually did, telling his family he had "work to do tonight." He then texted his boss to say he was not coming to work.

Less than a half-hour before the attack, he went to a convenience store. When the clerk said he would see Adan later, Adan replied: "You won't be seeing me again," Thornton said.

Minnesota has the nation's largest Somali community, with census numbers placing the population at about 57,000. Young Somalis have been a target for terror recruiters. Since 2007, more than 20 young men have joined the militant group al-Shabab in Somalia. In addition, roughly a dozen people have left to join militants in Syria, and nine Minnesota men face sentencing on terror charges for plotting to join the Islamic State group.

This story has been corrected to show Thornton's title is special agent in charge and that the FBI says Adan encouraged female relatives to become more religious, not his sisters.

NSA contractor arrest highlights challenge of insider threat

By TAMI ABDOLLAH and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The arrest of a former National Security Agency contractor for allegedly stealing classified information represents the second known case since 2013 of a government contractor being publicly accused of removing secret data from the intelligence agency.

The latest case comes as the NSA has worked to reform security after the Edward Snowden disclosures, especially with regard to insider threats.

Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August, after federal prosecutors say he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his home and car. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country.

The arrest was not made public until Wednesday, when the Justice Department unsealed a criminal complaint that accused Martin of having been in possession of top-secret information that could cause "exceptionally grave danger" to national security if disclosed.

It's not yet clear when the documents were removed. But the fact that Snowden and Martin — both working for Booz Allen Hamilton as contractors for the NSA — were accused of leaving the NSA with highly classified documents raises questions about the effectiveness and adequacy of the intelligence agency's

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FILE - In this June 6, 2013 file photo, the sign outside the National Security Administration (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md. A contractor for the National Security Agency has been arrested on charges that he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his house and car, federal prosecutors announced Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016. Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August after authorities say he admitted to having taken government secrets. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

said the government has reduced the number of people who need security clearances by 17 percent and has enhanced the quality of background checks.

Martin's arrest appears to illustrate the difficulty of guarding against an insider threat given that employees, by virtue of their clearance level and jobs, must be entrusted with the nation's secrets.

It's unlikely that "you're going to be able to stop every incident of somebody taking documents if they're determined to do so. But the real question is how quickly can you detect it, how quickly can you mitigate the harm of any such incident," De said.

Adm. Mike Rogers, who heads the NSA, has repeatedly spoken since 2013 about efforts the agency has taken to ensure that such a thing doesn't happen again. He has said the agency tried to strike a balance so as to not overly upset workers who are law-abiding citizens with aggressive internal security mechanisms.

Among the classified documents found with Martin, the FBI said, were six that contain sensitive intelligence — meaning they were produced through sensitive government sources or methods that are critical to national security — and date back to 2014. All the documents were marked as classified information, an FBI affidavit says.

The complaint does not specify which documents Martin is alleged to have taken. He was arrested around the same time U.S. officials acknowledged an investigation into a cyber leak of purported hacking tools used by the NSA. That toolkit consists of malicious software intended to tamper with firewalls, the electronic defenses protecting computer networks. Those documents were leaked by a group calling itself

internal security controls. The NSA, which put security upgrades into place following the Snowden disclosures, has declined to comment.

"One key thing we don't have visibility into now is how he was caught, because that would provide some insight into whether the reforms that were put in post-Snowden were effective or not, or their relative efficacy," said Rajesh De, who was the NSA's general counsel when the Snowden story broke. Snowden's 2013 theft of documents that were leaked to journalists revealed the NSA's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement that "it is painfully clear that the intelligence community still has much to do to institutionalize reforms designed to protect (U.S. government secrets) from insider threats."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the federal government has made important changes since Snowden's disclosures. He

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the "Shadow Brokers." The complaint does not reference that group or allege a link to Martin.

The New York Times first reported the arrest of a NSA contractor who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton. Booz Allen said in a statement that after learning of the arrest of one of its employees, it contacted law enforcement authorities to offer its cooperation and fired the worker.

At Martin's home, investigators found stolen property valued at "well in excess of \$1,000," the complaint said.

"Martin at first denied, and later when confronted with specific documents, admitted he took documents and digital files from his work assignment to his residence and vehicle that he knew were classified," the affidavit says. "Martin stated that he knew what he had done was wrong and that he should not have done it because he knew it was unauthorized."

He has been in custody since his arrest in August. The complaint charges him with unauthorized removal and retention of classified materials and theft of government property.

"There is no evidence that Hal Martin intended to betray his country," his public defenders, James Wyda and Deborah Boardman, said in a statement. "What we do know is that Hal Martin loves his family and his country. He served honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and he has devoted his entire career to serving his country. We look forward to defending Hal Martin in court."

Dinah Winnick, director of communications at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, confirmed that Martin is a student in the university's information systems graduate program. The university has a partnership with the NSA, which gives students prospects for jobs, training and scholarship support. Martin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1987 and left the service in 2000, the Navy said.

In 2013, journalists relying on classified documents taken by Snowden revealed the NSA's bulk collection phone records and spurred a national debate on privacy and national security.

Rogers has said that since those revelations, he's repeatedly reminded the workforce of their agreement to never divulge the sensitive information they've been given access to. In prior comments, Rogers has said security isn't just about technical and insider threat preparation, but also about ensuring professional behavior.

"At times, I have some people telling me, 'Hey, what this should show you is you can't trust contractors,'" Rogers said in a speech at Stanford University in 2014, noting that some of the biggest compromises of information came from direct U.S. employees. "This idea that you can't trust contractors, I just don't think I'm concerned about the long-term implications of that."

Associated Press writers Ben Nuckols, Nancy Benac and Deb Riechmann in Washington and Brian Witte in Glen Burnie, Maryland, contributed to this report.

Follow Tami Abdollah at <https://twitter.com/latams> and Eric Tucker at <https://twitter.com/etuckerAP>.

Despite attention on Aleppo, Syria aflame on several fronts

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The battle for Aleppo has gripped the world, but it is hardly the only major front among the tangle of adversaries clashing across war-torn Syria.

Opposition forces are on the offensive in the country's center trying to sever the government's connection between Aleppo and the capital, Damascus, which is itself at the edge of a major theater of the war. In the northwest, Turkish-backed opposition forces are battling Islamic State militants, while to the east government forces are weathering an Islamic State siege of Deir El-Zour.

Here's a look at some of the battles around Syria:

HAMA

In the central province of Hama, insurgent groups led by the extremist Jund al-Aqsa have been on the offensive since late August, capturing dozens of villages and towns in areas close to the northwestern rebel stronghold of Idlib.

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The insurgents are now about 15 kilometers (nine miles) north of Syria's fourth-largest city, also called Hama.

The militants aim to eventually block the main road used by the government to send supplies to the northern province of Aleppo, where the fighting has intensified in recent weeks.

Among the major towns and villages captured by insurgents in Hama province are Halfaya, Maan and Soran. The government and its Russian allies have responded to the offensive with intense air-strikes.

DAMASCUS AND THE SOUTH

After retaking the once-opposition-held hub of Darya, on Damascus's southern outskirts, and forcing the evacuation of the 6,000 or so civilians and fighters trapped inside, the military and allied militias have turned their attention to the steadily shrinking zone of rebel control to the capital's northeast.

The rebels in Douma and al-Nashabiyeh are beset by factional infighting over control of the limited resources that leak through the government's blockade.

The opposition holds two pockets in northeastern Damascus, in the Jobar and Barzeh neighborhoods, from which they carry out daily shelling attacks on the city's government-held areas. Pro-government forces are close to sealing off these pockets from the larger rebel-controlled swath of territory on the capital's outskirts.

Meanwhile, fighting rages between the ideologically-diverse rebel factions and pro-government forces in Daraa province, along the Jordanian border. A government crackdown against popular demonstrations in Daraa in 2011 sparked the ongoing civil war. And in neighboring Qunaitra province, Israeli jets are sporadically striking Syrian military positions near the occupied Golan Heights as stray shells fall on Israel.

THE NORTHWEST

Opposition fighters backed by Turkish ground and air forces continue to erode the Islamic State group's hold over northern Syria while also containing the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces that control most of the country's northern border. Turkey sees the Kurdish forces as an extension of its own outlawed Kurdish rebels.

The fighting has not come without a cost to Turkey, which has lost nine soldiers on Syrian soil since intervening in August.

The Turkish-Syrian opposition coalition is advancing in the direction 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 between Christianity and Islam. The group named its online magazine after the town,



FILE - In this Oct. 4, 2016 file photo, In this still image taken from video provided by the Syrian government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media, government troops patrol inside the Bustan Al-Basha neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria. The battle for Aleppo has gripped the world, but it is hardly the only front in Syria: Opposition forces are on the offensive in the country's center hoping to sever the road connection between Aleppo and the capital Damascus, which is itself a front; in the northwest, Turkish-backed opposition forces battle Islamic State militants; to the east, government forces weather an Islamic State siege of Deir El-Zour. (Syrian Central Military Media via AP, File)

which it has occupied since August 2014.

DEIR EL-ZOUR

Syrian government forces and Islamic State militants are locked in battle over control of Deir El-Zour province, which is also the setting of some of the fiercest international coalition air raids against the extremists.

The U.S.-led coalition is targeting bridges up and down the Euphrates River, leading the Syrian foreign ministry to accuse the air campaign of destroying the country's infrastructure.

The extremists have kept the provincial capital, also called Deir el-Zour, under siege since 2014, but pro-government forces have withstood the encirclement thanks to air-dropped humanitarian assistance from the U.N. and weapons and ammunition flown into the nearby airport, which remains under government control.

ALEPPO

Rebel groups, President Bashar Assad's government and the government's international backers have committed thousands of fighters to the battle for Aleppo, Syria's largest city. The fierce fighting has prompted the U.N.'s special envoy to warn that thousands of civilians could be killed and the city "destroyed" if the Russian and Syrian air forces do not halt their bombardment of its rebel-held eastern neighborhoods.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has described conditions in eastern Aleppo, where 275,000 people are trapped under a government siege, as "worse than a slaughterhouse."

On Wednesday, Syria's military command announced it had scaled back its assault in order to allow civilians to evacuate, two weeks after it declared an all-out offensive for the east.

In an urgent plea on Thursday, U.N. Special Envoy Staffan De Mistura proposed evacuating the estimated 900 al-Qaida-linked fighters holed up in the east in exchange for an end to the Russian and government bombardment.

But rebel commanders said they could not trust the government to stop bombing, while Assad said there was no distinction between the al-Qaida-linked militants and the other estimated 7,000 opposition fighters in the city.

Associated Press Writer Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Report faults top Pentagon aide's behavior at overseas clubs

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Ash Carter's former senior military aide used his government credit card at strip clubs or gentlemen's clubs in Rome and Seoul, drank in excess and had "improper interactions" with women during business travel with Carter, according to a report released Thursday by the Defense Department inspector general.

The 50-page report describes in detail two strip clubs or show clubs where the aide, Maj. Gen. Ron Lewis, spent more than \$1,000 on champagne and drinks. It includes conflicting statements that Lewis made to investigators explaining the outings, and on several occasions quotes his acknowledgement that he was drunk or drank to "more than moderation."

Lewis, whom Carter fired nearly a year ago, submitted a written rebuttal slamming the investigation, saying the IG assembled an inaccurate and inflammatory case based on innuendo and had failed to "find the truth."

The inspector general's report says Lewis improperly used his credit card, lied to a bank to get charges removed and said he was guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer, a violation of the code of military justice.

In the rebuttal, which was obtained by The Associated Press, Lewis denied that the bar he went to in Rome was a strip club and denied that he went to a strip or gentleman's club in Seoul, South Korea, in an area of the city that the report calls "Hooker Hill." Many clubs in that area are considered off-limits for U.S. military, according to the report.

The report also details several inappropriate interactions Lewis had with women, including one late-night incident in his hotel room when he was drinking with a female enlisted service member who later told investigators he tried to kiss her. According to the report, a female Defense Department staff member who

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FILE - In this Feb. 20, 2015, file photo, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, center, is greeted by Senior Military Assistant U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Ron Lewis as they arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to travel to Afghanistan. A Pentagon investigation concluded that Lewis, Carter's former senior military aide, used his government credit card at strip clubs or gentlemen's clubs in Rome and Seoul, drank in excess and had "improper interactions" with women, The Associated Press has learned. (Jonathan Ernst/Pool Photo via AP, File)

saw Lewis and the woman alone in the room, told him, "Sir, respectfully, you're being really stupid. Don't do this. She needs to come and stay in my room."

Carter issued a statement Thursday saying he was briefed on the investigation but would defer comment pending an Army review. He added, "I expect the highest possible standards of conduct from the men and women in this department particularly from those serving in the most senior positions. There is no exception."

The report said Carter was unaware of Lewis's conduct until he was told about it. The report will go to Army leaders who will determine what, if any, punishment is required and at what rank Lewis would be able to retire.

Lewis also issued a statement on Thursday, saying that he made some of the mistakes outlined in the report, but strongly contests others.

"From the onset, this process was unfairly influenced by statements

made and actions taken at the highest levels of the Department of Defense," he said.

Lewis took responsibility for several inappropriate actions, including charging nearly \$1,800 on his government credit card at what he called a "dance club" in Rome. In an embarrassing set of circumstances, Lewis said, he tried to use his personal debit card at the club, but it didn't work, so he had to walk back to his hotel with a female employee of the club, and wake up a Defense Department staff member to get his government card to pay the bill. He said he paid back the charges when he returned to the U.S.

The report identified the club as Cica Cica Boom, a club whose sign advertises lap dances, but Lewis said that's not the club he went to. He said he went to "Verafollia Srl" a "high-end establishment with a respectable clientele that had a DJ, a bar area and a dance floor where couples were dancing."

Investigators, including local law enforcement, visited the club and provided photos showing stripper poles and a "lap dance chair." The report said the club manager said the name "Verafollia Srl" is used on credit card receipts "to conceal any link to the Cica Cica Boom club for patrons who frequent the establishment."

Lewis, in the report, explained the high prices charged to his credit card by saying he ordered "two or three bottles of champagne, lots of drinks."

Lewis had shot up the promotional ladder, and his job with Carter stemmed from their close professional relationship. He had served as an aide to Carter when Carter was deputy defense secretary.

In Korea, the report said, Lewis went to a gentleman's club called the Candy Bar. Lewis denied going there as well, but acknowledged being in a commercial area of Seoul. He said that when he returned to Washington and saw two charges on his credit card totally about \$1,100, he called the bank to have them removed, and the bank agreed.

Investigators presented him with two receipts from the club bearing the name "Candy." Both receipts

show only a short pen mark in the signature area, and do not show his written name.

The report says investigators, after getting Lewis' rebuttal, went back to check their information, and said they stand by their findings. It adds that a representative from the Candy Bar club told an investigator that she recognized Lewis, but could not recall any details.

The report portrays Lewis as a senior officer who often went out alone on overseas trips, and who sometimes drank to excess. It said his behavior concerned some staff members and at times was a topic of conversation.

In the incident involving the enlisted service member, Lewis said another staff member was in the hotel room for much of the time, and that even when he was alone with the enlisted service member "our discussions remained the type of conversation a command team would engage in."

The report does not suggest that Lewis had an extramarital affair or that he had sex with any of the women. And Lewis, in his rebuttal, criticizes the report for relying on insinuations and statements from people who may have distorted the facts or didn't actually see what happened.

Officials with knowledge of the matter said the allegations of misconduct, which first surfaced after the November overseas trip with Carter, stunned the secretary and sent shockwaves through the Pentagon. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Online: <http://www.dodig.mil/pubs/documents/DODIG-2017-001.pdf>

UN Security Council formally nominates Guterres

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres, who was formally nominated on Thursday to be the next U.N. secretary-general, said he faces "huge challenges" and hopes to see unity and consensus during his term.

Security Council President Vitaly Churkin, Russia's U.N. ambassador, said members approved a resolution by acclamation recommending Guterres for a 5-year term during a closed-door meeting.

The council's recommendation now goes to the General Assembly for formal approval, which is virtually certain. The 193-member world body is expected to vote on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's successor next week. Ban's second 5-year term ends Dec. 31.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry in Lisbon, Guterres said that he hoped the consensus vote in the council, which has been deeply divided over Syria and many other issues, would turn out to be symbolic, bringing "swift decisions which the troubled



FILE - In this Monday, Oct. 12, 2015 file photo, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres arrives for a meeting with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in Athens on a three-day official visit. On Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2016, members of the Security Council unanimously agreed that Guterres should be the next U.N. secretary-general. A UNSC vote is expected Thursday; the candidacy then goes to the General Assembly for final approval. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

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world we live in demands.”

Ban told reporters in Rome that he considers Guterres “a superb choice.”

He praised his “deep compassion” as U.N. refugee chief for 10 years “for the millions of people who have been forced from their homes,” as well as “his wide knowledge of world affairs and his lively intellect.”

Russia’s Churkin called Guterres a “great choice,” describing him to reporters after the vote as “a person who talks to everybody, speaks his mind, a very outgoing, open person.”

He cited Guterres’ experience as prime minister and as the U.N. refugee chief where he traveled the world and saw “some of the most gruesome conflicts we have to deal with.”

Guterres topped all six informal polls in the council after receiving high marks from almost every diplomat for his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions for candidates in the General Assembly. He was the only candidate of the 10 in the race to receive no “discourage” votes in Wednesday’s poll, which was the first to use colored ballots to distinguish the votes of the five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The result disappointed campaigners for a woman or an East European to be the world’s top diplomat for the first time.

“Antonio Guterres has won this race because he was the best candidate for the race,” Britain’s U.N. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said before entering Thursday’s meeting. “It was a crowded field, it was a strong field and I’m delighted that seven of the 13 candidates were women but I and others have always been clear that while now is the right time for a woman that we were going to pick the strongest person.”

Ban stressed that “as the ninth man to serve as secretary-general, Mr. Guterres has a special responsibility to include, support and empower the world’s women and girls.”

The veteran politician and diplomat said in an interview with The Associated Press and two other news organizations during his campaign that if he got the job his aim would be to work with all countries to help solve the myriad problems on the global agenda.

Guterres will almost certainly select a woman as deputy secretary-general and he said in the interview that one of the things that is “crucial” at the male-dominated United Nations is “to have gender parity.”

He said that his 10 years as the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, which ended in December, were “excellent preparation” for a secretary-general who needs to be an honest broker and be seen by countries as independent in order to promote consensus and overcome crises.

“I think we are living in a world where we see a multiplication of new conflicts, and you see an enormous difficulty in solving the conflicts,” Guterres said. “There is a clear lack of capacity in the international community to prevent and to solve conflicts.”

What’s needed, he said, is a new “diplomacy for peace” which requires discreet diplomatic contacts and shuttling among key players in conflicts and disputes. The secretary-general should also engage as much as possible and “act with humility to try to create the conditions for member states that are the crucial actors in any process to be able to come together and overcome their differences,” he said.

The 10 years as high commissioner were “the most remarkable experience you can imagine,” he said. “It’s the most fascinating work you can have, very demanding ... and I gained a lot of experience in dealing with all crises and all governments” involved in crises everywhere.

After his term ended, Guterres said, he felt an obligation to do something “having had this dramatic experience of dealing with people that are suffering enormously” as refugees and having no solution to their plight.

He said the place where he could probably contribute the most to solve that problem and other global crises was at the United Nations so he decided to apply to be secretary-general.

Associated Press writers Michael Astor at the United Nations and Barry Hatton in Lisbon contributed to this report.

Russia strongly warns US against striking Syrian army

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press



FILE In this Monday, Sept. 26, 2016 file photo Russian defense ministry spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov speaks to the media in Moscow, Russia. Konashenkov strongly warned the United States against striking Syrian government forces and issued a thinly-veiled threat to use Russian air defense assets to protect them. (AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev, file)

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian military on Thursday strongly warned the United States against striking the Syrian army, noting that its air defense weapons in Syria stand ready to fend off any attack.

The statement underlined high tensions between Moscow and Washington after the collapse of a U.S.-Russia-brokered Syria truce and the Syrian army's offensive on Aleppo backed by Russian warplanes.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said any U.S. strikes on areas controlled by Syrian President Bashar Assad's government could jeopardize the lives of Russian servicemen.

He said Moscow was worried by media reports alleging that Washington was pondering the possibility of striking Syrian army positions.

"I would recommend our colleagues in Washington to carefully

weigh possible consequences of the fulfillment of such plans," Konashenkov said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said "We're looking at the full range of options here and those comments notwithstanding, we still have a responsibility as a government to consider all those options."

"I don't find them (comments like the warning) helpful to moving forward, to reach some sort of diplomatic solution here. But the Russians should speak for themselves and why they're saying that kind of thing," he said.

Russia responded with dismay to the U.S.-led coalition's air raid on Syrian army positions near Deir el-Zour that killed 60 Syrian soldiers on Sept. 17, rejecting the U.S. explanation that the attack was a mistake.

Konashenkov said "we have taken all the necessary measures to prevent any such 'mistakes' with regard to Russian servicemen and military facilities in Syria."

He said the range of Russia's S-300 and S-400 air defense missile systems deployed to Syria would be a "surprise" to any country operating its aircraft over the country. Konashenkov added that the Syrian army also has various Soviet- and Russian-built air defense missile systems, which have undergone modernization over the past year.

Since Russia has launched its air campaign in Syria in support of Assad's forces a year ago, the Russia and the U.S. militaries have maintained contacts to prevent any midair incidents between Russian warplanes and the aircraft from the U.S.-led coalition in the skies over Syria.

Konashenkov warned, however, that the Russian military won't have time to use the hotline if it sees

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missiles on their way to targets in Syria.

"It must be understood that Russian air defense missile crews will unlikely have time to clarify via the hotline the exact flight program of the missiles or the ownership of their carriers," he added.

In an apparent hint at the U.S. stealth aircraft, he added that any "dilettante illusions about stealth planes could collide with disappointing realities."

The Russian military announced Tuesday that a battery of the S-300 air defense missile systems had been sent to Syria to protect a Russian facility in the Syrian port of Tartus and Russian navy ships off the Mediterranean coast.

Tartus is the only naval supply facility Russia has outside the former Soviet Union.

The deployment has added more punch to the Russian military force in Syria, which already includes long-range S-400 missile defense systems and an array of other surface-to-air missiles at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia.

Russia has conducted an air campaign in support of Assad since Sept. 30, 2015, saving his army from imminent defeat and helping it win key ground.

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Matt Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

UN Syria envoy warns Aleppo could be 'destroyed' this year

By JAMEY KEATEN and PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press



FILE -- This March 1, 2016 file photo, shows a view towards the Turkish border from Kinsibba, Syria. Syrian opposition activists said Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016, an explosion in a village in northwestern Syria near the border with Turkey has killed at least 16 people. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the blast in Atmeh was either caused by a suicide bomber or a remotely detonated bomb that that there are rebels among the casualties. Another group, the Local Coordination Committees, says the blast was caused by a bag filled with explosives that went off on the Syrian side of a border crossing. (AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin, File)

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. envoy for Syria called on al-Qaida-linked militants to leave the embattled city of Aleppo in exchange for an end to government and Russian bombardment, warning Thursday that thousands of civilians could be killed and the historic city "destroyed" by year end if conditions do not soon change.

Special envoy Staffan de Mistura urged fighters from Fatah al-Sham Front to leave the city in exchange for peace. The group was previously known as Nusra Front and changed its name after announcing it had split from al-Qaida earlier this year. The U.N. considers it a terrorist organization.

De Mistura entreated both sides to "look at my eyes" before offering to "personally" escort the fighters to a refuge of their choosing, provided they agree to lay down their arms.

The combined Syrian government and Russian bombardment of the city's rebel-held east has killed 376 people over the last two

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weeks, the envoy said. While far fewer have been killed in the western side, which has a population of over a million, presumed rebel shelling killed at least eight people on Thursday, Syrian state media and observers said. It marked one of the bloodiest days in recent memory for government-held neighborhoods of the city.

De Mistura acknowledged that the fighters would “need some guarantees” before an evacuation to another rebel-held part of the country, but said these would have to come from the government. He also called for the local administration in opposition-held eastern neighborhoods to remain in place after Fatah al-Sham leaves, with the U.N. establishing a presence there to bring humanitarian supplies to the besieged population.

His proposals marked the first major initiative by the U.N. to help find a way out of the Syria crisis after the United States, citing in part the Aleppo onslaught, suspended its joint effort with Russia to stop the fighting. Those two powers had been leading the diplomatic push. Russia, which currently holds the presidency of the U.N. Security Council, called for de Mistura to brief members on Friday morning.

Yet rebel fighters in Aleppo expressed deep skepticism over the terms of de Mistura’s proposal. They say the Fatah al-Sham Front has been instrumental to the east’s defense, having led an August counter-offensive that briefly broke the government’s siege. The U.N. estimates 275,000 people are trapped in eastern Aleppo.

Ammar Sakkar, a military spokesman for Fastiqum rebel group, said the evacuation plan was “a form of trickery” that would allow pro-government forces to carry out a “longer period of killing and crime.” He accused the U.N. of holding a “double standard,” arguing that before calling for fighters to leave it must “first stop the head of terrorism and stop his own acts of terrorism and crime against the Syrian people,” referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

“It would have been better if (de Mistura) spoke about protecting civilians and halting the criminal activities that target civilians in Aleppo,” echoed Yasser Alyousef, a political spokesman for Nour el-Din el-Zinki insurgent group.

While Assad has not commented on de Mistura’s proposals, his remarks during an interview with Denmark’s D2 station Thursday indicated he would not be satisfied with the limited rebel evacuation. Insisting his military would retake the whole of Aleppo, the president rejected any distinctions between the array of nationalist to ultraconservative Islamic factions fighting against his authority.

“The moderate opposition is a myth,” he told D2. “That’s why you cannot separate something that doesn’t exist from something that does exist. All of them have the same grassroots.”

During the interview, Assad also denied reports by opposition activists and international relief agencies that his government was targeting hospitals and civilian infrastructure.

In his press conference, de Mistura said the presence of 900 Fatah al-Sham Front fighters should not be used as an excuse to besiege and bombard over a quarter of a million people. “Is this going to be the alibi for destroying the city?” he asked.

“The bottom line is: In a maximum of two months — two and a half months — the city of eastern Aleppo at this rate may be totally destroyed ... and thousands of Syrians, not terrorists, will be killed,” he said.

Activists said the violence in Aleppo eased on Thursday after Syria’s military command announced the night before that it planned to scale back bombardment to allow civilians to leave besieged rebel-held neighborhoods.

“There were shellings and air raids, but it was less than in previous days,” said activist Bahaa al-Halaby, speaking from Aleppo province near the city.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that although airstrikes have almost stopped on rebel-held neighborhoods, government forces were pushing ahead with their ground offensive. The Observatory and state media said troops advanced in the northern neighborhood of Bustan al-Basha, capturing a sports complex and a nearby housing compound.

Violence continued elsewhere in Syria. An explosion in Atmeh, a northwestern village near the Turkish border, killed at least 29 people including several Turkish-backed opposition fighters, activists said. IS quickly claimed responsibility for the attack via its news agency, Amaq.

The bombing and the Aleppo standoff underscored the complexity of the Syrian conflict, which pits Assad's forces against rebels trying to oust him, alongside a U.S.-led coalition's fight against Islamic State group. Russia says its year-long air campaign in support of Syrian troops aims to fight terrorism.

The Observatory said the blast in Atmeh was a suicide bombing. It said the dead were Turkish-backed opposition fighters. Another group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the blast killed 35 people, including two senior judicial officials from the opposition.

An amateur video posted online shows about 18 bodies on the floor outside what appears to be a clinic. Some of the men are in military uniforms. The video appears genuine and corresponds to other AP reporting of events depicted.

Issa reported from Beirut. Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Beirut and Suzan Fraser Ankara, Turkey contributed to this report.

Officers trained to deal with mental illness in short supply

By PAUL ELIAS and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press



FILE - In this Oct. 3, 2016 file photo Robert Mann, right, the brother of Joseph Mann who was killed by Sacramento police in July, discusses the shooting of his brother during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif. The Mann family say Joseph was mentally ill at the time he was shot and killed by two Sacramento police officers. A spate of deadly encounters between police and mentally troubled suspects in recent weeks has cast a spotlight on law enforcement's mounting responsibilities for dealing with the mentally ill. Also seen is attorney John Burris, left, and Deborah Mann, sister of Robert and Joseph. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Many police departments have specially trained officers and mental health professionals whose job is to help defuse the sometimes-volatile "5150" calls that involve people in the throes of mental illness.

But those officers are in short supply, and often they are unavailable in a crisis, as happened in Sacramento and the San Diego suburb of El Cajon, where police encountered men with mental problems and ended up shooting them to death.

Both cities would like to add additional resources but neither has the money.

"Funding for mental health services has been cut, and we are responding to more of those types of calls," El Cajon police Lt. Rob Ransweiler said.

El Cajon, a city of 100,000, and Sacramento, the state capital with nearly half a million residents, each have a grand total of one mental health team that pairs a professional counselor and a specially trained officer.

"We can't really expect that they can cover 100 square miles of the city 24/7. It's been a very effective program, but it is limited by resources," Sacramento police spokesman Matthew McPhail said.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health advocacy organization, estimates that only 3,000 of the nation's 18,000 law

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enforcement agencies have mental health response teams like those in Sacramento and El Cajon. The alliance is calling on more departments to adopt so-called crisis intervention teams, often called CITs.

"Even in cities where a CIT is in place, you have no guarantees," said Ron Honberg, a researcher with the alliance known as NAMI. "But it's always better to have the advanced training than not having it."

In Sacramento, state grants pay for a specially trained officer and mental health professional who respond together to 5150 calls. But the pair is limited to working in areas deemed to have the greatest need for mental health services.

Even departments with multiple intervention teams still struggle to answer every call with trained officers and mental health workers.

When 5150 calls come in, the officers with specialized training are often already dealing with another situation or they are off-duty at departments that have no backup. That was the case last summer when a mentally ill man was waving a knife on a Sacramento street. And it happened again last week when a man in El Cajon was acting erratically and walking into traffic.

"A lot of crises don't happen between 9 and 5," Honberg said.

Beyond the formal teams, many departments including Sacramento's are training all officers in "de-escalation" techniques that stress giving an agitated suspect "time and distance" instead of aggressively rushing in for an immediate arrest.

San Francisco police spent six hours on Sept. 24 talking with a suicidal man who threatened to kill officers with an assault rifle. The daylong standoff shut down a train station, but the incident ended peacefully after crisis negotiators urged the man to surrender. The weapon turned out to be a pellet gun.

"As long as we have time to talk to this person, we have hope," San Francisco officer Carlos Manfredi said.

The Virginia-based Treatment Advocacy Center published a study last year showing that police are 16 percent more likely to shoot and kill mentally ill suspects than other suspects.

"It's one of the biggest nightmares for families of people with mental illness ... and for law enforcement, too," said John Snook, the center's executive director.

That nightmare played out in Sacramento last July when Joseph Mann, a mentally ill homeless man, was shot 14 times. His family has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging that responding officers failed to seek assistance from mental health professionals or follow state guidelines for confronting mentally ill suspects by first attempting to diffuse the situation.

On Monday, the family called for two of the officers to be charged criminally after a recording captured by their dashboard camera revealed that the officers had discussed running down Mann with their vehicle before they shot him just seconds after getting out of their car. The officers' attorney says they protected the community from an armed and erratic suspect.

In El Cajon, a police officer opened fire on Alfred Olango within a minute of arriving on scene following multiple 911 calls by Olango's sister, who described her brother as mentally unbalanced. The officer fired when Olango took a "shooting stance" and aimed an object at him that turned out to be a 4-inch electronic cigarette device called a vape pen.

After racially charged fatal police shootings of unarmed suspects, the Washington D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum has been training departments in "de-escalation" techniques, teaching officers to give agitated and disturbed suspects "time and distance" to calm down before moving in for the arrest.

In California, lawmakers recently passed legislation requiring increased officer training when it comes to interacting with disabled suspects, including those with mental illness.

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Elias reported from San Francisco.

Lawmaker from fractious UKIP hospitalized after party clash

By JILL LAWLESS,
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Feuding in Britain's fractious, right-wing U.K. Independence Party erupted into violence Thursday that left a member of the European Parliament hospitalized with a head injury after an "altercation" with a colleague.

Steven Woolfe — the front-runner to be UKIP's next leader — suffered seizures and lost consciousness after clashing with another lawmaker Thursday morning during a meeting of party lawmakers at the legislative building in Strasbourg, France.

UKIP leader Nigel Farage said Woolfe was initially in a serious condition and "things were pretty bad." But he said Thursday afternoon that Woolfe was "in a much better place than he was a few hours ago."

Farage said he was launching an inquiry into the violence, which he said "shouldn't have happened." He declined to identify the other party member involved in what he termed "an altercation."

Strasbourg police said the incident had not been reported to the force.

According to media reports, Woolfe was punched during a fistfight with another lawmaker, hit his head and collapsed a little while later.

UKIP said Woolfe had two "epileptic-like fits" and lost consciousness. An image published by ITV News showed a man resembling Woolfe apparently unconscious on a walkway inside the Strasbourg building, just outside the parliament chamber.

Several hours later, Woolfe reported that he was conscious and recovering. He said in a statement that a CT scan had revealed he did not have a blood clot on the brain.

"I am feeling brighter, happier and smiling as ever," he said. "I am sitting up, and said to be looking well. The only consequence at the moment is a bit of numbness on the left-hand side of my face."

The party said Woolfe would remain in the hospital overnight awaiting the results of more tests.

A lawyer of mixed English, Irish, Jewish and black American heritage, Woolfe represents his home region of northwest England in the European Parliament and is considered one of UKIP's rising stars.

A small party full of forceful personalities, UKIP has a long history of clashes between senior members — though they are usually verbal rather than physical. UKIP European parliamentarian Roger Helmer said Thursday's incident followed a party meeting that featured "some lively exchanges of views."

Woolfe, who turned 49 on Thursday, annoyed some party colleagues when he said recently that he had considered joining Britain's Conservative Party because he was "enthused" by new Prime Minister Theresa



British UK Independence Party Member of the European Parliament Steven Woolfe lies on the ground after losing consciousness in the European Parliament building in Strasbourg France Thursday Oct. 6, 2015. Britain's fractious, right-wing U.K. Independence Party erupted into violence Thursday that left Steven Woolfe hospitalized with a head injury after an "altercation" at a party meeting. Woolfe — the front-runner to be UKIP's next leader — suffered seizures and lost consciousness after the clash Thursday morning during a meeting of party lawmakers at the legislative building in Strasbourg, France. (ITV News/ via AP)

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May's commitment to social reform.

Founded in 1993 with the aim of removing Britain from the European Union, UKIP has moved from the fringes of British politics to a position of serious influence. Over the past few years, the party has won over large numbers of Conservative and Labour voters by appealing to concerns about globalization and large-scale immigration.

UKIP was instrumental in getting Britain to hold a referendum on EU membership, which ended in a June 23 vote for the U.K. to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The result was an enormous political triumph for UKIP, but since gaining its long-sought goal the party has been torn by infighting.

Long-time leader Farage stepped down after the June referendum and was replaced by Diane James. She quit Tuesday after just 18 days, citing personal reasons — leaving Farage, a popular but divisive figure, as interim leader.

Woolfe had announced his intention to run in an upcoming leadership contest and was bookies' favorite to win. He was blocked from competing in the leadership contest won by James because party officials said he missed the application deadline by 17 minutes.

UKIP has just one seat out of 650 in Britain's House of Commons, but — despite its vociferous opposition to the EU and all it stands for — it holds more than 20 seats in the bloc's parliament of 751 seats.

Although Britain has voted to leave the EU it will remain a member until a formal divorce is negotiated — a process that could last two years or more.

Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed to this report.

Matthew hammers Florida, begins dayslong beating of coast

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER and KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Matthew spun dangerously close to Florida's Atlantic coast Friday morning, scraping the shore with howling wind and heavy rain that left more than 476,000 without power.

Matthew was downgraded to a Category 3 hurricane overnight with the strongest winds of 120 mph just offshore as the storm pushed north, threatening hundreds of miles of coastline in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. A 107 mph gust was recorded in Cape Canaveral.

Two million people were told to move inland to escape a potentially catastrophic blow from a storm that left more than 280 dead in its wake across the Caribbean, but many hunkered down and hoped for the best.

Some people who refused to evacuate were stranded and called for help early Friday, but were told to stay put until conditions improved enough for paramedics and firefighters to get to them, said Brevard County Emergency Operations spokesman



Trees sway from heavy rain and wind from Hurricane Matthew in front of Exploration Tower early Friday, Oct. 7, 2016 in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Matthew weakened slightly to a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds near 120 mph, but the U.S. National Hurricane Center says it's expected to remain a powerful hurricane as it moves closer to the coast. (Craig Rubadoux/Florida Today via AP)

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David Waters.

"A family called in that the roof just flew off their home on Merritt Island," Waters said.

It was a scene officials hoped to avoid in other cities as the storm pushed north.

In Jacksonville, where 500,000 people were told to evacuate, Mayor Lenny Curry warned that authorities would not be able to help them during the worst of the storm.

"You need to leave, if you do not leave you will be on your own," Curry said.

Despite dire warnings, many people along the Florida coast decided to take their chances.

In Cape Canaveral, John Long rode out the storm in his 32-foot camper in a park about half a mile from the beach.

He lost power shortly before dawn but quickly fired up his generator. Small tree branches battered the vehicle but the large ones on the park's giant oak trees didn't fall.

"It was kind of loud and kind of shaky but nothing that caused too much concern," he said.

Robert Tyler had feared a storm surge flooding his street, which is only two blocks from the Cape Canaveral beach.

But he and his wife, Georgette, felt fortunate Friday morning when they looked out the front door of their one-story cinder block apartment and there wasn't much water.

Tree branches littered the road and he could hear the transformers blowing up overnight, but his home didn't appear to have damage on first inspection and his vehicles were unharmed.

"Overnight, it was scary as heck. That description of a freight train is pretty accurate. At one point it felt like the windows were going to blow even though they all were covered with plywood," he said.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott called it a "blessing" Friday morning that so far Florida was avoiding a direct hit as the storm sliced northward.

Still Scott stressed during a television appearance on "CBS This Morning" and NBC's "Today" show that there was still time for people living in the Jacksonville area to evacuate. The storm was expected to bring a large volume of water onshore and Scott noted there are a lot of low-lying areas in northeast Florida.

"There's no reason to be taking a risk," he said.

More than 1.5 million people in Florida were asked to evacuate ahead of Matthew, the first major hurricane storm to hit the state in 11 years.

The number of homes and businesses without power jumped by the hour as the storm edged closer to the coast. More than 476,000 were in the dark Friday morning.

As of 8 a.m. EDT Friday, the hurricane was hugging the coast of central Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center. Matthew was centered about 35 miles north-northeast of Cape Canaveral and moving north-northwest around 13 mph.

After Florida, forecasters said Matthew would probably hug the coast of Georgia and South Carolina over the weekend before veering out to sea — perhaps even looping back toward Florida in the middle of next week as a tropical storm.

The hurricane had been a potentially catastrophic Category 4 storm, but weakened slightly early Friday to a Category 3. Forecasters said it could dump up to 15 inches of rain in some spots and cause a storm surge of 9 feet or more.

They said the major threat to the Southeast would not be the winds — which newer buildings can withstand — but the massive surge of seawater that could wash over coastal communities along a 500-mile stretch from South Florida to the Charleston, South Carolina, area.

President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency for Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, freeing up federal money and personnel to protect lives and property.

The Fort Lauderdale and Orlando airports shut down. Airlines canceled more than 3,000 flights Thursday and Friday, many of them in or out of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Amtrak suspended train service between Miami and New York, and cruise lines rerouted ships to avoid the storm, which in some cases will mean more days at sea.

Orlando's world-famous theme parks — Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and SeaWorld — all closed.

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"I never get time off. I'm a little sad," tourist Amber Klinkel, 25, of Battle Creek, Michigan, lamented at Universal.

Patients were transferred from two Florida waterfront hospitals and a nursing home near Daytona Beach to safer locations.

Thousands of people hunkered down in schools converted to shelters, and inland hotels in places such as Charlotte, North Carolina, reported brisk business.

At the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, NASA no longer has to worry about rolling space shuttles back from the launch pad to the hangar because of hurricanes, since the shuttle fleet is now retired. But the spaceflight company SpaceX was concerned about the storm's effect on its leased seaside pad.

The last Category 3 storm or higher to hit the U.S. was Wilma in October 2005. It sliced across Florida with 120 mph winds, killing five people and causing an estimated \$21 billion in damage.

With hurricane-force winds extending outward up to 60 miles, Matthew could wreak havoc along the U.S. coast even if its center stayed offshore.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal ordered an evacuation of the entire Georgia coast, covering more than a half-million people. It was the first hurricane evacuation along the Georgia coast since 1999, when the state narrowly escaped Floyd.

"We have a house that sits right here on the water and we kind of said goodbye to it thinking that, you know, the house ... might not be here when we get back," said Jennifer Banker, a resident of Georgia's dangerously exposed St. Simons Island. "You know, we pray a lot and trust God to provide."

Kennedy reported from Fort Lauderdale. Associated Press reporters Holbrook Mohr in Orlando; Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Jennifer Kay, Freida Frisaro, Curt Anderson in Miami; Marcia Dunn in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Janelle Cogan in Orlando, Florida; Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jeffrey Collins on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; Jack Jones and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; and Bruce Smith in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Pound crashes in early Asian trading, unsettling markets

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — The pound plummeted to a fresh 31-year low Friday amid persistent concerns about Britain's exit from the European Union, unsettling stock markets in early Asian trading.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.2 percent to 16,867.77 and South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.1 percent to 2,062.62. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.5 percent to 23,841.82 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.3 percent to 5,464.80. Benchmarks in Taiwan and Southeast Asia also lost ground. Markets in mainland China were closed for a weeklong holiday.

CURRENCY CHAOS: The pound tumbled sharply, slumping as much as 6 percent to its lowest in more than three decades, before rebounding somewhat, although the reasons for the "flash crash" were unclear. The British currency, which was trading at around \$1.26 on Thursday, plunged past the \$1.20 level early Friday before recovering minutes later and was recently trading around \$1.24. Some market watchers blamed comments to British media by French President Francois Hollande, who insisted the European Union must take tough stance in negotiating Britain's exit from the bloc's tariff-free single market. Others cited a "fat finger" trading mistake. In other currencies, the dollar slipped to 103.69 yen from 103.96 yen and the euro eased to \$1.1133 from \$1.1139.

QUOTE WORTHY: Foreign exchange "traders will have woken up this morning stunned," said Margaret Yang of CMC Markets in Singapore. "The drop could be a fast 'snowball effect' triggered by panic selling and reinforced by stop loss orders and forced liquidation."

JOB REPORT: Investors are awaiting a U.S. report out later Friday that economists expect to show employers added a solid number of jobs in September while the unemployment rate stayed low. A strong result will boost the chances that Fed policymakers will soon move to raise short-term interest rates from

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ultralow levels that have supported a multiyear stock market boom.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks ended with little change. The S&P 500 inched up less than 0.1 percent to 2,160.77. The Dow Jones industrial average fell less than 0.1 percent to 18,268.50. The Nasdaq composite slipped 0.2 percent to 5,306.85.

ENERGY: Oil hovered at a three-month high. U.S. benchmark crude oil futures dipped 2 cents to \$50.42 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 61 cents to close at \$50.44 a barrel on Thursday, its first close above \$50 a barrel since June 23. Brent crude, the international standard, slipped 4 cents to \$52.47 a barrel in London.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 7, the 281st day of 2016. There are 85 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 7, 1916, in the most lopsided victory in college football history, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0 in Atlanta.

On this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York to draw up colonial grievances against England.

In 1849, author Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore at age 40.

In 1858, the fifth debate between Illinois senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place in Galesburg.

In 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall, one of the main figures of the Teapot Dome scandal, went on trial, charged with accepting a bribe from oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny. (Fall was found guilty and sentenced to a year in prison; he served nine months. Doheny was acquitted at his own trial of offering the bribe Fall was convicted of taking.)

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1954, Marian Anderson became the first black singer hired by the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard Nixon held their second televised debate, this one in Washington D.C.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II concluded his week-long tour of the United States with a Mass on the Washington Mall.

In 1982, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical "Cats" opened on Broadway.

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers killed Leon Klinghoffer, a Jewish-American tourist, before surrendering on Oct. 9.)

In 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of making sexually inappropriate comments when she worked for him; Thomas denied Hill's allegations.

In 1996, Fox News Channel made its debut.

Ten years ago: Anna Politkovskaya, a journalist who'd chronicled Russian military abuses against civilians in Chechnya, was found shot to death in Moscow. (In 2014, a Russian court sentenced two men to life in prison and three others to terms ranging from 12 to 20 years for murdering Politkovskaya, but it remains unclear who ordered the killing.) The Bush family christened the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush, named after the 41st president, in Newport News, Virginia.

Five years ago: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to three women: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee, and Tawakkul Karman, who began pushing for change in Yemen long before the Arab Spring. The Minnesota Lynx completed a near-perfect postseason by beating the

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Atlanta Dream 73-67 to complete a three-game sweep of the WNBA championship series.

One year ago: President Barack Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders for the American air attack that killed 42 people at its hospital in Afghanistan, and said the U.S. would examine military procedures to look for better ways to prevent such incidents. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the federal government ran a budget deficit of \$435 billion in the just-completed budget year, the smallest shortfall since 2007. Tomas Lindahl of Sweden, American Paul Modrich and Turkish-American scientist Aziz Sanca won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for showing how cells repaired damaged DNA work that inspired the development of new cancer treatments.

Today's Birthdays: Retired South African Archbishop and Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu is 85. Author Thomas Keneally is 81. Comedian Joy Behar is 74. Former National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) is 73. Rock musician Kevin Godley (10cc) is 71. Actress Jill Larson is 69. Country singer Kieran Kane is 67. Singer John Mellencamp is 65. Rock musician Ricky Phillips is 65. Actress Mary Badham (Film: "To Kill a Mockingbird") is 64. Rock musician Tico Torres (Bon Jovi) is 63. Actress Christopher Norris is 61. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 61. Gospel singer Michael W. Smith is 59. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Jayne Torvill is 59. Actor Dylan Baker is 58. Recording executive and TV personality Simon Cowell is 57. Rock musician Charlie Marinkovich (Iron Butterfly) is 57. Country singer Dale Watson is 54. Pop singer Ann Curless (Expose) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Toni Braxton is 49. Rock singer-musician Thom Yorke (Radiohead) is 48. Rock musician-dancer Leeroy Thornhill is 47. Actress Nicole Ari Parker is 46. Actress Allison Munn is 42. Rock singer-musician Damian Kulash (KOO'-lahsh) is 41. Singer Taylor Hicks is 40. Actor Omar Benson Miller is 38. Neo-soul singer Nathaniel Rateliff (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 38. Actor Shawn Ashmore is 37. Actor Jake McLaughlin is 34. Electronic musician Flying Lotus (AKA Stephen Ellison) is 33. MLB player Evan Longoria is 31. Actress Holland Roden is 30. Actress Amber Stevens is 30. Actress Lulu Wilson is 11.

Thought for Today: "If a man happens to find himself, he has a mansion which he can inhabit with dignity all the days of his life." — James Michener, American author (1907-1997).