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Thursday, Oct. 20

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, muffin, fruit.
Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, sherbet.
9 am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting
1:30 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA potluck lunch
7 p.m.: FB hosts Parkston

Friday, Oct. 21

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Hamburger, French Fries, fruit, ro-maine salad.
Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, Tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.
End of First Quarter

Saturday, Oct. 22

8:00 am: ACT Testing in Groton
State Cross Country Meet in Huron
Oral Interp at NSU
Robotics at GHS Gym

Apts for Rent

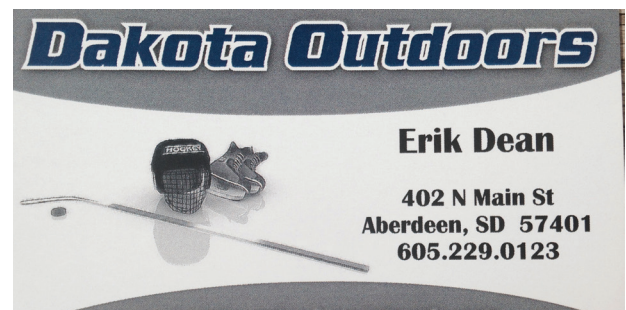
1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

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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Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

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Groton gets first place vote!

Groton has gotten one first-place vote in the latest poll released by the Associated Press. Up to this point, Winner has gotten all eight first place votes. Winner is rated first in the state and Groton Area is rated second. These are the only undefeated teams left in the Class 11B.

Groton ends its regular season on Thursday by hosting Parkston. Playoffs begin next Tuesday with Groton Area hosting the first round game.

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Winner	(7)	7-0	39	1
2. Groton Area	(1)	7-0	31	2
T3.Tri-Valley	-	4-3	16	3
T3.Sioux Valley	-	5-2	16	RV
5. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	-	4-3	13	4

Others receiving votes: Chamberlain 5.

Open House



Honoring
Kevin &
Julianne
Hanlon

Saturday
October 22nd
2-5 pm
Groton Legion

Couple Registered at Target & Lori's Pharmacy

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Groton City Oct. 17 Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2016

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center for their regular second monthly meeting with the following members present: Flihs, Opp, Blackmun, Peterson, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Members absent were: Glover and McGannon. Also present were: Finance Officer Lowary, Attorney Johnson, Justin Olson, and Kathy Sundermeier.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Flihs and seconded by Opp to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

First State Bank 7,509.81 ss & wh; Consolidated Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; SD State Treasurer 8,894.77 sales tax; April Abeln 40.21 dep & med flex; AFLAC 749.62 emp ins; Badger Meter 54.00 meter gateway; Border States 732.78 materials; Car Quest 299.64 repairs; Cole Paper 105.36 towels; Dakota States Group 291.70 sewer pipe; Dearborn National Ins 88.00 life ins; Ecolab 98.96 pest control; Full Circle Ag 186.37

herbicide; Guardian Ins 245.30 emp ins; Heartland Cons Power District 34,713.58 power; Ken's Food Fair 466.99 gas,dsl,sup; Paul Kosel 5.51 med flex; Lori's Pharmacy 32.18 float dec; Anita Lowary 176.68 meals, paper, med flex; MJs 1,391.89 gas, dsl, tire repair; RDO-John Deere Cr 104.58 blade; SD One Call 70.35 locates; SD Federal Property 1,011.75 blade, tools; SD Supplement Retirement 1,260.00 emp retire; Dan Sunne 200.00 med flex; T & R Electric 3,158.00 transformers; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield 12,548.62 health ins; Wesco 1,100.00 lights; Western Area Power Adm 25,811.11 power

A request from the Golden Living Center for a donation to the Halloween candy was denied.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou enters the meeting at this point and reported on training, small equipment grants received, duties as Brown County deputies, vehicle bids, and sale of current vehicle. He leaves the meeting after this discussion.

Lowary reported on health insurance renewal cost increases. Other options will be explored.

The 2016 swimming pool and baseball reports were reviewed.

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!

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Eide Bailey has completed the 2014-2015 Audit.

Moved by Flihs and seconded by Blackmun to authorize one to go to Safety School in Pierre on Nov 9-10. All members present voted aye.

Lowary reported on the SDML conference she attended.

At 8:03pm the Council adjourned into executive session on a motion by Peterson and seconded by Opp to discuss legal matters SDCL 1-25-2 (3). All members present voted aye. Council reconvened at 8:21pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$17.53. 13016

Groton School Oct. 11 Meeting Minutes

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING

October 11, 2016

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Fjelstad, Harder, Kjelden, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Absent: Gengerke. Others present: Supt. J. Schwan, Principals A. Schwan and B. Schwan and Business Official Weber.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to approve the agenda with three amendments under New Business Item #2 – amend \$130 request to \$135, New Business Item #4 – approve promissory note and New Business Item #5 – approve Project Skills agreement. Motion carried.

There were no potential conflicts of interest reported.

Moved by Hader, second Rix to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: District minutes from September 12 and 27, North Central Special Ed Coop School of Record agenda items and District bills. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary – 173,933.42; FIT – 19,749.31; Medicare – 6,624.24; FICA – 28,324.06; American Funds – 764.50; Washington National – 98.40; SD Retirement – 29,074.78; First National Bank HSAs – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 1,301.40; Horace Mann – 539.21; Thrivent – 226.50; AFLAC – 2,090.91; Delta Dental – 4,501.86; SD Supplemental Retirement – 851.53; Wellmark BCBS – 64,035.00; Reliastar – 570.78; Aberdeen Awards – medals, 192.40; Acme Tools – supplies, 167.57; Agency Fund – advance payments, 21,354.57; Allied Climate Professionals – boiler & ac services, 8,091.85; Band Shoppe – shoes, 39.90; C. Barse – agenda refund, 5.00; Brown County Treasurer – spraying, 123.36; Carquest – auto parts, 158.39; CHS Show Choir Festival – entry, 200.00; City of Groton – utilities, 12,766.09; Cole Papers – supplies, 1,964.39; Crawford Trucks – switch, 26.84; Dakota Supply Group – bulb, 46.97; Dependable Sanitation – services, 1,254.50; Domino's Pizza – meal, 111.84; Follett School Solutions – support credit, (238.63); G&K Services – rug service, 430.06; GCR Tires – tires, 105.70; GASD Food Service – supplies, 23.30; Groton Chiropractic – physical, 95.00; Hauff Mid-America Sports – track supplies, 291.85; Hillyard – supply credit, (2,900.18); T. Hilsendeger – soccer services, 99.00; House of Glass – repairs, 298.63; IXL Learning – site license, 2,288.00; JW Pepper – music, 248.38; James Valley Telecomm. – services, 924.95; G. Kjellsen – meal reimb, 62.10; Locke Electric – services, 2,634.24; Madison Central School – state golf expense, 48.06; Matheson – supplies, 180.37; NCS Pearson – aimsweb, 675.00; Northside Implement – bus repairs, 11,045.03; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 291.81; Olde Bank Floral-n-More – hc flowers, 129.00; Polar Electro – repairs, 227.50; QQP/Midstates – hc banner, 90.00; N. Quamme – sc choreography, 1,500.00; Ramkota Hotel – lodging, 95.99; J. Schwan – fuel reimb, 55.97; SDHSAA – penalties, 100.00; Sewer Saver – services, 202.35; Taylor Music – repairs/supplies, 222.35; Tresona Multimedia – sc music licensing, 625.00; Vermillion Music Boosters – entry, 250.00; Walmart Community – supplies, 102.05; M. Weber – meal reimb, 9.34. Total General Fund - \$399,501.79.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: A&B Business – equipment, 1,785.44; Acme Tools – jigsaw, 129.00; Agency Fund – adv

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pmts, 109,703.12; Band Shoppe – banner frame, 149.27; Engel Music - clavinova, 6,400.00; Follett School Solutions – lib books, 303.53; Hauff Mid-America – uniforms, 1,982.63; Hillyard – scrubber, 6,760.80; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – science resource, 13.75; House of Glass – handle, 30.20; MPS – chem text, 151.71; Northern State – texts, 266.82; Stan Houston Equipment – equipment, 405.50; Subscription Services of America – magazines, 313.76; Turning Technologies – exam suite, 79.00; US Games – ropes, 18.88. Total Capital Outlay - \$128,493.41.

SPECIAL ED: Net Salary – 26,308.61; FIT – 2,672.64; Medicare – 1,006.48; FICA – 4,303.52; SD Retirement – 4,452.98; Waddell & Reed – 250.00; AFLAC – 680.98; Delta Dental – 845.22; SD Supplemental Retirement – 200.00; Wellmark BCBS – 10,676.92; Reliastar – 206.61; Agency Fund – adv pmts, 265.13; Avera St. Luke's – services, 3,555.03; Walmart Community – supplies, 41.60; Patron – mileage reimb., 740.88. Total Special Ed - \$56,206.60.

ENTERPRISE: Food Service Net Salary – 5,380.30; FIT – 441.16; Medicare – 191.88; FICA – 820.54; SD Retirement – 578.84; AFLAC – 54.22; Wellmark BCBS – 1,510.00; Reliastar – 1.30; Bernard Food – food, 1,460.92; CWD – food/suppl, 3,602.84; Dean Foods – dairy product, 1,072.86; Earthgrains – bakery product, 324.60; G&K Services – linen serv, 214.74; Hobart Sales – parts, 85.43; Reinhart – food/suppl, 3,619.77; SD DOE/CANS – processed commodities, 214.20; Sysco – food/suppl, 1,879.84; US Foods – food/suppl, 3,155.42. Total Food Service - \$24,608.86.

OST Net Salary – 3,215.16 ; FIT – 153.57; Medicare – 110.56; FICA – 472.72; SD Retirement – 303.94; AFLAC – 135.98; Wellmark BCBS – 664.00; Reliastar -- .65; Agency Fund – adv pmts, 273.12; Menards – snacks, 46.84; S. Weber – reimb supplies, 117.90. Total OST - \$5,503.44.

Total Enterprise Funds – \$30,112.30.

AGENCY FUND: Total - \$151,549.86.

RECEIPTS: Local Sources, Taxes – 7,784.52; Other Local Sources – 175,116.88; County Sources – 865.54; State Sources – 5,246.96. Total Receipts - \$189,013.90.

Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members present to speak, the board proceeded with their remaining agenda items.

Weber presented the September Financial Report, Agency Accounts and Investments. Moved by Grant, second Weismantel to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Superintendent J. Schwan presented the September Transportation Report. Moved by Harder, second Kjelden to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Superintendent J. Schwan presented the September Lunch Report. Moved by Weismantel, second Fjelstad to approve as presented. Motion carried.

There were no committee reports given.

The board heard program presentations from Science teachers Travis Kurth, Jodi Sternhagen and Lance Hawkins and from English/Language Arts and Reading teachers Sara Honerman, Diane Kurtz and Mary Johnson.

Superintendent J. Schwan presented internal control reports on OST and credit cards.

There were no board committee reports given.

The following topics were discussed in administrative reports: Elementary Remodel Project Update, 2017-18 School Calendar, MS/HS Project Update, School Law Seminar, 1st grade class size issues, Marching Band Festival, Science Curriculum Training, picture day, Student Health Fair, Student Council Regional Meeting, student clubs meeting during lunch, MS/HS teachers hosting NSU sophomore students and potential Build America Bond refinance of capital outlay certificates.

Superintendent J. Schwan discussed health insurance issues as a result of the Associated School Boards Protective Trust meeting on October 3rd. The ASBSD presentation required that health pool membership be assessed fees to erase the current 12.5 million health pool fund deficit, of which Groton Area School District's liability portion is \$307,000. This fee would need to be paid as a lump sum by August 1, 2017 or as installments over four years beginning October 1, 2017, with a 1.5% annual interest assessment. The school must let ASBSD know which payback option they are selecting by January 2017. No action was taken.

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Moved by Harder, second Kjelden to approve request from School District Attorney, Rodney Freeman, for contribution of \$135 toward his attendance at the national Education Law Association 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Groton United Methodist Church requested use of shower facilities and school bus transportation to and from Aberdeen during their youth gathering on November 13-15. Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to grant request with mileage assessment for bus use, and the stipulation that the shower facility be cleaned afterwards. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to authorize a short-term loan of \$80,000 from the General Fund to the Special Education Fund. The interest thereon shall be at the rate of 0% per annum on the unpaid balance. The entire principal amount shall be fully and immediately repayable upon receipt of sufficient revenues to satisfy the same but not later than January 1, 2017.

Moved by Rix, second Fjelstad to approve cooperative agreement with South Dakota Department of Human Services and Division of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (Project Skills). Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Kjelden to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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Open meetings panel finds violation

The Groton City Council violated a state law that requires local governments to vote before going into executive session, the Open Meetings Commission decided last Friday in Aberdeen.

The infraction was during a June 20 Groton city meeting.

Groton resident Betty Breck filed the complaint. Breck said the council disregarded state law when it went into closed session without voting.

The city's attorney admitted to the commission that the council failed to vote to go into executive session, but said it was an oversight made in the spur of the moment.

Pumpkin Fest Thank You

What a great day we had at Groton's First Pumpkin Fest!! We can't thank our volunteers enough for all your help!! We received so much support and donations from local businesses, groups and individuals!! What a great community we live in!! A big THANK YOU to everyone for helping to make Groton's First Pumpkin Fest a huge success!! Stay tuned for details for Groton's Second Pumpkin Fest in 2017!! We look forward to making next year's event bigger and better!!

The 4 Pumpkineers- April Abeln, Peggy Locke, Dave McGannon & Topper Tastad

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Today in Weather History

October 20, 1936: Heavy snow across the region brought snowfall totals upwards of 5 inches in Newcastle and Sundance with 5.5 inches reported in Dupree and 10 inches in Faith. Aberdeen saw 2 inches, while Mobridge had three inches from this event.

1770 - An exceedingly great storm struck eastern New England causing extensive coastal damage from Massachusetts to Maine, and the highest tide in 47 years. (David Ludlum)

1956: While not a record, Esperanza Base in Antarctic warmed to 57.2 degrees on this date. The all-time warmest day at this base occurred on March 24, 2015, when the temperature reached 63.5 degrees. As of now, the 63.5 degrees has not been verified to be the warmest temperature recorded on the continent of Antarctica.

1983 - Remnants of Pacific Hurricane Tico caused extensive flooding in central and south central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City set daily rainfall records with 1.45 inch on the 19th, and 6.28 inches on the 20th. (17th-21st) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cold arctic air invaded the Upper Midwest, and squalls in the Lake Superior snowbelt produced heavy snow in eastern Ashland County and northern Iron County of Wisconsin. Totals ranged up to 18 inches at Mellen. In the western U.S., the record high of 69 degrees at Seattle WA was their twenty-fifth of the year, their highest number of record highs for any given year. Bakersfield CA reported a record 146 days in a row with daily highs 80 degrees or above. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued in the western U.S. In California, afternoon highs of 96 degrees at Redding and Red Bluff were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Forty-nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the south central and southeastern U.S. Lows of 32 degrees at Lake Charles LA and 42 degrees at Lakeland FL were records for October, and Little Rock AR reported their earliest freeze of record. Snow blanketed the higher elevations of Georgia and the Carolinas. Melbourne FL dipped to 47 degrees shortly before midnight to surpass the record low established that morning. Showers and thunderstorms brought heavy rain to parts of the northeastern U.S. Autumn leaves on the ground clogged drains and ditches causing flooding. Up to 4.10 inches of rain soaked southern Vermont in three days. Flood waters washed 600 feet of railroad track, resulting in a train derailment. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

2004: Typhoon Tokage blasting across Japan triggers flash floods that wash away entire hillsides, killing 55 people and leaving at least 24 people missing.

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday at 7 p.m.








Football

Groton Area hosts Parkston

gdilive.com

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 53 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 60 °F



Cooler Today, but Warmer Weather Ahead

High Temperatures through Sunday:
warmest across central South Dakota



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 10/20/2016 4 AM Central

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 10/20/2016 at 4:10AM

Cool temperatures in the 50s today should rebound to above normal for Friday through Sunday. Dry weather should remain, as an area of high pressure aloft persists across the Northern Plains tonight through the upcoming weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 48.2 F at 6:14 PM

Low Outside Temp: 32.7 F at 11:57 PM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 11:10 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 87° in 1947

Record Low: 12° in 1930

Average High: 56°F

Average Low: 31°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.43

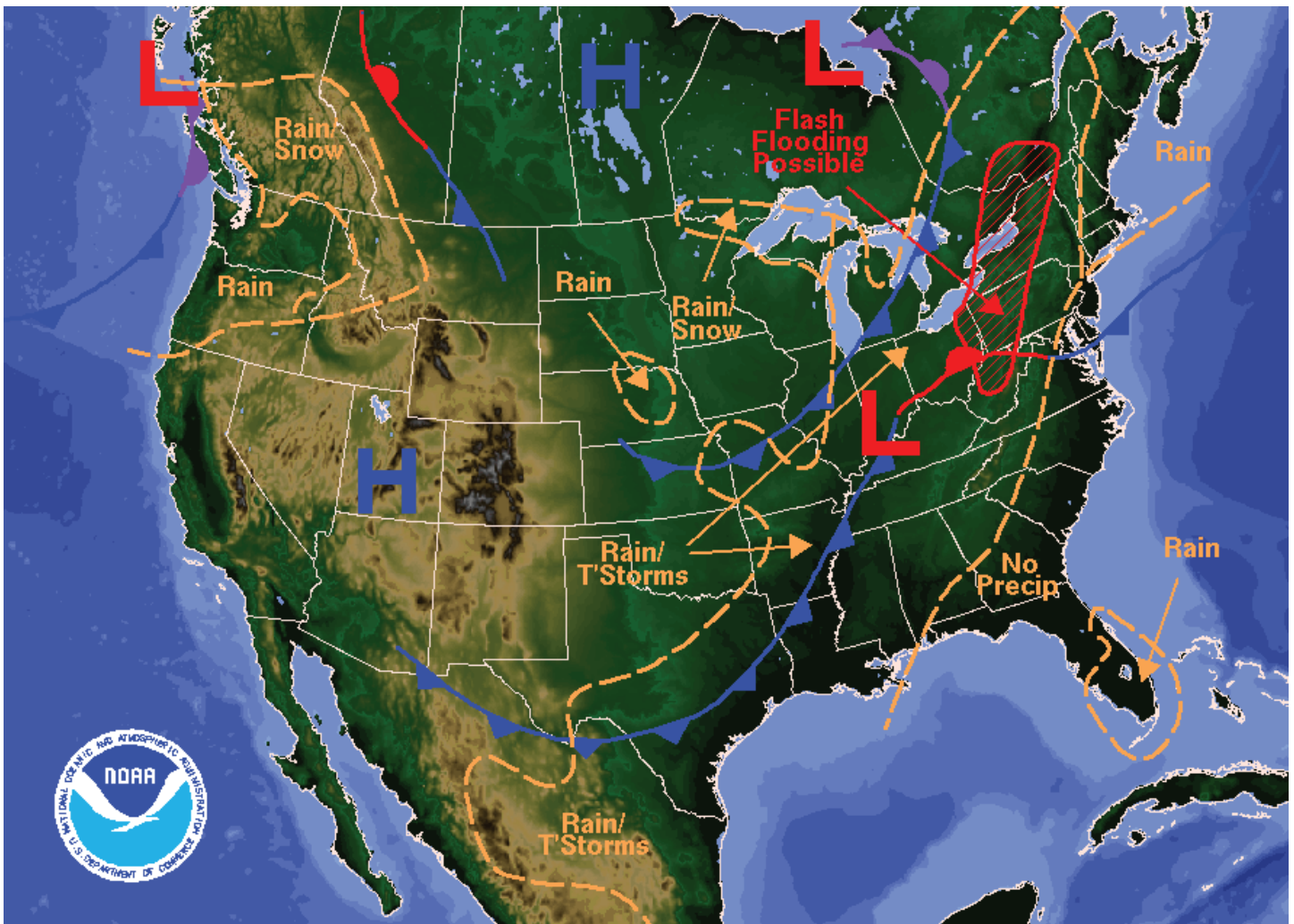
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.63

Average Precip to date: 19.91

Precip Year to Date: 13.83

Sunset Tonight: 6:38 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:58 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Oct 20, 2016, issued 4:44 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE GREATEST OFFERING

It was the final night of the annual missionary conference. Many missionaries from many nations had gathered to tell of the work of God all around the world. Hearts were deeply touched and many lives were changed.

The pastor concluded the final service with an offering that was to be shared among the speakers. The plates were filled with money and checks. But in one plate was a note that simply read, "Myself." Underneath the word "Myself" was the name and phone number of the person who signed it.

The next day the pastor called the young man who signed it and asked, "What do you mean, James?" "I'm giving myself to become a missionary," he said. And then he added, "I'm willing to go anywhere and do anything at any cost to serve the Lord."

James made an important gift to God: his body. Unfortunately, many Christians believe that God is only concerned about our souls. Not so! We need to realize that our bodies belong to God just as much as our souls. When we give Him our souls He expects our bodies as well.

The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is the only instrument through which the Holy Spirit works. So, Paul says, "Take your body and think of all that it does each day - the skills, tasks and the abilities - and offer it to God; and when you do, follow Him wherever He leads You."

Prayer: May we realize, Father, that You expect us to give our bodies to You just as Your only Son did. May we not limit what You can do because we fail to surrender. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

golden
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Another dead farm animal found in south central North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The number of farm animals killed or injured in south central North Dakota's Sioux County continues to mount.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association says a horse was found shot and mutilated on Wednesday. It was in the same pasture where two cows were shot and injured earlier this week, and where five other animals were killed and 30 others went missing in recent weeks.

The incidents are near the site where people have gathered to protest the Dakota Access oil pipeline, but Stockmen's Chief Brand Inspector Stan Misek (MEE'-sehk) says there is no evidence that there is any connection.

The rancher group is offering a reward of up to \$14,000 for information that helps crack the cases.

Officials work to slow the spread of invasive species

By Mark Watson, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The Belle Fourche Reservoir dodged a major environmental bullet in September when a barge that was to be used to dredge parts of the reservoir was discovered to be covered with zebra mussels.

That barge was inspected and sent for sanitation before it entered the water.

Zebra mussels are on the state's least wanted list of aquatic invasive species as they can harm aquatic ecosystems and wreak havoc on pipes connected to the watershed.

Layer upon layer of mussels can line and clog pipes. That could be irrigation pipes, the plumbing of a dam, or a boat motor, clogging the cooling system and overheating the motor, said Mike Smith, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

As for damaging the ecosystem, Smith said each adult mussel can filter about a liter of water every day, siphoning out plankton and algae from the water.

"Plankton is the basis of the aquatic food web," Smith said. "Pretty much everything starts with plankton."

Small baitfish feed upon the plankton. They in turn are fed upon by larger game fish. And with mussel densities of a couple hundred thousand per square meter, the amount of water filtered can be staggering, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2en9piw>) reported.

Worst case scenario, he said, without plankton feeding the ecosystem, the fishery could die out.

"It's always tough to pinpoint one exact cause in the collapse of a fishery, but it can definitely have that effect," he said.

The increase of the mussels in the state has been rapid. They were first discovered in the Great Lakes in the 1980s and have spread across the country.

"We had our first evidence of a zebra mussel in South Dakota in 2014 in the form of a single mussel at Lewis and Clark State Park. The following year, we noticed we had quite a few more mussels," Smith said.

"This year we had a confirmed zebra mussel presence in McCook Lake in Union County, and the population at Lewis and Clark has expanded exponentially," he continued.

In 2015, about 30 percent of the boats in the Lewis and Clark Reservoir marina had mussels on them. This year, mussels are on 85 percent of the boats, most with dozens or even hundreds of mussels on them.

"It is rapidly, rapidly expanding its population even beyond what we expected this year," Smith said of the zebra mussel population.

Once the mussels and their cousins, the quagga mussel, are established in a body of water, little can be done to get rid of them.

"They reproduce so quickly, even more so than Asian carp," Smith said. "Each female zebra mussel can release a million eggs per spawn, and they also spawn multiple times per year."

Spawning times range pretty much any time the water is above 50 degrees and below 90 degrees,

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Smith said.

And even though there is a very high mortality rate, up to 95 percent of eggs, around 50,000 would remain.

Smith said that a chemical has been developed to kill zebra and quagga mussels in open bodies of water. However, to treat a lake the size similar to the Lewis and Clark Reservoir, chemical costs would range between \$20 billion and \$40 billion.

To put that in context, the state of South Dakota's budget for 2016 was \$4.8 billion.

"There is nothing we can do that is cost effective to take these out," Smith said.

Asian carp also on least wanted list

Asian carp consists of four species, the silver and bighead carp are in South Dakota. Each female can produce more than 300,000 eggs per spawn, and they spawn multiple times each year, according to the GF&P.

They are currently in all major tributaries of the Missouri River in the state.

"They rapidly reproduce and can pretty much get into pretty much any amount of water," Smith said.

"The juvenile get into really shallow areas, and that is where they stay until they mature into bigger-sized fish. They can grow really quickly, too. After that first year of growth, they are too big for our predator fish."

Although the fish carry the name carp, they are not a bottom feeder.

"They actually eat plankton, which is what our juvenile game fish and forage fish eat," Smith said. "When you have these big population growth, they can really consume a lot of plankton. There is very little food left over for those other species."

Like the mussels, once the carp are established, there is little that can be done to stop the spread.

Smith said there are reports of Asian carp being in South Dakota dating back to the early 1990s and possibly as far back as the late 80s.

"We really didn't see this huge expansion until 2010," he said. "That coincided with a couple years of really high runoff. That's one of the keys for them to have a really successful spawn; a high spring runoff. A lot of water will come down and flood areas and make backwater areas, which is perfect habitat for juveniles to live."

In 2012, the state restricted fishermen from gathering minnows from most of the counties in Eastern South Dakota. That is because the Asian carp minnows look very similar to gizzard shad, a common bait-fish. Transporting live carp to other bodies of water could lead to the expansion of the prolific fish.

Currently, the spread of Asian carp has stopped. Both silver and bighead carp can be found in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, the James River, the Vermillion River, below the spillway, and the Big Sioux River downstream of Falls Park in Sioux Falls. On the James River, they made their way all the way to North Dakota, Smith said.

Smith said the GF&P is not trying to stop the invasive species, since that is cost prohibitive. Rather, the department is trying to slow the spread. By following the regulations, you can help do this.

It is against the law to dump minnows into water. They should be placed into a fish grinder or thrown in the trash at the end of the day.

Boat plugs must be removed when not on the water.

"So many of these species are transported in water, and you don't even know that they are in there. They are microscopic," Smith said. "Just following the regulations is going to go a very long ways in slowing the spread."

"We operate under the old adage 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,'" Smith said. "If we spend the money and educate people up front on what these things are, how they spread, and how we can stop or slow the spread across the state, that is where our money is best spent."

He said more invasive species are on the horizon. The snakehead fish is moving in from the south and the New Zealand mud snail, which affects trout streams, is "knocking on the door from the West."

Colleagues who were exposed to toxins develop disorders

By Dana Ferguson, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The pamphlet wouldn't answer Becky Sivertson's questions.

"The central nervous system consists of the brain, spinal cord, and the optic nerves. Surrounding and protecting the nerve fibers (or axons) of the central nervous system is a fatty tissue called myelin."

Sitting on a papered exam table, Sivertson fought back tears.

When myelin or the nerve fiber is destroyed or damaged, the ability of the nerves to conduct electrical impulses to and from the brain is disrupted, and this produces the various symptoms of multiple sclerosis, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2dES82M>) reported.

She asked the doctor to repeat the diagnosis: multiple sclerosis.

MS symptoms can include reduced or abnormal sensations, weakness, vision changes, clumsiness, sudden loss of bladder control, and so on. Symptoms might appear in any combination and be mild or severe.

The phone call Sivertson made in the parking lot mirrored a conversation she had six months earlier.

In September 2007, Melinda Bender broke the news to Sivertson that she had been diagnosed with MS.

Now, in March 2008, the best friends were repeating the same stunned exchange with roles reversed.

"We caught something in that building," Sivertson said.

That building is Southeastern Behavioral Health's 5th Street Connection at 100 W. 5th St. in downtown Sioux Falls.

Sivertson and Bender worked at the mental health clinic in the mid-1990s, a decade before an ambitious redevelopment project would transform the area by extending Phillips Avenue north to Falls Park.

Soon after Sivertson's call, Bender heard from another former colleague, Dr. Stacey Herbster. She also had been diagnosed with MS.

They learned Dorothy Darveaux was struggling with thyroid issues, fatigue, and eye problems. Her former officemate Theresa Aasen had developed similar symptoms.

The women tracked down more former co-workers and learned about another MS case and two others with fibromyalgia. Ellie Anderson had Hashimoto's disease, a condition in which the immune system attacks the thyroid. Karen Anderson was diagnosed with sarcoidosis and Jill Baldwin had a child born with reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, which causes pain and inflammation.

After sketching out their office, they concluded 10 of the 14 people who worked there two decades ago had since developed auto-immune disorders or had children with inflammatory diseases.

Could it be coincidence? Desperate to understand, the group set out in search of information to explain their connection.

The therapists, psychiatrists, and case managers at 5th Street Connection then had a front row seat to one of the biggest pollution cleanups in the city's history.

The clinic sat next to a salvage yard with a long history of industrial use. Today the property is part of Falls Park, but it used to be mostly wetlands. Seney Island was a picnic spot for residents in the late 1800s. As the city's industry grew, the marshy area around the island was filled in with waste to make the land available for development.

A coal gasification plant used the site as a landfill before selling the property to the Milwaukee Railroad Company in the early 1900s. After the railroad went bankrupt, the property was sold to Pitts, Inc., which turned it into an auto salvage yard.

As debris and scrap metal piled up, the city of Sioux Falls began eyeing the property in the early 1990s as part of a vision to connect downtown with the city's namesake park. The Phillips to the Falls project would change the city, but first officials would have to address more than a century's worth of pollution.

The ground was soaked with lead, arsenic, mercury and a long list of heavy metals and petrochemicals linked to a wide range of health problems with exposure.

The cocktail of toxins can have dangerous health effects, according to assessments from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's registry of toxic substances. The substances included carcinogens and toxins linked to problems with nervous systems, immune systems and reproductive systems.

Sivertson and her coworkers used to joke during smoke breaks, "What do you think we're catching out

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here?"

The link between multiple sclerosis and the list of contaminants found in the salvage yard soil is tenuous. Early research has found correlations between lead exposure and MS, but it's not a definitive link, according to Frederick Miller, chief of the Environmental Autoimmunity Group at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The lack of conclusive evidence doesn't rule out the association, though.

"The bottom line is that more research is needed to address this," Miller said.

Buried deep in the ground, the toxins generally pose little risk, but dangerous exposure can occur when contaminated soil is disturbed without taking steps to prevent dust or debris from becoming airborne.

In 1993, the city, state and a private contractor began drilling bore holes, testing soil and water and removing contaminated material to keep it from getting into the river. All records and accounts suggest workers followed protocols for preventing the spread of contaminants, carefully managed soil and tarping it before taking it to a landfill.

"Based on available information from this project, which was undertaken over 10 years ago, people working in offices in this area would not have been exposed to airborne contaminants from the project," assistant city attorney Diane Best said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it hasn't heard any reports of illnesses springing up as a result of the project and didn't believe people in the area were exposed to any contaminants.

And in any remediation project it's unlikely that the excavation project could have generated enough contaminated vapor exposure to drift offsite to the building without contractors knowing, said James Harless, vice president of environmental services at Michigan-based engineering consultation group SME.

"If there were, the contractors and workers would have been dropping like flies," he said.

Sivertson, Bender and Darveaux compiled stacks of public documents related to the pollution cleanup but never found a smoking gun.

Worthington attorney James Malter worked with the women for months, trying to flesh out the theory that might connect the coworkers' conditions with the contamination.

Their best hypothesis: at some point before the official cleanup began, the city or state dug up untested ground and unknowingly sent contaminated soil airborne.

"If the wind blew through the door, we were hit," Darveaux said.

The problem: there is no evidence to build a case against the city or another party. Any dirt that was hauled away untested has long disappeared into a landfill.

"The evidence was taken away a long time ago," Malter said.

The attorney said extensive studies would need to be done on the soil that was hauled away and conclusive proof that the exposure led to the diseases would need to be proved before he could make the case.

"Sometimes the legal system isn't the best way to resolve problems," he said. "It would be like suing a dead man or a pauper, you can't succeed."

Maybe some Erin Brockovich character could figure it out, but Malter said he couldn't find a way to connect the dots.

He broke the news to Sivertson, Bender, Darveaux and the others this summer after reaching a dead end in his research.

Clusters of MS or the other autoimmune diseases aren't unprecedented, but relatively little is known about how common they are or why they occur.

At this point the National MS Society has tracked some clusters of diagnoses but doesn't have a process of verifying that they all stemmed from a root cause. Researchers know that latitude and family history can contribute to the likelihood of developing the disease, but few other details have emerged.

Nicholas LaRocca, vice president of health care delivery and policy research for the National MS Society, said the group is working to track cases of MS across the country through a registry to better see where clusters have developed. He said mapping those trends could help guide discussions about what factors incite the disease.

"There are clusters out there. Investigating them is the challenge," he said

LaRocca said the society has lobbied Congress for financial help in creating the registry but hasn't had

success so far. A similar registry for ALS was approved in 2008.

For now, the society is unable to provide many answers for groups that suspect clusters, LaRocca said. And with the registry set to become available in 2017, he's had to say call back in a few months.

"Unfortunately that's the answer at this point," LaRocca said.

The women are left praying on miracles and the compassion of others to help them. Bender and Sivertson are trying to raise money for stem cell treatments. Bender, 50, is already in a motorized scooter. Her doctor recently told her she's not responding to the highest dosages of her medication and, barring a scientific breakthrough, she'll likely decline in health.

"They've basically given me a living death sentence," Bender said. "I just want answers."

Dr. Jerome Freeman, Sivertson's neurologist, said there are multiple inciting factors for MS and until science advances, there's no way to know for sure what caused any specific case.

"All patients would like to have an absolute answer, first in terms of what their diagnosis is and then in terms of cause," Freeman said, "but frequently in medicine, those answers don't exist."

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

6-year-old with inoperable tumor donates tabs for children

By Kaija Swisher, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — He's collected so many aluminum can pull tabs he could literally bury himself in a kiddie pool full of them — and that's just what Grayson Chapeau, 6, of Spearfish, did when he recently collected 160 pounds, exceeding his goal to collect 150 pounds. The amount that he and his dad, Jeremiah, delivered to the Upper Minneapolis Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis this week, though, was nearly triple that original goal: More than 420 pounds were collected for their most recent donation.

"It is awesome," Jeremiah said.

Grayson, diagnosed in 2014 with an inoperable, cancerous brain tumor called astrocytoma, underwent intense treatment including radiation and chemotherapy and is currently taking an experimental targeting drug, which he takes daily, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2drlsIN>) reported. Jeremiah said that Grayson is continuing to do very well, and when the family must travel to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis for checkups, Grayson delivers aluminum can pull tabs to the nearby Upper Minneapolis Ronald McDonald House.

These aluminum can pull tabs raise funds for the nonprofit, which provides a nearby "home-away-from-home" at little or no cost for families with a hospitalized child. The vision of the Ronald McDonald House is to "create a world where children have access to quality health care and their families are able to better comfort and support them while actively participating in their care."

Jeremiah said that Grayson will keep collecting and delivering the tabs during the periodic trips to Minneapolis, and the family encouraged everyone to get involved. There are collection containers at Spearfish Regional Hospital, Spearfish McDonald's Spearfish Hospital, Spearfish McDonald, Spearfish Eye Care, All About Potential Chiropractic, Spearfish Middle School — the Chapeaus even had a "trunkful" of tabs delivered to their house.

"Everybody's kind of spreading the word, so it's kind of been a community effort," Jeremiah said. "It's been very cool."

People can find updates and more information at the "Prayers for Grayson Chapeau" Facebook page, which describes Grayson as "an incredible superhero during this 21 month journey . He has endured all appointments, treatments and medication with an attitude of joy. He has taught us how to be brave, courageous and how to be joyful in all circumstances. He is our real-life Superhero!"

And the family acknowledged their gratitude to friends, family, and everyone who has supported Grayson and their family during the journey.

"We just want to say thanks to the community," Jeremiah said. "We live in an awesome community, and we appreciate all the support that we've gotten. . It means a lot to us."

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

A school shooting inspires more security in South Dakota

By Megan Raposa, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One year after a Harrisburg High School student put a bullet in the arm of his principal, staff training, safety drills and equipment upgrades have made metro area schools more secure.

The non-fatal school shooting on Sept. 30, 2015, didn't cause knee-jerk security changes, but nearly every school in the area has seen safety upgrades in the last year, the Argus Leader (<http://argusnews.com/2eINp6G>) reported.

"It's rare that a school reacts to an event anymore," Sioux Falls Superintendent Brian Maher said. "More than anything else, (Harrisburg) reminded us that this can happen here."

Protecting students from violence and gunfire has been on schools' radars since the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, but the Harrisburg shooting brought those concerns home.

West Central, Brandon Valley, Tri-Valley and Harrisburg have all added surveillance cameras to their school buildings. Dell Rapids and Brandon Valley upgraded security on their main school entrances.

Sioux Falls schools hired additional personnel to monitor students on the playground before school starts in the morning, and Brandon Valley added another school resource officer.

Tri-Valley also implemented panic buttons and a school sentinel program, allowing trained employees to carry firearms to protect students in the event of a school shooting or other crisis situation.

"Any drill that we've done since that time, we've all taken very seriously," said Mark Schlekeway, safety committee facilitator and assistant principal for Brandon Valley High School.

Schools have also taken time to reflect on their policies and procedures. Harrisburg administrators led multiple workshops sharing the lessons they learned in the aftermath of the shooting, in which Principal Kevin Lein was shot by a 16-year-old student, Mason Buhl, who was awaiting trial on an attempted murder charge.

"By far, we don't have all the answers ... but we did learn some things," Harrisburg Superintendent Jim Holbeck said. "And we thought they were worth sharing."

The infrastructure upgrades and lessons from Harrisburg are only part of the equation when it comes to keeping kids safe. Schools also have to create a welcoming environment, administrators said.

"We run schools, not prisons," said West Central Superintendent Jeff Danielsen. "We want the schools to be inviting to the students."

Bob Draeger, a school resource officer at Lincoln High School, views student relationships as an essential part of his job.

"It's amazing," Draeger said. "Just saying hello to a kid in the morning when they're in the school, I might be the only person to say hello to them all day long."

School resource officers help keep students safe through simply being present in the buildings, Brandon Valley Superintendent Jarod Larson said.

"We run schools, not prisons. We want the schools to be inviting to the students."

Jeff Danielsen, superintendent, West Central Schools

Larson gave the example of cars speeding on a city street. When there's a police vehicle on the side of the road, drivers are more likely to slow down solely because they see the police car.

With students, the resource officers' presence prevents the minor thefts and fights that may otherwise break out, Draeger said.

Schools are also working to make sure students who struggle with mental health or feel like they're in crisis have an outlet to help them cope, Danielsen said.

"It's the relationships with the kids that are going to matter," Schlekeway said.

When it comes to responding to a crisis, schools are more prepared now than they ever have been, Holbeck said.

That doesn't mean an incident like the Harrisburg shooting could never happen again.

"The thing that people want the most ... they want me or any other school leader to give them 100 percent guaranteed assurance nothing can happen in their school, and we can't do it," Holbeck said. "If we were to check everybody at the door ... there's no 100 percent guarantee."

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

Oglala Sioux look to boost safety after string of homicides

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Oglala Sioux officials have identified a man fatally shot during a basketball tournament on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and they're taking steps to boost safety after a string of homicides.

Tribal authorities told the Rapid City Journal that several unidentified assailants killed Vinnie Brewer Sunday afternoon in the parking lot of the SuAnn Big Crow Center Boys and Girls Club.

"This incident that happened is not just one incident," said, Oglala Sioux Tribe President, John Yellow Bird Steele. "A person really sits down, he can connect the dots. And it's several incidences of our tribal members being murdered. And it's all related to drugs."

Neither the tribe nor the FBI have released details. Police are creating an anonymous hotline for people to call with information on Brewer's killing or on other recent reservation homicides.

Brewer's death following the fatal shooting on the reservation Sept. 29 of Chunta Suta Wi Colhoff, also known as Annie Colhoff, 34.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler said in a statement Wednesday that authorities don't believe the shootings were random, "but stem from disputes law enforcement agencies are investigating." The statement did not give details about those disputes, but he said the investigation of the two shootings is a top priority for federal authorities in South Dakota.

Oglala Sioux Police Chief Mark Mesteth said it will be important to have the tribal residents' help and cooperation.

"We need our citizens to cooperate with the BIA Criminal Investigations Division and just open up and tell them what they know," Mesteth said. "And that's not happening."

Attorney General Tatewin Means believes tribe residents are not holding people accountable because they are too scared to come forward and don't fully trust the system.

Means also said anyone "convicted of manufacturing or distributing schedule 1 or schedule 2 drug offenses will be banished or excluded from the reservation."

Tribal officials have asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to send more officers to the reservation on a temporary basis, and the tribe's police department is looking to add 20 more officers. A drug task force also might be created.

"Several years ago, based off our population and our crime rate, the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) said we should have 150 to 170 police officers," Mesteth said. "We're not funded for those levels. Being the second-largest tribe in the United States, we need more officers, we need more funding."

Murder charges dropped in Minnesota missing woman case

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Authorities have dropped murder charges against a Minnesota man suspected in the disappearance of a woman who's been the subject of searches in the Dakotas.

Fifty-one-year-old Timothy James Barr, of Lakeville, was charged with second-degree murder and criminal vehicular homicide. He was accused of killing 45-year-old Michelle Lee Newell, of Vadnais Heights, who was last seen with him in late August.

Barr pleaded guilty Wednesday to fleeing police. But Ramsey County prosecutors dropped the more serious charges, saying the court lacks jurisdiction because there's no evidence the alleged crimes were committed in Minnesota.

Prosecutors allege Barr indicated to informants he argued with Newell and ran her over before disposing of her body, possibly in North or South Dakota.

Authorities say Barr remains a suspect and the charges could be refiled.

Tribe offers pipeline protesters a place to overwinter

By **JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux's tribal council has voted to make tribal land available for those protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline, though an organizer from another tribe says many of the several hundred gathered will remain on federal land without a permit.

The council voted 8-5 Tuesday to use the reservation land — which is about two miles south of the large Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, camp on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property — so permanent structures can be built to protect protesters from North Dakota's notoriously brutal winter weather.

"The cold is coming and the snow is coming," tribal chairman Dave Archambault II said Wednesday. "It makes sense to be proactive and not reactive."

But the offer is too late, said Cody Hall, a protest organizer who is part of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe in South Dakota.

"Some people might move but I don't think the majority of them will," Hall said of the camp's population, which averages 500 to 700 people, though it sometimes swells to well over a thousand at times. "The (Standing Rock) tribe sat on its heels too long and people started losing faith."

Archambault countered that it took time to identify an appropriate spot for a new encampment on the 2.3 million-acre reservation that straddles North Dakota and South Dakota.

The camp, which is the overflow from smaller private and permitted protest sites nearby, began growing in August and at one point was called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century. All were there to protest Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion pipeline, which tribal officials believe threatens sacred sites and the Missouri River, which is a source of water for millions.

Protesters do not have a federal permit to be on the corps' land, but the federal agency had said it wouldn't evict them due to free speech reasons. Authorities have criticized that decision, saying the site has been a launching point for protests at construction sites in the area; about 140 people who have been charged in recent weeks with interfering with such work.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said he supports moving the camp to the reservation because the protesters are currently trespassing on federal land.

"It is a good move and gesture ... by the council to make that decision to try to get those individuals back onto tribal land," he said.

In preparation for the winter, protesters have stockpiled mountains of firewood, winterized wall tents and set up traditional teepees and wigwams, Hall said, adding that his tribe will bear the costs of maintaining portable toilets, something the Standing Rock tribe has done in the past.

Corps spokeswoman Eileen Williamson said the agency supports the Standing Rock Sioux's decision to make tribal land available.

"We have been in communication with the chairman and he has expressed his concern for life, health and safety," she said. "If people chose not to move, they are there at their own risk."

Researchers: Limits on drilling not enough to protect bird

By **MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Oil and gas development in the Western U.S. could continue to cause sage grouse numbers to decline despite limits on drilling meant to protect the struggling bird species, according to scientists.

Researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado State University reached the conclusion after examining the effects of drilling on greater sage grouse over a 25-year period ending in 2008.

They found that populations of the chicken-sized bird dropped 14 percent annually in areas with at least 10 oil or gas wells per square mile.

Federal land management rules recently crafted to protect grouse across their 11-state range would

allow that many wells or more in areas crucial to the birds' long-term survival.

Populations were stable when no wells were present, the researchers concluded in their findings published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*.

Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance industry group said the researchers ignored changes to federal and state land use policies meant to concentrate drilling in some areas and avoid impacting the most sensitive sage grouse habitat.

Study co-author Cameron Aldridge said more concentrated drilling may reduce impacts. But that doesn't mean it won't affect grouse. He said more power lines, pipelines, vehicles, noise and other human activity are associated with multiple oil or gas wells than there would be with a single well.

"It's not a well or well pad that causes a decline. It's all of the associated activity that contributes collectively," said Aldridge, an associate professor at Colorado State University's Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department sage grouse coordinator Tom Christiansen said limited energy development is expected in the grouse's core habitat for the foreseeable future.

The U.S. Interior Department last year declined to put sage grouse on the list of endangered and threatened species despite a long-term decline blamed on oil and gas development, grazing, wildfires, residential development and disease.

The agency cited in part the limits on drilling targeted at preserving the bird's breeding grounds in areas of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and other states. Under those rules, companies can construct one well pad per square mile, with each pad containing multiple wells.

Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said in an emailed statement that the agency was reviewing the new study.

Land management plans adopted by the agency last year include population monitoring efforts that would trigger additional conservation measures should grouse numbers or habitat quality decline, she said.

Associated Press writer Mead Gruver contributed to this story.

Actress pleads not guilty in North Dakota pipeline protest

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Actress Shailene Woodley has pleaded not guilty in a North Dakota court to criminal trespass and riot charges after her arrest in a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline.

Court records show the "Divergent" star entered her pleas on Tuesday through her attorney Alexander Reichert.

Woodley and 26 other activists were arrested Oct. 10. She livestreamed her protest on Facebook.

The Standing Rock Sioux want construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline halted, saying it could taint the water supply and encroach on tribal burial sites. Protests supporting the tribe have been going on for months.

Woodley could face 60 days in jail and \$3,000 in fines if she is convicted of criminal trespass and engaging in a riot.

2 suspects in alleged Mitchell kidnapping plead not guilty

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Two suspects in the alleged September kidnapping of a 66-year-old man in Mitchell have pleaded not guilty to kidnapping and robbery.

Police allege 28-year-old Alex Rock, 21-year-old Marco Sherman and two women kidnapped and robbed the man before leaving him in a field without any clothes on Sept. 22, after the man had driven the two women home from a bar.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2egX8xY>) that the two men entered their not guilty pleas on Tuesday. They're to stand trial in December.

One of the two women accused in the case is still being sought.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Suspect in explosives case pleads not guilty to other counts

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A man suspected of making a homemade explosive device in Pukwana has pleaded not guilty to several charges related to his eventual arrest in Mitchell.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2egTQL9>) that 42-year-old Donald Pickner entered his pleas Tuesday to charges of possession of methamphetamine, obstructing law enforcement and resisting arrest. He's to stand trial in December.

Authorities say they discovered a homemade explosive device in Pickner's Pukwana home on Sept. 7 and detonated the device two days later. Pickner was arrested in Mitchell on Sept. 26 following a foot chase and a scuffle with officers.

No charges have been filed in connection with the alleged explosive device.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Cottonwood Fire now estimated to have burned 65 square miles

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A prairie fire in western South Dakota that destroyed buildings and killed live-stock is now estimated to have scorched 65 square miles.

The Rapid City Journal reports that officials used GPS mapping to make the estimate, which is up substantially from an earlier figure of 48 square miles.

The Cottonwood Fire began Sunday afternoon east of Rapid City, in the Wall and Cottonwood areas. It scorched private land and part of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. About 300 firefighters from 10 western counties fought the blaze at its peak.

Authorities say the fire was human-caused, but they're still investigating how it started.

The blaze destroyed numerous rural buildings, though no homes. It also killed 137 farm animals and injured even more. There were no reports of people being injured.

Iraqi special forces join Mosul offensive against IS

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

BARTELLA, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi special forces charged into the Mosul battle Thursday with a pre-dawn advance on a nearby town held by the Islamic State group, a key part of a multi-pronged assault on eastern approaches to the besieged city.

The addition of the elite troops, also known as counterterrorism forces, marked a significant intensification of the fight for Iraq's second-largest city. As they advanced, attack helicopters fired on the militants and heavy gunfire echoed across the plains.

IS militants unleashed nine suicide car and truck bombs against the advancing troops, eight of which were destroyed before reaching their targets, while the ninth struck an armored Humvee, Lt. Col Muntadhar al-Shimmari told The Associated Press.

He did not give a casualty figure, but another officer said five soldiers were wounded. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information.

The special forces entered the town of Bartella, a traditionally Christian village that fell to IS in 2014, around midday. The fighting thus far has been concentrated in a cluster of towns and villages outside Mosul that are mostly uninhabited and littered with roadside bombs planted by the militants, which has slowed the Iraqi advance.

The special forces are expected to lead the way into Mosul, where they will face fierce resistance in an urban landscape where IS militants are preparing for a climactic battle. The offensive is the largest operation launched by Iraqi forces since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, and is expected to take weeks, if not months.

The Kurdish forces known as peshmerga, who are also taking part in the offensive, announced a "large-scale operation" to the north and northeast of Mosul on Thursday.

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"The operation will be in three fronts," the peshmerga said in a statement, and follows recent gains by the Kurds to the east of Mosul and Iraqi security forces to the south.

Peshmerga forces stationed on mountains northeast of Mosul descended from their positions and charged toward the front line.

They used bulldozers and other heavy equipment to fill trenches and moved armored vehicles into the breach after about an hour of mortar and gunfire at IS positions below in the village of Barima.

Military operations also appeared to be underway in the town of Bashiqa, northeast of Mosul. Thick smoke could be seen billowing from the town early Thursday. A day earlier, Bashiqa was pounded by airstrikes and mortar fire from peshmerga positions high above.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, speaking by video link to diplomats meeting in Paris, said the Mosul offensive was moving "more quickly than we thought."

He also vowed to protect civilians fleeing the fighting and said the government "will not allow any violations of human rights." He said most residents of the region have welcomed the advancing forces.

The Islamic State group captured Mosul and the surrounding area during a lightning advance across northern Iraq in 2014, and IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the formation of a self-styled caliphate from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque. Mosul is the largest city controlled by the extremists and their last major urban bastion in Iraq.

Amer al-Jabbar, a 30-year-old soldier with the Iraqi special forces, said he was happy to be taking part in the assault on Bartella and hoped to avenge two brothers killed while fighting for the security forces.

"I had one brother who became a martyr in 2007 and another who became a martyr in 2014," he said. "I want to avenge them and I'm ready to die."

Iraq's U.S.-trained special forces are seen as far more capable than the mainstream security forces that crumbled as IS advanced in 2014. The special forces, including the vaunted "Golden Division," have played a central role in liberating several cities and towns over the past year, including Ramadi and Fallujah, in the western Anbar province.

More than 25,000 forces, including the Iraqi army, the peshmerga, Sunni tribal fighters and Shiite militias are taking part in the Mosul offensive, which began Monday after months of preparation. They will be advancing on the city from several directions.

The special forces advanced in some 150 Humvees decked with Iraqi flags and Shiite religious banners. Ali Saad, a 26-year-old soldier, said the Kurdish forces had asked them to take down the religious banners, but they refused.

"They asked if we were militias. We said we're not militias, we are Iraqi forces, and these are our beliefs," he said.

Mosul is a Sunni majority town, and many fear the involvement of the Shiite militias in the operation could stoke sectarian tensions. The Shiite militias have said they will not enter the city itself, but will focus on retaking the town of Tel Afar to the west, which had a Shiite majority before it was captured by IS.

The U.S. military is carrying out airstrikes and artillery shelling in support of the operation. More than 100 U.S. forces are embedded with the Iraqis, and hundreds more are playing a supporting role in staging bases.

Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, the top commander of U.S. land forces in Iraq, said Wednesday that U.S. Army Apache attack helicopters are striking IS targets in support of the operation. The deployment of U.S. attack helicopter crews brings added risk for American troops.

Associated Press writers Joseph Krauss in Baghdad, Adam Schreck in Irbil and Balint Szlanko on Nawaran mountain contributed to this report.

Cubs homer twice in 10-2 win over Dodgers; tie NLCS 2-2

By BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After striking out in his first two at-bats, Anthony Rizzo needed something to bust his slump. He found it in teammate Matt Szczur's bat.

Using the borrowed lumber, Rizzo homered and ended a postseason skid with three RBIs. The rest of the Chicago Cubs' hitters broke out equally as big in routing the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-2 on Wednesday to even the NL Championship Series at 2-all.

"I know Szczur's bat has a lot of hits in it," Rizzo said. "I've done it a few times this year, just switching up the bat, switching up the mindset."

Addison Russell's two-run homer highlighted a four-run fourth that stopped Chicago's 21-inning scoreless streak and ensured the NLCS will return to Wrigley Field for Game 6 on Saturday.

"It's definitely a sigh of relief to have a big night," Russell said.

Kenta Maeda is set to pitch for the Dodgers in Game 5 on Thursday against Jon Lester. Manager Dave Roberts said he will not start Clayton Kershaw on short rest after the Los Angeles ace threw a bullpen session Wednesday.

"It's not an elimination game," Roberts said.

Following consecutive shutout losses, the Cubs rapped out 13 hits on an 80-degree night with the warm Santa Ana winds fluttering the flags in center field.

Rizzo used Szczur's bat on Tuesday night and got a broken-bat single. Szczur, left off the NLCS roster, didn't mind. He wrapped another one for Game 4, figuring Rizzo might want to use the bat that is the same weight and size but a different model than his.

"I just saw him walking up with my bat, and I started laughing," Szczur said. "And then he hits a homer with it."

Rizzo and Russell had three hits each. Chicago's 3-4-5 hitters — a combined 2 for 32 in the first three games — busted out. Every Cubs starter got at least one hit except Kris Bryant, who walked twice and was hit by a pitch.

"It's contagious, just like the lack of it is contagious," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "When you start hitting, it's contagious, defense, this whole game really follows itself."

Los Angeles was limited to six hits and made four errors in a game that dragged on for 3 hours, 58 minutes.

"It happens, but we haven't had a game like that in a long time," Roberts said. "You've got to brush off and get ready for tomorrow."

Mike Montgomery won in relief of John Lackey, removed after consecutive walks opening the fifth. Four days shy of his 38th birthday, Lackey allowed two runs, three hits and three walks.

"I thought we put ourselves in a position to get to Lackey, but he escaped," Roberts said.

At 20 years, 68 days the youngest postseason starting pitcher in major league history, loser Julio Urias gave up four runs and four hits in 3 2/3 innings. He was the third consecutive left-hander to start for Los Angeles.

"I wish I had taken advantage of this outing," he said through a translator.

Chicago rattled off three straight hits to open the fourth, sparked by Ben Zobrist's leadoff bunt single to third.

"With the way that our bats were swinging it at the beginning of the game, we just had to do anything we could. That was my thought process," Zobrist said. "I felt like if he threw a strike, I could get one down in a good spot and was able to do it."

He took second on Javier Baez's single to left, and Willson Contreras followed with a single to nearly the same spot in shallow left, scoring Zobrist.

Baez moved to third and Contreras took second on left fielder Andrew Toles' errant throw to the plate that skidded all the way to the backstop.

Jason Heyward hit a run-scoring groundout, and Russell followed with his first extra-base hit since

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Sept. 30 and his first homer since Sept. 19. He jubilantly pumped an arm as he rounded the bases on his two-run drive, which put the Cubs ahead 4-0.

Rizzo homered off Pedro Baez leading off the fifth, snapping his 0-for-11 skid in the series. Rizzo had entered 2 for 26 in the postseason.

Los Angeles closed to 5-2 in the fifth. With the bases loaded and one out, Justin Turner's likely double-play grounder caromed off Montgomery's glove and Russell, who scrambled on all fours at shortstop as the ball went into left-center field for a two-run single.

"If he just gets his glove out of the way, he gets out of the inning," Maddon said.

Chicago tacked on five runs in the sixth off relievers Ross Stripling and Luis Avilan. Dexter Fowler singled in the first run, Rizzo added two more on a bases-loaded single and Javier Baez hit a sacrifice fly, with a second run scoring on an error by center fielder Joc Pederson.

By then, attention started turning to Thursday.

"It's about confidence," Maddon said, "and I want to believe they're going to show up tomorrow with a lot more confidence than they showed up with today."

YOU'RE OUT ON REPLAY

Dodgers 1B Adrian Gonzalez was tagged out at home to end the second. A sliding Gonzalez stretched his left hand toward the tip of the plate as catcher Contreras applied the tag with his left hand near Gonzalez's upper left arm.

"We've got plenty of still frames that prove I was safe," Gonzalez said. "Usually they say the play stands, but they said there wasn't enough evidence, which means they know I was safe."

The Dodgers challenged Angel Hernandez's decision, and the video review let the call stand. That drew online scorn from Washington star Bryce Harper.

"He was safe! Replay system still broke..Same thing all year long! (hashtag)DontMessItUp," Harper tweeted.

SCULLY RETURNS

Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully will attend Thursday's game, his first time back at Dodger Stadium since calling his last home game on Sept. 25. The 88-year-old ended his 67-year career this month with the regular-season finale at San Francisco.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Ashton Kutcher and wife Mila Kunis announced the Dodgers' starting lineup. Also on hand were Rob Lowe, Charlie Sheen, George Lopez, Larry King and Mary Hart.

UP NEXT

Lester allowed one run in six innings of Game 1 in the series, getting a no-decision in Chicago's 8-4 victory. ... Maeda has a 9.00 ERA in two postseason appearances. He allowed three runs and four hits in four innings of the NLCS opener and didn't factor in the decision.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP LANDS JAW DROPPER DURING DEBATE

By refusing to say he would accept the results of the election, he rattles the foundation of American democracy and flirts with the notion of a contested transition of power.

2. DAY AFTER DEBATE, TRUMP, CLINTON SQUARE OFF AGAIN AT ROAST

The nominees will be together at an annual gala in New York that every four years becomes a showcase for presidential politics and humor.

3. TURKISH JETS STRIKE SYRIAN KURDISH MILITIA TARGETS

Turkey's state-run news agency says between 160 and 200 militia fighters are killed in the raid, while the Syria Kurdish forces leader estimates the death toll at no more than 10.

4. IRAQI SPECIAL FORCES JOIN MOSUL OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

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Iraq's prime minister says the battle to oust Islamic State extremists from the besieged city is going "more quickly than we thought."

5. SEEING OPTIONS SHRINKING, WHITE MEN IN THE U.S. ASK WHY

Discontented with economic prospects and cultural shifts, they are central to Trump's campaign.

6. WHERE FAMILY TRIES TO STAY SAFE DURING DRUG WAR

A desperate mother fears her husband would end up like more than 1,500 drug suspects killed by police since Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte took office.

7. MOST U.S. SYRIAN ARRIVALS ARE KIDS

U.S. State Department says nearly 80 percent of the more than 11,000 Syrian refugees who have arrived in the country over the past year are children.

8. WHICH COMPANY IS EQUIPPING CARS TO DRIVE ON THEIR OWN

Tesla Motors is starting to build all its electric vehicles with all the gear needed to navigate the roads without the help of a human.

9. WHO ROCKS THE CMT ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

Country singers Shania Twain, Carrie Underwood and Kelsea Ballerini celebrate their shared successes at the show.

10. CELEBRITIES AMONG THOSE LONG-SUFFERING CUBS FANS

Actor Joe Mantegna, "Parks and Recreation" star Nick Offerman and Stephen Colbert will be cheering for the team to win a World Series.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump, Clinton and their debate claims

By CHRISTOPGER S. RUGABER and JOSH BOAK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump painted an inaccurately dark portrait of manufacturing in America while Hillary Clinton stretched credulity in boasting that her spending plans won't add to the country's debt. As well, both struggled in the presidential final debate to explain comments from their past.

A look at some of the claims in the debate and how they compare with the facts:

TRUMP: "We're not making things anymore, relatively speaking."

THE FACTS: Despite his "relatively speaking" hedge, the assertion is wrong. U.S. factory production has more than doubled since 1979, when manufacturing employment was at its peak.

The problem is that it takes fewer people to produce more. The United States has lost more than 7 million factory jobs, a drop of nearly 40 percent, since the 1979 manufacturing employment peak.

Factory production, minus the cost of raw materials and certain other expenses, reached \$1.91 trillion last year, according to the Commerce Department, which uses 2009 dollars to adjust for inflation. That's a notch below the record set on the eve of the Great Recession in 2007. Factories have used robotics and computers to increase output even with fewer workers. The U.S. still produces plenty of autos, planes, steel and other metals, and large industrial machinery.

CLINTON: "I don't add a penny to the national debt."

THE FACTS: Not true, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. It estimates her increased spending in areas such as infrastructure, more financial aid for college and early childhood education, would increase the national debt by \$200 billion over 10 years. That is far less than their estimate for Trump, who they predict would add \$5.3 trillion over 10 years. But it's plenty more than a penny.

TRUMP, referring to a 2010 U.S.-Russia treaty limiting both countries to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads: "They create warheads. We can't."

THE FACTS: Incorrect. The New START treaty, which Trump called "Start Up," does not prevent either the U.S. or Russia from building nuclear warheads. It restricts each country to a total of 1,550 warheads deployed on bombers, submarines and in underground silos and requires that this limit be reached by February 2018.

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CLINTON, on whether she called for open borders in a 2013 speech to a Brazilian bank: "I was talking about energy."

THE FACTS: She was actually talking about more than energy, but apparently less than an open border that immigrants can spill across at will, according to the partial transcript released by WikiLeaks.

Clinton said in the speech that "my dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, sometime in the future with energy that is as green as sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere." The remarks suggest a broad interest in open trade but were not necessarily evidence that she would support the unfettered movement of people, as Trump suggested.

CLINTON: "He held a number of big rallies where he said that he could not possibly have done those things to those women because they were not attractive enough."

TRUMP: "I did not say that. I did not say that."

THE FACTS: He did say that. At an Oct. 13 rally, Trump criticized the physical attractiveness of People magazine reporter Natasha Stoyneff, who has said Trump forced himself on her at Mar-a-Lago while she was interviewing him for a story. Trump said: "Take a look. You take a look. Look at her, look at her words, you tell me what you think. I don't think so."

CLINTON: "I want to make college debt free."

THE FACTS: Clinton might aspire to that lofty goal, but she has only proposed making college tuition free for in-state students who go to a public college or university. Even with expanded grant aid, room and board can lead students to borrow.

Clinton would have the government pay for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities for students from families earning less than \$125,000 a year. Students would still need to foot the bill for housing and food, which makes up more than half of the average \$18,943 sticker price at a four-year public university, according to the College Board.

But Trump is correct that government would shoulder higher costs with Clinton's plan.

Her plan would cost the federal government an estimated \$500 billion over 10 years, with additional costs possibly for state governments.

TRUMP: "Her plan is going to raise taxes and even double your taxes."

THE FACTS: Clinton's plan wouldn't raise taxes at all for 95 percent of Americans, according to the non-partisan Tax Policy Center. The very wealthiest would take the greatest hit, though a doubling is highly questionable.

Two-thirds of her proposed increases would hit the top 0.1 percent of richest Americans, the center estimates. The main components of her tax plan: a minimum 30 percent tax on those earning at least \$1 million a year, and a 4 percent tax surcharge for those earning more than \$5 million a year. She would also cap the value of tax deductions and exclusions for wealthier taxpayers.

CLINTON on her opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal: "It didn't meet my test."

THE FACTS: It met her test when she was secretary of state and she promoted it worldwide.

Hacked emails from Clinton's campaign, released Wednesday by WikiLeaks, showed that Jake Sullivan, her top foreign policy adviser, called her a "big champion" of the deal and worried about how to handle the issue in the face of Sen. Bernie Sanders' opposition. She later flip-flopped into opposition during the Democratic primaries against Sanders.

Clinton says she no longer backs the proposed trade deal as written because it does not provide enough protections for U.S. workers on wages, jobs and the country's national security. Yet the final deal also includes some of the strongest labor protections of any U.S. trade agreement.

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TRUMP: "Hillary Clinton wanted the (border) wall. Hillary Clinton fought for the wall in 2006 or thereabouts. Now, she never gets anything done, so naturally it wasn't built."

THE FACTS: He's partly right. As a senator from New York, Clinton did support the 2006 Secure Fence Act, which authorized the construction of hundreds of miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

But it was built, contrary to Trump's assertion. Nearly 700 miles of fencing was put in place during President George W. Bush's second term and the beginning of President Barack Obama's first term.

The fencing is placed largely in urban areas along the nearly 2,000-mile frontier. It is not the type of solid wall that Trump has pledged to construct at Mexico's expense. The fence has miles-long gaps and gates built in to allow landowners access to their property on the south side of the fencing. Immigrants have been known to go over and around the fence.

TRUMP: "So I just left some high representatives of India. They're growing at 8 percent. China is growing at 7 percent. And that for them is a catastrophically low number. We are growing, our last report came out and it's right around the 1 percent level and I think it's going down."

THE FACTS: China and India are growing faster in large part because they're playing catch-up to the United States, the world's largest economy. Those two Asian countries are starting from a much lower baseline with a much larger population than the United States, meaning that by definition they should be growing faster. Economists would warn of a dangerous bubble if the United States grew that quickly and financial markets would fear a devastating recession to follow.

But China and India aren't any better off than the U.S., said former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in an analysis released Wednesday. On a per-capita basis, China has just 10 percent of the United States' income. India has about 6 percent.

Factoring in life expectancy, inequality and leisure, Bernanke notes that the United States comes off even better.

TRUMP: "Last week, as you know, the end of last week, they came out with an anemic jobs report. A terrible jobs report."

THE FACTS: The September jobs report that Trump calls "terrible" is actually viewed by most economists as encouraging. Employers added 156,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate ticked up to 5 percent because more Americans felt confident enough to start looking for jobs, a positive sign.

TRUMP: Under Hillary Clinton, "\$6 billion went missing" at the State Department.

THE FACTS: Not exactly. That figure is a distortion about a legitimate record-keeping concern. In 2014, the State Department's inspector general released an alert warning that the documentation for \$6 billion in State Department contracts was incomplete. But there's no reason to think that all occurred under Clinton. The inspector general, Steve Linnick, specifically disavowed the conclusion that the money went missing.

TRUMP: "President Obama has moved millions of people out ... millions of people have been moved out of this country."

THE FACTS: That's true. Obama has overseen the deportation of more than 2.5 million immigrants since taking office in January 2009.

During Obama's first term hundreds of thousands of immigrants were deported annually, following a trend of increasing deportations started under President George W. Bush. The administration set a record in 2014 when more than 409,000 people were sent home. During his second term, deportations have steadily declined as he has opted to focus immigration enforcement on deporting serious criminals and those who pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Trump also claims that "nobody knows about it, nobody talks about it" and that's not so. Obama has been dubbed "the deporter in chief" by immigration advocates and opponents of his immigration enforcement policies.

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TRUMP: Clinton "has no idea whether it's Russia, China or anybody else" behind recent hacks of Democratic organizations and individuals. "Our country has no idea."

THE FACTS: Trump's refusal to point the finger at Moscow is at odds with the prevailing position of the U.S. intelligence community. "We believe, based on the scope and sensitivity of these efforts, that only Russia's senior-most officials could have authorized these activities," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said recently in a joint statement with the Department of Homeland Security.

Russia has denied accusations that it was behind the effort.

TRUMP: Insurance premiums under the Obama health care law next year "are going to go up over 100 percent."

THE FACTS: Premiums are going up, and by double digits in many states, but to say it's over 100 percent is hyperbole.

The full impact of next year's premium increases is going to take time to sort out, and will vary across the country. Full information will be available Nov. 1 when the HealthCare.gov market goes live.

A study this summer by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation looked at 14 metro areas with complete information and found premiums were rising in 12 of them. The average increase for a popular option called the "lowest-cost silver plan" was 11 percent.

Since then, some states have reported higher numbers. California's marketplace projected an average increase of 13.2 percent. The three insurers in Tennessee's market got increases of 44 percent, 46 percent, and 62 percent on average. In Minnesota customers will see increases ranging from 50 percent to 67 percent.

Many consumers receive subsidies that will offset the rising premiums, but an estimated 9 million people buy individual policies outside the health law's markets and pay full freight. Many will be shocked when they get their renewal notices.

CLINTON: The Obama health care law "extended the solvency of the Medicare trust fund." If Trump repeals the law, "our Medicare problem gets worse."

THE FACTS: Clinton is basically on target, but Medicare's funding problems are more complicated than she implies.

The 2010 health care law was partly financed with cuts in future payments to hospitals, insurers and other Medicare service providers. According to projections at the time, that extended the solvency of the Medicare trust fund to 2029. (Otherwise Medicare would have been unable to fully pay its bills in 2017.)

Republican budgets since then have kept Obama's Medicare cuts.

But the health care law did not solve Medicare's financial problems. The trust fund is currently projected to be exhausted in 2028. The program's trustees have repeatedly warned Congress and the president that action is needed to sustain Medicare over the long haul.

TRUMP: "If you look at your voter rolls you will see millions of people that are registered to vote, millions — this isn't coming from me, this is coming from Pew report and other places — millions of people that are registered to vote that shouldn't be registered to vote."

THE FACTS: Trump correctly cited the Pew report, although the finding does not prove his point that the presidential election is "rigged."

A 2012 report from the Pew Charitable Trusts found that 24 million voter registrations on the books were either no longer valid or inaccurate in some way. Some were failures to remove names of people who had died or moved, blamed on "antiquated" state registration systems. But the report didn't find or even discuss any evidence of voting fraud.

Associated Press writers Cal Woodward, Mary Clare Jalonick, Robert Burns, Deb Riechmann, Chad Day, Stephen Braun, Christopher S. Rugaber, Jeff Horwitz, Alicia A. Caldwell and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar con-

tributed to this report.

Analysis: Trump needed debate reset, instead riles GOP

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump needed a game changer. Instead, he landed a jaw dropper.

When the Republican nominee for president refused to say he would accept the results of the election, he rattled American democracy and openly flirted with the notion of a contested transition of power. He overshadowed an otherwise improved debate performance. And, with an almost-flip, five-word sentence, he created a headache for every Republican running for re-election who will be asked again and again to either defend or reject their nominee.

"I'll keep you in suspense," Trump said, when asked at Wednesday night's third and final debate if he would vow to accept the results.

It was a moment that could have been expected but was stunning nonetheless. Trump has been railing for weeks about a "rigged" system tilted to favor Democrat Hillary Clinton. As he slips further behind Clinton in the polls, Trump has alternately blamed, with no evidence, a corrupt media, fraud at the polls and government officials trying to protect his rival.

The rhetoric has vexed a GOP already riven by his candidacy and fretting about its future. Before the debate, Trump's vice presidential running mate, his campaign manager and his daughter all had said he would accept the election results. His effort to stir doubts about the outcome drew condemnation from President Barack Obama, who called it "unprecedented."

But under the bright lights of prime time, Trump showed he will not be clipped by criticism or convention from any corner. As he has throughout the campaign, Trump chose to channel the sort of loose talk and frustration of disaffected Americans, consequences aside.

"She shouldn't be allowed to run. It's crooked — she's guilty of a very, very serious crime. She should not be allowed to run," Trump said, of his rival, pointing to no crime.

Clinton called Trump's response "horrifying."

"That is not the way our democracy works. We've been around for 240 years," she said. "We've had free and fair elections. We've accepted the outcomes when we may not have liked them. And that is what must be expected of anyone standing on a debate stage during a general election."

Trump's campaign and allies quickly tried to cast his comments as no different than Vice President Al Gore waiting to concede his defeat in the 2000 election until December, after a Supreme Court decision and the recount in Florida. But Trump made no exception for such extraordinary circumstances.

Other Republicans quickly bemoaned the comment: "He should have said he would accept the results of the election. There is no other option unless we're in a recount again," tweeted conservative commentator Laura Ingraham.

Barring an unexpected implosion, Clinton walked into the debate on track to win 270 electoral votes — and then some. Trump arrived needing a performance that would stabilize his campaign — if not for his own prospects, but for the good of his party.

In recent weeks, Senate races in Nevada, Florida, New Hampshire and Missouri appear to have tightened. Republican incumbents in Pennsylvania and North Carolina are fighting for their political lives in states where Clinton appears to be pulling ahead.

Republicans hoped he would prove he was serious about trying to win as many votes as possible in the most important places — and not, as some of his rhetoric about the "rigged" election indicates, merely trying to spin his impending loss.

For roughly an hour, Trump showed he was serious. He and Clinton conducted largely substantive and focused policy debate on issues that have received short shrift in previous face offs, including abortion, gun control and immigration.

The Republican businessman effectively branded Clinton with 30 years of "bad experience" and raised, for the first time in a debate, the hacked emails that have illustrated a gap between her private and public

positions, particularly on Wall Street banks and trade.

But Clinton's preparation and skill at the podium also showed through. She effectively managed to dodge a question about her support for free trade, instead drawing Trump into sharp exchange over Russia's role in the hack and alleged meddling in the election.

When moderator Chris Wallace asked the candidates about allegations of sexual harassment and assault — in Clinton's case, allegations against her husband — Clinton used the moment to stand up for women, voters Trump has struggled to win, while ignoring the question of Bill Clinton's infidelities.

"Donald thinks belittling women makes him bigger. He goes after their dignity, their self-worth, and I don't think there is a woman anywhere who doesn't know what that feels like," she said.

The reemergence of sexual assault and misconduct allegations proved to be turning point in the night. Trump continued to issue flat, broad denials, but from that moment on became increasingly agitated as the conversation moved on to issues like Social Security.

"Such a nasty woman," he blurted, in a remark that on any other night may have stood out for its caustic tone.

But on Wednesday it was only the second most memorable comment of the night.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathleen Hennessey covers politics and the White House for the Associated Press.

Trump refuses to say if he'll accept election results

By **JULIE PACE** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Threatening to upend a fundamental pillar of American democracy, Donald Trump refused to say in debate that he will accept the results of next month's election if he loses to Hillary Clinton. The Democratic nominee declared Trump's resistance "horrifying."

Trump had spent the days leading up to the third and final presidential debate warning voters that the election would be "rigged." Asked Wednesday evening whether he would accept the outcome if Clinton emerges victorious, he said: "I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense."

Some Republicans recoiled at Trump's startling statement. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said his party's nominee was doing the country a "great disservice" by suggesting the election is rigged and Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake called Trump's comments "beyond the pale."

Trump's assertions raise the prospect that millions of his supporters may not accept the results on Nov. 8 if he loses, thrusting the nation into uncharted territory. Free and fair elections, with the vanquished peacefully stepping aside for the victor, have been the underpinning of America's democratic tradition since the country's founding 240 years ago.

There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, and election officials across the country have denied and denounced Trump's charges.

The Republican's stunning comments overshadowed the rest of the 90-minute debate, a contest that began calm and policy-focused, but devolved into a bitter and deeply personal confrontation, hewing to the pattern of the previous two face-offs. Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman," while the Democrat panned him as "unfit" to be commander in chief.

Clinton, who began the debate with a lead in nearly all battleground states, forcefully accused Trump of favoring Russia's leader over American military and intelligence experts after the Republican nominee pointedly refused to accept the U.S. government's assertion that Moscow has sought to meddle in the U.S. election.

She charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was backing Trump because "he'd rather have a puppet as president of the United States."

Trump denied any relationship with Putin and said he would condemn any foreign interference in the election. But he notably declined to back the intelligence community's assessment that Russia was involved in the hacking of Democratic organizations. The Clinton campaign has said the FBI also is investigating Russia's involvement in the hacking of a top adviser's emails.

The debate came just under three weeks before Election Day and with early voting underway in more

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than 30 states. Trump has struggled to expand his support beyond his most loyal backers and must reshape the race in its closing days if he hopes to defeat Clinton, who holds a lead in nearly all battleground states.

The candidates clashed repeatedly over their drastically different visions for the nation's future. Trump backed Supreme Court justices who would overturn the landmark Roe vs. Wade ruling, while Clinton vowed to appoint justices who would uphold the decision legalizing abortion, saying, "We have come too far to have that turned back now."

The businessman entered the final debate facing a string of sexual assault accusations from women who came forward after he denied in the previous contest that he had kissed or groped women without their consent. That Trump denial followed the release of a video of in which he was heard bragging about exactly that.

Trump denied the accusations anew Wednesday night, saying the women coming forward "either want fame or her campaign did it." He falsely said the women's allegations had been debunked.

Clinton said Trump "thinks belittling women makes him bigger. He goes after their dignity, their self-worth." She avoided answering a question about her husband's infidelities.

Trump pressed Clinton on immigration, accusing her of wanting an "open borders" policy, a characterization she vigorously disputes. The Republican, who has called for building a wall the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, blamed some "bad hombres here" for drug epidemics around the country, and promised "we're going to get 'em out."

Both were asked if they would consider tax increases or benefit cuts to support Social Security and Medicare programs. Trump said he would cut taxes and repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, but he did not detail any plans for Social Security or other entitlement programs. Clinton said she would put more money in the Social Security trust fund through increasing taxes on the wealthy and other methods and promised not to cut benefits. She also argued that the Affordable Care Act has extended the solvency of Medicare and said she would work to bring costs down.

Despite Clinton's favorable electoral map, she has struggled throughout the campaign to overcome persistent questions about her honesty and trustworthiness. In the election's closing weeks, she's begun appealing to Americans to overcome the deep divisions that have been exacerbated by the heated campaign, saying onstage Wednesday that she intended to be a president for those who vote for her and those who do not.

AP writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Catherine Lucey at http://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

Syria Kurdish commander says Turkey pounding his forces

By SARAH EL DEEB and SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkish jets have struck the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia north of the embattled city of Aleppo, claiming to have killed as many as 200 militia members, Turkey's state-run news agency reported Thursday.

A senior commander of the main Syria Kurdish militia, which has been supported by the United States, confirmed Turkish jets and artillery were still attacking his forces north of Aleppo, but disputed the casualty count saying no more than 10 of his fighters were killed so far.

Commander Mahmoud Barkhadan of the People's Protection Units told The Associated Press that Turkish tanks have been shelling the Kurdish-led forces in the area since early Wednesday. He said jets joined overnight and continue to pound his forces in the area. He said more than 30 aerial attacks had taken place so far and that early reports suggest no more than 10 fighters were killed and 20 were wounded. There was no word on civilian casualties yet.

The bombardment was a major escalation by Turkey just as the offensive to recapture the city of Mosul

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from Islamic State militants in Iraq was intensifying. Iraqi Kurdish forces have carried the brunt of the fighting so far in the Mosul offensive.

Kurdish forces in Syria have also carried out most of the fighting against IS and made significant territorial gains, including advances in the last few days against IS militants in Aleppo province, much to Turkey's fury in recent months. Turkey, which is dealing with a homegrown Kurdish insurgency, has been trying to prevent an expansion of Kurdish influence in Syria.

"We will not back down," Barkhadan said in a telephone interview from the area. He accused Turkey of aiding IS militants by diverting the fight into a Turkish-Kurdish one. "We are fighting Daesh, why are they striking at us?" he asked, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

The Anadolu Agency, quoting military officials, said the raids were carried out late Wednesday night, attacking 18 targets in the Maarraat Umm Hawsh region in northern Syria. Between 160 and 200 militia fighters were killed in the raid. The targets hit were in areas that the Syrian forces recently took over as they pressed ahead with their campaign to drive Islamic State militants from areas north of Aleppo.

The Syrian Kurdish force has been an ongoing source of tension between NATO allies Turkey and the United States.

The U.S. considers the militia group, known as the People's Protection Units or YPG, to be the most effective force in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. Turkey says the group is an extension of its own outlawed Kurdish militants who have carried out a series of deadly attacks in Turkey over the past year and considers it to be a terrorist organization.

Ankara has grown increasingly wary as the YPG succeeded in securing large portions of territory along the Syrian-Turkish border. In August, Turkey sent troops and tanks into northern Syria to help Syrian opposition forces drive the Islamic State group away from an area bordering Turkey, and to curb the Syrian Kurdish forces' territorial expansion.

The Turkish attack came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country would not "wait for terrorists to come and attack" but would go after them before they have the chance to strike.

Anadolu said the 18 Syrian Kurdish targets hit included nine buildings used as headquarters, meetings points, shelters or arms depots as well as five vehicles.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

Most US Syrians arrivals are kids, now enrolling in school

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP) — Seated at his desk at a suburban San Diego middle school, 12-year-old Abdulhamid Ashehneh tries not to let his mind wander to the painful memories of his life in civil war-torn Syria.

His father disappeared suddenly four years ago and, the family believes, was killed. Months later, Abdulhamid's mother boarded a bus with her six children, the youngest 2, and fled to Jordan, the sound of bombs ringing in the distance.

"I think about my Dad a lot," Abdulhamid said recently after practicing English at Cajon Valley Middle School, which has received an influx of Syrian children. "I wish he would come back."

Abdulhamid is like many of the Syrian refugees arriving today in the U.S.: According to the U.S. State Department, nearly 80 percent of the more than 11,000 Syrian arrivals over the past year were children.

That's a larger percentage than most refugee groups, in part because Syrians tend to have larger families and many have managed to stay together despite displacement, according to resettlement agencies helping the families acclimate to the U.S.

Many of those children are enrolling in public schools around the country, including Chicago; Austin, Texas; New Haven, Connecticut; and El Cajon, which received 76 new Syrian students the first week of school.

Syrian children face many of the same challenges as other young refugees — limited English, an interrupted education — but they are somewhat distinct in the level of trauma they have experienced, school leaders and resettlement workers said.

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"The truth is, a lot of them have seen some pretty nasty stuff," said Eyal Bergman, a family and community engagement officer for the Cajon Valley Union School District. "But I also see incredible resilience."

In response to the influx, school districts are beefing up English instruction and making extra efforts to reach out to parents unfamiliar with the U.S. school system. In El Cajon, one-on-one orientations introduce families to the school's teachers and staff and show them basics like how to read the district's academic-year calendar.

Some refugee students are enrolled in "newcomer" classes where they are provided intense English instruction before being placed in mainstream classrooms. Others go directly into classes with English-fluent peers but are assigned to smaller groups for individual instruction. Teachers are trained in identifying trauma, and on-site counselors help students who need extra attention.

"I've had students tell me that maybe some of their family members passed away," said Juanita Chavez, a second-grade teacher. "But I think a lot of them just want to focus on here, on learning. A lot of them don't focus on the negative things that have happened to them."

At night, Arabic-speaking staff and teachers hold a "parent academy" where newly arrived moms and dads are given bilingual children's books in English and Arabic and guided on how to help improve literacy at home.

The rising number of Syrian refugee students comes amid a heated presidential campaign. During the second debate, Donald Trump called Hillary Clinton's plan to expand the Obama administration's refugee program and accept 65,000 Syrian refugees the "great Trojan horse of all time."

Last November, in response to the deadly Paris attack believed carried out by operatives who fought and trained in Syria, nearly 30 states vowed to deny entry to Syrian refugees.

Resettlement agencies and school staff worry inflamed rhetoric about Muslims and Syrian refugees will trickle into the classroom. A report last year by the California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations found 50 percent of Muslim students surveyed were subjected to mean comments or rumors because of their religion.

"This is a concern of ours, to be watching that they do not feel shunned or stigmatized because of their national origin," said Ellen Beattie, a senior director with the International Rescue Committee.

El Cajon, a city of roughly 104,000 people 15 miles east of San Diego, has become a melting pot of refugees from Uganda to Afghanistan. The first Middle Eastern immigrants were Chaldean Christians fleeing persecution in Iraq in the 1970s. Those earlier, now established waves of migrants are playing a role in helping settle the new arrivals from Syria.

"Most of them tell us the only reason they accepted the whole immigration process is really for their kids," said Anas Kayal, who emigrated to the U.S. from Syria in 2001 and is a physician in San Diego. "They are OK with their own lives being disrupted by the war and crisis, but they are hoping their kids can have a better life."

Watching her children learn English and adapt to U.S. schools has been redeeming for Abdulhamid's mother after two years in Jordan, where she often struggled to feed them and at one point lived in a feeble tent that would blow apart in the wind.

"We're still trying to cope with this emotionally," Amena Alshehneh, 37, said. "But it's the reality. We have to face the reality and get on our feet."

As Abdulhamid assimilates, he still pines for his homeland and the life he left behind.

He remembers the Damascus home where he wrestled and practiced reading with his father. He remembers playing soccer and hide-and-seek with his best friend, and wonders what happened to him.

He also thinks about his computer and a remote-control car — cherished toys his father gave him and that he had to abandon.

"I feel so sad I left Syria," said Abdulhamid, whose expression quickly shifts from joy to grief. "Because it's my country. My home."

Final debate brings little clarity to undecided voters

By JEFF BAENEN and SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — As a tumultuous campaign nears an end, undecided voters across the country watched the final debate of the U.S. presidential race with a mix of skepticism and rapt attention Wednesday night.

They were searching for clarity, and some found it. But others remained painfully undecided just a few weeks before the election, saying neither candidate won them over.

"I heard a lot of the same rhetoric spewed over and over again," said 41-year-old Damon Holter, who makes barbecue sauces and marinades in western Wisconsin. "I know I need to make a decision. I just don't know how to get there."

Here's what else Holter and others had to say:

'LIKE A LITTLE KID'

Watching the start of the debate at Bo's 'N Mine bar and grill in River Falls, Holter took note when Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump again did not shake hands.

"He's just like a little kid," he said when Trump began speaking.

Still, the GOP candidate did a better job than in the first two debates, taking charge while Clinton stumbled, Holter said.

"She's no longer acting presidential" when she's interrupting Trump, he said.

But when Trump talked about the U.S. border with Mexico, Holter scoffed: "The whole notion of a wall is pretty ridiculous."

Overall, he said, nothing either candidate said swayed him.

THE VERDICT: Holter remains undecided.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Chadd Bunker, 50, a union truck driver in Sparks, Nevada, who considers himself largely politically apathetic, said after the debate he's still not sure if he will end up voting, but he doesn't think he'll cast his ballot for Trump.

The longtime LA Dodgers fan kept an eye on his laptop streaming the National League championship against the Cubs while watching the debate in his living room with his wife Karen, a staunch Democrat.

"I think Hillary kicked his butt. And that's my unbiased opinion, because I don't really care," said Chadd Bunker, an avid outdoorsman and gun owner. "She may be crooked. She may have done stuff, but she seems the most logical."

Bunker cast his first presidential vote for Ronald Reagan in 1984, voted for Obama in 2008 and sat out the 2012 election. He said he is pro-abortion rights and didn't learn until Wednesday night that Trump is not.

He doesn't think his life will change much regardless of who wins. He likes Trump's experience in the business world and believes Clinton would be better at handling foreign affairs.

"Neither one of them is going to come to my house and take my guns," Chadd Bunker said.

THE VERDICT: "I don't know if I decided one way or the other. But if I did have to vote, I would probably vote for Hillary Clinton. I would not vote for Trump," Chadd Bunker said.

ROOKIE VOTER

Taylor Botwinis of Clinton Township, Michigan, is 26, but this will be the first time she casts a ballot in a presidential election.

Clinton is a no-go for the homeschooling mother of three. For Botwinis, the debate was an opportunity to hear more from Trump and decide whether to support the Republican or vote for a third-party candidate.

She filled a page with handwritten notes early in the debate but put down her pen when the discussion slid into finger-pointing over ethics, morals and fitness for office.

"The first four issues — Supreme Court, Second Amendment, abortion, immigration — I could side with Trump," she said. "Now they're nitpicking. They're just like kids."

Botwinis noted Trump didn't directly answer when asked about U.S. troops possibly going to Syria under his presidency. She liked his pledge to improve the economy, saying too many college graduates aren't

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working in their field of study.

Botwinis cringed when Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman."

"Even if he's thinking that — have a filter," she said.

THE VERDICT: Botwinis said she'll likely vote for Trump because of his "stances, not his personality."

FIRST-GENERATION AMERICAN

Hussien Kazwini, a community college student in Toledo, Ohio, says this debate was more substantive, but there were no big moments that changed the race.

"Hillary was on the defensive, but I don't think Trump made a big splash to change or damage Hillary's momentum."

Kazwini, whose parents were born in Lebanon before coming to the United States 30 years ago, will vote in his first election. He says Trump's stand on immigration and threats to deport people "isn't morally right" but he also doesn't believe there should be open borders.

Kazwini noted Trump kept his temper in check until he called Clinton a "nasty woman" near the end of the debate.

"He can't help himself," Kazwini said.

THE VERDICT: He's still undecided but leaning toward Clinton. He says Trump's comments about women and his demeanor are not huge issues. However, "I want to hold a president to higher standards."

TOO POLISHED

Matt Alsaeedi, 26, felt refreshed by Clinton's authenticity during much of the debate, saying an overall mistrust in government "hurts her as much as it helps her" as a candidate.

The Charlotte School of Law student originally from Sandy Run, South Carolina, who said he leans to the left politically, was listening for discussion of foreign policy issues.

"I liked Secretary Clinton's specificity as to what she wanted to do, her knowledge of the issues," Alsaeedi said. "I did not get that impression from Donald Trump, but then again, I expect him to delegate most of those duties anyway."

The biggest disappointment to Alsaeedi was a lack of discussion of veterans' issues.

"There's a crisis with mental health issues," he said. "There's an epidemic, and it wasn't even mentioned, and it bothers me. ... I would have expected Secretary Clinton to at least have dropped the 'V' word, and it was not."

THE VERDICT: Alsaeedi remains undecided, saying he was turned off by Clinton's polished-politician persona.

"I was on board with her until she opened the can in the conclusion," he said. "It felt like she just spewed this message. I'm undecided still out of a lack of trust in Secretary Clinton, unfortunately."

LESSER OF TWO EVILS

Alanna Conti, a 25-year-old graphic designer from rural Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania, changed her party registration from independent to Democrat so she could vote for Bernie Sanders.

After he lost the primary, she thought about casting her ballot for Libertarian Gary Johnson or Green Party candidate Jill Stein. But Conti doesn't want to throw away her vote so she's considering backing Trump or Clinton, even though "I dislike both of them very much."

Conti favors universal health care and free public college, but she's also open to middle-class tax cuts and even a corporate tax cut, if it would bring jobs back from overseas.

As she watched the debate at her home, Conti drew two columns on a pad — one labeled Clinton, the other Trump — and quietly took notes.

Afterward, Conti said Clinton won on policy, as Clinton's views on guns, college and abortion more closely align with hers.

"It's a lesser of two evils election, I think, unless you're like a staunch Hillary Clinton supporter or Trump supporter, Anyone who's in the middle is not happy at all with the choices we have," she said.

THE VERDICT: Conti says she'll probably vote for Clinton. "I still don't like her. But if she does half the things she says she wants to do, I'll be pretty happy."

DETERMINED TO VOTE

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Erin Ross, a 36-year-old certified nurse midwife, has always voted Republican. But after the debate, she's still looking for a GOP candidate.

Trump could have won her vote, "but he blew it," said Ross, who has four college and post-graduate degrees and whose top issues are immigration, health care and character.

Ross is determined to cast a presidential ballot. But she doesn't know for whom, yet, "and that is painful," she said after watching the debate at her suburban Denver home with her husband, Mike, also a Republican.

Neither Trump nor Clinton is a role model, and the country needs that in a president, Ross said.

"One person says outrageous things, is racist, sexist and full of himself, and the other engages in criminal behavior but escapes responsibility with the right connections," Ross said of Trump and Clinton, respectively.

Both talked too little about the future Wednesday night, Ross said — about health care, immigration, refugees and entitlement programs.

On the election rigging exchange — in which Trump said Clinton's running post-email scandal was criminal, and Clinton called his positions dangerous for peaceful transfers of power — Ross had to agree with both candidates.

"I want facts, not whining that it's rigged," she said of Trump. But Clinton, she said, "owes a lot of people a lot of favors."

THE VERDICT: Ross remains undecided.

RELUCTANT DEMOCRAT

Dave Hart, 39, of Phoenix, is a Democrat torn between voting for Clinton and a third-party candidate.

A software support specialist who works from home, Hart watched the debate with a friend at Chambers On First pub in downtown Phoenix.

Hart started out as a Sanders supporter and never warmed up to Clinton. It has nothing to do with her email issues, he said. It's her history as "somebody that plays the game to get what she wants rather than do what's right."

Hart has put off filling out his early ballot, which arrived last week. He saw the final debate as Clinton's last chance to sway him.

Hart has been adamantly opposed to Trump, and the debate only cemented his opinion. Hart laughed several times, especially when Trump said he would run the country the way he runs his company.

"Look how many times he's gone bankrupt or ripped off little people — little businesses," Hart said.

As Trump continued to talk over moderator Chris Wallace and Clinton, Hart joked there was one way Clinton could get his vote.

"If she just walked over right now and punched him in the face, I would go home and fill out my ballot," Hart said.

THE VERDICT: Hart is still not 100 percent behind Clinton, and did appreciate some of her comments about helping families, women and children. He wants to do more research but might half-heartedly join Team Hillary.

"Honestly, if I can't think of a reason not to vote for her, I will," Hart said.

READY TO TAKE A CHANCE

For Justin Harris, both candidates had their moments in the debate, but neither really stood out. The 43-year-old father of three said he had hoped to hear more about foreign policy and economic issues and was frustrated when the candidates instead used their time to launch personal attacks. He scoffed and laughed toward the end of the debate when Clinton and Trump were talking over one another.

"I felt like I was in 8th grade or something," said Harris, who watched the debate at Big Al's bar in suburban Richmond while the other patrons continued watching sports.

Harris, who works as a telecommunication-broadband consultant, said he didn't like how Trump interrupted the moderator, Chris Wallace. But he also said he didn't think Clinton did a good job of actually answering the questions.

THE VERDICT: Harris says that after tonight's debate, he's leaning toward Trump. He's afraid that if he votes for Clinton, she will maintain the status quo, which for him and the country isn't a good thing, he said.

"All I know is the status quo right now, I'm not happy with and I don't want my kids and my grandkids to keep doing the status quo because it ain't working. Sometimes you got to take a chance, take a gamble," he said. He added that Trump "can only do so much damage, because Congress controls everything."

Sonner reported from Sparks, Nevada. Also contributing to this report were James Anderson in Denver; Meg Kinnard in Charlotte, North Carolina; Terry Tang in Phoenix; Ed White in Clinton Township, Michigan; John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio; Michael Rubinkam in Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania; and Alanna Durkin Richer in Richmond, Virginia.

Trump on Clinton: 'Such a nasty woman'

By JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump asserted in the final presidential debate that no one respects women more than he does. Yet in its closing moments, standing onstage with the first major-party female presidential nominee in U.S. history, he called Hillary Clinton "such a nasty woman."

Political pundits of both parties expressed shock at the snipe, with many on social media and cable news identifying it as one of the Republican nominee's worst moments of the 90-minute meetup in Las Vegas.

Instantly, the Twitter hashtag "nastywoman" was born, with social media users making mostly positive comments about the Democratic nominee, and entrepreneurs began marketing T-shirts. A website riffing on it — nasty women get (expletive) done — redirects visitors to Clinton's campaign donation page.

The people running Clinton's Twitter account also made sure to highlight the disparity between Trump's statement earlier, "Nobody respects women more than me," and his "nasty woman" utterance.

Trump defenders, including conservative radio host Mark Levin, argued that both men and women can be "nasty" and that there was nothing sexist about his remark.

Just before Trump said that, Clinton seemed to get under his skin.

She'd been talking about her proposal to preserve Social Security and Medicare. Her plan, she noted, would raise taxes on the wealthy, including her and Trump. And then she added of the billionaire, who in the 1990s took nearly a \$1 billion write-off for business losses: "Assuming he can't figure out how to get out of it."

As she continued talking Trump interjected, "Such a nasty woman." He raised his right hand to point his finger and shook his head, letting his mouth drop open in apparent disgust.

Clinton let the comment roll off her and continued pressing her case. She told reporters aboard her plane after the debate, "I just didn't pay any attention to that."

Georgia executes man who killed police officer, wounded 2nd

By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — A man convicted of killing an Atlanta police officer and wounding a second officer with an AR-15 rifle was executed late Wednesday, becoming the seventh inmate put to death in Georgia this year.

Gregory Paul Lawler, 63, was pronounced dead at 11:49 p.m. at the state prison in Jackson after he was injected with the barbiturate pentobarbital. He was convicted of murder in the October 1997 slaying of Officer John Sowa and for critically wounding Officer Patricia Cocciolone.

The Georgia Supreme Court said in a statement Wednesday it had unanimously denied defense requests to halt execution plans originally set for 7 p.m. Defense attorneys later appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which also declined to stop the execution late Wednesday night.

Lawler didn't make a final statement and refused an offer of a prayer. Then he lay on the gurney with his eyes closed as the lethal drug flowed, taking several deep breaths and yawning before becoming still.

Cocciolone arrived in a wheelchair and sat in the front row of the witness area, as did Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard whose office prosecuted Lawler.

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The seven executions in Georgia this year are the most in a calendar year in the state since the death penalty was reinstated nationwide in 1976. Georgia executed five inmates last year and five in 1987.

Georgia is one of five states that have carried out executions this year for a total of 17 nationwide. Texas has executed seven inmates, while Alabama, Florida and Missouri have executed one apiece.

Sowa and Cocciolone were responding to a report of a man hitting a woman the evening of Oct. 12, 1997, and arrived at a parking lot to find Lawler trying to pull his drunken girlfriend to her feet. Lawler quickly left and went to his apartment nearby, and the officers decided to help his girlfriend get home.

When they knocked on the door, Lawler cursed, yelled and told the officers to leave. Once his girlfriend was inside, he tried to shut the door on them. Sowa put his hand up to keep the door from shutting and said they just wanted to make sure the girlfriend lived there and that she would be safe.

Lawler grabbed an AR-15 rifle and fired 15 times as the officers fled, using bullets that can penetrate body armor, prosecutors said.

When other officers responded to Cocciolone's radio distress call, they found Sowa lying near the sidewalk and Cocciolone on the ground in the front yard. Both officers' pistols were still in their holsters.

The responding officers got Lawler's girlfriend out of the apartment, and Lawler finally surrendered after a six-hour standoff.

Lawler's attorneys argued that a diagnosis last month of autism spectrum disorder helps explain why their client acted as he did in the encounter with the officers. That disorder, which wasn't diagnosed at the time, caused Lawler to misinterpret the officers' intentions and led him to believe he was in danger and needed to fight for his life, his attorneys argued.

The disorder also caused him to behave in a way that may seem inappropriate when he testified at his trial and again when he was interviewed recently by investigators for the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, his lawyers wrote in a clemency application. Because of his autism, they wrote, he "has often been mistakenly perceived as cold, callous, or remorseless."

The parole board, which is the only authority in Georgia with power to commute a death sentence, declined to grant him clemency Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Lawler had visits from one family member, a lawyer and a paralegal, a Department of Corrections spokeswoman said. She also said Lawler ate a meal he requested that included steak, baked potato with sour cream and ice cream.

Follow Kate Brumback on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/katebrumback>

Leaks put Assange at odds with Ecuador's warming up to US

By GONZALO SOLANO, Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is finding himself in open conflict with his Ecuadorean protectors as the group's latest dump targeting Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign runs afoul of the South American government's goal of warming up to Washington.

Ecuador's move to cut off his internet access at its embassy in London was a stinging rebuke from leftist President Rafael Correa, who in 2012 heralded Assange as a digital-age Robin Hood and granted him asylum over protests from the United States, the United Kingdom and Sweden, where he faces allegations of rape.

Correa's government said Tuesday that WikiLeaks' publication of a trove of damaging emails from Clinton's campaign had impacted the U.S. election in violation of Ecuador's traditional respect for other nations' sovereignty.

Analysts say Correa is unlikely to now kick Assange out into the streets of London where he faces certain arrest. But allowing him to keep leaking secrets from the embassy risks putting the small Andean nation unwittingly on Russia's side of a brewing cyber-battle with the United States, Ecuador's top trade partner, at a time of deep economic stress.

"Before, the costs for Ecuador of hosting Assange were minor," said Santiago Basabe, a political analyst at the Latin American School of Social Sciences in Quito. "But they are growing bigger now because they

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involve questions of U.S. national security, its tense relations with Russia and the presidential elections.”

The cascade of disclosures of Democratic operatives’ hacked emails, including this week’s publication of Clinton’s speeches to Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs, has been hailed by Republican candidate Donald Trump as evidence of his rival’s dishonesty. However, U.S. intelligence agents say the hack is the work of the Kremlin, although it’s not clear how the files ended up with WikiLeaks.

Regardless, Ecuador has plenty of reasons to try to curry favor with Washington.

The oil-dependent, dollarized economy is fighting a recession made worse by low crude prices, a destructive earthquake in April and a strong U.S. dollar. Adding to the uncertainty is Correa’s imminent departure from office after a decade in power that provided a sense of stability after years of coups and revolving-door presidencies.

Analysts say whoever wins February’s election — Correa’s preferred successor currently leads polls — is almost certain to turn to the International Monetary Fund for a bailout. In such a scenario the support of the Washington, the biggest shareholder in the IMF, will be key in determining how severe an austerity program is required.

“Assange has inserted Ecuador in the U.S. presidential campaign and exposed it to retaliation in case Clinton wins,” said former Foreign Minister Mauricio Gandara, adding that the publication of stolen documents is considered a crime in Ecuador.

Correa, who in 2009 closed the only U.S. military base in South America and two years later expelled the U.S. ambassador, still peppers his speeches with anti-Yankee harangues in the mold of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

But with Venezuela in economic freefall and ideological allies losing power in countries like Argentina and Brazil, Correa has quietly extended an olive branch to the Obama administration and sought to deepen commercial ties. This week he’s hosting a U.S. trade delegation.

Correa also praised Clinton in an interview last month with Moscow-based broadcaster RT.

“For the good of the United States and the world, and for my personal appreciation of her, I’d like to see Hillary win,” he said.

Tensions between Assange and his hosts have surfaced before. In 2013, Correa criticized him for shooting a video from the embassy mocking Australian politicians during a political campaign.

On Tuesday, Ecuador said WikiLeaks’ “journalistic activities” would not be affected by the “temporary restrictions” on Assange’s communications.

Assange accused Ecuador of bowing to U.S. pressure and alleged that Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the issue with Correa last month in Colombia, something both Washington and Quito deny.

It seems unlikely he will submit to the internet ban quietly. Over the weekend WikiLeaks released three lines of code it described as “pre-commitments,” labeling them “John Kerry,” “Ecuador,” and “FCO” — an apparent reference to Britain’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Pre-commitments are cryptographic functions that can be used to verify the integrity of material released subsequently.

Security experts interpreted that as a warning to the named parties that WikiLeaks has ammunition in reserve that could embarrass his hosts as well.

For most Ecuadoreans, Assange’s case seems like a Hollywood spy movie with little bearing on their daily life. But even Correa’s opponents have shown little enthusiasm for revoking the Australian’s asylum.

“We can’t just throw him out of the embassy from night to day because he could be exposed to risks,” opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Lasso said last month, even while arguing that Assange was breaking the conditions of his asylum.

AP writers Joshua Goodman in Bogota, Colombia, and Raphael Satter in Paris contributed to this report.

Syrian forces prepare corridors out of Aleppo

By PHILIP ISSA and SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hundreds of residents left a formerly rebel-controlled suburb of the Syrian capital of Damascus Wednesday, as government and Russian forces prepared to open corridors out of the contested city of Aleppo in the hopes of facilitating an exodus from its rebel-held quarters.

Aleppo's besieged eastern quarters experienced relative peace for the second consecutive day in the run-up to the hoped-for evacuation Thursday, after weeks of bombardment left the area in ruins. Russia's military has promised two corridors will be opened for militants to flee to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m, while other corridors will allow civilians to move to government-held areas.

The government's overture to rebels and civilians trapped in Aleppo's east follows a pattern of evacuations around the country that the U.N. has likened to "forced displacement." On Wednesday, some 2,000 residents of the once autonomous Moadamiyeh suburb of Damascus were carried by government buses to Idlib as part of an arrangement to restore government control after three years of siege at the hands of the military.

Hassan Ghandour, a former Moadamiyeh resident who liaised between the suburb and besieging forces, said Wednesday the evacuees included 700 gunmen. He said the government is to release all detainees from the suburb in exchange for the evacuation.

Several activists also left with the convoy. Wassim al-Ahmad told The Associated Press it would be "impossible" to live again under government authority, saying he didn't trust official promises for amnesty.

Some of those remaining in Moadamiyeh struck a defiant tone.

"I'm not going to settle anything with the government," said local resident Mahmoud, who declined to give his family name out of safety concerns. "I'm going to stay in my home."

"I've spent five years of my life besieged here. I've been through war, siege, starvation ... bombardment, and poison gas — I've survived with all this so I can stay here."

The suburb and two other areas around the capital were gassed with sarin poison in 2013, according to a U.N. investigation. A Human Rights Watch report concluded the government was the most likely culprit.

Some 28,000 people remain in Moadamiyeh, down from a pre-war population of 105,000, according to the government.

In Aleppo, government buses queued at checkpoints leading to the besieged east prepared to take evacuees to Idlib on Thursday, according to the media arm of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is fighting alongside the government in Syria.

The government's foreign ministry said soldiers were withdrawing from the designated corridors to reassure evacuees.

It is unclear how many people will take up the government's offer after weeks of siege and bombardment pulverized the east and shattered its medical network.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says more than 640 people, including 128 children, have been killed in rebel-held parts of Aleppo and the surrounding rural areas since a truce brokered by the U.S. and Russia collapsed on September 19. It said 88 people, including 14 children, were killed in retaliatory shelling on government-held Aleppo.

Bassam Heji, a member of the Nour el-Din al-Zinki rebel faction, said the Russian offer is a "trap" that only reflects its intention to "exterminate" the residents of the eastern, rebel-held Aleppo neighborhoods.

The arrangement follows a proposal by the U.N. Syria envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to allow al-Qaida-linked militants to leave Aleppo in exchange for a truce and local autonomy for the city's eastern districts. Rebels, along with many residents, rejected the offer.

Russia and Syria moved ahead unilaterally with the evacuation arrangements without making any promises for an extended cease-fire or self-administration, although Russian President Vladimir Putin has held out the hope of an indefinite halt to his country's airstrikes on Aleppo after meeting with the French and German leaders, who condemned Moscow's actions in the Syrian city.

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Russia had promised an eight-hour pause on Thursday in attacks on the city by Syrian government forces under the cover of Russian air power in order to allow suffering civilians to leave and to give rebels safe passage.

"We informed them of our intention to continue, as much as possible, considering the situation on Syrian territory, a pause in the air strikes. We are ready to do this for as long as there are no clashes with rebel formations entrenched in Aleppo," Putin said after meeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande in Berlin.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his government would work with Russia's government to evacuate the al-Qaida-linked Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as Nusra Front from the east.

Erdogan warned about the possibility of an influx of at least one million people to Turkey in the event of a population movement from Aleppo.

"We cannot pay this cost. Those who incite this must sit down with Turkey and talk," he said.

Elsewhere, a 44-truck convoy delivered food aid and health supplies to the rebel-held pocket of Douma, east of Damascus, the U.N. and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent said. The suburb and surrounding towns are besieged by pro-government forces.

Kurdish-led forces meanwhile pressed their campaign to drive Islamic State militants from areas in northern Aleppo province, expanding the front line with rival Turkish-backed opposition fighters also operating in the area, according to local rebels and activists.

The Russian military accused a U.S.-led coalition airstrike of killing six civilians in Hassajek, hours before the announcement that the village had been taken from IS.

Despite the brief lull in the fighting for Aleppo, most of the surrounding province has become Syria's hottest theater of combat, showcasing the complexity of the terrain where rival forces are vying for control.

In the area of Hassajek, three rival groups are battling IS: the Kurdish-led forces, Turkey-backed Syrian rebels and troops loyal to the government of President Bashar Assad.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Kurdish-led forces, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, gained control of Hassajek, killing at least 10 IS militants in fighting there.

One of the fighting units in SDF, the Rebel Army, said in a statement that the clashes with IS militants continued for the third straight day further to the south. It said its troops also seized weapons and ammunition from IS.

The advance by the Kurdish-led forces has widened the front line between them and rival Syrian rebels, who in recent weeks have pushed into northern Aleppo backed by Turkish tanks and aircraft, driving out the Islamic State group from villages and towns it controlled. The Turkey-backed offensive also aims to undercut Kurdish aspirations for a contiguous and independent east-to-west stretch of territory in Syria.

The Russian military's Reconciliation Center in Syria said the strike Hassajek also wounded four people and destroyed two houses.

Russian military surveillance spotted two Belgian F-16 fighter jets over the area at the time of the strike, the center said, adding that Russian and Syrian warplanes were not flying over the area. Russia's Tass news agency reported from Brussels that the Belgian defense minister denied Belgian aircraft had struck the area.

Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria contributed to this report.

Video: Dem activist bragged about disrupting Trump rallies

By JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Conservative activist James O'Keefe has released secretly recorded, selectively edited video footage that includes a Democratic activist bragging about deploying troublemakers at rallies held by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

After O'Keefe began releasing videos this week, two Democratic operatives stopped working on the

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presidential race and both the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign denounced the tactics described in the footage. Both said the activities described never took place.

O'Keefe's group, Project Veritas, promised to release additional videos ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

The central character in the recordings is Scott Foval, a Wisconsin-based liberal operative. He is portrayed in the footage as boasting about his connections to the party and the Clinton campaign, and claiming to have arranged for people, including some who are mentally ill, to incite violence at Trump rallies.

"You can message to draw them out, and draw them out to punch you," Foval is shown on a video as saying.

Foval also appears to say hired agitators should have their medical and legal bills covered. As with much of the video's content, it's impossible to say with certainty what Foval meant, because the videos are edited in a way so that it's not clear what led to the comment.

In a separate video, Foval muses to an undercover O'Keefe associate about how it would be easier to get away with voter fraud if out-of-state residents drive to the polls in the targeted states in cars rather than being bused in by an organizer. "So you can't prove that it's en masse, so it doesn't tip people off," he says.

There's no evidence presented in the video that anything Foval discusses as a theoretical has ever occurred.

Foval told The Associated Press in an email that O'Keefe's associates had set him up.

"This scheme to cast legitimate organizing activities as a sinister plot is nothing but a ruse," he said, adding, "O'Keefe's crew of impostors continued to walk down a path of deception and manipulation."

O'Keefe and Project Veritas have a long track record of targeting Democratic groups, often by hiding their identities and using hidden cameras. A previous O'Keefe sting led to the demise of ACORN, a community organizing group that O'Keefe portrayed as engaged in criminal activity via hidden camera videos.

O'Keefe was convicted in 2010 as part of a scheme to illegally make recordings at the office of then-Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Democrat.

In this case, Foval appears to have been several steps removed from the presidential race.

In July, the Democratic National Committee paid about \$26,000 to Mobilize, the consulting firm of Robert Creamer, a longtime liberal activist based in Washington and the husband of Illinois Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky. Creamer was also featured in the latest O'Keefe videos, although not saying anything that appeared to be unethical or illegal.

His DNC contract called for him to stage Democratic events outside Trump rallies, and he hired Foval as a subcontractor.

Creamer told the AP that Democrats have, in fact, sought to limit their contact with Trump supporters, requesting police barricades to avoid conflicts. Creamer voluntarily ended his DNC contract on Tuesday, saying he was doing so to avoid becoming an election-time "distraction."

Americans United for Change, a liberal group that said it had a separate contract with Foval to work on Social Security issues, said it is no longer associated with him. People For the American Way, another group that once employed Foval, said it has not worked with him in months.

Both groups said that what Foval appeared to say in the videos did not reflect their ethical standards.

DNC Chairwoman Donna Brazile accepted Creamer's decision to end his contract work and said in a statement the activities described in the videos "do not in any way comport with our long standing policies on organizing events."

She also said she does not believe anything "articulated in the video actually occurred."

Clinton campaign spokesman Zac Petkanas said the campaign supports the decision to cut ties with the operatives ensnared by O'Keefe, saying "some of the language and tactics referenced in the video are troubling even as a theory or proposal never executed."

Associated Press writer Lisa Lerer contributed to this report from Las Vegas.

Follow Julie Bykowicz on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/bykowicz>

Prosecutors launch 2nd bid for conviction in Etan Patz death

By JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Revisiting a crime that shattered a bygone era's sense of safety, prosecutors on Wednesday launched their second bid for a conviction in one of the nation's most influential missing-child cases, the 1979 disappearance of Etan Patz.

After a jury deadlock last year, suspect Pedro Hernandez is back on trial in a case that eluded investigators for decades, ratcheted up Americans' consciousness of missing children and now centers on whether a chilling confession was true.

"It's a cautionary tale, a defining moment, a loss of innocence," Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Joan Illuzzi said as opening statements began. "It is Etan who will forever symbolize the loss of that innocence."

With his father and Hernandez's wife and daughter looking on, the trial began as an echo of the haunting story that unfolded over four months last year - so haunting that eight of the prior jurors and alternates were in the audience Wednesday to watch.

Prosecutors say Hernandez, 55, hid a brutal secret for more than 30 years. His lawyers say he's mentally ill and falsely confessed to waylaying and killing 6-year-old Etan as he walked to his school bus stop on May 25, 1979.

"Pedro Hernandez is an innocent man" implicated only by his own imagination, defense lawyer Harvey Fishbein told jurors. "He's not a child killer, but he's an odd, limited and vulnerable man."

Etan's disappearance — on the first day his mother let him walk to the bus stop alone — did much to slam a door on a time when American parents felt comfortable letting children roam their neighborhoods unaccompanied.

The body of the upbeat, trusting boy was never found, but his face became one of the first missing-children's portraits that Americans saw on milk cartons. The anniversary of his disappearance became National Missing Children's Day, and his parents helped push for a law that modernized how authorities handle missing-child cases.

Hernandez, 55, of Maple Shade, New Jersey, worked at a corner store by Etan's bus stop. But Hernandez wasn't a suspect until police got a 2012 tip from his brother-in-law. He was among several relatives and acquaintances who later testified that Hernandez said years ago he'd killed a child in New York.

Hernandez then told authorities, on video, that he'd choked Etan after offering him a soda to lure him into the store's basement.

"Something just took over me," Hernandez said. "I'm being honest. I feel bad what I did."

Prosecutors suggest the motive was sexual and depict Hernandez as a cunning criminal. "You will see a man with very good memory, controlling and very aware of what he was going to say and what he wasn't going to say" when he confessed, Illuzzi told jurors Wednesday.

But the defense says the confession is fiction, imagined by a man with a history of hallucinations and an IQ in the lowest 2 percent of the population, and fueled by more than six hours of police questioning off-camera. No physical evidence or eyewitnesses connect him to Etan's disappearance.

Defense psychological experts said Hernandez had given them dreamlike accounts of the killing, at points saying as many as 15 mysterious people were on hand, some wearing hospital gowns and pearls. He wavered on whether it actually happened, the defense doctors said.

"Pedro sees, hears and believes things that are not real," Fishbein said, noting that Hernandez has been on antipsychotic medication since the early 2000s and, even in his recorded confessions to authorities, describes having seen his dead mother speak to him.

The defense also suggests the real killer may be a convicted Pennsylvania child molester who was a prime suspect for years. He has denied involvement in Etan's death.

NBA's Derrick Rose cleared in rape lawsuit, poses with jury

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBA star Derrick Rose and two friends were cleared Wednesday in a \$21.5 million lawsuit that accused them of gang raping his ex-girlfriend when she was incapacitated from drugs or alcohol. Jurors in Los Angeles federal court reached the verdict in less than four hours after concluding there was a lack of evidence to support the woman's claims and dismissing her account as unbelievable.

"It felt like she was playing us," said a juror who would only give his first name as Jared. "The second her lawyer started questioning her, she would start crying. I mean, granted, that could be realistic, but I feel I'm pretty good at reading people, and I felt as if it was false."

Jared was among several jurors who spoke to reporters outside the courthouse, none of whom gave their full names.

Rose remained stoic as the verdict was read and later thanked jurors and posed for photos with them in the lobby, draping his left arm around each one who wanted a souvenir of the Knicks point guard as one of his lawyers snapped photos on their phones.

"I am thankful that the jury understood and agreed with me," Rose said in a statement. "This experience and my sensitivity to it was deep. I am ready to put this behind me and focus on my family and career."

The case was X-rated at times with testimony from the men about poolside group sex at a mansion Rose rented in Beverly Hills in the summer of 2013 and multiple sexual encounters throughout the night and into the next morning.

The woman denied having sex at Rose's place, saying she had a few tequila shots and felt drugged before going home. Her lawyer said the defense invented the story to make it look like she had willingly had sex with the men.

The incident in question happened hours later in the early morning of Aug. 27 when she said the three men came to her Los Angeles apartment and had sex with her after she had passed out.

The issue for the jury was whether she consented to sex or was too intoxicated to do so. The men all said it was clear she was willing when she stopped the three outside her bedroom door and said, "One at a time."

Defense lawyers tarred her as a gold-digging liar who tried to sway jurors through emotions to get a piece of Rose's fortune. They claimed she was angry he had dumped her, so she set him up and brought the lawsuit in hopes of a big payoff.

"All three men were innocent from Day 1," Rose's attorney, Mark Baute, said after the verdict. "We're very happy that the system worked."

The woman's lawyer called the men "sexual deviants" who conspired to gang rape her after she was drunk and incapable of consenting to sex.

Attorney Waukeen McCoy said he will explore appeal options.

"It's a shame for women, for this country, that a celebrity can come into court and slut-shame a woman like my client," McCoy said.

The accuser, who had become emotional and trembled at times while testifying, buried her head in her hands as the verdict was read, with her long hair covering her face.

McCoy said the woman was devastated and did not understand how jurors could reach their conclusion. She left the courthouse without commenting.

Rose's lawyer said in closing arguments Tuesday that the suit was a "hoax and a joke" and jurors should not even award \$20 because it would doom the future of the onetime MVP and the family and friends he was supporting by violating a morals clause in his player contract and a lucrative deal with Adidas.

The woman's lawyer said during closings that the 30-year-old college student was not in it for the money, but was seeking accountability for what was morally and legally wrong. He said the men had never apologized or shown any remorse.

"The three men laughed their way home," McCoy said.

The defense portrayed Rose and his childhood pals, Ryan Allen and Randall Hampton, who both work for

him, as victims in the case and the lawyers mocked the woman's lies and demeanor on the witness stand.

The juror named Jared said the panel of six women and two men had found the three defendants genuine and honest. Jared and the jury forewoman, who wouldn't give her name, said they went through each piece of evidence provided to support the woman's case and found nothing added up.

"I don't want to call her a liar," the forewoman said. "I just didn't feel like there was enough evidence."

Los Angeles police have an open investigation into the woman's claims.

The Associated Press does not generally name people who say they are victims of sex crimes.

Rose, 28, was traded to New York this year after spending seven seasons in his native Chicago, where he won Rookie of the Year honors with the Bulls and was the youngest player to be awarded MVP in 2011.

He has been plagued with knee injuries and is in the final year of a five-year deal that will pay him \$21.3 million.

Raiders owner Mark Davis makes presentation to NFL owners

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — His eyes on Las Vegas, Raiders owner Mark Davis says he hasn't shut the door on anything. Oakland, though, might have shut the door on itself as home for his team.

"Oakland was in the driver's seat if they could've put together anything," Davis said Wednesday at the NFL's fall meetings, after updating his fellow owners on his desire to relocate to the gambling capital. "They came up with nothing.

"Las Vegas has already done what it is supposed to do and we have to bring it up to the National Football League and get permission to move to Las Vegas."

Nevada lawmakers approved a deal last week that increases hotel taxes in the Las Vegas area to raise \$750 million for a stadium and more than \$400 million to expand and upgrade the Las Vegas Convention Center. Billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson is putting \$650 million toward the project, while the Raiders and the NFL will kick in \$500 million.

Commissioner Roger Goodell also said the NFL is looking into establishing a developmental league; re-examining the rules for on-field player celebrations; and reopening the labor agreement. He said the league is monitoring declining TV ratings, too.

Several owners insisted it's far too early to reach any conclusions in the Raiders' relocation issue, and none of them wanted to touch the relationship an NFL team might have with a casino mogul.

Goodell supported Davis' assertion there has been no movement toward keeping the franchise in the Bay Area, saying "we have been working to see if there are alternatives and we don't have one" in Oakland.

"If Oakland is going to be successful in offering the Raiders and the NFL a viable alternative to moving to Las Vegas, I have to stay clearheaded," said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. "I cannot afford for us to be thrown off our game because Nevada lawmakers have deemed it appropriate to put \$750 million in public money towards a private sports facility. While I'm committed to keeping the Raiders, I will not enter into a bidding war with Nevada using public funds."

Any relocation needs approval from three-fourths of the 32 NFL owners. There's also the potential for the Raiders to join the Rams in Los Angeles, where a new facility is being built; they would have that option should the Chargers, who have the first option, remain in San Diego, a decision that team must make by mid-January.

But those scenarios also have the possibility of being put on hold — the Chargers could request a delay, something the owners also would need to vote on.

Davis also said he believes having a new stadium ready in Las Vegas by 2019 "would be really quick." He acknowledged the Raiders could play a preseason game as soon as next summer in the existing Sam Boyd Stadium, but that facility isn't anywhere near up to NFL standards for regular-season games.

Besides, Davis plans to play the next two years in Oakland because the team has a lease with two one-year options there. He cited "stability" for the players and front office, insisting he doesn't envision a "scorched earth policy" from the fans.

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Houston Texans owner Robert McNair noted he was impressed with all the work done in Las Vegas at this point to get the Raiders.

"I'm pleased they've made as much progress as they have," he said. "We'll look at it when it is finally presented in total. These things are still so fluid until they nail everything down we don't know what we're looking at. We'll wait until we have a full package."

Goodell also reaffirmed the league's longstanding opposition to legalized gambling on sporting events.

"There clearly has been a society shift as far as how people view gambling," he said. "We are still very much opposed to legalized gambling on sports. We think that has an impact on the integrity of our game."

Also:

— As part of its "2020 Plan," Goodell said he's "particularly interested" in creating a developmental league. The NFL has not had one since NFL Europe went out of business in 2007, leaving only the CFL and some indoor leagues as places to nurture prospects.

"We've talked about it, and ... that is something we might want to do," Goodell said. "Teams pick up 300 to 400 players on average from the beginning of the season to the end. Having them ready to play" would be helpful.

— Recognizing that many fans disagree with the strict rules about player celebrations, Goodell said that the powerful competition committee looks into that topic every year.

"It comes to balancing a lot of issues and keeping the professional standards we want to hold. It's part of being a professional."

— While praising the labor agreement with the union that extends into early 2021, Goodell said the league frequently has spoken with the NFL Players Association "about various aspects of the CBA and how to improve it. We believe that ultimately would be a good thing and we've shared ideas with the union."

"We're seeing what we structured five years ago working very well for all parties. It's leading to a safer game. We think it's leading to more long-term investments in the communities and stadiums ... and it has obviously led to increases in compensation," Goodell added.

"I think we are aware of the basic issues and we look forward to (negotiating) at the appropriate time."

— Asked about declining TV ratings, Goodell mentioned that two of the lowest-rated games were up against presidential debates. He also took note of fragmented audiences that are an issue throughout television, and added he doesn't see player protests during the national anthem as "a factor" in diminished ratings.

NFL TV ratings have dropped in every presidential election year since 1996. They are down 15 percent so far in 2016, though not all of that can be attributed to counter-programming. Those ratings went down 6 percent in 1996, 10 percent in 2000, 2 percent in 2004 and in 2008, and 4 percent in 2012, according to NFL Network.

"I don't think there is a single reason for it," Goodell said. "We look at all those factors. Everyone has theories."

"There are a lot of factors to be considered. We don't make excuses. We try to look at what's causing it and make changes."

AP NFL website: www.pro32.ap.org and www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Modest gain seen for Obama's last health care sign-up season

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing new challenges to a legacy law, the Obama administration on Wednesday set modest expectations for the president's final health care sign-up season. The biggest worry: rising premiums and dwindling choices.

Some 13.8 million people are expected to sign up for 2017 coverage, Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said. That would be an increase of a bit less than 9 percent from the 12.7 million who picked plans during open enrollment for this year.

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This year is shaping up to be the most difficult sign-up season since HealthCare.gov launched in 2013 and the computer system froze up. But technology isn't the issue this time. Premiums are going up by double digits in many communities, and some major insurers have left the program, leaving consumers with fewer choices next year.

The administration says taxpayer-provided subsidies designed to rise alongside premiums will cushion most of the pocketbook impact. About 85 percent of customers get financial help. And for those policyholders whose insurer bailed out, the government is automatically matching them to another carrier's plan. It's up to the consumer whether or not to accept the match or keep shopping.

Officials say returning customers will notice a smoother, more informative website, making it easier to compare plans. Those who are satisfied with their current plans don't need to do anything; they'll be automatically renewed.

Finally, the administration is ramping up outreach, with a particular goal of enticing younger, healthier people to enroll. Expect pitches on social media platforms, email and television and radio as well as direct mail.

And the IRS will play a supporting role with a not-too-subtle nudge. Later this fall, the tax agency will send letters to people who did not get the minimum coverage required by the health care law. They'll be reminded that going without insurance risks a fine from the IRS, and the basic penalty is now \$695.

Some independent analysts say even a 9 percent sign-up increase will be a heavy lift.

Burwell asserted that the health care law's insurance markets are strong and offer a product that people want and need. But she also acknowledged "that doesn't mean the road has been perfectly smooth," and the markets face "a transition period."

Burwell criticized Republicans for their unyielding opposition, saying "at nearly every turn, we've had to overcome partisan attempts to repeal and undermine the law through legislation and litigation." She called on Congress to cooperate on proposed fixes, such as a government-sponsored "public option" to promote competition.

Going into its fourth sign-up season, President Barack Obama's health care law has yet to achieve stability. Enrollment has been lower than initially projected; insurers say patients turned out to be sicker than expected, and a complex internal system to help stabilize premiums did not work as intended, partly because of actions by congressional Republicans.

The law makes carrying health insurance a legal obligation for most people, and prohibits insurers for turning away the sick. It offers subsidized private plans to people who don't have coverage through their jobs, along with a state option to expand Medicaid for low-income people. Largely as a result, the nation's uninsured rate has dropped below 9 percent, a historically low level. More than 21 million people have gained coverage since the law passed in 2010.

The 13.8 million enrollment goal announced Wednesday actually represents an annual high-water mark. The initial sign-up number typically gets winnowed down by dropouts and people who find other coverage. For example, the initial number reached 12.7 million this year. But HHS said Wednesday that enrollment averaged 10.4 million people through the end of June, which works out to attrition of about 18 percent.

The administration is hoping for a strong sign-up season to validate the president's signature program, and for a victory by Democrat Hillary Clinton in the presidential election to shut down the Republican campaign for its repeal. Clinton has outlined steps she'd take to build enrollment and sweeten subsidies for consumers.

Sign-up season doesn't start until Nov. 1, but previously window shopping has been available about a week earlier on HealthCare.gov, now used by 39 states. That should be the case again.

Depending on availability, consumers will have a new option of picking "Simple Choice" plans. These are plans that have fixed deductibles and standard copayments, making it easier to compare premiums and provider networks.

Open enrollment ends Jan. 31. Consumers who want their coverage to take effect with the new year must act by Dec. 15.

HHS this year changed the way it presents its enrollment goal. Previously, Burwell had focused on the

number of customers expected to still be covered at the end of a given year. But the new target reflects initial sign-ups, before attrition.

Officials told reporters they did not move the goal posts. "We are using what we believe is a more meaningful metric," said Kathryn E. Martin, HHS acting assistant secretary for planning and evaluation.

In Mosul fight, Iraqi forces eye redemption and revenge

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

QAYARA AIR BASE, Iraq (AP) — For Saif, an Iraqi army corporal, the battle for Mosul is intensely personal. Over the course of two years of Islamic State rule, the extremists destroyed his home, arrested his father, killed his brother and forced his fiancée into a marriage with an IS fighter.

Now he's looking for revenge.

"I used to be a normal person. My dream was just to save enough money to build a house so I could get married," the 30-year-old soldier said, nervously fiddling with his cigarette.

All together seven members of his family were killed by the extremists, he said, giving only his first name because he didn't have permission from commanding officers to talk to the media. He only found out about their deaths when he saw a video the militant group released of their killings.

"I know the man who killed my father and the man who killed my brother," Saif said, flipping through screen grabs from the video he keeps on his phone. "And I know the woman who informed on them. She was our neighbor."

Younis Atiya, a Sunni tribal militia fighter, also frames the operation to retake Mosul as a chance at personal vengeance.

Atiya's village on the edge of Nineveh province was retaken from IS earlier this year. Standing outside the building that was once his home he pointed to the spot outside the garden gate where he watched IS fighters abduct his father.

"They drove up to the house in a pickup truck. We saw them and tried to run away but it was too late," he said. After holding his father for three days, IS killed him and dumped his body. Atiya's relatives had to steal the body from the town morgue in order to give him a proper burial.

"I want to liberate Mosul to save people from the fate that my family suffered," the 30-year-old fighter said. "I spent days here afraid of IS and I don't want anyone else to be afraid. And I want to take revenge for my father."

When Mosul fell in the summer of 2014, Saif was among the troops deployed to defend it. He recalled being holed up in a corner of the city's Nineveh Hotel when he first began hearing rumors that his senior officers were giving up the fight. Within 24 hours, thousands of Iraqi troops and policemen stationed in Mosul discarded their uniforms, threw down their weapons and fled the city.

The moment marked a humiliating defeat for the country's military, with catastrophic consequences. IS militants went on to overrun the city of Tikrit just north of Baghdad and began to advance on the Iraqi capital, plunging the country into the deepest security and political crisis since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

On Monday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi announced the start of the massive operation to retake Mosul, an offensive involving some 30,000 troops — a force that includes not only Iraq's conventional army but an array of other armed groups, including Shiite militias, Iraqi Kurdish fighters and Sunni tribal fighters like Atiya.

While they are all working under the same operational banner in the battle for Mosul, Iraq lacks a political plan for how the country will be governed after IS and Iraqi officials have warned this could lead to ongoing violence in the form of revenge attacks or clashes between rival armed groups who no longer have a common enemy.

As he awaits orders to move into Mosul from his deployment at Qayara Air Base, 45 miles (70 kilometers) to the south, Saif said he was relieved the operation to retake the city has begun, but said he fears the situation will only get worse after the fight.

"First of all there will be revenge killings," he said, "which will just lead to more and more revenge and

any enemies that we have now, will be doubled or tripled.”

Illustrating his point, Saif said once Iraqi forces push into Mosul, he intends to go directly to his neighborhood to kill those responsible for the deaths of his relatives.

“I have my own sources inside Mosul who tell me who is Daesh and who isn’t,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. “My commander knows my plans and he has agreed to let me go.”

Associated Press writers Balint Szlanko and Salar Salim in Makhmour, Iraq, contributed to this report.

Iraqi town outside Mosul rises up against militants

By **BRAM JANSSEN**, Associated Press

AL-HUD, Iraq (AP) — The mutilated bodies of Islamic State group fighters were still strewn on the ground of this northern Iraqi town on Wednesday. One was burned. Another’s face was flattened by abuse.

Iraqi troops on the march toward Mosul moved into al-Hud a day earlier and declared it liberated. But they found residents had already risen up and killed many of the militants in the town themselves.

With the offensive to recapture Mosul in its third day, Iraqi forces advancing from the south and east are fighting to retake the towns and villages the dot the plains and line the Tigris River leading to the city. At times, they’ve met fierce resistance, with the militants sending explosives-packed vehicles careening toward the troops’ positions.

This area has been under control of the militants ever since the summer of 2014, when IS fighters captured Mosul and much of the north in a lightning advance.

In al-Hud, a Sunni Arab town on the Tigris, residents saw their chance to get rid of them. On Monday, a man paraded through town with an Iraqi flag in a show of defiance, residents told The Associated Press. IS fighters shot and killed him.

A group of residents gathered in a shop, news spread among the hundreds of people living in the town, and soon a crowd turned on the militants.

One resident, Ahmed Mohammed, said he and others shot a militant who was hiding by an outhouse behind a shop. “That didn’t work. Then one of our guys came and threw a grenade on him from the top,” he said.

Gasim Mohammed said his father was killed in the uprising against the militants. He kicked the head of one of the bodies. “This one smells like a dog,” he said.

“I hate them. Anyone I catch, I’ll drink his blood. Even if it’s a child,” he said.

It was not clear how many militants had been in the village or how many were killed. The Associated Press saw at least five bodies.

The head of the Iraqi military’s operations command for Nineveh province where the offensive its taking place confirmed the residents’ account.

“Before we reached the village they fought them and killed many of them,” Maj. Gen. Najim al-Jobori said.

On Wednesday, residents were celebrating. Children ran toward an Iraqi military convoy waving peace signs while others threw stones at the bodies of the dead IS fighters. Residents fired celebratory rounds into the air and cars long the main road still flew white flags of surrender.

At Qayara air base, near al-Hud, a senior Iraqi general called on Islamic State group fighters in Mosul to surrender. Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghatai told reporters that up to 6,000 IS fighters are in the city.

East of Mosul, troops have moved about a kilometer (half-mile) from Hamdaniyah, a historically Christian town also known as Bakhdida, to the east of Mosul, an Iraqi officer from the 9th Division told the AP.

Over the past day, IS sent 12 car bombs against the troops, all of which were blown up before reaching their targets, he said, adding that Iraqi troops suffered a small number of casualties from the mortar rounds. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters, did not provide specific figures.

At least 5,000 people fled the Mosul area to a refugee camp in northeastern Syria in the last 10 days, with another thousand waiting to enter at the border, Save the Children said.

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Tarik Kadir, head of the group's Mosul response, said conditions there are "among the worst we've seen." More than 9,000 people in the camp only have access to dirty, untreated water and have to share 16 latrines, leaving the area polluted by human waste "with a looming risk of disease," the group said.

U.N. humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien told the U.N. Security Council that no large-scale displacement of civilians has been reported since the operation began.

But he said the U.N. anticipates "a displacement wave of some 200,000 people over the coming weeks, with up to one million displaced in the course of the operation in a worst-case scenario."

Associated Press writers Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Khazer, Iraq, and Sinan Salaheddin and Joseph Krauss in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Asian stocks rise as Clinton, Trump argue economic policy

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks rose Thursday as traders watched U.S. presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump argued over economic policy and looked ahead to a meeting of euro zone central bankers.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 1.2 percent to 17,201.52 points and Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.7 percent to 23,472.78. The Shanghai Composite Index shed 0.1 percent to 3,082.03. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.2 percent to 5,445.50 and Seoul's Kospi gained 0.1 percent to 2,042.14. Benchmarks in Singapore, Bangkok and Jakarta also advanced, while Manila and New Zealand declined.

CLINTON VS TRUMP: Investors watched the candidates spar at their third debate over who had a better plan to spur U.S. economic growth. Trump, who has rattled markets by calling for curbs on trade and immigration, said he would hire experts, and not "political hacks," to negotiate more favorable trade deals. Clinton, seen as more favorable to trade, said she was focused on helping the middle class, while Trump's plans are geared toward the rich.

ANALYSTS' TAKE: "The presidential debate is a must watch for investors in the Asia Pacific region," said Michael McCarthy of CMC Markets in a report. "There are at least two points of acute market interest. One of the six topics is the U.S. economy, and any clarification of policy in this area could influence trading today. Secondly, a clear win for either candidate is important. Markets are likely to buy Clinton and sell Trump."

EURO ZONE WATCH: Markets looked ahead to a meeting of the euro zone central bank for insight into its intentions for its 1.7 trillion euro (\$1.9 trillion) bond-buying stimulus program. Most analysts think that while the European Central Bank will keep its policies on hold at its meeting, governor Mario Draghi will leave open the possibility of an extension to the bank's bond-buying program, which is meant to increase lending, growth and inflation. Analysts think the ECB will wait at least until December's meeting to make any decision on the program's future.

U.S. JOBS: Investors awaited U.S. jobless data for signs of when the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates. Last week's 246,000 unemployment claims took the four-week moving average below 250,000. Rising employment would support the Fed in plans to hike interest rates that been kept near zero since the 2008 global crisis. "Wages started to rise in early 2015 and with luck will continue north in the months ahead," said DBS Bank in a report. "Not for nothing do many officials feel that policy rates should do the same."

WALL STREET: Stocks rose as oil and gas exploration companies gained on higher oil prices. Transocean jumped 5.7 percent and Halliburton added 4.3 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 40.68 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,202.62. The S&P 500 index rose 4.69 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,144.29. The Nasdaq composite index added 2.58 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,246.41.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude shed 13 cents to \$51.69 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged \$1.20 on Wednesday to close at \$51.82. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 11 cents to \$52.56 in London. It gained 99 cents the previous session to \$52.67.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 103.59 yen from Thursday's 103.38 yen. The euro was nearly flat at \$1.0974.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 20, the 294th day of 2016. There are 72 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 20, 1976, 78 people were killed when the Norwegian tanker Frosta rammed the commuter ferry George Prince on the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

On this date:

In 1714, the coronation of Britain's King George I took place in Westminster Abbey.

In 1803, the U.S. Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1914, "Stay Down Here Where You Belong," an anti-war song by Irving Berlin, was published by Waterson, Berlin & Snyder Co. in New York.

In 1936, Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, died in Forest Hills, New York, at age 70.

In 1944, during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur stepped ashore at Leyte (LAY'-tee) in the Philippines, 2 1/2 years after saying, "I shall return." A series of gas storage tank explosions and fires in Cleveland killed 130 people.

In 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration in the U.S. motion picture industry.

In 1964, the 31st president of the United States, Herbert C. Hoover, died in New York at age 90.

In 1965, in one of the more colorful moments of his presidency, Lyndon B. Johnson, recovering from gall bladder surgery at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, pulled up his shirt and jacket to show off his abdominal scar to reporters and photographers.

In 1968, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

In 1973, in the so-called "Saturday Night Massacre," special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox was dismissed and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. Ruckelshaus resigned.

In 1981, a bungled armored truck robbery carried out by members of radical groups in Nanuet, New York, left a guard and two police officers dead.

In 1994, actor Burt Lancaster died in Los Angeles at age 80.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush conceded in an Associated Press interview that "right now, it's tough" for American forces in Iraq, but the White House said he would not change U.S. strategy in the face of pre-election polls indicating voters were upset. Actress Jane Wyatt, perhaps best remembered as Margaret Anderson on "Father Knows Best," died in Los Angeles at age 96.

Five years ago: Moammar Gadhafi, 69, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte (SURT) and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell. Greek lawmakers passed a deeply resented new austerity bill, caving in to the demands of international creditors in order to avoid a national bankruptcy as a second day of riots left one protester dead and more than 100 people wounded. The Texas Rangers evened up the World Series at one game apiece, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 2-1.

One year ago: The United States and Russia signed an agreement to minimize risks of air collisions as they separately carried out airstrikes in Syria. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) began a much anticipated state visit to Britain, where he was welcomed as an honored guest at Buckingham Palace and Parliament. Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb said he was dropping out of the Democratic race for president. The Kansas City Royals romped past the Toronto Blue Jays 14-2 for a 3-1 lead in the American League Championship Series. The New York Mets beat the Chicago Cubs 5-2 for a 3-0 lead in the NL Championship Series. Cory Wells, 74, a founding member of the popular 1970s band Three Dog Night, died in Dunkirk, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Christopher is 84. Japan's Empress Michiko is 82. Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson is 79. Former actress Rev. Mother Dolores Hart is 78. Singer Tom Petty is 66. Actor Wil-

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liam "Rusty" Russ is 66. Actress Melanie Mayron is 64. Retired MLB All-Star Keith Hernandez is 63. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., is 61. Movie director Danny Boyle is 60. Former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis is 59. Actor Viggo Mortensen is 58. Rock musician Jim Sonefeld (Hootie & The Blowfish) is 52. Rock musician David Ryan is 52. Rock musician Doug Eldridge (Oleander) is 49. Journalist Sunny Hostin (TV: "The View") is 48. Political commentator and blogger Michelle Malkin is 46. Actor Kenneth Choi is 45. Rapper Snoop Dogg is 45. Singer Dannii Minogue is 45. Singer Jimi Westbrook (country group Little Big Town) is 45. Country musician Jeff Loberg is 40. Actor Sam Witwer is 39. Actor John Krasinski is 37. Rock musician Daniel Tichenor (Cage the Elephant) is 37. Actress Katie Featherston is 34. Actress Jennifer Nicole Freeman is 31.

Thought for Today: "Next to ingratitude, the most painful thing to bear is gratitude." — Henry Ward Beecher, American clergyman (1813-1887).