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Faculty In-service - NO SCHOOL All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

Saturday, Oct. 29

Oral Interp at Watertown 7 pm: All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

Quote of the Day: "The safest place to be is in the middle of God's will."

- Gov. Mike Pence after the airplane accident

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

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The Life of Audrey Thurston

Audrey Thurston, 91, of Groton fell asleep October 25, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton.

Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Saturday October 29, 2016 at the United Methodist Church in Groton. Pastor Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen at 1:45 P.M. following lunch.

Visitation will be Friday beginning with a prayer service at 7:00 P.M. and will resume after the prayer service until 9:00 P.M. at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Audrey Marie Thompson was born to Chester and Florence (Waggoner) Thompson on November 29, 1924. She attended grade school Thompson Country School two miles from her home. She later attended and graduated from Groton High School in 1942.

Audrey was the secretary for the Credit Manager at Sacony Vacuum Oil Company in Aberdeen for three years. She was united in marriage to Norman Thurston on December 14, 1945. The couple lived at Tinley Park, Illinois for one year until returning to Groton. The couple began

farming in the Putney area until 1980, when the couple retired and built a home in Groton.

Audrey was a lifetime member of the Groton United Methodist Church. She was active in UMW, the church choir, and also taught both Bible School and Sunday School for many years. She was a communion steward and past member of the Administrative Board. Audrey was also a member of Putney Ladies Aid and PEO. She volunteered at Golden Living Center, assisting with BINGO and other activities with the residents.

Celebrating her life is her son, Gary (Linda) Thurston of Groton, three grandsons: Todd Thurston, Rob Thurston, and Rick (Kate) Thurston, nine great-grandchildren: Mitchel, Riley, Emily, Drew, Madison, Kennedy, Kamden, Taylor, and Asher. She is also survived by her sister Sondra (Rex) Peckham and her lifelong friend, Doraine Green. Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Norm, two brothers, Ivan and Darwin, and her sister Shirley Sueltz.

Groton Lions ditch clean-up

Four members of the Groton Lions Club cleaned several miles of ditches on the east side of Groton on Thursday afternoon. The club does this community service in the spring and fall.

Members working Thursday afternoon were Dave Pigors, club president; Ron Rehfuss, Lee Schinkel, and Topper Tastad

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Rest Area Revitalization Plan Moving Forward

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation and the Department of Tourism continue to move forward with plans to upgrade the state's rest areas and tourist Welcome Centers as part of the recently published Rest Area Revitalization Plan.

Earlier this year, a task force appointed by the Governor and made up of staff from DOT and Tourism visited each of the state's 21 rest areas and proposed a three- to five-year rest area revitalization plan, which is available on the SDDOT website at http://www.sddot.com/resources/reports/InterstateRestArea-FinalReport.pdf.

The public was invited to provide written comments during the month of September. Numerous suggestions and ideas were reviewed and considered by the task force before making a final recommendation to the Governor on moving forward with the proposed revitalization plan.

"The task force spent several months studying the condition, functionality and accessibility of the facilities and produced an informed, well-thought out plan," says Darin Bergquist, Secretary of Transportation. "They took on a challenging task and produced a plan that will serve our citizens and visitors well into the future."

On Oct. 31, the first part of the plan will go into effect with the closing of rest areas at two locations: the I-29 Hidewood rest areas near Watertown and the I-90 Tilford rest areas near Piedmont. The parking lots at both locations will still be available for public use.

"Our mission is to promote the state as a premier vacation destination to all visitors," says secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen. "By focusing our efforts on safe, accessible and modern rest areas and welcome centers, we can ensure travelers learn about our great destinations and boost the economic impact of the tourism industry for our state."

The rest area revitalization plan will bring the state's rest areas into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide more safety features, including an upgraded camera system.

Plans to construct two new Welcome Centers at the Minnesota and Iowa borders are currently underway, while other features of the plan will take place according to the recommended timeline published in the revitalization plan.

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



Save time. Save money. Every day!

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Weather Radar in Aberdeen, SD Gets Upgrade

Updated: October 26, 2016

The weather radar used by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Aberdeen will be down for three days beginning Monday, October 31, 2016 for technicians to install an important technological upgrade. The work on the WSR-88D has been scheduled to minimize any potential impacts to office operations and will be delayed if hazardous weather is forecast.

During the outage, radar coverage is available from adjacent radar sites including North Platte, NE; Rapid City, SD; Bismarck, ND; Grand Forks, ND; and Sioux Falls, SD.

A crew will install a new signal processor, which replaces obsolete technology, improves processing speed and data quality, provides added functionality, and increases IT security.

This is the first of four major upgrades, known as service life extension projects, planned in the next five years to replace and refurbish major components of the 20 year old WSR-88Ds and to keep the radars operational into the 2030s. The \$150 million investment is being made by the three organizations that use these radars, the NOAA National Weather Service, United States Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration. The three other service life extension projects include refurbishing the transmitter, pedestal, and equipment shelters.

The tri-agency Radar Operations Center, which supports the radars, estimates it will take about 10 months to upgrade the signal processor on all 159 operational WSR-88Ds.

A tentative deployment schedule is available:

http://www.roc.noaa.gov/WSR88D/PublicDocs/SLEP/ECP0437SigProcSLEPDeploySched.pdf

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Lionel Bruemmer, manager of Ken's Food Fair of Groton, presents a check to Groton Area School Elementary Principal Brett Schwan for the BAGS Program. The donation is from everyone who donated their dollars during the Dash for Cash promotion that just ended. Bruemmer said, "We greatly appreciate the customers for the donations from the dash for cash."

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Today in Weather History

October 28, 1989: The season's first snowfall brought much-needed moisture to the Black Hills and portions of western South Dakota as up to nearly a foot of snow fell in the higher elevations. The storms caused motorists some problems. A build-up of ice and slush in combination with blowing snow prompted the State Highway Patrol to close the portion of Interstate-90 from Rapid City to Wall. Numerous multiple vehicle accidents were reported.

October 28, 1993: Very strong northwest winds gusting to 50 to 60 mph raked South Dakota. A new home under construction southwest of DeSmet collapsed in the winds. Reported peak winds included 56 mph at Huron, 55 mph at Rapid City, and 52 mph at Sioux Falls.

1846: In the spring of 1846, a group of nearly 90 emigrants left Springfield, Illinois, and headed west to California. The Donner party arrived at the Great Salt Lake and still needed to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains late in the season. On this day, a heavy snowfall blocked the pass, thus trapping the emigrants. Only 45 of the original 89 emigrants reached California the following year.

1936 - The temperature at Layton, NJ, dipped to 9 above zero to establish a state record for the month of October. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - A severe early season blizzard raged across the Plateau Region and Rocky Mountain Region. Heavy snow blocked railroads and interstate highways, and record cold accompanied the storm. Lander WY received 27 inches of snow, and the temperature at Big Piney WY plunged to 15 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms over the San Joaquin Valley of California produced three-quarters of an inch of rain in thirty minutes at Placerville, and caused numerous power outages due to lightning. Rain began to diminish in the northeastern U.S., but some flooding continued in Vermont, eastern New York and northern New Jersey. One inch rains in Vermont clogged culverts and sewers with fallen leaves, resulting in erosion of dirt roads. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Arctic cold invaded the north central U.S. Valentine, NE, dipped to 8 degrees, and Cutbank, MT, reported a morning low of one degree above zero. The temperature at Estes Park CO dipped to 15 degrees, but then soared thirty degrees in less than thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm crossing the western U.S. produced 10 to 20 inches of snow across northern and central Wyoming, with 22 inches reported at Burgess Junction. Seven cities in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region reported record high temperatures for the date as readings again warmed into the 70s. Alpena MI reported a record high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1999: A Super Typhoon, known as Cyclone 05B reached the equivalent of the Category 5 hurricane on this day. This storm is the strongest tropical cyclone ever record in the North Indian Ocean. Cyclone 05B hit the Indian State of Odisha near the city of Bhubaneswar on October 29. An estimated 10,000 individuals would die from this cyclone, and 1.67 million people were left homeless.

Groton Daily Independent Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 118 ~ 7 of 45 Today Tonight Saturday Saturday Sunday Sunday Monday Night Night 40% 209 Mostly Sunny Mostly Cloudy Chance Partly Cloudy Mostly Sunny Mostly Cloudy Mostly Sunny Showers then Slight Chance Rain High: 76 °F Low: 45 °F High: 49 °F Low: 29 °F High: 52 °F Low: 45 °F High: 67 °F Very Warm Temperatures Tod Forecast / Normal Location **Record High Temps High Temps** 82° in 1937 Aberdeen 76° / 51° 79° in 1937 73° / 50° Watertown 87° in 1937 80° / 55° Pierre 84° in 1937 Mobridge 74° / 54° 70° / 51° 82° in 1937 Sisseton Kennebec 82° / 57° 86° in 1937 **Timber Lake** 83° in 1937 78° / 53° Wheaton 74° in 1966 70° / 51° National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD weather.gov/Aberdeen 📑 National Weather Service Aberdeen 📴 @NWSAberdeen Updated: 10/28/2016 5:21 AM Central Published on: 10/28/2016 at 5:27AM

An abnormally warm airmass over the region will result in high temperatures some 20 to 30 degrees above average for today. Although abnormally warm, it is unlikely the area will experience record highs. Much colder temperatures, along with a chance for showers can be expected on Saturday.

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 66.5 F at 5:18 PM

High Outside Temp: 66.5 F at 5:18 PM Low Outside Temp: 44.9 F at 2:59 AM High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 10:56 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 82° in 1937

Record High: 82° in 1937 Record Low: -6° in 1919 Average High: 51°F Average Low: 28°F Average Precip in Oct.: 1.86 Precip to date in Oct.: 1.80 Average Precip to date: 20.34 Precip Year to Date: 15.00 Sunset Tonight: 6:25 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



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WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

It was the first time that Wayne and his Dad rode their bikes through the neighborhood. Wayne was excited as they rode down one street and then another. They turned left, then turned right and finally arrived at home. Taking off his helmet Wayne looked up at a smiling father and said, "Thanks, Dad, if it weren't for you I wouldn't have known where to turn and I'd be lost by now."

The Psalmist expressed the same idea and trust when he said to the Lord, "Whom have I but you?" But not all of us have that much faith in the Lord. John reports a story about Jesus and His disciples. They were having some problems about His teachings and Jesus said, "This is very hard to understand." As a result, we read that "many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him."

Have you ever wondered why those disciples turned away from Jesus? The Bible does not give any specific reason. No doubt they left Him then for the same reason people leave Him today: an unwillingness to make sacrifices for Him.

Many turn to the Lord for what they think He will do for them - not what they can do for Him and with Him and through Him. Many of us have expectations that go in one direction only: that God will take care of us and we have no obligation to Him.

But this is not how God works. If we follow Him wherever He leads, "All these things will be added to us."

Prayer: Teach us, Lord, that You call us to Yourself that we may love You, honor You and bring glory to Your name. May You always be first and foremost in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 6:64-67 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."



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News from the Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL Class 11AAA Ouarterfinal Brandon Valley 58, Rapid City Central 14 Sioux Falls O'Gorman 38, Aberdeen Central 0 Sioux Falls Roosevelt 53, Sioux Falls Lincoln 21 Sioux Falls Washington 53, Rapid City Stevens 27 Class 11AA Quarterfinal Harrisburg 53, Yankton 15 Mitchell 79, Sturgis Brown 22 Pierre 35, Douglas 7 Spearfish 47, Huron 19 Class 11A **Ouarterfinal** Dell Rapids 35, Sioux Falls Christian 18 Madison 43, Milbank Area 0 St. Thomas More 33, Hot Springs 7 Tea Area 14, West Central 6

Voting for Trump? GOP lawmakers get into rhetorical knots By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Republicans who were for Donald Trump before they were against him are now promising to vote for the GOP presidential nominee.

Dozens of Republicans repudiated Trump after he was caught on videotape making crude, predatory comments about grabbing women. Endorsements were withdrawn and many lawmakers called for the nominee to drop out of the presidential race. Weeks later, several Republicans are back on the Trump train, while others in tough races won't say whether they're voting for their party's standard-bearer.

Several Republicans have tied themselves into rhetorical knots in trying to support the White House candidate — or back away from him.

Consider Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah. He was one of the first to denounce Trump, saying hours after the 2005 "Access Hollywood" videotape was made public on Oct. 7 that the Republican candidate's "abhorrent" comments meant Chaffetz could "no longer in good conscience endorse" him.

Now Chaffetz has reversed course, saying on Twitter this week that while he won't defend or endorse Trump, "I am voting for him." Trump's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, "is bad for the USA," Chaffetz said.

Chaffetz chairs the House Oversight Committee and has vowed to continue investigations into Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, should Republicans hold their majority in the House.

Sens. John Thune of South Dakota and Mike Crapo of Idaho also have reversed course on Trump. Both called for the GOP nominee to step down in the wake of his videotaped comments, but both now say they will vote for him.

Trump "has a lot of work to do, I think, to win this election. But I'm certainly not going to vote for Hillary Clinton," Thune said.

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Crapo also expressed disdain for Clinton and confirmed he "will vote for the Republican ticket," Trump and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, the vice presidential nominee.

Nevada Rep. Joe Heck and Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey won't say how they're voting.

Heck, who is locked in a close race with Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto in the race to succeed retiring Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, endorsed Trump before rescinding the endorsement after the videotape was made public — earning boos from some of his own campaign volunteers.

Now Heck refuses to say who he will vote for in the presidential race, calling it "a personal decision." His vote "is a secret ballot just like your ballot is a secret ballot," Heck told reporters.

Toomey, trying to ward off a strong challenge from Democrat Katie McGinty, has refused to endorse Trump but has not denounced him either. In an unusual campaign pitch to moderate voters, Toomey has launched a TV ad in Philadelphia that recounts praise from Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine, while at the time airing ads that criticize Clinton in other parts of the state.

Kaine said at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania that Toomey is trying to "straddle with respect to Donald Trump," adding: "I think Donald Trump poses a clear enough challenge that people ought to be able to go on the record and say what they think about him."

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., has done verbal contortions as she struggles to distance herself from Trump while not alienating his most fervent supporters. For much of the year, Ayotte said she supported the nominee but would not endorse.

At a recent debate with her rival, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, Ayotte called Trump a role model for children, then said she misspoke. Ayotte withdrew her support from Trump after the videotape was made public, and said she'd write-in vice presidential nominee Pence instead.

But in a radio interview this week, Ayotte agreed with a host who said that if Trump is elected president, "he's going to need some people in the Senate who can actually make some of the changes he's talking about."

Ayotte responded, "That's right."

Hassan has said Ayotte waited too long to denounce Trump and that the senator's previous support showed a "concerning lack of judgment."

Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, also has been all over the map regarding Trump. Stewart said Thursday he'll vote for Trump, despite denouncing him previously for his vulgar comments about women. Stewart said in a video statement that a vote for a third-party candidate is the same as voting for Clinton.

The new comments mark the latest shift by Stewart, who called Trump "our Mussolini" earlier this year, but then signed a letter put out by the Utah Republican Party in August supporting Trump. Stewart called on Trump to step aside after the 2005 tape was made public earlier this month.

Follow Matthew Daly: http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC

Latest: More than 100 arrests as pipeline protesters moved

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the Dakota Access oil pipeline protest (all times local): 9:30 p.m.

Authorities say more than 100 people have been arrested during an operation to force Dakota Access pipeline protesters off private land.

Donnell Hushka, a spokeswoman for the Morton County, North Dakota, Sheriff's Department, says as of 8:15 p.m. Thursday there have been 117 protesters arrested.

She says Morton County will be using other jails to house people. She says those arrested for misdemeanors can bond out, but those facing felonies will have to be held for initial court appearances.

Hushka says the possessions of those arrested are being collected and protesters can identify the belongings and claim them later.

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7:15 p.m.

Charges are pending against a woman who allegedly fired three shots at law officers during an operation to force Dakota Access pipeline protesters off private land.

State Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong says the woman was being placed under arrest when she pulled out a .38-caliber pistol and fired three times, narrowly missing a sheriff's deputy. Officers did not return fire.

It wasn't immediately clear exactly when the incident happened.

Law enforcement officers moved in on Thursday to evict protesters from a camp on private land owned by the pipeline developer. Several protesters were arrested.

6:40 p.m.

A spokesman for protesters opposing the Dakota Access oil pipeline says they will continue efforts to block the project despite being forced from a camp they set up on land owned by the pipeline developer.

Cody Hall says protesters likely will set up a new camp to the east, on federally owned land that's also in the path of construction.

The main camp of the protesters is on land owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. The agency has taken no steps to evict protesters from that camp, citing free speech reasons.

Authorities did evict the protesters from the camp on private land, arresting several in the process. Hall says it won't be so easy to move the protesters off a new camp on the pipeline path if it's on federal land.

6:20 p.m.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple is pleased with the success of an effort to oust Dakota Access pipeline protesters from private land where they had set up a camp to try to block construction.

Dalrymple says the operation that involved 200 law officers and soldiers was "well-handled from start to finish" and resulted in no serious injuries.

Authorities launched the operation at midday to oust the protesters, a day after they refused to leave voluntarily from the camp they set up on land owned by the pipeline developer. The protesters were cleared from the camp by late afternoon.

Dalrymple says the protesters were given "more than ample time" to move on their own, and that those who didn't leave voluntarily needed to be dealt with "as we have."

5:30 p.m.

Authorities say they have ousted Dakota Access pipeline protesters from a camp they had set up on land owned by the pipeline developer.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier says authorities will maintain a presence in the area for the time being to keep protesters off private land and prevent them from blocking a nearby highway.

About 200 police and soldiers launched the operation at midday to force out the protesters, a day after they refused to leave voluntarily from the camp.

Kirchmeier said late in the afternoon that the camp was secure, though officers were still dealing with some protesters in the surrounding area.

Kirchmeier said there had been 16 arrests and that total would increase.

4:50 p.m.

The governors of three states crossed by the Dakota Access pipeline are pressing the federal government to allow construction to continue, saying further delay would negatively impact their states and citizens.

The Republican executives of Iowa and the Dakotas said in a Tuesday letter to the Army Corps of Engineers that pipeline construction delays will adversely affect landowners and farmers in their states.

The Army is reviewing concerns raised by Native American tribes protesting the project. Federal agencies have ordered a temporary halt to construction on Corps land around and underneath Lake Oahe — one of six reservoirs on the Missouri.

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Govs. Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota, Dennis Daugaard of South Dakota and Terry Branstad of Iowa say it's their understanding the project meets the federal requirements necessary to move forward.

4:20 p.m.

Authorities trying to force Dakota Access protesters from a camp on private land in the path of pipeline construction are firing bean bags and pepper spray.

State Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong says officers are responding to "aggressive" tactics by protesters, including some throwing rocks at officers and threatening them.

Fong said she wasn't aware of any serious injuries to either officers or protesters.

A male protester was seen holding his leg after what an Associated Press reporter described as a loud boom. A protester with a medic bag tended to the man's leg, and he was up and walking a short time later. Fong said she wasn't aware of any serious injuries to either officers or protesters.

Fong didn't immediately have details of what happened.

3:50 p.m.

Authorities say that once they clear an oil pipeline protest camp on private land it will be up to the company building the pipeline to secure the site going forward.

The protesters set up the camp over the weekend on land owned by Energy Transfer Partners, the pipeline company trying to complete the project. The erected teepees and tents and brought personal property to the site.

State Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong says once the protesters are cleared from the site, it will be turned over to pipeline developer since it's the company's property. She says decisions on what to do with the protesters' property will be up to the company.

Company spokeswoman Vicki Granado didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

3 p.m.

Authorities have begun arresting some Dakota Access pipeline protesters at a camp the demonstrators set up on private land in the path of pipeline construction.

An Associated Press reporter says law enforcement officers formed a horseshoe-like loop around the camp in North Dakota.

Several protesters were arrested on the perimeter of the camp as authorities slowly moved in.

Police and soldiers launched the operation at midday to oust the protesters, a day after they refused to leave voluntarily.

Many of the protesters were openly defying the authorities, yelling at them as they approached. Others were taking part in prayer circles.

2:35 p.m.

A woman who's been helping handle security for Dakota Access pipeline protesters says some of them are determined to be arrested while praying.

Vanessa Dundon, an Arizona Navajo, says many want to be arrested when authorities arrive to remove them from a camp in the path of the pipeline construction.

Officers are converging slowly on the camp from two directions, telling protesters through loudspeakers to leave or they'll be arrested.

Many protesters are continuing to defy the authorities, while others are taking part in prayer circles.

The effort to oust the protesters from the private land involves dozens of officers in riot gear, many armed with guns and clubs, along with trucks, police cars, military Humvees, buses and aircraft.

2 p.m.

Dakota Access pipeline protesters have retreated from a direct confrontation with law enforcement officers and soldiers who are advancing to force them from a camp on private land in the path of pipeline

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construction.

About 200 protesters remain in the area, listening to elders speak, burning sage and praying while law officers approach the camp from two directions.

Authorities at mid-day launched an effort to force out the protesters, a day after they refused to leave voluntarily. The operation involves dozens of officers in riot gear, many armed with guns and clubs, along with trucks, police cars, military Humvees, buses and aircraft.

Protesters earlier put on the highway near the camp and set a small fire to slow authorities.

12:45 p.m.

Authorities have moved in to remove Dakota Access pipeline protesters camped on private land in the path of the pipeline in North Dakota.

The operation that commenced at midday involves dozens of officers in riot gear, some of them armed, along with trucks, police cars, military Humvees and buses. At least two helicopters and a fixed-wing airplane monitored the operation from the air.

Officials told protesters over a loudspeaker to move out.

Protesters parked cars on the highway near the camp and slashed the vehicles' tires to try to slow the authorities. They also set a small fire at one of two blockades they set up on the highway.

The forcible removal began a day after protesters refused to leave voluntarily.

12:20 p.m.

Authorities say they have begun taking steps to remove Dakota Access pipeline protesters camped on private land in the path of the pipeline in North Dakota.

The Morton County Sheriff's office says law enforcement began the operation at 11:15 a.m. local time Thursday, a day after protesters refused to leave voluntarily.

About 200 activists supporting the Standing Sioux Tribe moved onto the site last weekend, setting up teepees and tents and saying the land is rightfully theirs under a more than century-old treaty.

But the pipeline's developer, Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, says the protesters are trespassing and demands they leave.

The almost-complete \$3.8 billion pipeline passes through North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa to Patoka, Illinois. Opponents worry about its negative effect on drinking water, as well as the potential destruction of cultural artifacts

More than 260 people have been arrested since demonstrations began in August.

11:15 a.m.

Authorities have issued arrest warrants for two Dakota Access pipeline protesters who allegedly were involved in an attack on three journalists covering the months-long protest in south central North Dakota.

Authorities say the Oct. 18 attack on the journalists involved protesters taking a reporter's microphone, blocking a vehicle in which the journalists locked themselves, and shaking and hitting the vehicle. Law officers eventually rescued the journalists after they called 911.

James White, of Fort Yates, is charged with felony restraint and reckless endangerment, along with fleeing police.

Kareen Lewis is charged with felony restraint. Court documents don't list a hometown for him, and documents don't list an attorney for either man.

Authorities say they're still trying to identify three other protesters considered "people of interest" in the case.

10:20 a.m.

Protesters against the Dakota Access pipeline are gearing up for a confrontation with authorities over a patch of private land on the pipeline route.

Protesters constructed two barricades Thursday on a highway near the camp they have established on

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property owned by the pipeline's developer. They barricades are made of tires, hay bales, logs, plywood and barbed wire.

Protesters also are moving from their main camp, which is on federally owned land, to the camp on the private property. Riders on horseback are monitoring the movements of authorities.

On Wednesday, authorities gathered in the area with heavy equipment including Humvees and buses and demanded the protesters leave the private land. The protesters refused.

Protester Robert Eder says if authorities clear out the camp, "there will be twice as many tomorrow."

6:45 a.m.

The Federal Aviation Administration is restricting flights over an area of North Dakota where law enforcement and people protesting the construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline are bracing for a confrontation. The restriction went into effect Wednesday and will last until Nov. 5.

Authorities say only aircraft affiliated with the North Dakota Tactical Operation Center are allowed within a radius of about 4 1/2 miles of Cannon Ball, where the protesters have set up camp. The FAA has also banned drones in the airspace.

A months-long dispute over the pipeline reached a crisis point at the weekend when some 200 protesters set up camp on land owned by pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners. On Wednesday, authorities gathered in the area with heavy equipment including Humvees and buses and demanded they leave. The protesters refused.

12:10 a.m.

Protesters trying to stop construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline are bracing for a confrontation with police after the demonstrators refused to leave private land in the pipeline's path.

A months-long dispute over the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline reached a crisis point when some 200 protesters set up camp on land owned by pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners.

Law enforcement officers demanded that the protesters leave on Wednesday and they refused. It appeared that only thick fog and cloudy skies kept a large contingent of law enforcement officers from moving in. Officials have frequently monitored protesters by air.

Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney said Wednesday that the rule of law must be enforced.

Police evict oil pipeline protesters from private land By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officers dressed in riot gear and firing bean bags and pepper spray evicted protesters Thursday from private land in the path of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, dramatically escalating a monthslong dispute over Native American rights and the project's environmental impact.

In an operation that took nearly six hours, hundreds of armed state and local police and National Guard — some on foot and others in trucks, military Humvees and buses — pushed past burning barricades to slowly envelop the camp.

At least 117 people were arrested. No serious injuries were reported, though one man was hurt in the leg and received treatment from a medic.

Among those arrested was a woman who pulled out a .38-caliber pistol and fired three times at officers, narrowly missing a sheriff's deputy, State Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong said. Officers did not return fire, she said.

Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said the camp had been cleared by nightfall although police were still dealing with protesters on the perimeter. Though officials earlier said they planned to turn the site over to private security, Kirchmeier said police would stay for now.

"We're not leaving the area," he said. "We are just going to make sure that we maintain a presence in the area so the roadway stays open, and to keep individuals from camping on private land."

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Opponents of the pipeline over the weekend set up camp on private land owned by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, which is working to complete the 1,200-mile pipeline to carry oil from western North Dakota to Illinois. The route skirts the Standing Rock Reservation and the tribe says it could endanger water supplies and disturb cultural sites. The state of North Dakota says no sensitive cultural sites have been found in the area.

The tribe has gone to court to challenge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision granting permits at more than 200 water crossings. A federal judge in September denied their request to block construction, but three federal agencies stepped in to order construction to halt on Corps-owned land around Lake Oahe, a wide spot of the Missouri River, while the Corps reviewed its decision-making.

Construction was allowed to continue on private land owned by the developer, with a goal of completion by the end of the year.

Thursday's operation to push out the protesters began a day after they had refused to leave voluntarily. Law enforcement repeatedly asked protesters to retreat, at one point using a high-pitched whistle they said was intended to "control and disperse" protesters.

The camp cleared on Thursday is located just to the north of a more permanent and larger encampment on federally owned land that has been the main staging area for hundreds of protesters, including Native Americans from across North America, environmentalists and some celebrities.

Many protesters openly defied the officers, while others took part in prayer circles and burned sage. Enough people were arrested that Morton County sheriff's spokeswoman Donnell Hushka said the county needed additional jails to house them. She said those charged with felonies would be held pending court appearances.

Cody Hall, a spokesman for the protesters, vowed a new camp would be built elsewhere in the pipeline's path, but on federal land.

"It's going to take a lot to move them (protesters) from there," he said.

Authorities said protesters set fire to four large pieces of construction equipment. At least two cars were also burned.

Aaron Johnson, 50, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux in South Dakota, said he and other protesters weren't happy with the day's outcome. "I came here for peace and prayer," he said. "When somebody sets something on fire, that's not peace and prayer."

Nicholson reported from Bismarck, North Dakota.

South Dakota residents have choice of 2 insurers on exchange

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An analysis for The Associated Press shows South Dakota residents who buy health coverage through the federal insurance marketplace will have more choices when it comes to insurers than people in some other states.

The analysis by Avalere Health and the AP found that South Dakota will have two participating insurers in all 66 counties next year, the same as the Affordable Care Act's 2016 enrollment period.

Avera Health Plans and Sanford Health Plan are the insurers that will offer plans in the marketplace during the enrollment season that begins Tuesday.

About one-third of U.S. counties will have only one health marketplace insurer next year. That's more than 1,000 counties in 26 states — roughly double the number of counties in 2014, the first year of coverage through the program.

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Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL Class 11AAA Quarterfinal Brandon Valley 58, Rapid City Central 14 Sioux Falls O'Gorman 38, Aberdeen Central 0 Sioux Falls Roosevelt 53, Sioux Falls Lincoln 21 Sioux Falls Washington 53, Rapid City Stevens 27

Class 11AA Quarterfinal Harrisburg 53, Yankton 15 Mitchell 79, Sturgis Brown 22 Pierre 35, Douglas 7 Spearfish 47, Huron 19

Class 11A Quarterfinal Dell Rapids 35, Sioux Falls Christian 18 Madison 43, Milbank Area 0 St. Thomas More 33, Hot Springs 7 Tea Area 14, West Central 6

State investigators probe drugs at mental health hospital

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State authorities have launched an investigation into drugs at South Dakota's mental health hospital in Yankton.

Attorney General Marty Jackley declined to tell the Argus Leader newspaper (http://argusne.ws/2eJpcdG) what his office is looking for, citing the ongoing investigation. However he referred to the probe as "a controlled substance investigation."

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office was called two weeks ago to investigate an incident in which methamphetamine was brought into the Human Services Center. Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said the incident involved a patient.

The South Dakota hospital, which is run by the Department of Social Services, provides adults with alcohol and drug chemical dependency treatment. The department's website states the program "is designed to meet the physical, mental and social needs of each individual within a safe and therapeutic environment."

National Alliance on Mental Illness official Phyllis Arends said the incident might call for the hospital to take a closer look at security. She said an investigation is necessary given the fact that this is not an isolated incident.

According to an Argus Leader investigation, attacks on employees by patients have raised workers' compensation claims and employee retention problems.

The state Department of Social Services declined to comment on the investigation.

Officials at the Human Services Center have updated the patient admission policy to better protect staff and patients.

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

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Authorities ID 2 victims of fatal crash in Meade County

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified two people who died in a crash in western South Dakota's Meade County.

The Highway Patrol says two pickup trucks crashed at the intersection of two rural roads north of Sturgis shortly after 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Sixty-seven-year-old Ronald Audus, of Belle Fourche, was driving one of the pickups, and 32-year-old Leah Hankins, of Nisland, was a passenger in the other vehicle. Both were killed.

A young boy asks for dog and cat food for his birthday By Lee Zion, Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — That's the way he wants it. For four years in a row, this youngster from Sioux Falls has told his family and friends that instead of toys and gifts, he wants dog food and cat food.

Then his family makes the trek to Pierre so he can donate everything to the Paws Animal Shelter. He and his family delivered a dozen bags of food.

His father, Randy, said Ryder has been an animal lover from the start. When he was 3, he told his parents he was disappointed that Santa hadn't brought him a puppy, the Capital Journal (http://bit.ly/2e0NUoA) reported.

This came as a complete surprise to his parents, so they made sure to fix that. Abraham, a beagle-basset mix, was welcomed into the household a few days later.

Then, just before Ryder's fourth birthday, Randy had a rather grown-up conversation with him.

"We asked him what he wanted to do for his birthday, and we were kind of joking about how,

'You kind of have everything you need from Grandma and Grandpa, and uncle Johnny and your parents. You really don't need any more toys," he recalled.

The two of them thought about it for a while, and they both hit on the idea that during his birthday party, his friends could bring pet food. Then Ryder could donate it to the local animal shelter.

"I think I brought it up, and he thought it was a great idea. He jumped on it," Randy said.

Ryder's grandmother, Kathy Coulter, said that the first year he collected the pet food; he brought it to the animal shelter in Sioux Falls. But when he went there, the workers showed almost no enthusiasm for what he had done. Instead, they barely looked at him and simply told him to put the food in the corner.

It just so happened that the following year, Pierre was opening its Paws facility. Coulter is friends with Paws volunteer Julia Jones, so she knew about the new shelter and suggested that the family come to Pierre.

Ryder told the story in his own way

"It started, like, I like dogs, and then my Dad came up, like, saying, "Hey, do you want, instead of doing presents, we should do, like, dog and cat food. And then, I agreed with him. And then, as soon as I liked the idea, I put it on my birthday cards to bring dog and cat food," he said. "And then we get to come to Pierre and we get to bring the dog and cat food and we get to visit my Grandma's friend Julia."

Jones said it was Coulter's suggestion to come to Pierre.

"She said, 'You know, I bet Julia has some dogs and cats that can benefit from those goodies.' So that's how we got this all started," Jones said.

"You guys are so much nicer to him," Coulter told the Paws volunteers.

Jones was equally thankful.

"You all have been so awesome each time," she said.

So for the past three years, the family makes the trip on or close to his birthday, which is actually Sept. 9. This year, he brought along Randy, grandma Kathy Coulter, and his 10-year-old brother, also named Coulter.

That's not the only reason. Although the Sioux Falls facility let him see the animals, Paws is more "interactive," Randy said.

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"He gets a lot more out of it. He always enjoys coming up here," Randy said as he watched Ryder. Ryder, meanwhile, was paying no attention to his father. Instead, he was busy with the cats.

"Their claws are so sharp," Ryder said with a giggle as black-and-white Maggie played with him. "This cat likes this."

Ryder described the best part of what he does.

"Probably looking at the cats and dogs," he said. "These cats are great."

Randy said the family has two dogs now. No cats yet.

Jones was impressed with what Ryder's work.

"I think it's awesome to have volunteerism and paying-it-forward and compassion start this young. And generosity and stewardship of what we have start this young is the seed for greatness for the future," she said. "There is a bright future in our young people, no doubt."

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

A shift in culture as more women take up hunting By Danielle Ferguson, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The sound of a gunshot crackled through miles of soon-to-be combined land, bringing one pheasant to the ground in a single plop.

Carol Bothe and her crew spent the opening day of pheasant season pushing through fields, waiting for the perfect shot.

Bothe, of Brandon, is part of a growing female segment of small game hunting license holders.

The number of women obtaining pheasant hunting licenses in South Dakota has almost doubled in the last 10 years, reflecting a shift in culture and the success of hunting education programs, the Argus Leader (http://argusne.ws/2eJVSn8) reported.

"In my generation, women stayed in the kitchen; men did the hunting," said Maggie Lindsey, education services coordinator with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. "Now it's way more acceptable for women to go out and hunt. The fathers or whoever is doing the hunting in the family aren't just taking their sons; they're taking their daughters."

In 2015, one in 10 residential hunting licenses was purchased by women. That's twice what it was a decade ago. The overall numbers in 2015, including out-of-state hunters, women represented about one in 15, also doubled from the previous decade. More women are traveling to the state to hunt. Just over 1,000 women came from out of state to hunt in 2005. That number jumped to almost 4,000 in 2015.

Lindsey, an instructor with Game, Fish and Park's program Becoming an Outdoor Woman, has a mixture of women in their 20s to women in their 50s take the class. The older women are often heard saying, "my dad would take my brother but he wouldn't take me," Lindsey said. Where younger women are often coming out because they're curious or want to learn to shoot a gun and end up loving the sport of hunting, she said.

Keith Wintersteen started a Women's Hunting 101 class with Game, Fish and Parks three years ago with the idea of getting people in the 18 to 30-year-old range interested in hunting. He teaches the class the basics of hunting: how to handle a gun safely and accurately, where to hunt, what to do with the kill and what to wear and how to act.

"My sense is women are no longer going to put up with, 'It's a guy thing," Wintersteen said. "No it's not; it's for anybody who wants to be outside."

Jason Kool with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, said women make up a segment of license holders helping support the overall sales of small game hunting licenses.

"Women are certainly keeping pheasant hunting alive," Kool said.

Sandra Comer, 45, of Rapid City, learned how to hunt last year. She joined Wintersteen's Hunting 101 class so she could learn the sport to pass along to her son.

She was most nervous about the act of actually shooting the gun and killing a living thing, aspects Wintersteen said the classmates are usually the most fearful of.

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A patient coach and a lot of practice at the range helped Comer move past her fears. Now, she says she itches to get back outside.

"I just love it," Comer said. "Now I can't wait for hunting season to begin."

Having an all-female class removes some of the stresses of learning the sport, Comer said.

Lindsey agreed, saying women often take the sport as another outdoor hobby to do with a group.

"A lot of women make (hunting) a bit more social," Lindsey said. "They really need that social support. Many won't go (hunting) alone."

That's not the only difference between male and female hunters. Wintersteen said he notices women tend to be more cautious when pulling the trigger, making sure they know they have a kill before they shoot. "When they pull the trigger, something is going to hit the ground," Wintersteen.

Heather Johnson, who right now lives in Colorado, but regularly travels to South Dakota for work, hunted big game when she was younger, but dropped the sport when she went to college. She got back into hunting about six years ago when she met Lindsey, who at the time was her neighbor.

"I love the connection with the outdoors," Johnson said.

When Johnson hunted growing up, she was usually the only girl in the fields, she said. She attributes the increase to females participating in part to increased education.

"People are starting to teach more and more about nature and parents are starting to see it isn't just a boy's sport. Young women are feeling more empowered," Johnson said.

Johnson plans to return to South Dakota again this year to hunt pheasants.

Julie Sasker, president of Outdoor Women of South Dakota, said introducing women to other outdoor activities can lead them to a passion in hunting. She joined Outdoor Women of South Dakota eight years ago, when the organization was geared more toward hiking and kayaking, looking for women to go hunting with. She found more women who were looking for the same thing, and now has booming all-women's classes that fill up quickly after registrations open.

Another common question female hunters have is what to wear on the hunt, Sasker said. More companies are providing hunting apparel for women, making it a bit more comfortable to get out there, she said.

She and Kool collaborate on how to provide more opportunities for women who want to learn more. Now, she said, Outdoor Women of South Dakota provides more advanced classes for those who took Becoming an Outdoor Woman.

"I thoroughly believe that there is a place in the outdoors for women," Sasker said. "Even though it is a male dominated world, there's still a place for us out there."

The future looks bright, Lindsey said, especially when women have daughters to whom they want to pass along the tradition.

"I think more and more women will get involved," she said. "Our women's programs are hugely popular and they fill up right away. We always have a demand for more, so that tells me that there's a population that's hungry to learn this. They want to do this."

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

New investments for Lead

By Jim Holland, Rapid City Journal

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Ray Dvorak has big plans for the historic old building he recently purchased on Main Street in Lead, and he's hopeful his project will be part of a larger economic resurgence in this small former mining town in the northern Black Hills.

Dvorak hopes to starting leasing spaces in his refurbished building by May or June of next year, and he isn't alone in his optimism for a newly reborn downtown in Lead, still in recovery from the 2002 shuttering of its longtime mainstay industry, the Homestake Gold Mine.

Over the past 14 years the hundreds of gold miners employed at Homestake have been replaced by dozens of scientists seeking dark matter particles in the Sanford Underground Research Facility. The lab is

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a key part of what Lead is today, but the employment there can't match what was provided by the mine, the Rapid City Journal (http://bit.ly/2eSLNk6) reported.

But now, recent investments in town and a smooth new main drag have raised hope for a glittering future once again for Lead.

"Lead's been not doing well since the mine closed, but it's time that it starts growing back," Dvorak said. A two-year, \$6 million reconstruction project to rebuild U.S. Highway 85, which serves as Lead's Main Street, finished up earlier this year, and a \$5 million Lead Visitor Center opened this summer at the lower end of Main Street.

More than a dozen new businesses have come to Lead in recent months, among them High Mountain Outfitters, an outdoor gear and fly-fishing shop; Vilas Pharmacy, Dakota Shivers Brewing Co. and an Ace Hardware store in the nearby Twin City Mall.

"It's an area that was very dependent on one industry, and now we're starting to see some diversification," said Lori Frederick, director of the Deadwood-Lead Economic Development Corporation.

The recent flurry of economic activity has officials eyeing a re-branding effort for Lead, adopting a slogan of "Miles Beyond Ordinary" by playing off of Lead's 5,280-foot altitude, and commissioning a video, "My Lead," to spotlight the town's easy access to Black Hills outdoor recreation, along with arts and community activities at the Lead Opera House and youth recreational programs at the rebuilt Handley Recreation Center.

Dvorak is looking to add to the town's social center potential, converting the wedge-shaped lot where the bank's drive-up customers used to do their banking into a town square or pavilion similar to — though on a smaller scale — Rapid City's Main Street Square.

He plans to excavate the current lot and reopen half-obscured arch-shaped windows on the building's lower level, where steel vacuum tubes for the bank's drive-up system still snake their way from the lot through a dusty storage space to the main-floor teller windows.

"I can just see a coffee shop there and people going down there," he said.

Business owner Jamie Gilcrease-Heupel said a vision for the future and an overall atmosphere of cooperation has helped boost a positive outlook for Lead.

She said an earlier location for her Lotus Up Espresso & Deli on Baltimore Street suffered from a centuryold building with leakage and electrical problems.

"I went to the city and said my location is not working for me. I need help, or I'm going to shut down my business and go somewhere else," she said.

She said the city donated vacant land to the Deadwood-Lead Economic Development Corporation, which in turn sold the parcel on lower Main Street to her for \$1 with the provision that she build there within a few years.

Her new coffee shop and deli recently opened on an upper level, with Vilas Pharmacy opening in a lower level.

"What I've found is people all started working for the same goal. Now everyone's working together," Gilcrease-Heupel said.

Steve and Linda Shivers opened their Dakota Shivers microbrewery in May of 2015, enduring the ongoing two-year reconstruction of Main Street at their front door.

"We had a back door open to the detour," Linda Shivers said. "People avoided Lead because of the construction."

Challenges remain for Main Street development in the aftermath of the Highway 85/Main Street construction project, however.

There are still empty storefronts to fill, and some existing businesses aren't happy with a decorative fence installed on the north side of the street during the project.

Gates in the fence, installed to allow businesses to load and unload merchandise, instead became an access point for pedestrians crossing the street mid-block.

City officials, fearing legal action from anyone who might be injured crossing the fence, decided to lock the gates, with pedestrians now required to walk a longer distance in either direction to access businesses

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on the north side of the street.

But new projects at the Sanford lab will continue to bring new visitors and residents to Lead and city economic officials will also continue to promote the area's recreational opportunities.

"Things take time. Starting a single business takes time. For a community to bounce back like that takes time," Frederick said. "For the region, we're seeing some positive growth. It's just the beginning of the trend."

Dvorak is betting on Lead's future. Lawrence County property records show that Sunray Properties, a limited liability corporation owned by Dvorak, his wife, Bobbi, and daughter, Stefanie, purchased the former Wells Fargo bank building in May for \$385,000.

The building will need much in renovation including the installation of an elevator and an upgrade in utilities, but Dvorak believes the investment will pay off.

"We're thinking it's a place for multiple offices, small retail, restaurants and coffee shops," Dvorak said of his plans to upgrade and renovate the 6,000-square-foot stone building, formerly the location of Wells Fargo Bank until the bank closed and moved its employees and services to another existing bank in nearby Deadwood.

Others have said Lead's reemergence will help the town emerge from the shadow of the gambling and historical tourism of its Twin City neighbor Deadwood.

"Not everybody likes to gamble," Linda Shivers said. "I think Lead has been kind of a secret, but now the secret's out."

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

High court: Hospitals don't have to turn over documents

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Supreme Court says hospitals don't have to turn over documents related to doctor performance even when there's evidence they committed fraud against patients.

The high court in a Wednesday opinion reversed a lower court ruling that plaintiffs suing two South Dakota hospitals and several doctors should have access to certain materials used by hospital peer review committees to review physicians' performance.

Circuit Court Judge Bruce Anderson said the statute that protects the disclosure of those materials can be breached under a crime-fraud exception. The Supreme Court ruled that the exception doesn't exist and that creating one is better left to the Legislature.

Anderson is overseeing more than 30 lawsuits against Dr. Allen Sossan, who is accused of killing and injuring patients in Yankton between 2008 and 2012.

With dispute settled, Goat Island potential now in reach By NICK HYTREK, Sioux City Journal

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — It seems hard to believe that ownership of an island that's been in the middle of the Missouri River for perhaps 200 years remained as one big unsolved problem.

Yet for decades, Goat Island has been that proverbial child caught in the middle of a custody battle between parents.

But in this case it was two states and a federal agency that reached an amicable solution, cutting through miles of red tape to finally provide Goat Island with some certainty for its future and a chance for its full potential to be realized.

"When we got the word this impasse had been resolved, you probably heard a yell from my office in Yankton to Sioux City," said Rick Clark, superintendent of the Missouri National Recreational River in Yankton, South Dakota.

On Oct. 12, Nebraska, South Dakota and the National Park Service announced that the island would be managed by the National Park Service as part of the Missouri National Recreational River.

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It's a solution that makes so much sense, it makes you wonder what took so long.

"It's really a crown jewel on this section of the Missouri River. It's highly attractive for canoeists and kayakers making their way down the river," Clark said of the island that's nearly three miles long and a quarter mile wide at its widest point and covers nearly 600 acres about four miles west of Vermillion.

The Sioux City Journal (http://bit.ly/2dFgc9y) reports that it's a popular spot for those river travelers to stop and pitch a tent. Daytime visitors hike through cottonwood trees that could well be 100 years old.

That old age had always been part of the problem, said Tim Cowman, natural resources administrator with the South Dakota Geological Society and adjunct professor and former director of the Missouri River Institute at the University of South Dakota.

Historically, islands and sandbars came and went in the Missouri River's shifting channel. No one's certain when Goat Island became permanent. Some believe it was already established when Lewis and Clark first passed by in 1804. Cowman said it was never surveyed by the federal government before or after Nebraska and South Dakota became states in 1867 and 1889, respectively.

"Nobody had claimed ownership," Cowman said. "It had never been deeded."

As legend has it, the name was spawned by the goats Jack Jaquith once raised on the island. Some local residents also knew it as Jake's Island after Jaquith, an attorney from Vermillion.

Farmers also grazed cattle on the island over the years. People in canoes and kayaks stopped by for a look around. A few hunters used it for duck and deer hunting. But local residents never really embraced Goat Island's possibilities, Clark said, because the uncertainty over ownership left them worried about trespassing.

Those worries are now over, and Goat Island's future now has some certainty.

"I was glad to see they came up with a resolution," Cowman said. "It's best for the public and the management of the island."

Clark said the National Park Service and federal Bureau of Land Management will spend much of the next year surveying the island's vegetation and wildlife. A big stand of red cedar trees, an invasive species, must be dealt with, Clark said, as well as some Russian olive trees. Their treatment will be part of a preliminary draft management plan that will be open for public review.

Clark sees potential for a trail system, maybe a camping site with water and toilet facilities. Overall, he anticipates few changes.

"Likely it will remain in its primitive state," Clark said.

Preservation will provide a glimpse of a Missouri River feature that was much more common before the river was was dammed and channelized.

"There are not many features like this on the Missouri Natural Recreational River," Cowman said. "It's a nice place to hang out and enjoy the river on a summer day."

Goat Island is now full of possibilities rather than uncertainties.

Deciding the best way to preserve it and make it a destination for those who enjoy the Missouri River won't be nearly as problematic as settling the ownership issue.

And park service officials will probably have a lot more fun solving it.

Rain, high grain moisture hampers some South Dakota farmers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rain last week hampered the harvest in some parts of central and southeastern South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that high grain moisture on late-planted corn and soybeans also is slowing progress for some farmers.

The corn and soybean harvests remain behind the average pace, at 47 percent and 89 percent complete, respectively. The sunflower harvest is ahead of average, at 56 percent done.

The winter wheat crop is 82 percent emerged, well ahead of average.

Pasture and range conditions in South Dakota are rated 35 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 70 percent adequate to surplus.

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The Latest: US says tried to disrupt forced march near Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Latest on the fighting in Iraq (all times local): 3 p.m.

The U.S. military says it carried out airstrikes near the Iraqi city of Mosul earlier this week to try to prevent Islamic State militants from forcing thousands of civilians north into the city to use them as human shields.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew C. Isler told The Associated Press Friday that the coalition conducted "precision strikes" on vehicles that the militants were using in the operation. He says the vehicles were unoccupied and far enough away from the civilians to ensure none were harmed.

The U.N. human rights office says IS militants are using tens of thousands of people as human shields in and around Mosul. It says the group has also killed more than 200 people this week for refusing to comply with its orders or for previously belonging to the Iraqi security forces.

Isler says the use of human shields is another example of the group's "atrocities."

1:45 p.m.

The United Nations' human rights office says the Islamic State group appears to be using tens of thousands of civilians in and around the Iraqi city of Mosul as "human shields."

It has received reports of more than 200 people being killed for refusing to comply with IS orders or previously belonging to Iraqi security forces.

Spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said Friday in Geneva that "credible reports" suggest IS has been forcing tens of thousands from their homes in districts around Mosul.

She said: "ISIL's depraved, cowardly strategy is to attempt to use the presence of civilian hostages to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations, effectively using tens of thousands of women, men and children as human shields."

Shamdasani says 232 people, mostly former officers, were reportedly shot Wednesday, and 24 Tuesday.

1:20 p.m.

The U.S. military says Iraqi forces have retaken 40 villages from the Islamic State group near Mosul since a massive operation to drive the militants from the city began last week.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew C. Isler said Friday that Iraqi troops are consolidating gains made east and south of the city earlier this week, but insisted "momentum" was still on their side.

The fight to retake Mosul, which fell to IS in a matter of days in the summer of 2014, is the largest military operation undertaken in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Isler says the U.S.-led coalition has stepped up airstrikes against the militants, and is carrying out three times as many as it did during previous campaigns to drive IS from other Iraqi cities.

Activists split as Clinton makes push for black millennials By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Six months into Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, she met with a group of Black Lives Matter activists in Washington to make her case and seek their support.

DeRay Mckesson left disappointed, feeling Clinton lacked a grasp of the issues he had spent the previous year protesting in cities like Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, including police brutality and income inequality. He came out of the October 2015 meeting unwilling to support her publicly.

On Wednesday, though, The Washington Post published an op-ed by Mckesson announcing his plans to vote for her after meeting again with her last week in Cleveland. He said he heard a candidate well-versed in the things that matter to him.

"There was no platform the first time," the 31-year-old Mckesson said in a telephone interview. "There is a platform now. I reflected on the things I've heard her say, commit to and seen in writing, and that's how I came to my decision."

A growing number of black millennials who were initially skeptical of Clinton — questioning her commit-

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ment to end mass incarceration, confront racial bias in policing and repudiate her husband's tough policies on welfare and crime during the 1990s — now support her.

Some do so enthusiastically, others pragmatically, because they find Donald Trump so repugnant with his talk of violence in "inner cities" and the need for "law and order."

But other activists are still not convinced that Clinton will address their priorities and are withholding their votes and public support as she makes a final push to enlist a group seen as key to her path to victory in November.

"It's a challenge and we're just facing it head-on," said Clinton aide Christopher Huntley, who focuses on millennials. He said the candidate is mounting a full-court press to reach young black voters and is being helped by "folks who have been skeptical now realizing and coming to that 'Aha!' moment that she's the best one to carry our water."

Clinton's platform includes establishing national guidelines on police use of force; police training in recognizing implicit bias; legislation to end racial profiling; increased funding for body cameras; sentencing reform; and federal aid to create jobs for young people, ex-convicts and small businesses in poor communities.

To help make her case to black voters, she has enlisted the Mothers of the Movement, a group of black women who have lost children to violence. They include the mothers of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown. The mothers joined Clinton on the campaign trail in North Carolina last weekend.

Clinton is also reaching out to Black Lives Matter activists, several of whom have social media platforms that give them tremendous influence, and is campaigning at historically black colleges, deploying surrogates like New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and tapping the likes of rapper Jay-Z to perform a get-out-the-vote concert.

On her 69th birthday on Wednesday, Clinton stopped by "The Breakfast Club," a popular urban radio show. Over the weekend, she tweeted a shout-out to historically black Howard University, which was celebrating its homecoming.

According to a new GenForward poll of Americans ages 18 to 30, 49 percent of blacks say they will definitely vote in November. That's similar to the percentage of all young people. Eighty percent of the likely black voters say they plan to cast their ballots for Clinton, versus 4 percent for Trump.

Clinton has enjoyed strong support from older African-Americans, particularly in the South, where she defeated primary rival Bernie Sanders with 77 percent of the overall black vote in states with exit polling. But in the GenForward poll, black millennials reported supporting Sanders over Clinton during the primary season 46 to 28 percent.

In endorsing Clinton last week in an Elle magazine interview, Brittany Packnett — a St. Louis organizer who was also at both Clinton meetings — voiced some of the conflict felt by young black voters during the election season.

"These young people are understandably asking, 'What is the point of continuing to participate in this system that assaults me?" Packnett said. "I have been wrestling with the same frustrations, but I have a responsibility to young people, to my community and to our work. The best way I can use my platform is to support Secretary Clinton."

Many black millennials had doubts about Clinton early in the campaign because of a 1996 speech in which she referred to young "super-predators" in the black community. She has since apologized for the remark.

In a heated moment on the campaign trail in April, Philadelphia activist Erica Mines confronted former President Bill Clinton about his support for welfare reform that activists say punished poor people and a crime bill that put many blacks behind bars.

Mines said she plans to vote for an independent next month.

"I do not believe she is someone who can be trusted," Mines said of Clinton. "She has been pushed because of Bernie Sanders to be more left than she has in the past. I do not trust her to do what is right for our communities. I only hear her talk about the middle class, which is not representative of those living at or below the poverty line."

Ferguson protester Johnetta Elzie said Clinton has done nothing to earn her endorsement. Elzie was among the protesters who met with Clinton in October 2015, but did not meet with her last week.

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"There is no way I could promise to black people that she's not going to be horrible for us," she said. "That's not the hill I want my credibility to die on. I'm not going to guilt-trip people. I'm encouraging people to vote however you want on Nov. 8 — or don't vote."

Errin Haines Whack covers urban affairs for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at http://www. twitter.com/emarvelous.

UN: IS using tens of thousands as human shields in Mosul By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

QAYARA AIR BASE, Iraq (AP) — The Islamic State group appears to be using tens of thousands of people as "human shields" in and around Mosul, where Iraqi forces are waging a large-scale offensive aimed at retaking the country's second largest city, the U.N. human rights office said Friday.

It has received reports of more than 200 people being killed for refusing to comply with IS orders or previously belonging to Iraqi security forces. It said "credible reports" suggest IS has been forcing tens of thousands from their homes in districts around Mosul.

"ISIL's depraved, cowardly strategy is to attempt to use the presence of civilian hostages to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations, effectively using tens of thousands of women, men and children as human shields," spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said in Geneva.

She said 232 people, mostly former officers, were reportedly shot Wednesday, and 24 on Tuesday.

The Associated Press reported earlier this week that IS militants were going door to door in villages south of Mosul, ordering hundreds of civilians at gunpoint on a forced march north into the city, apparently using them as human shields.

Iraq launched a massive operation on Oct. 17 aimed at retaking Mosul, which fell to IS in a matter of days in the summer of 2014. Iraqi forces are advancing from several directions, but are still well outside the city itself.

The U.N. and rights groups have expressed fear that more than 200,000 civilians could be displaced in the opening weeks of the offensive. Mosul is still home to more than a million people.

IS has built up elaborate defenses on the outskirts of the city, including an extensive tunnel network, and has planted large numbers of explosive booby traps to slow the troops' progress.

The U.S. military says Iraqi forces have retaken 40 villages from IS near Mosul since the operation began. But most of the fighting has taken place in a belt of sparsely populated farming communities ringing the city.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Matthew C. Isler said Iraqi troops on Friday were consolidating gains made east and south of the city earlier this week, but insisted "momentum" was still on their side.

Isler says the U.S.-led coalition has stepped up airstrikes against the militants, and is carrying out three times as many as it did during previous campaigns to drive IS from other Iraqi cities.

Associated Press writer Joseph Krauss in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Syrian rebels launch Aleppo offensive to break siege By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Fierce fighting broke out around the northern Syrian city of Aleppo Friday as rebels announced a large-scale offensive to break the government's nearly two-month siege of opposition-held areas. A reporter inside the city on the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV channel reported attacks on "all sides" of the city, "from the furthest points north to furthest south."

Sounds of heavy gunfire, mortar fire, and explosions were heard in the background of his broadcast. Dark smoke was seen rising above the city on the overcast morning. Presumed government or Russian jets were also heard flying overhead.

Rebel factions in and around Aleppo have been preparing to launch a counteroffensive to try and break the government's suffocating siege off Aleppo's eastern-held neighborhoods for several weeks.

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The area has been subjected to a ferocious campaign of aerial attacks by Russian and Syrian government warplanes, and hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks according to opposition activists and trapped residents.

The Syrian army said in a statement that troops repelled rebel attacks on all fronts in Aleppo and inflicted human losses among the attackers.

The army said the rebel attack concentrated on the Assad suburb west of Aleppo amid intense shelling with artillery and Russian-made Grad rockets.

"The Syrian army and its allies are in control on the ground and armed groups were not able to change the map," the army statement said. "Fighting is still ongoing but the intensity dropped."

This is the second attempt by rebels to break the government's siege. They opened a corridor to the east for the month of August after pro-government forces first applied a blockade in July, but government forces were able to reinstate the siege in early September.

Rebels launched the offensive Friday as the Russian, Syrian, and Iranian foreign ministers met in Moscow. Iran and Russia are Assad's main backers and have committed air power, ground forces, and military advisers to the war.

Aleppo is the focal point of the six-year war. President Bashar Assad has said he is determined to retake the country's largest city and former commercial capital. The government has maintained a siege on the rebel-held eastern quarters since September. The U.N. estimates 275,000 people are trapped inside with dwindling supplies of food and medicine.

Friday's attack began with rebels detonating three vehicle-borne explosives against government positions to the city's southwest and attacking with hundreds of rockets, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. It said at least one of the vehicles was driven by a suicide bomber for the al-Qaida-linked Fatah al-Sham Front, which also announced the offensive.

Fatah-al-Sham claimed credit for two car bombs, saying in a statement that a "martyrdom-seeking fighter" drove a tank laden with explosives and parked it, before it was detonated and the fighter "returned to his brothers."

In a second statement it said a suicide car bomb attack was carried out west of Aleppo.

The Islamic Front rebel coalition also announced on Twitter that the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham group targeted a military airport to the east of the city with Grad rockets and destroyed a government position to the west of the city.

Ammar Sakkar, the military spokesman for the powerful Fastaqim faction inside the city, said "all the revolutionary factions, without exception, are participating in the battle."

He said hundreds of advance fighters were participating in the attack, adding that the total number of participants was "much higher."

In Moscow, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem told his Russian counterpart that the government in Damascus is "determined to liberate all our land from terrorists."

"Our goals are common, therefore coordination between us continues on almost daily basis and we are thankful" for Russia, al-Moallem said.

Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Beirut and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today: 1. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ACQUITTAL OF OREGON STANDOFF LEADERS

A defense attorney for Ammon Bundy is hit by a stun gun and tackled by federal authorities after he keeps yelling at the judge, demanding his client be released immediately.

2. POLICE FIRE BEAN BAGS, PEPPER SPRAY TO EVICT PIPELINE PROTESTERS

Cody Hall, a spokesman for protesters opposing the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota, says

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they will continue efforts to block the project.

3. ACTIVISTS SPLIT AS CLINTON MAKES PUSH FOR BLACK MILLENNIALS

Some young African-American voters who had their doubts about the Democratic candidate are coming around to support her — some enthusiastically, some because they cannot stand Trump.

4. SYRIAN REBELS LAUNCH ALEPPO OFFENSIVE

The campaign is intended to break the government's siege of the eastern sector of the contested city in the north of the country and the current focal point of the six-year war.

5. NORTH KOREA NUKE THREAT AWAITS NEXT PRESIDENT

Obama's successor will likely contend with Pyongyang able to strike the continental U.S. with a nuclear weapon.

6. WHERE DEBT CAN LAST GENERATIONS

Indentured laborers at Afghanistan's brick kilns make millions of dollars a year for their owners but are still unable to repay their loans.

7. BRAZIL VALLEY WAITING FOR RECOVERY FROM MINE FLOOD

One year later, families affected by the disaster say they feel betrayed by the company behind it — Samarco, a joint venture of Brazilian and Australian mining giants.

8. WHO FORSWEARS SWEAR WORDS

The foul-mouthed Philippine president, who once called the pope a "son of a bitch" and told Obama to "go to hell," says he has promised to God he won't spew expletives again.

9. TONI MORRISON ADDS ANOTHER PRIZE TO HER COLLECTION

The 85-year-old writer receives a lifetime achievement award from the PEN American Center.

10. WORLD SERIES RETURNS TO WRIGLEY FOR FIRST TIME IN 71 YEARS

The Cubs and Indians will face off in Game 3 after splitting the first two nights in chilly Cleveland.

Deep South drought kills crops, threatens herds, dries lakes By JEFF MARTIN and JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Six months into a deepening drought, the weather is killing crops, threatening cattle and sinking lakes to their lowest levels in years across much of the South.

The very worst conditions — what forecasters call "exceptional drought" — are in the mountains of northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia, a region known for its thick green forests, waterfalls and red clay soil.

"Here at my farm, April 15 was when the rain cut off," said David Bailey, who had to sell half his cattle, more than 100 animals, for lack of hay in Alabama's scorched northeast corner.

"We've come through some dry years in the '80s, but I never seen it this dry, this long," Bailey added. "There's a bunch of people in a lot of bad shape here."

The drought has spread from these mountains onto the Piedmont plateau, down to the plains and across 13 southern states, from Oklahoma and Texas to Florida and Virginia, putting about 33 million people in drought conditions, according to Thursday's U.S. Drought Monitor.

Wildfires raged Thursday near Birmingham, Alabama. Statewide, the blazes have charred more than 12,000 acres in the past 30 days.

"There are places getting ready to set records for most number of days in a row without rain. It's a once-in-100-year kind of thing for this time of year," said John Christy, Alabama's state climatologist.

The South has historically enjoyed abundant water, which has been fortunate, because much of its soil is poor at holding onto it. But the region's booming growth has strained this resource. A legal battle between Georgia and Florida over water from rivers and their watersheds goes before a federal court official Monday, and the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to review his recommendations.

The dry weather is only making things worse.

"We're 10 days away from a drought at any given time," Christy explained. "Unlike the Midwest and other places in the country, we are closer to a drought than almost any place else."

Parts of northern Georgia and Alabama have now seen their driest 60 days on record, Thursday's na-

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tional drought report showed.

If the drought persists, authorities said it could lead to the kinds of water use restrictions that are common out West, but haven't been seen in parts of the South in nearly a decade.

In 2007, police in Atlanta's suburb of Alpharetta were given the power to criminally cite anyone watering their lawns. In Alabama that year, people were fined for watering on the wrong day and many homes became infested by thirsty ants and cockroaches.

In west Georgia this month, the Tallapoosa River dropped below the intake the Haralson County Water Authority uses to provide water to at least four small towns. Some major cities are spending big to prevent future water shortages: Atlanta has begun a \$300 million project to store 2.4 billion gallons of water — a month's water supply — and pipe it under the city.

This summer was particularly hot as well as dry, with 90-degree temperatures day after day that evaporated what little moisture the soil had left, said Bill Murphey, Georgia's state climatologist.

This summer was the second-hottest on record in Atlanta, where seasonal rains still haven't arrived: During the past 30 days, just over two-tenths of an inch of rain has fallen in Atlanta, 94 percent below normal, and in Cartersville, about 45 miles northwest of Atlanta, the weather service has recorded no rain at all.

The South's usually temperate forests have turned into tinderboxes, worries Denise Croker, a chief ranger with the Georgia Forestry Commission in northwest Georgia.

In the arid western U.S., cigarettes tossed from cars have been known to start forest fires. In the South, higher humidity generally keeps that from happening, but not this year. Even a spark from a chain dragged from a truck could set the northwest Georgia woods on fire, she said.

"Our dirt is like talcum powder," she said.

Outdoor burning has been banned due to fire risk across parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and burn permits aren't being issued in parts of Georgia.

"This is the worst drought that I've ever experienced and I've been farming for 45 years," said Phillip Thompson, 60, who spent Tuesday night trying to snuff out a smoldering, 150-acre brush fire near Scottsboro, Alabama, where he farms corn and soybeans. "It's just a bleak situation."

Some of the South's best known crops — cotton, peanuts and sweet potatoes — have largely escaped damage, because they're mostly produced outside the drought area, and in some cases got rain from Hurricane Matthew and other tropical weather, trade groups said.

Peanut yields will be down due to heat, drought or hurricanes, but that won't likely affect consumer prices, said Dan Koehler, who directs the Georgia Peanut Commission.

As for sweet potatoes, the drought has been both good and bad: Hard ground can damage skin and lead to rot in stored tubers, but they also start curing in the ground when it's really dry, which means "they're really sweet," said Sylvia Clark, secretary of the Mississippi Sweet Potato Association.

Associated Press writer Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this report.

Lost cause? North Korea nuke threat awaits next president By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If North Korea has been a foreign policy headache for Barack Obama's presidency, it threatens to be a migraine for his successor. The next president will likely contend with an adversary able to strike the continental U.S. with a nuclear weapon.

Whoever wins the White House in the Nov. 8 election is expected to conduct a review of North Korea policy. It's too early to predict what that portends, but the North will grab more attention of the next president than it did for Obama, who adopted strategic patience: ramping up sanctions in a so-far fruitless effort to force the North to negotiate on denuclearization.

With surprising candor this week, National Intelligence director James Clapper said that persuading North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons is probably a "lost cause." That appeared to challenge to a key tenet

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of U.S. policy shared by U.S. allies and adversaries alike that agree on the goal of the denuclearization of the divided Korean Peninsula, however distant it may be.

But Clapper was also channeling what many experts are thinking. Leader Kim Jong Un appears to see nuclear weapons as a guarantee of his own survival. Six-nation aid-for-disarmament talks have not convened since Obama took office in 2009, during which time the North's capabilities have leapt ahead.

"Without a shift in U.S. strategy toward North Korea, the next U.S. president will likely be sitting in the Oval Office when the regime finally acquires the ability to strike the continental United States with a nuclear weapon," said a recent Council on Foreign Relations report.

Speaking at the council in New York on Tuesday, Clapper said that North Korea has yet to test its KN-08 intercontinental ballistic missile, so it is unclear if it works, but the U.S. operates on the "worst-case" assumption that Pyongyang is potentially capable of launching a missile with a weapon on it that could reach Alaska and Hawaii.

Experts have estimated the missile, which can be moved by road, making it harder to target in a preemptive strike, could be operational by around 2020.

With five nuclear tests now under its belt, the North may already be able to miniaturize a warhead for use on a short-range missile, if not on an intercontinental missile. It has also launched two rockets into space, and has begun testing submarine-launched missiles. U.S. experts estimate that it now has 13 to 21 nuclear weapons, and could have as many as 100 by 2020 — approaching what India likely has today.

Clapper said the best hope for the U.S. is probably to negotiate a cap on the North's nuclear capabilities. But that implies recognition of North Korea as a nuclear weapons state, which the U.S. has said it will not do.

"The dilemma for policymakers in dealing with North Korea is that if one accepts that the door to negotiation of denuclearization with North Korea is closed, the alternative set of options involves either acquiescence to a nuclear North Korea on the one hand or pressure leading to regime change on the other," said Scott Snyder, senior fellow for Korea studies at the council.

Of the U.S. presidential candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton wants the international community to intensify sanctions as the Obama administration did with Iran, which eventually opened the way for a deal to contain its nuclear program.

Divining what Republican Donald Trump might do is tricky. He wants the U.S. to leverage its trade ties to get China to rein in its unpredictable ally. But he's also said he'd be ready to meet Kim, and suggested detaching the U.S. from the problem by allowing its allies Japan and South Korea to get nuclear weapons.

U.S. experts who held unofficial talks with North Korean officials in Malaysia last week maintain that negotiations on denuclearization are still possible.

"I think the best course would be to test the proposition by some serious engagement in which we see whether their (North Korea's) legitimate security concerns can be met," said Robert Gallucci, who negotiated a 1994 disarmament agreement that curbed North Korea's nuclear program for nearly 10 years.

He added that the concerns of neighboring South Korea and Japan — they face the most immediate threat from Pyongyang — would also have to be met.

"We don't know for sure that negotiations will work, but what I can say with some confidence is that pressure without negotiations won't work, which is the track we are on right now," said another participant, Leon Sigal from the New York-based Social Science Research Council.

But there is a deep, bipartisan skepticism in Washington about talks with Pyongyang, which has recanted on past accords and says it will never give up its nuclear weapons. It claims it needs nukes to deter an invasion by the U.S., which has 28,500 troops in South Korea.

Still, North Korea has not entirely closed the door to talks.

A July government statement suggested it remained open to discussions on denuclearization of the peninsula. The U.S., however, slapped sanctions on Kim the same day for human rights abuses. The North said that was tantamount to declaring war.

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Clinton runs up campaign cash advantage over Trump By JULIE BYKOWICZ and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton entered the final phase of her presidential bid with a resounding campaign cash advantage over Donald Trump.

New fundraising reports show her campaign and joint accounts with Democrats had \$153 million in the bank as of last week. That's more than double the \$68 million Trump's campaign and partnership committees had on hand.

Clinton's continued fundraising advantage helps ensure the Democratic nominee can keep her sprawling political operation at full strength in the frantic final days of the race. She maintains a staff of more than 800 — several times larger than Trump's — and has spent more on advertising than the Republican has every single week of the race.

Over the course of the primary and general elections, Clinton's campaign has hauled in \$513 million, roughly double what Trump's has.

She outpaced him again in the first 19 days of October, the new reports show, when her campaign reaped \$53 million as his brought in about \$30 million.

While Trump, a New York businessman who says he is worth \$10 billion, typically makes a personal contribution of about \$2 million each month, he had not done so yet in October. The latest contribution reports, up to date as of Wednesday, show he had given only about \$33,000.

The candidates and many outside groups involved in the presidential race are filing their final pre-election fundraising reports on Thursday. The filings cover the first 19 days of the month.

Outside groups backing Clinton are better funded than those supporting Trump, the reports show. Super PACS can take unlimited contributions from wealthy donors, but they may not coordinate with the campaigns.

The pro-Clinton Priorities USA raised \$18 million in 19 days. Some of its biggest most recent donors include Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz and Susan Mandel, the wife of a hedge fund founder, who each put in \$2.5 million this month.

Priorities USA has been spending most of its money on TV ads. It plans to spend \$21 million on ads this week and next, according to Kantar Media's political ad tracker.

Rebuilding America Now, one of several pro-Trump groups, raised only about \$215,000 through the early part of this month. As of last week, the super PAC only had about \$1.2 million in cash on hand. Another, Great America PAC, raised \$2 million and had about as much left to spend.

Keep track on how much Clinton and Trump are spending on television advertising, and where they're spending it, via AP's interactive ad tracker. http://elections.ap.org/content/ad-spending

Follow Julie Bykowicz and Chad Day on Twitter: https://twitter.com/bykowicz and https://twitter.com/ ChadSDay

Countries OK world's largest marine reserve in Antarctica By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The countries that decide the fate of Antarctica's waters reached an historic agreement on Friday to create the world's largest marine protected area in the ocean next to the frozen continent.

The agreement comes after years of diplomatic wrangling and high-level talks between the U.S. and Russia, which has rejected the idea in the past.

Proponents of the reserve say it sets a precedent for multiple countries working together to protect a large swath of ocean, which falls outside any single nation's jurisdiction.

The agreement covers an area about twice the size of Texas in the Ross Sea.

The deal was clinched after 24 countries and the European Union met in Hobart, Australia, this week.

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Decisions on Antarctic fishing require a consensus among the 25 members, a hurdle which has confounded past efforts.

The U.S. and New Zealand have been pushing for a marine reserve for years. They first submitted a joint proposal in 2012, but it was rejected five times before Friday's agreement. Ukraine, China and Russia had expressed concerns in the past, with Russia becoming the final holdout before the deal was made.

The marine protected area covers 1.6 million square kilometers (617,000 square miles). There will be a blanket ban on commercial fishing across about three-quarters of that area. In the remaining ocean zones, some commercial fishing will be allowed.

A small amount of fishing for research purposes will be allowed throughout the protected area.

Several countries fish in the waters surrounding Antarctica for lucrative toothfish, which are often marketed in North America as Chilean sea bass.

Evan Bloom, who led the U.S. delegation in Hobart, said that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has been a passionate advocate for the reserve and has been pushing for it in high-level talks with Russian leaders, including President Vladimir Putin.

Bloom said he was "thrilled" with the result.

"We've been working on this for so many years and had so many disappointments trying to get here," he said. "This is a real win for marine conservation."

In a statement, Kerry said the agreement "will safeguard one of the last unspoiled ocean wilderness areas on the planet — home to unparalleled marine biodiversity and thriving communities of penguins, seals, whales, seabirds, and fish."

New Zealand's Foreign Minister Murray McCully said the final agreement included some concessions to Russia, including adjusting the reserve's boundaries and allowing a little more commercial fishing outside the no-take zone.

Nevertheless, he said, he was pleasantly surprised that Russia and the U.S. had managed to reach any kind of agreement, given the current tensions over Syria.

"It goes to demonstrate that you can never jump to conclusions," he said. "Every now and then you get lucky."

Andrea Kavanagh, who directs Antarctic and Southern Ocean work for The Pew Charitable Trusts, said the environment had become a passion project for Putin's former chief of staff, Sergei Ivanov.

"We couldn't be happier about this result," she said. "This is history. This has never been done before." She said she hoped the agreement represented the first step in what would become a worldwide network of marine reserves that would help protect the Earth's oceans.

The nations are already considering proposals for marine protected areas in East Antarctic waters and the Weddell Sea.

"We are confident that these areas will be protected in the coming years," said Mike Walker, the Project Director of the Antarctic Ocean Alliance.

The agreement will take effect from December 2017 and, for most of the reserve, will last an initial 35 years.

Manson follower 'Tex' Watson denied parole in California By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California parole officials recommended Thursday that Charles "Tex" Watson, the self-described right-hand man of murderous cult leader Charles Manson, should remain in prison 47 years after he helped plan and carry out the slayings of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six other people.

Watson's 17th parole hearing was held at Mule Creek State Prison, near Sacramento. He can seek parole again in five years.

Watson, 70, is serving a life sentence for the murders of Tate and four others at her Beverly Hills, California, home on Aug. 9, 1969. The next night, he helped kill grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary.

"These were some of the most horrific crimes in California history, and we believe he continues to exhibit

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a lack of remorse and remains a public safety risk," Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in a statement after the decision.

Watson was initially sentenced to death in the stabbing and shooting rampage, but the sentence was later commuted to life when the California Supreme Court ruled in 1972 that the death penalty was unconstitutional. He currently is in Mule Creek State Prison, near Sacramento.

Sharon Tate's sister, Debra Tate — the last surviving member of her immediate family — urged the panel of parole commissioners to reject freedom for the man she called "the most active, the most prolific killer in the Manson family."

"He's a sociopath, and sociopaths are incapable having insight or empathy for anything. It's all about him. He didn't have it then, and he doesn't have it now," she said after the hearing. She said Watson still blames the murders on his drug use and lack of a clear goal in life rather than accepting full responsibility. In July, Gov. Jerry Brown reversed a Board of Parole Hearings recommendation that the state release

Manson follower Leslie Van Houten, 67, who is serving a life sentence for the La Bianca killings.

In January, he blocked the release of Bruce Davis, 74, another Manson devotee who was convicted in the killings of musician Gary Hinman and stuntman Donald "Shorty" Shea.

In prison, Watson wrote a book, "Manson's Right-Hand Man Speaks Out," saying the charismatic Manson offered utopia, then persuaded his followers to act out his "destructive worldview." Watson has apologized for the killings.

Watson says he converted to Christianity in 1975, founded Abounding Love Ministries in 1980, and ministers to other inmates. He also obtained his college degree behind bars.

Watson wrote that he was raised in Texas and headed to California at 21 against his parents' wishes in 1967 in search of "drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll."

Prosecutors said Manson ordered the murders in hopes of triggering a race war that he dubbed "Helter Skelter," after a Beatles song. The words "Death to Pigs" were written in blood on the wall of the LaBianca residence; "Helter Skelter" was scrawled on the refrigerator; and "rise" was written in blood on the front door.

The idea, authorities said, was that Manson and his followers would rise from the rubble to rule the world.

"Part of what torments me all these years and today is the severity of Charles Watson's crimes and how horribly the victims suffered," Anthony DiMaria, a nephew of Jay Sebring, who was killed with Tate, wrote in remarks to parole commissioners.

He cited seven gunshots — all fired by Watson — along with 170 stab wounds and 13 blows to the victims with blunt objects.

After the board's decision Thursday night, DiMaria said "the 5 year denial (of parole) was a fair decision." "With crimes of this magnitude, I felt profound sorrow for what the victims suffered, for the family members and representatives who spoke in the room ... and for what Charles Watson brought upon himself," he said.

Watson wrote in his book that there was no concern for the victims during the rampage.

"There was a total disregard for life. I was concerned with destroying everyone and not getting discovered," he wrote. "In some ways, punishment escaped my mind since Helter Skelter was coming down and society, as we knew it, was coming to an end."

Watson's attorney, Kendrick Jan, did not respond to repeated requests for comment. A message left for supporters running Watson's Abounding Love Ministries website also was not returned.

Philippine leader Duterte says God told him to stop cursing By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The foul-mouthed Philippine president, who once called the pope a "son of a bitch" and told Barack Obama to "go to hell," says he has promised to God he won't spew expletives again.

President Rodrigo Duterte's profanities have become his trademark, especially when threatening to kill drug dealers as part of his war on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead since he took office at the end of June.

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Duterte made the stunning pledge on arrival in his southern hometown of Davao city late Thursday from a trip to Japan.

While flying home, he said he was looking at the sky while everyone was sound asleep, some snoring, and he heard a voice that said "if you don't stop epithets, I will bring this plane down now."

"And I said, 'Who is this?' So, of course, 'it's God,'" he said.

"So, I promise God to ... not express slang, cuss words and everything. So you guys hear me right always because (a) promise to God is a promise to the Filipino people."

Duterte's vow was met with applause, but he cautioned: "Don't clap too much or else this may get derailed."

He shocked the dominant Roman Catholics last year when he fired an expletive while expressing his disgust over a monstrous traffic jam that trapped him while Pope Francis was visiting Manila. "I wanted to call. 'Pope, you son of a bitch, go home.' Don't visit here anymore," he told a mob of supporters, some of whom laughed.

He later apologized after Filipino bishops expressed shock and outrage.

It's not certain if the 71-year-old president, who has been compared to U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump because of his brash language, can keep his promise. Duterte has made a similar pledge in June when it became evident that he had won the May 9 presidential elections overwhelmingly on a pledge to end crimes, especially illegal drugs, and corruption.

He said then that he was enjoying his last moments as a "rude person" because "when I become president, when I take my oath of office ... that will be a different story. There will be a metamorphosis." It didn't take long for Duterte to break the promise.

He has repeatedly leveled SOB-laced tirades against Obama, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a few outspoken opposition politicians and human rights advocates, while heaping praises on Chinese and Russian leaders.

There were no expletives in his late Thursday speech, but Duterte still sounded mean toward critics.

When asked for his message for a Filipino beauty queen who won the recent Miss International pageant, Duterte said he was proud. "Many Filipinas are beautiful, but all of you there in the human rights commission are ugly."

Asked if the days of his cursing the U.S. and the E.U are over, Duterte didn't answer clearly.

"I do not want anybody reading my mind because I couldn't make a smart move anymore. But it's all calibrated, it's all about timing," Duterte said.

Saudi Arabia says Yemen rebels fire missile toward Mecca By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Shiite rebels in Yemen fired a ballistic missile toward the holy Muslim city of Mecca overnight, Saudi Arabia said Friday, the insurgents' deepest strike yet into the kingdom amid the country's stalemate civil war.

Rebel media in Yemen said the missile targeted an international airport in Jiddah, though Saudi Arabia said it was "intercepted and destroyed" 65 kilometers (40 miles) from Mecca, which is home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that the world's Muslims pray toward five times a day.

The missile launch shows the capability of Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and their allies to continue to strike Saudi Arabia. It also drew the immediate anger of Saudi citizens, as the protection of Mecca is a key pillar of the Saudi royal family's prestige and the country's national identity.

The Saudi military said the missile, fired Thursday night from Yemen's northwestern Saada province bordering the kingdom, caused no damage. The Saudi military has a supply of U.S.-made, surface-to-air Patriot missile batteries it previously has fired at Houthi-launched missiles.

The military said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency that it immediately targeted the area where the missile was launched in airstrikes.

The Houthis and their allies, including forces loyal to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have

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a stockpile of Soviet-era Scud missiles and locally designed variants. The Houthi-controlled satellite news channel Al-Masirah published a bulletin saying its forces had fired a Volcano-1 variant missile at Jiddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport, without mentioning Mecca. That airport is 75 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of Mecca.

The Houthi-controlled SABA news agency said the missile "directly hit" the airport and caused massive destruction. There were no immediate delays or diversions affecting the airport Friday.

A Houthi ballistic missile fired earlier this month targeted Taif, home to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Air Base, which also is near Mecca.

Yemen, on the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, has been in the midst of a civil war since September 2014 when the Iranian-backed Houthis swept into the capital of Sanaa and overthrew the country's internationally recognized government. In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries began a military campaign against the Houthi forces, saying its mission served in part as a counterbalance to Iran's influence following its nuclear deal with world powers.

The Saudi-led campaign initially had the logistical and intelligence support of the U.S., but mounting civilian casualties from its airstrikes led to America pulling back, especially after a Saudi strike earlier this month on a funeral in Sanaa killed some 140 people and wounded over 600. The U.S. also fired Tomahawk missiles at mobile Houthi radar sites after reporting its warships came under fire in the Red Sea near the crucial Bab al-Mandeb strait.

In recent days, two commercial ships reportedly have come under fire in the same area.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap. His work can be found at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/jon-gambrell .

Oregon case jury delivers blow to government in lands fight By STEVEN DuBOIS and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A jury delivered an extraordinary blow to the government in a long-running battle over the use of public lands when it acquitted all seven defendants involved in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in rural southeastern Oregon.

Tumult erupted in the courtroom Thursday after the verdicts were read when an attorney for group leader Ammon Bundy demanded his client be immediately released and repeatedly yelled at the judge. U.S. marshals tackled attorney Marcus Mumford to the ground, used a stun gun on him several times and arrested him.

U.S. District Judge Anna Brown said she could not release Bundy because he still faces charges in Nevada stemming from an armed standoff at his father Cliven Bundy's ranch two years ago.

The Portland jury acquitted Bundy, his brother Ryan Bundy and five others of conspiring to impede federal workers from their jobs at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 300 miles southeast of Portland. The jury could not reach a verdict on a single count of theft for Ryan Bundy.

Even attorneys for the defendants were surprised by the acquittals.

"It's stunning. It's a stunning victory for the defense," said Robert Salisbury, attorney for defendant Jeff Banta. "I'm speechless."

The U.S Attorney in Oregon, Billy J. Williams, issued a statement defending the decision to bring charges against the seven defendants: "We strongly believe that this case needed to be brought before a Court, publicly tried, and decided by a jury."

The Oregon case is a continuation of the tense standoff with federal officials at Cliven Bundy's ranch in 2014. Cliven, Ammon and Ryan Bundy are among those who are to go on trial in Nevada early next year for that standoff.

While the charges in Oregon accused defendants of preventing federal workers from getting to their workplace, the case in Nevada revolves around allegations of a more direct threat: An armed standoff involving dozens of Bundy backers pointing weapons, including assault-style rifles, at federal Bureau of Land

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Management agents and contract cowboys rounding up cattle near the Bundy ranch outside Bunkerville. Daniel Hill, attorney for Ammon Bundy in the Nevada case, said he believed the acquittal in Oregon bodes well for his client and the other defendants facing felony weapon, conspiracy and other charges.

"When the jury here hears the whole story, I expect the same result," Hill told The Associated Press in Las Vegas. Hill also said he'll seek his client's release from federal custody pending trial in Nevada.

U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden in Nevada, however, said the acquittals in Portland should have no effect in the Las Vegas case. "The Oregon case and charges are separate and unrelated to the Nevada case and charges," Bogden said.

Ammon Bundy and his followers took over the Oregon bird sanctuary on Jan. 2. They objected to prison sentences handed down to Dwight and Steven Hammond, two local ranchers convicted of setting fires. They demanded the government free the father and son and relinquish control of public lands to local officials.

The Bundys and other key figures were arrested in a Jan. 26 traffic stop outside the refuge that ended with police fatally shooting Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, an occupation spokesman. Most occupiers left after his death, but four holdouts remained until Feb. 11, when they surrendered following a lengthy negotiation.

Federal prosecutors took two weeks to present their case, finishing with a display of more than 30 guns seized after the standoff. An FBI agent testified that 16,636 live rounds and nearly 1,700 spent casings were found.

During trial, Bundy testified that the plan was to take ownership of the refuge by occupying it for a period of time and then turn it over to local officials to use as they saw fit.

Bundy also testified that the occupiers carried guns because they would have been arrested immediately otherwise and to protect themselves against possible government attack.

The bird sanctuary takeover drew sympathizers from around the West.

It also drew a few protesters who were upset that the armed occupation was preventing others from using the land. They included Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, who called the acquittals disturbing.

"The Bundy clan and their followers peddle a dangerous brand of radicalism aimed at taking over lands owned by all of us. I worry this verdict only emboldens the kind of intimidation and right-wing violence that underpins their movement," Suckling said.

One of Ammon Bundy's attorneys, Morgan Philpot, had a different perspective after watching Mumford get tackled by marshals. "His liberty was just assaulted by the very government that was supposed to protect it, by the very government that just prosecuted his client — unjustly as the jury found."

There's another Oregon trial coming up over the wildlife refuge.

Authorities had charged 26 occupiers with conspiracy. Eleven pleaded guilty, and another had the charge dropped. Seven defendants chose not to be tried at this time. Their trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 14.

Associated Press Writers Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon, and Ken Ritter in Las Vegas contributed.

No injuries after Pence plane slides off runway in NYC By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence's campaign plane slid off a runway during a rainstorm at New York's LaGuardia Airport late Thursday, tearing up concrete before coming to rest on a patch of grass.

When the plane came to a stop, U.S. Secret Service agents rushed from the back of the plane to the front, where Pence was seated, to check on the candidate. He said he was fine, though, and no one had been injured.

"We can see mud on the front windows," a calm Pence said in the press cabin about a minute after the plane came to rest.

Later, the Indiana governor tweeted: "So thankful everyone on our plane is safe. Grateful for our first responders & the concern & prayers of so many. Back on the trail tomorrow!"

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In Geneva, Ohio, GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump told his supporters that Pence had come "pretty close to grave, grave danger." But, he added: "I just spoke to Mike Pence and he's fine. Everybody's fine."

Democrat Hillary Clinton tweeted: "Glad to hear @mike_pence, his staff, Secret Service, and the crew are all safe."

The plane was coming to New York from Fort Dodge, Iowa, where it had made a hard landing but stayed on the runway earlier Thursday afternoon. After a rally in Fort Dodge, Pence's flight to New York was delayed because of weather. The Indiana governor spent about 20 minutes tossing a football with his staff, reporters and Secret Service agents near the Iowa runway.

Upon arriving at LaGuardia, after a bumpy approach, the Boeing 737 Eastern Airlines charter landed roughly, making first contact with the runway concrete. The pilot slammed on the brakes and the plane began to slide sideways. When it stopped, passengers could smell burning rubber.

The Federal Aviation Administration said, "A crushable concrete runway safety technology called an Engineered Material Arresting System stopped the plane." The FAA website says the material is "designed to safely stop airplanes that overshoot runways."

The 37 passengers, including Pence, and 11 crew members were evacuated through the back of the plane. The Port Authority shut down the runway following the incident, but later reopened it. In a statement the agency confirmed that the plane had "overshot" the runway, there were no injuries and there was no fire.

Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye said the National Transportation Safety Board "will take control of the investigation. The aircraft will remain where it is until the NTSB releases it."

Foye added, "Per the request of the NTSB, we are not going to speculate on the cause of the incident tonight."

Pence spokesman Marc Lotter said Pence spoke with Trump shortly after the landing. The vice presidential candidate also called into the \$1 million fundraiser at Trump Tower that he had been expected to attend, Lotter said. The campaign said it was preparing a new, similar aircraft that would be ready soon.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman in Washington and Thomas McElroy in New York contributed to this report.

Trump hits 'corrupt' Hillary Clinton; Mrs. Obama hugs her By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Trailing with time running out, Donald Trump denounced both Hillary and Bill Clinton Thursday as creatures of a corrupt political system who would use another pass at the Oval Office to enrich themselves at the expense of American families. Clinton turned to popular first lady Michelle Obama to rally voters in North Carolina, a state that could deliver a knockout blow to Trump.

Trump seized on newly public emails in which longtime Bill Clinton aide Doug Band describes overlapping relationships of the Clintons' global philanthropy and the family's private enrichment. The emails were among thousands stolen from the private account of a top Clinton aide, part of a hacking the Democratic campaign has blamed on the Russians.

"Mr. Band called the arrangement 'unorthodox.' The rest of us call it outright corrupt," Trump declared during a rally in Springfield, Ohio. "If the Clintons were willing to play this fast and loose with their enterprise when they weren't in the White House, just imagine what they'll do in the Oval Office."

Band wrote the 2011 memo to defend his firm, Teneo, describing how he encouraged his clients to contribute to the foundation and provide consulting and speaking gigs for Bill Clinton. Some of his work included obtaining "in-kind services for the president and his family — for personal travel, hospitality, vacation and the like."

Clinton made no mention of the revelations as she campaigned alongside Mrs. Obama, their first joint appearance of the campaign. The first lady has emerged as one of Clinton's most powerful surrogates, passionately touting her experience and denouncing Trump as too divisive and thin-skinned for the White House.

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"We want someone who is a unifying force in this country, someone who sees our differences not as a threat but as a blessing," Mrs. Obama said as she addressed an enthusiastic, 11,000-person crowd, one of Clinton's biggest of the campaign. Trump often points out that his crowds are generally larger than his rival's.

Mrs. Obama also accused Trump's campaign of trying to depress voter turnout and panned his provocative assertion that the results of the Nov. 8 contest may be rigged.

"Just for the record, in this country, the United States of America, the voters decide elections," the first lady said. "They've always decided."

With a lead in the race for weeks, Clinton's campaign is concerned that her advantage could prompt some of her backers to stay home on Election Day or cast protest votes for a third-party candidate. Nearly all of her recent events have been in states where early voting is already underway, aimed at using the rallies to prompt supporters to bank their votes now.

Following her rally with Mrs. Obama, Clinton greeted students at an early voting site at University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She then dropped in on a homecoming pep rally at nearby North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she was greeted by a DJ blasting hip-hop, a dance troupe, a marching band and deafening cheers at the surprise stop.

Clinton entered the final stretch of the race with a resounding cash advantage over Trump: As of last week, her campaign and Democratic partners had \$153 million in the bank, more than double what Trump's side had available.

New campaign finance reports also show Trump seems to have cut off his personal contributions. While he had routinely given about \$2 million a month, as of Wednesday, he'd covered \$33,000 in October campaign costs, giving nothing more.

Another troublesome sign for Trump: The Republicans' congressional campaign committee has released a new TV ad that praises a GOP House member who has said Trump has "disqualified himself" to be president. The ad for Rep. Robert Dold of Illinois calls him an "independent voice" who has "stood up" to Trump, the first time the committee, which is devoted to electing Republicans to the House, has used a message openly critical of the party's presidential nominee.

Still, the hacked emails and recent news of an "Obamacare" premium hike have appeared to hand Trump a pair of potent gifts in the campaign's final fortnight. The Republican charged Thursday that the rate hikes were "making it impossible for parents to pay their bills and support their families."

But to the frustration of many in his party, Trump has struggled to stay on message. While campaigning in Ohio, he criticized Clinton for being too tough on Vladimir Putin, another surprisingly favorable comment from Trump about the Russian leader.

"She speaks very badly of Putin, and I don't think that's smart," he said.

Trump has been repeatedly criticized, by Republicans as well as Democrats, for failing to denounce Putin. He's also refused to say whether he believes Russia is behind the hacking of Democratic groups, although intelligence agencies have pinned the blame on Moscow.

Earlier Thursday, he also repeated his insistence that Captain Humayun Khan, a Muslim-American soldier killed in Iraq, would be alive if Trump he had been president during the war. Khan's family is supporting Clinton and has harshly criticized Trump's calls for temporarily banning Muslims from the United States.

Clinton leapt on Trump's comments Thursday, declaring: "I don't understand how anyone would want to rub salt in the wounds of a grieving family."

The day came to a bizarre end for Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, when his campaign plane skidded off a rain-slick runway at New York's LaGuardia Airport. No one was injured.

Lemire reported from Springfield, Ohio. AP writers Lisa Lerer, Kathleen Hennessey and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at http://twitter.com/jpaceDC and Jonathan Lemire at http://twitter.com/jonlemire

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Police: Woman rams squad car while taking topless selfie

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — Police say a 19-year-old Texas A&M University student who rear-ended a squad car told an officer she was taking a topless selfie.

Miranda Kay Rader posted \$200 bond after she was charged with drunken driving and possessing alcohol as a minor.

A police report says an officer was checking a reported disturbance when he heard brakes squeal and an SUV slam into the patrol car behind him. Rader told the officer she was taking a topless selfie of herself to Snapchat to her boyfriend.

Police say an open bottle of wine was in her console cup holder.

Health law consumers face least choice in program's history By MEGHAN HOYER and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans in the health insurance markets created by President Barack Obama's law will have less choice next year than any time since the program started, a new county-level analysis for The Associated Press has found.

The analysis by AP and consulting firm Avalere Health found that about one-third of U.S. counties will have only one health marketplace insurer next year. That's more than 1,000 counties in 26 states — roughly double the number of counties in 2014, the first year of coverage through the program.

With insurance notices for 2017 in the mail, families are already facing difficult choices, even weighing whether to stay covered.

"At this point we are at a loss," said Ryan Robinson of Phoenix. "We don't know what the next step is." He and his wife, Nicole, only have plans from one insurer available next year, and the company doesn't appear to cover an expensive immune-system medication for their 11-year-old daughter.

Phoenix is the market hardest hit by insurer exits, shrinking from eight carriers to one. With many other communities affected, however, the problem of dwindling choice may create even bigger political head-aches than the rising premiums announced earlier this week.

Largely as a result of the Affordable Care Act, the nation's uninsured rate has dropped to a historically low level, less than 9 percent. But the program hasn't yet found stable footing, and it remains politically divisive. Insurer participation rose in 2015 and 2016, only to plunge.

Dwindling choice could be a trickier issue than rising premiums for the Obama administration and advocates of the 2010 law, including Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Most customers get financial assistance, and their subsidies are designed to rise along with premiums, which are increasing an average of 25 percent in states served by HealthCare.gov. But there is no comparable safety valve for disruptions caused by insurers bailing out.

"Rising premiums get all of the political attention, but lack of choice between insurers could be a bigger problem for consumers," said Caroline Pearson, a senior vice president with Avalere.

Five states — Alaska, Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wyoming — have one participating insurer across their entire jurisdictions. Only Wyoming and South Carolina had faced that predicament this year. Another eight states — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada and Tennessee— have only one participating insurer in a majority of counties.

Citing big financial losses, several marquee insurers sharply scaled back their participation for next year. United Healthcare exited from more than 1,800 counties, and maintains only a minuscule presence, according to the analysis. Humana nearly halved the number of counties where it offers plans.

Insurers say enrollment was disappointing, patients were sicker than expected, and an internal system to help stabilize premiums didn't work well. The Obama administration says insurers are correcting for initially pricing their plans too low.

HealthCare.gov has taken steps to help consumers whose insurer is leaving by matching them to the

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closest comparable plan on the marketplace next year.

Administration officials also point out that many private employers offer workers just one plan.

The upheaval in the health insurance markets has consumers scrambling to figure out options. Sign-up season starts Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 31.

South of Minneapolis, in Goodhue County, Minnesota, farmer Eugene Betcher said his Blue Cross Blue Shield family plan is going away. The insurer is dropping its popular preferred provider plan, which covers more than 100,000 area residents.

Betcher has an appointment with his insurance adviser, but he expects sharply higher premiums and having to switch doctors.

In his early 60s, he's mulling just keeping his wife on the plan. "I'm thinking of not covering myself and hoping to get to 65 and Medicare," said Betcher. He'd risk a fine, but he says that financially he would probably come out ahead even if he had to pay out of pocket for medical care.

In Birmingham, Alabama, property insurance adjuster Jacob Bodden said his Humana plan is pulling out and Blue Cross Blue Shield remains his only option. He gets no subsidy from the government, so he'd have to cover the entire premium increase himself.

"I don't trust the incompetents who created this mess can fix it," Bodden said.

In Phoenix, Ryan and Nicole Robinson are at the epicenter of the health law's latest troubles. Maricopa County has seen the most insurers bail out, and premiums for a benchmark plan are spiking 145 percent next year, beyond any other major market on HealthCare.gov.

Ryan Robinson, who works in sales for an out-of-state health care company, said the family's premium will go from \$821 to \$1,489. It's more than their mortgage and they don't qualify for an income-based subsidy.

But what the Robinsons most worry about is that neither of their daughter's two medications appears to be covered by the remaining insurer. That includes an immune-system drug costing about \$5,000 a month.

"I shouldn't be getting government assistance, but I shouldn't be offered a plan that's ludicrous," said Ryan Robinson. He says the idea behind the law "was good and principled," but "there have got to be other solutions out there."

The Obama administration says consumers in such situations can seek an exception. "The law guarantees access to necessary prescriptions, even if they aren't on a formulary, through an exceptions process," said spokesman Aaron Albright.

Avalere is a consulting and data-crunching firm that provides nonpartisan analysis for health care industry and government clients. It compiled insurance marketplace data from 49 states and the District of Columbia for the analysis. That represents markets in 3,129 counties, where 12.3 million people selected plans for 2016. Only Massachusetts was unable to provide 2017 data by this week.

This story has been corrected to show that the number of insurers in the Phoenix market is shrinking from eight to one, not nine to one; and that Wyoming and South Carolina have one participating insurer this year, not just Wyoming.

Ex-Bill Clinton aide memo roils wife's campaign over ethics By STEPHEN BRAUN and EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 2011 confidential memo written by a longtime Bill Clinton aide during Hillary Clinton's State Department tenure describes overlap between the former president's business ventures and fundraising for the family's charities. The former aide also described free travel and vacations arranged for the Clintons by corporations, reinforcing ethics concerns about the Democratic presidential nominee.

The 13-page memo, by Doug Band, was included in hacked emails from the private account of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta that were released by WikiLeaks. Band, describing the former president's management of "Bill Clinton Inc.," laid out the "unorthodox nature" of how he and other aides navigated between Bill Clinton's dual interests in seeking out speaking and consulting ventures around the world while he raised funds for the Clinton Foundation.

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In the November 2011 memo, Band described "more than \$50 million in for-profit activity we have personally helped to secure for President Clinton to date."

The Clinton Foundation has been among the biggest vulnerabilities in Hillary Clinton's campaign for the White House. Clinton calendars and emails released by the State Department showed ongoing coordination among Clinton's top aides and Bill Clinton's top aides at the foundation and his private office. Her critics have accused her of providing favors to foundation donors, though there has been no evidence of this. She frequently met privately with people who had ties to the foundation.

Band wrote the memo to lawyers hired by the Clinton Foundation to audit the organization's structure and operations. It did not specifically cite ethics concerns, and in a new statement Thursday Band told The Associated Press that his firm, Teneo, "never received any financial benefit or benefit of any kind" for its work for the Clinton Foundation. Band did not elaborate about what gifts Bill Clinton obtained from his speech and consulting clients,

Hillary Clinton met with or spoke to representatives of at least 15 companies and organizations that paid her husband for speaking engagements during her tenure as secretary of state, according to a review of her planning schedules from the State Department.

Meanwhile, in hacked emails published Thursday:

— Months after Hillary Clinton acknowledged she had used a private email server for work messages, a long-time confidante of Podesta lashed out: "Do we actually know who told Hillary she could use a private email? And has that person been drawn and quartered?" asked Neera Tanden, president of the pro-Clinton think tank, the Center for American Progress. Top State Department officials have said no one in the agency provided such permission and they did not become aware until as late as 2014 that she had used a private server to conduct all her government business.

Band's memo described how he and Justin Cooper, another long-time Bill Clinton aide, helped the former president and his family obtain gifts of "personal travel, hospitality, vacation" and air travel arrangements. Financial records Hillary Clinton filed between 2009 and 2013 listed speeches and limited business income that Bill Clinton earned during her government service but did not list any travel, vacation or other gifts that Band cited in his memo.

Under federal disclosure rules overseen by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, federal officials and office seekers are not required to list gifts provided to a spouse if the gifts are "independent of their relationship to you."

Norman Eisen, a Democrat who oversaw ethics matters for the Obama administration and in 2011 was also appointed ambassador to the Czech Republic under Hillary Clinton, said OGE rules did not require Hillary Clinton to divulge any gifts provided to Bill Clinton by his business clients.

"There's no there there," Éisen said, adding that he is disturbed that "ethics become weaponized in the course of an election campaign."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has touted the WikiLeaks releases of Podesta's emails, while the Clinton campaign has repeatedly warned that the releases have exploited emails stolen by hackers working for the Russian government.

"Mr. Band called the arrangement 'unorthodox.' The rest of us call it outright corruption," Trump said Thursday.

The Clinton campaign did not immediately respond to questions from the AP about the Band memo. It said in a statement, "The Clintons are extremely proud of the work of the foundation that has helped millions of people around the world."

Richard Painter, the top ethics official during the administration of President George W. Bush, said he was concerned with Bill Clinton's use of aides who dealt with his private business clients as well as Clinton Foundation donors. In cases Band outlined in the memo, Clinton's speech clients ended up as donors to his family's charity.

"The two should not be conflated because the Clinton Foundation cannot be used for the personal enrichment of anybody including the former president," Painter said.

At the time he wrote the memo, Band had co-founded Teneo Holdings, a New York-based global con-

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sulting firm, and was defending his work for his own firm even as he continued working for Bill Clinton and the foundation. Like the former president, other foundation officials also worked both for the charity and Bill Clinton's private office.

Critics have raised concerns about the multiple roles of Clinton aides.

Hillary Clinton's top aides at the State Department — among them her chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, and long-time aide Huma Abedin — at times held multiple roles, according to congressional investigators and the State Department. Abedin worked for the foundation, Teneo and Hillary Clinton after stepping down from her full-time job at the State Department. Mills received permission in early 2009 to work as a "special government employee" for the State Department while she also held a position with the Clinton Foundation. Tech specialist Bryan Pagliano performed private tasks overseeing Hillary Clinton's private computer server at the same time he worked for the State Department.

World Series returns to Wrigley for first time in 71 years By JAY COHEN, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Cubs slugger Kyle Schwarber was followed by cameras and cellphones. A couple of pitchers from the Cleveland Indians played hacky sack in the outfield. The giant videoboard in left field flashed "World Series."

So, no, nothing like the last Fall Classic at Wrigley Field.

The World Series returns to one of baseball's iconic ballparks on Friday when the Cubs and Indians face off in Game 3 after splitting the first two nights in chilly Cleveland. It's the first World Series game at Wrigley since Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg helped the Detroit Tigers to a 9-3 victory in Game 7 on October 10, 1945.

The expectation is, well, even more bedlam than usual. The Cubs, seeking their first championship in 108 years, played in front of packed, frenzied crowds for much of the season, and even the Indians are looking forward to the scene.

"Tomorrow's going to be unbelievable," Cleveland slugger Mike Napoli said. "I watched when they clinched to go to the World Series and how crazy it was and seeing the fans in the streets where they had to have police escorts. You could just see the crowd just part ways.

"So it's going to be fun. It's something that I wanted to be a part of, and thought that it would be an unbelievable World Series," he said.

It's been pretty great so far, and it's only getting started.

Corey Kluber pitched the Indians to a 6-0 win on Tuesday, striking out nine in a dazzling performance. After Josh Tomlin makes his third playoff start in the Wrigley opener, Kluber looms over Game 4 on Saturday night on short rest.

The Cubs returned to Chicago on a high after working over Cleveland's pitching staff in a 5-1 victory Wednesday night. Trevor Bauer lasted just 3 2/3 innings, beginning a parade to the mound that included six relievers and a total of 196 pitches.

"That was the plan, to get at least one over there and bring it back home," second baseman Javier Baez said. "Everybody is excited to be here in Chicago. Everybody has been waiting for this moment."

Schwarber will be relegated to pinch-hitting moments for the next three games after doctors said it was too soon after major left knee surgery to risk putting him in the outfield. The move takes one of Chicago's best bats out of the lineup after a surprising return by the slugger for the Series.

"We're going to respect the doctors," president of baseball operations Theo Epstein said. "They're the professionals here and move forward. Kyle understands that. He wants to play, he's the ultimate gamer, but he understands that the doctor's judgment has to rule the day in this case."

Schwarber was ruled out for the year after he tore two knee ligaments in an outfield collision with Dexter Fowler in Chicago's third game of the season. But he had an encouraging checkup with Dr. Daniel Cooper on Oct. 17 in Dallas, clearing the way for a short stay in the Arizona Fall League before serving as the designated hitter in Cleveland.

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Facing major league pitching for the first time in six months, Schwarber doubled and walked in Game 1. He added a pair of RBI singles Wednesday night, leading to lengthy phone conversations with Cooper and Dr. Stephen Gryzlo, one of the Cubs' physicians, that ultimately led to the safe route for the 23-year-old catcher/outfielder.

"Facts are facts," Schwarber said. "I just can't physically do it. So I'm going to be ready at any time during the game to go out there and pinch-hit."

The lack of a designated hitter for the NL park also affects the Indians, likely sending Carlos Santana to left field for only the second time in his career. He also played left for four innings on Aug. 12, 2012, against Boston.

"We're thinking about it," manager Terry Francona said. "I think, I mean, there's no reason not to — it's no big secret, we're trying to balance scoring more runs than them. OK, he's a big part of our offense."

Santana set career highs with 34 homers and 87 RBIs this season. The switch hitter also walked 99 times and had a .259 batting average for his best number since he hit .268 in 2013.

The Indians managed just four hits against Jake Arrieta and two relievers in Game 2, and they are looking at another challenging matchup with Kyle Hendricks going for the Cubs at Wrigley. The major league ERA leader had a 1.32 ERA in 15 home games this year, and is coming off 7 1/3 shutout innings against Los Angeles in the clinching Game 6 of the NL Championship Series.

"It just feels like I'm right at home, honestly," Hendricks said. "I think that's part of why I've had the success here."

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Libya's navy says 90 migrants perished after boat fell apart

CAIRO (AP) — The Libyan navy said on Thursday that at least 90 migrants are believed to have perished when their rickety boat started to fall apart in the Mediterranean Sea, after leaving the Libyan coast.

The boat, which was made of rubber, tore and began filling with water about 42 kilometers (26 miles) off the Libyan coast, an area considered to be international waters, said the spokesman for the navy, Ayoub Gassim.

The Libyan coast guard rescued 29 survivors, who recounted that there were 129 of them in all on the boat, mostly African nationals, Gassim said.

The migrants left Tajoura, in western Libya, before dawn on Wednesday morning, and the coast guard received a call for help around 3 p.m.

So far this year, the death toll for migrants in the Mediterranean has reached at least 3,800, making 2016 the deadliest year ever for migrants at sea. Migrants fleeing war and poverty increasingly take the dangerous journey from Libya to Italy on overcrowded boats, hoping to make their way to new lives in Europe.

In a separate incident, Doctors Without Borders said on Wednesday that its personnel recovered the bodies of 25 migrants aboard an overcrowded inflatable raft in the Mediterranean.

The bodies were discovered during the rescue of 246 people on two rafts, said the group, also known by its French acronym MSF.

MSF field coordinator Michele Telaro said the victims likely died of fuel inhalation, and that the potent mixture of petrol and water hampered the recovery efforts during the operation, which took place on Tuesday. Twenty-three survivors were treated for chemical burns.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 28, the 302nd day of 2016. There are 64 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York

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Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

On this date:

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1776, the Battle of White Plains was fought during the Revolutionary War, resulting in a limited British victory.

In 1914, Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip, whose assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, sparked World War I, was sentenced in Sarajevo to 20 years' imprisonment. (He died in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1940, Italy invaded Greece during World War II.

In 1958, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Venice, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was elected Pope; he took the name John XXIII. The Samuel Beckett play "Krapp's Last Tape" premiered in London.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI issued a Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions which, among other things, absolved Jews of collective guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

In 1976, former Nixon aide John D. Ehrlichman entered a federal prison camp in Safford, Arizona, to begin serving his sentence for Watergate-related convictions (he was released in April 1978).

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In 1996, Richard Jewell, cleared of committing the Olympic park bombing, held a news conference in Atlanta in which he thanked his mother for standing by him and lashed out at reporters and investigators who'd depicted him as the bomber, who turned out to be Eric Rudolph. Comedian Morey Amsterdam died in Los Angeles at age 87.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush spoke by video conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee) as he sought to reaffirm support for the Iraqi leader. Former heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick was found dead in a Jamaican church courtyard, the victim of a fatal beating. (A 21-year-old nephew and another man were later convicted of killing Berbick.) Basketball Hall-of-Fame coach Red Auerbach died in Washington, D.C., at age 89.

Five years ago: Monks and soldiers piled sandbags outside Bangkok's most treasured temples and palaces as Thailand's worst floods in decades sent ankle-high water rushing briefly into some of the capital's main tourist districts. NBA Commissioner David Stern canceled all NBA games through November after labor negotiations broke down for the second time in a week. The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, beating the Texas Rangers 6-2 in Game 7.

One year ago: Dennis Hastert pleaded guilty before a federal judge in Chicago to evading banking laws in a hush-money scheme. (A court filing later revealed allegations of sexual abuse against Hastert by at least four former students from his days as a high school wrestling coach; Hastert ended up being sentenced to 15 months in prison.) Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio fought for control of the Republican's establishment wing in the third GOP debate, this one in Boulder, Colorado, as insurgent outsiders Donald Trump and Ben Carson defended the seriousness of their White House bids. An unmanned Army surveillance blimp broke loose from its mooring in Maryland and floated over Pennsylvania for hours with two fighter jets on its tail, triggering blackouts across the countryside as it dragged its tether across power lines. The Kansas City Royals beat the New York Mets 7-1 to take a 2-0 World Series lead.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 89. Actress Joan Plowright is 87. Musician-songwriter Charlie Daniels is 80. Actress Jane Alexander is 77. Actor Dennis Franz is 72. Pop singer Wayne Fontana is 71.

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Actress Telma Hopkins is 68. Olympic track and field gold medalist Caitlyn Jenner is 67. Actress Annie Potts is 64. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 61. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zhahd), is 60. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 59. Country/gospel singermusician Ron Hemby (The Buffalo Club) is 58. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 58. Actor Mark Derwin is 56. Actress Daphne Zuniga is 54. Actress Lauren Holly is 53. Talk show host-comedian-actress Sheryl Underwood is 53. Actress Jami Gertz is 51. Actor Chris Bauer is 50. Actorcomedian Andy Richter is 50. Actress Julia Roberts is 49. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 48. Actor Jeremy Davies is 47. Singer Ben Harper is 47. Country singer Brad Paisley is 44. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 42. Singer Justin Guarini (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 37. Rock musician Dave Tirio (Plain White T's) is 37. Actor Charlie Semine is 36. Actor Finn Wittrock is 32. Actress Troian Bellisario is 31. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 29. Actor Nolan Gould is 18.

Thought for Today: "Next to excellence is the appreciation of it." — William Makepeace Thackeray, British author (1811-1863).