

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Sept. 3

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Fellowship time, 10 a.m.; Groton worship with communion, 11 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

Pool Hours: Open Swim 1-4:50; Lap Swim 5-5:45; Aerobics 5:45-6:30; Open Swim 6:40-8:00.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Sunday School for children, youth and adults, 9:15 a.m.; Worship at 10:45 a.m.

4 - LABOR DAY

Senior Menu: No Meal.

5

First Day of School!

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, corn, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Boys Golf: at Madison, 10 a.m.

Cross Country: at Britton, 4 p.m.

Volleyball: C and JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match. (JH matches postponed to a later date)

JV Football: at Sisseton, 5 p.m.

City Council: 7 p.m. at City Hall

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Official Notices

Brown County (updated 8-31)

Frederick Area School (updated 8-29)

Groton City (updated 8-29)

Groton Area School (updated 8-29)

Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)

Other Notices (updated 8-21)

Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)

Groton Area School (updated 8-7)

Claremont Town Official Notices Book

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

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Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

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"TO BE YOURSELF IN A WORLD THAT IS
CONSTANTLY TRYING
TO MAKE YOU SOMETHING
ELSE IS THE GREATEST
ACCOMPLISHMENT."

-RALPH WALDO
EMERSON

Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*

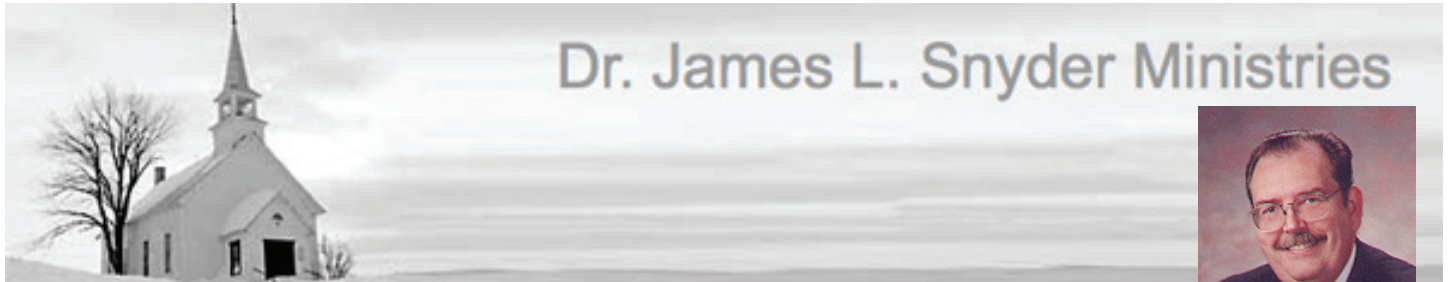


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Councilman Opp returns home

Groton City Councilman Eddy Opp returned home on Saturday after undergoing surgery. A tumor was successfully removed and he is beginning his recovery.



If "All Things Are Possible," Why Can't I Balance My Checkbook?



For me, the most terrible time of each month is the day our bank statement comes. We commonly call it BSS (Bank Statement Syndrome). I don't know why it is, but I have trouble getting the parsonage checkbook to balance with the monthly bank statement.

That ominous document intimidates me every time it arrives. After all, the bank's business is keeping track of accounts. They have hundreds, maybe thousands of accounts and I have just one. On the surface, it seems a rather simple thing for me to keep our checking account up to date, but I assure you, it is not. Every time I try, I lose interest.

Keeping our checkbook accurately balanced is almost like a circus balancing act; everything is up in the air. No matter how often I add those figures, I never get the same result twice. I have resorted to adding

up the figures at least three times and then take the average. So far, I've been batting a .195 and have been dropped by the major league, which lost interest in my career. This may satisfy my conscience, but it does little to appease the accounting department of my friendly banking institution.

The thing flustering me more than anything else are those fees. The average bank has more fees than a West Virginia hound dog has fleas. Everything I turn around there is another fee. (I need to stop turning around.) Somebody needs to invent a fee powder.

Each bank must employ a stable of employees whose only job is to dream up these fees. How else can you explain it? These fees are creative enough to cover every

Help Wanted

Full- or part-time for the following positions: Healthcare workers for Nurse's-RN or LPN, and Nursing Assistants, Dietary Cook and assistant, and Housekeeper. (12 hour shifts/rotating weekends for nurses and C.N.A.s)

Contact Jessica Lindskov or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton
605-397-2365

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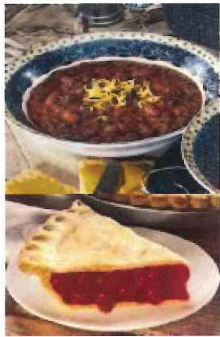
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aspect of a person's wallet, retroactive three generations.

To open an account there is a fee. Each account carries a monthly maintenance fee. I have been paying this monthly maintenance fee for several years and I have yet to see someone from the bank come out and mow my lawn. What is this maintenance fee? What are they maintaining? They certainly are not maintaining my checkbook. With all the fees I am paying, I would expect someone from the bank come to my house, sit around my table, and help me balance my checkbook. I would supply the coffee and donuts; for a small fee of course.

Another thing I do not understand is the ATM fee. Why do I have to pay money to the bank to get my money out of the bank? Whose money is it anyway?

I think banks offer monthly bonuses to the employee who comes up with the most creative fee for that month to impose on its customers. Fe-Fi-Fo-Fum all those bank fees are dumb.



**Soup, Pie,
& Sandwich
\$2.00 per item**

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Groton, SD
Thursday, September 14th**

**11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Craft Items - Baked Goodies -
Garden Produce**

**Soups available:
Chili, Wild Rice,
Potato, Ham & Bean**

**For take-out orders, please call
397-2386 at 10:30 a.m. or after.**

Once upon a time and far, far away, banks would bribe customers with toasters or umbrellas to open accounts with them. Those very days are over, you can be sure. Now, I'm the one bribing the bank to keep my account with them.

Last week I slipped the cashier the usual quarter and asked her to make sure my deposit got into my account, please. I do not know whether it is bribery or just a gamble and probably would do better with the Florida lottery.

I would not mind it so much if only my checkbook would occasionally agree with the bank statement. It takes a lot of effort on my part to keep some semblance of order in my checkbook. I am not always as successful as I would like. I make mistakes and sometimes they cost me. At my bank when I bounce a \$3.75 check, I have to take a second mortgage out on my house to pay the fee.

I would close my account and transferred to another bank but

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there is a closing fee, a transfer fee and a fee that has no explanation whatsoever. Just a goodbye jester from my bank, one last chance for them to screw up my checkbook.

Some people think God should do everything for them. All they have to do is sit back and enjoy themselves and God will do everything for them. A prevalent attitude about faith supports this erroneous notion. Someone once compared this idea of faith as putting a "nickel in the slot and pull the lever" and you get what you want.



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

Some things in my life only God can do and I need to understand what they are and allow Him to do them. However, some things in my life God expects me to do. God will never do those things for me. I must come to grips with this distinction. If I don't, my life will be miserable.

Some people are sitting around waiting for God to do something He is expecting them to do. As they wait, they become frustrated and start accusing God of all sorts of sinister things.

Part of getting to know God is understanding this. What is my responsibility as a Christian? What does God expect from me?

After King Solomon dedicated the Temple God responded by saying, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

For the most part, many people are sitting around waiting for God to balance their checkbook when He has put the pencil in their hands.

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Today in Weather History

September 3, 1974: An early freeze occurred across Minnesota on September 3rd as temperatures fell into the upper 20s to the lower 30s. The cold was the earliest freeze on record in some parts of the state ending the growing season. The greatest damage was to the soybean and corn crop. Honey production was also ended. Damage estimates were more than 100 million dollars.

September 3, 1999: Very heavy rains from thunderstorms were repeatedly going over the same area resulted in extensive flash flooding in a 30 to 40-mile wide band from Fort Pierre in southeast Stanley County to Hecla in northeast Brown County. Rainfall amounts in this corridor ranged from 3 to 7 inches. As a result, the communities of Blunt in Hughes County and Onida in Sully County were severely flooded. Most of the homes and businesses were flooded throughout Blunt and Onida causing severe damage. Only a few homes in these communities were spared from receiving water in their basements. Most homes also experienced sewer backup. The sewer systems in both Onida and Blunt were flooded and shut down. Many people had to go to temporary shelters as a result of the flooding. Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had a lot of street flooding resulting in road closures and detours. Also, several basements in Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had the sewer backup. The torrential rains flooded many township and county roads along with several state and U.S. highways. Sections of Highways 14, 20, 83, and 1806 along with many other roads in central and northeast South Dakota had to be closed due to the flooding. Many of the township and county roads had massive amounts of gravel washed away. Some bridges received minor damage with some culverts also lost. A few pets and livestock were also lost as a result of the flooding. Many acres of crops were flooded throughout the area. Some rainfall amounts included 3 inches at Fort Pierre, 4 inches at Hecla and in the Aberdeen Area, 5 inches at the Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge and Blunt, 6 inches at Seneca, 7 inches 10 miles southeast of Gettysburg and at Onida.








September 2, 1985: Intense thunderstorms moved from south central South Dakota to northeast South Dakota during the evening. Winds gusted to 60 to 70 mph over the area. Southwest of Presho, three small buildings were destroyed, and barns were damaged. Power lines and other property were damaged near Vayland, Miller, Wessington, Wolsey, Kimball, White Lake, Armour, and Castlewood. Large hail caused considerable damage to crops.

1930: A Category 4 hurricane devastates the Dominican Republic on this day. This storm killed more than 8,000 individuals, which is it the fifth deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

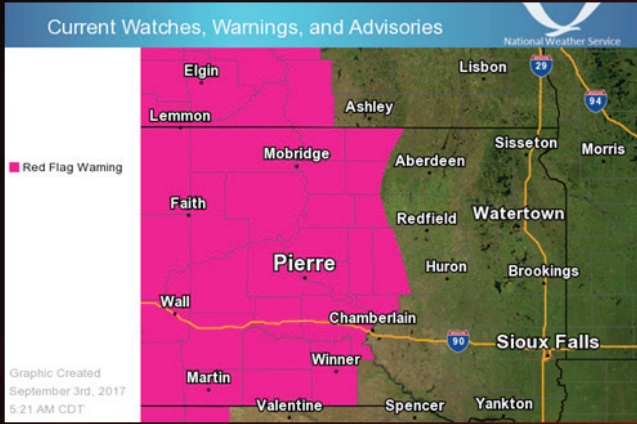
1970: During the early evening hours, in the midst of a severe hailstorm at Coffeyville, Kansas, a stone 17.5 inches in circumference and nearly two pounds in weight was recovered. Average stone size from the storm was five inches in diameter, with another stone reportedly eight inches in diameter. This hailstone is currently the third largest hailstone in the U.S. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

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Today	Tonight	Labor Day	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Hot	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy then Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 95 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 71 °F

Hot and Breezy Today




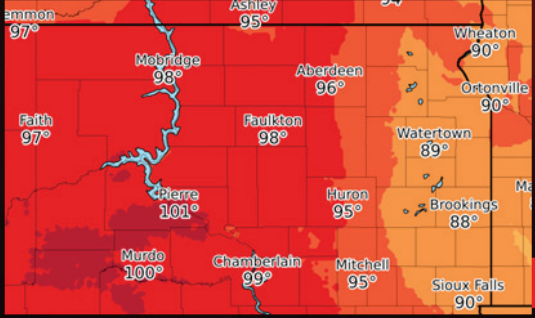
Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

Red Flag Warning

Graphic Created September 3rd, 2017 5:21 AM CDT

Critical Fire Conditions This Afternoon





Highs Today

Created: 9/3/2017 5:31 AM

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

NWSAberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 09/03/2017 at 5:34AM

Very warm temperatures are expected this afternoon, along with breezy conditions. Areas west of the James River Valley will be the warmest, and in combination with dry ground and the wind, critical fire conditions will develop during the mid to late afternoon hours. A Red Flag Warning is in effect.

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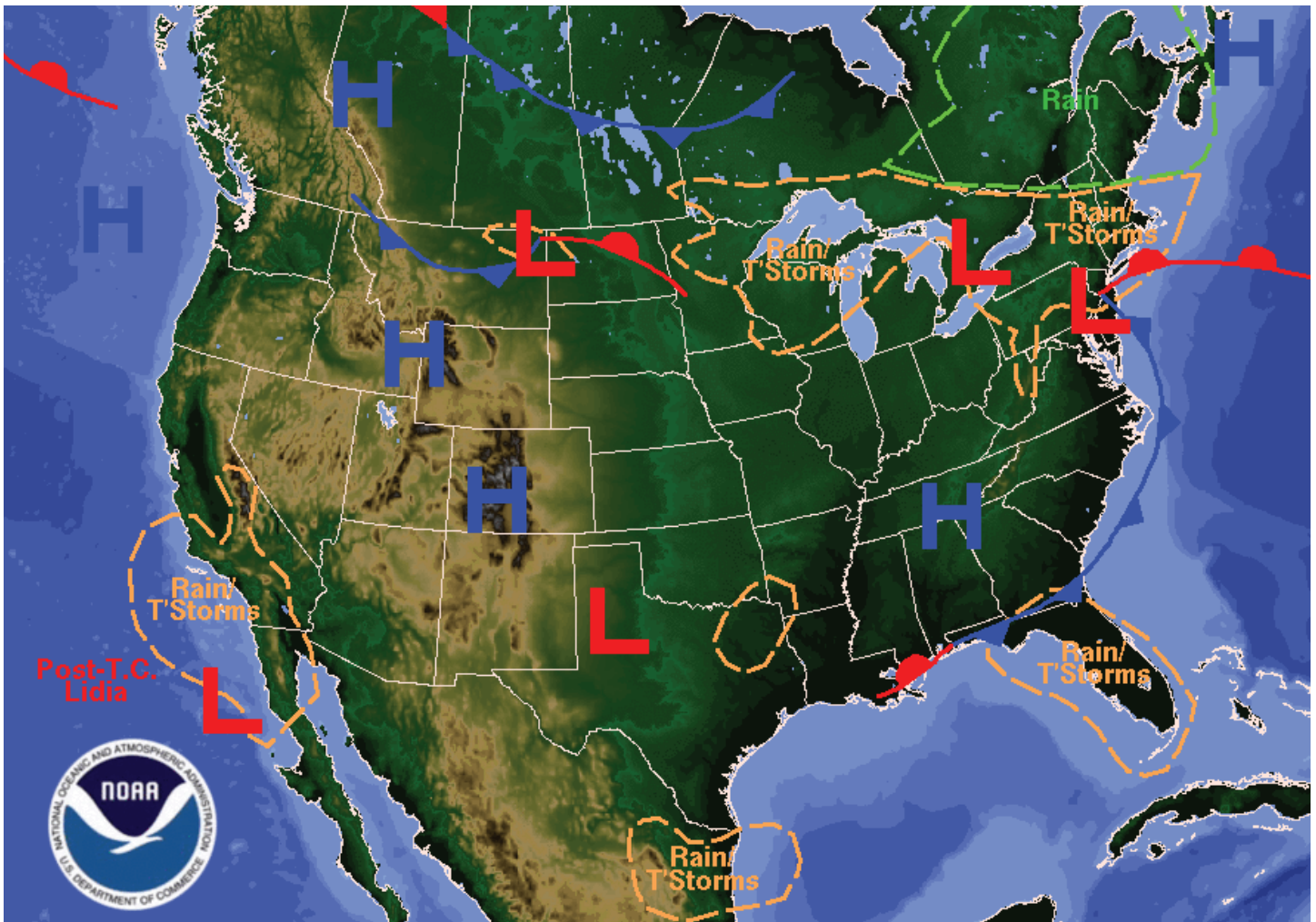
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 84.1
Low Outside Temp: 53.9
High Gust: 12
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1897
Record Low: 31° in 1974
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in Sept: 0.22
Precip to date in Sept: 0.11
Average Precip to date: 16.51
Precip Year to Date: 9.63
Sunset Tonight: 8:07 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:59 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Sep 03, 2017, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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BEYOND GIFTS

Often we deceive ourselves without realizing it. Our hearts can be deeply moved when we learn of an urgent need to do something special for our Lord. We gladly give sometimes, to the point when we ourselves have to do without. That is God-honoring and will not go unnoticed by Him. We tend to take great satisfaction when He honors us for our faithfulness to Him.

And no doubt there have been times when we have done this and God has blessed us in ways that we never thought possible. Again, it is His way of blessing us for blessing Him. And heaven rejoices.

But David reminds us that there is something more that God wants from us than any gift we could give Him. In fact, he says that "sacrifices and offerings," even "burnt offerings and sin offerings you not require. What is it, then that You want from me God?"

After a moment he said, "Then I realized" that what You want is ME! And he continued by exclaiming: "Here I am. I have come back and desire to do Your will. Your law is within my heart." He could not escape God's presence. God's law was written in his heart and it was His Word that convicted him.

David realized that none of his possessions made any difference to God. Nothing he had given or could give to God was of any significance – now or in the future. God wanted him completely to Himself to do whatever He, his Master, had for him to do. David, the Lord's anointed, finally presented himself in complete dedication to his God.

Prayer: Lord, may Your Spirit trouble our hearts and give us no peace until we surrender ourselves to You to do the work You have for us. Let us be the gift You most desire. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 40:8 I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

07-12-18-25-33

(seven, twelve, eighteen, twenty-five, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$589,000

Hot Lotto

08-09-10-29-37, Hot Ball: 15

(eight, nine, ten, twenty-nine, thirty-seven; Hot Ball: fifteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.06 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$61 million

Powerball

06-21-41-52-62, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 2

(six, twenty-one, forty-one, fifty-two, sixty-two; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Mitchell 21, Brookings 7

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 35, Harrisburg 26

Streveler's 6 TDs leads South Dakota in 77-7 rout over Drake

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Chris Streveler threw five touchdown passes and ran for another score — all in the first half — to lead South Dakota in a 77-7 rout of Drake on Saturday night in the season opener for both teams.

Streveler was 17 of 24 for 248 yards as the Coyotes scored on seven of their first eight possessions. South Dakota's Phillip Powell intercepted a Grant Kraemer pass to help make it 56-7 at halftime. The Coyotes ran for 321 yards on 58 carries, led by freshman Kai Henry's 75 yards and a touchdown.

Drake carried the ball 34 times and finished with a negative yard while four Bulldog quarterbacks were a combined 12 of 32 for just 148 yards passing.

Tyler Updegraff bullied in from the 1 to cap an 11-play, 80-yard scoring drive for Drake's only score.

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Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown, 25-12, 25-12, 25-16

Mitchell def. Brookings, 25-15, 26-24, 25-22

Rapid City Christian def. Bennett County, 25-13, 25-9, 25-20

Gregory Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Gregory def. Lyman, 25-12, 25-21

Gregory def. Jones County, 25-15, 25-11

Gregory def. St. Francis Indian, 25-10, 25-16

Grant supports making of South Dakota WWII veteran film

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Community Foundation has donated a \$10,000 grant to help make and premiere a short documentary film about World War II veteran.

The grant was presented to the Ellsworth Heritage foundation and filmmaker John Mollison last month, the Capital Journal reported.

Mollison said the grant has been crucial in making the film.

The film "Dakota Warrior" will focus on Lt. Cmdr. John Waldron, an aerial hero of the Battle of Midway that swung World War II against the Japanese. He led the squadron of 15 torpedo bombers in a mission on June 4, 1942.

"Waldron's story is captivating on many levels," Mollison said. "It describes the complexities of leadership, the challenges of command and the power of fate."

One of the 30 men who survived says Waldron's plane crash into the sea, guns blazing. Waldron was awarded the Navy Cross for his bravery in the fatal mission.

"John Waldron's story is one that forces us to ask hard questions about what it means to lead and serve," Mollison said.

Mollison said the film will include aerial footage of a WWII Curtis SB2c Helldiver to simulate the Torpedo 8 fighter bombers that Waldron and his squadron flew.

Mollison expects to finish the film next month. He plans to hold premieres across the state.

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

Sioux Falls pushes for easier driving tests for immigrants

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Construction industry leaders in the Sioux Falls area want to change South Dakota's driving laws to make it easier for Spanish speakers to get behind the wheel.

State law requires all government documents to be published in English, and officials extend the rule to both the written and skills sections of the driving exam. Most states offer driving tests in different languages, but South Dakota does not, the Argus Leader reports.

Jenna Howell, an attorney for the state Department of Public Safety, said non-English speakers can bring an interpreter to the written test, but they're in charge of finding, hiring and paying for the service. The skills test is only offered in English.

Language restrictions have created a shortage on the workforce in a fast-growing construction industry in the city.

Kari Karst, owner of BX Civil and Construction, depends on immigrants to fill road crews up and down the highways of eastern South Dakota. But she said getting them a driver's license in the state is difficult.

"If we could remove one barrier, that would definitely help," Karst said.

Business leaders in Sioux Falls' construction industry are targeting the law for potential revision. Immigrant labor is "hugely important" to help construction keep up with competition from retail and food service industries that also employ immigrants, said Bryce Healy, executive director of the building chapter of Associated General Contractors-South Dakota.

"Every able-bodied person is a potential employee," he said.

Karst said that for an industry struggling to fill crews, allowing driving exams in Spanish would allow employers to better support those Sioux Falls residents willing to do the work.

"I think we can get over that barrier with the employees," Karst said.

But Howell said the state's language requirements ensure drivers can interpret and obey the rules of the road.

"Correctly interpret and navigate traffic signs and construction zones, and instructions given by workers and law enforcement officials," Howell said.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group among students, said Brian Maher, superintendent of the Sioux Falls School District.

"We can say we embrace diversity," Maher said. "The question that I would have at this point is, do our actions back up our words?"

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

Once-paralyzed South Dakota football player returns to field

By **BRIAN HAENCHEN, Argus Leader**

ONIDA, S.D. (AP) — It was late in the fourth quarter when Sully Buttes coach Mark Senftner told freshman Landon Severson to put on his helmet.

With the victory over Herreid/Selby Area already in hand and only a few seconds left on the clock, Landon figured he would be lining up at receiver while the Chargers ran a play in the opposite direction.

That wasn't the case.

"They're going to let you score," Senftner told Landon, who less than a year ago was paralyzed from the waist down.

"All the way from here?" Landon asked as the offense prepared to take over from its own 25-yard line.

"Yeah, just do it," Senftner responded.

"So, I went out there," Landon told the Argus Leader. "The quarterback lined us up, handed the ball to me and I just kind of strolled up the field. I had all my guys going and all the guys from Herreid/Selby were cheering me on, too. That was pretty nice."

"It was a total surprise," Sarah Severson, Landon's mom, said. "I just thought they were putting him in for a nice little play to get him some playing time. So, I was totally shocked."

It was a memorable moment on an especially emotional day.

Exactly one year earlier, Sarah received a phone call.

Her son, who seemed fine when he left the house earlier that morning, couldn't move his legs. It began with a tingling sensation and numbness, and within 40 minutes, he was paralyzed from the waist down.

"For me it's been tough, of course," Sarah said. "Nobody wants to see their child go through something like this, especially when he was a perfectly healthy three-sport athlete prior to that, and in a matter of 40 minutes his life changed."

Landon was taken by ambulance to Pierre and then driven to Sioux Falls for further testing.

He was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, a rare autoimmune disorder that affected his ability to move his legs and feet, as well as the function of his bowel and bladder.

Landon spent the next two weeks in a Sioux Falls hospital where he received high doses of IV steroids, plasmapheresis, MRIs and lumbar punctures.

"The doctors and medical professionals don't really give you any guidance because they don't really

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know," said Sarah, explaining that some are able to make a complete recovery, while others never really recover at all. "There's really nothing that says, 'This is what's going to happen. This is your outlook.'"

Landon spent the next 14 weeks at Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, undergoing physical and occupational therapy. During that time, he went from a wheelchair to a walker to two canes to one cane to walking without needing any assistance.

In November, he traveled to Huron for the state volleyball tournament, then back to Onida to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family before returning to the rehab center.

On Dec. 15, Landon was finally able to return home for good.

"They already wanted me back on the track last spring," laughed Landon, who continues to do therapy in nearby Pierre. "I was like, let's just wait until football. This year when football came around, I made sure I was going to be around."

Talk to anyone about Landon and the scene in Herreid, and it won't be long before they begin gushing about the young man's character and resilience.

Through the entire ordeal, Sarah says her son never once complained or asked, "Why me?"

"He's taken everything like a champ," she said. "He's mentally strong, and that definitely has helped in the recovery process. He's a determined kid with a positive attitude."

In the final seconds of Friday night's game, Herreid/Selby coach Clayton Randall, whose son Clayton II is close friends with Landon, made sure the Sully Buttes freshman had his moment.

"I had no idea that Landon was even on the football team until he took the field Friday night," explained Randall, who called timeout to set up the scenario. "During the timeout, one of my assistant coaches and I went to the official, told him what we wanted to do and got the message relayed over to their coaches."

As he neared the 20-yard line, one of Landon's teammates told him that once he scored, he had to spike the ball.

"Spike it?" Landon replied. "I don't want to get flagged."

"I'll let you spike it," said the referee as he walked alongside the pack of players. "But it better be a good one or I'm going to flag you."

So as he crossed the goal line, Landon reared back and triumphantly thrust the ball toward the turf. Moments later, he was carried off the field on the shoulders of his teammates, putting the final flourish on a feel-good Friday night.

"It's kind of amazing, in a sense, when we look at where we were just a year ago," Sarah said. "He's a phenomenal kid."

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

North Korea says 6th nuke test was H-bomb, 'perfect success'

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea announced it detonated a thermonuclear device Sunday in its sixth and most powerful nuclear test to date, a big step toward its goal of developing nuclear weapons capable of striking anywhere in the U.S. The North called it a "perfect success" while its neighbors condemned the blast immediately.

Though the precise strength of the explosion has yet to be determined, South Korea's weather agency said the artificial earthquake it caused was five to six times stronger than tremors generated by its previous tests. It reportedly shook buildings in China and in Russia.

The test was carried out at 12:29 p.m. local time at the Punggye-ri site where North Korea has also conducted past nuclear tests. Officials in Seoul put the magnitude at 5.7, while the U.S. Geological Survey said it was a magnitude 6.3. The strongest artificial quake from previous tests was a magnitude 5.3.

North Korea's state-run television broadcast a special bulletin Sunday afternoon to announce the test. It said leader Kim Jong Un attended a meeting of the ruling party's presidium and signed the go-ahead order. Earlier in the day, the party's newspaper ran a front-page story showing photos of Kim examining

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what it said was a nuclear warhead being fitted onto the nose of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday on Twitter that the North's "words and actions continue to be very hostile and dangerous" to the U.S. He called it "a rogue nation which has become a great threat and embarrassment to China, which is trying to help but with little success."

China is by far the North's biggest trading partner, but Trump on Sunday appeared to be more critical of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has attempted to reach out to the North.

"South Korea is finding, as I have told them, that their talk of appeasement with North Korea will not work, they only understand one thing!" Trump tweeted.

Sunday's detonation builds on recent North Korean advances that include test launches in July of two ICBMs that are believed to be capable of reaching the mainland United States. Pyongyang says its missile development is part of a defensive effort to build a viable nuclear deterrent that can target U.S. cities.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that the Chinese government has "expressed firm opposition and strong condemnation" and urged North Korea to "stop taking erroneous actions that deteriorate the situation."

South Korea held a National Security Council meeting chaired by Moon. Officials in Seoul also said U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster spoke with his South Korean counterpart for 20 minutes about an hour after the detonation.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the test "absolutely unacceptable."

The nuclear test is the first since Trump assumed office in January. Trump has been talking tough with the North, suggesting it would see fire, fury and power unlike any the world had ever witnessed if it continued even verbal threats.

Nuclear tests are crucial to perfect sophisticated technologies and to demonstrate to the world that claims of nuclear prowess are not merely a bluff.

The North claimed the device it tested was a thermonuclear weapon — commonly called an H-bomb. That could be hard to independently confirm. It said the underground test site did not leak radioactive materials, which would make such a determination even harder.

At the same time, the simple power of the blast was convincing. Japan's Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said it might have been as powerful as 70 kilotons. North Korea's previous largest was thought to be anywhere from 10 to 30 kilotons.

"We cannot deny it was an H-bomb test," Onodera said.

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests last year and has been launching missiles at a record pace this year. It fired a potentially nuclear-capable midrange missile over northern Japan last week in response to ongoing U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

It said that launch was the "curtain-raiser" for more activity to come.

Just before Sunday's test, according to state media, Kim and the other senior leaders at the party presidium meeting discussed "detailed ways and measures for containing the U.S. and other hostile forces' vicious moves for sanctions."

The photos released earlier Sunday showed Kim talking with his lieutenants as he observed a silver, peanut-shaped device that the state-run media said was designed to be mounted on the North's "Hwasong-14" ICBM.

The North claims the device was made domestically and has explosive power that can range from tens to hundreds of kilotons. For context, the bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the United States had a 15-kiloton yield.

North Korea's recent activity has been especially bold.

Pyongyang followed its two ICBM tests by announcing a plan to launch a salvo of intermediate range missiles toward the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam. Kim signed off on the plan, but is watching the moves by the U.S. before deciding when or whether to carry it out.

Guam is a sore point for Pyongyang because it is home to a squadron of B-1B bombers that the North fears could be used to attack their country. The U.S. on Thursday had sent the bombers and F-35 stealth fighters to the skies of South Korea in a show of force — and North Korea strongly protested.

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Options to pressure Pyongyang would appear to be limited. Further economic and trade sanctions, increased diplomatic pressure and boosting military maneuvers or shows of force would likely all be on the table.

The two Koreas have shared the world's most heavily fortified border since their war in the early 1950s ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 American troops are deployed in South Korea as deterrence against North Korea.

AP writers Foster Klug, Youkyung Lee and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, Gillian Wong in Beijing and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

As Harvey finally fizzles, a look at what made it so nasty

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The slow-moving, super-wet and especially devastating storm named Harvey is finally fizzling.

Since first hitting shore near Corpus Christi, Texas, more than a week ago, the storm dumped 27 trillion gallons of rain on Texas and Louisiana — enough to cover all of Manhattan a mile (1.6 kilometers) deep. It set a record for rainfall from a tropical system in the continental U.S., dropping 51.88 inches (1.3 meters) just outside Houston. That's only an eighth of an inch (3.2 millimeters) behind the U.S. record set in Hawaii in 1950.

The deluge damaged an estimated 156,000 dwellings, and parts of Houston may be flooded for another month. The death toll of 44 ranks it as the mainland's sixth deadliest hurricane in 50 years.

What made it so bad? Harvey was strange — in how it nearly dissolved once but roared back as a major hurricane, in how it intensified so quickly before hitting land, in how it parked itself over one unfortunate region for so long and, of course, in the amount of rain it generated.

"It had several unique characteristics in terms of its strength and track. And unfortunately they combined to produce a severe impact over a highly populated area," National Hurricane Center Acting Director Ed Rappaport said.

Harvey was born in the Atlantic southeast of Puerto Rico on Aug. 17, then got downgraded to a tropical wave and breezed into Mexico's Yucatan peninsula with little fanfare. But once Harvey got into the Gulf of Mexico on Aug. 23, it rapidly exploded into a Category 4 hurricane just a few hours before coming ashore, something experts had not seen happen much before.

It was the first Category 4 storm to make landfall in the United States since 2004. Rappaport and others said it will likely rank among the costliest storms to hit the United States. In some ways, it landed in the perfect place to wreak the most havoc. The worst of its rains stayed to the east of its eye and hit very close to the nation's fourth-largest city, a city that is as flat as a tabletop and especially prone to flooding.

That's what Harvey will be remembered for, even though coastal cities like Rockport were all but flattened, said University of Miami senior hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. "They're going to take backstage to Houston."

Most hurricanes, including 2005's Katrina, weaken just before they hit shore. Harvey got much stronger, fueled in part by pockets of extra warm water in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Harvey was the first to go from tropical storm strength to major hurricane strength in its last 36 hours before U.S. landfall," Rappaport said.

Then it just stuck around.

For more than 130 hours — from 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25, through 10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30 — Harvey was raining over some part of eastern Texas. When Harvey did move, including a dip back into the Gulf of Mexico for about a day, it was still close enough to drench Texas.

"It's extremely rare to have a major hurricane that just sits there after it makes landfall," McNoldy said.

Usually strong storms blast through an area, dump a foot or so of rain, and move on. But Harvey was stuck between two high pressure weather systems to the east and west that kept pushing it in opposite

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directions, so it just staggered in a zig-zag pattern across southeast Texas.

"The sheer area that was inundated by 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain was unbelievable," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private forecasting service Weather Underground.

If it had only continued a bit farther, over northern Texas, Harvey would not have been as wet. But by stalling near the coast, the storm was allowed to draw more and more moisture from the gulf and sustain extraordinary rainfall rates, including more than 4 inches (10 centimeters) per hour over the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, Masters said.

Finally, after its second U.S. landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border, Harvey started to move on.

It pushed north and east, weakening but still dumping several inches of rain on Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and North Carolina. By Sunday, forecasters say, the storm's remnants will look like regular weather.

Meteorologists are already eyeing another system: Hurricane Irma, which intensified from a tropical storm to a major hurricane in just 30 hours, is steadily moving west across the Atlantic. It's still several days away from the nearest land just south of Puerto Rico.

Texas on long road to recovery 9 days after Harvey

By JAY REEVES and JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A city that lost its drinking water system is struggling to restore service and a crippled chemical plant that twice has been the scene of explosions remains a concern nine days after Harvey ripped across Texas.

Officials in Beaumont, population almost 120,000, worked to repair their water treatment plant, which failed after the swollen Neches River inundated the main intake system and backup pumps failed. The Army Corps of Engineers sent pumps, and an ExxonMobil team built and installed a temporary intake pipe in an effort to refill a city reservoir. Exxon has a refinery and chemical plants in Beaumont.

In Crosby, outside of Houston, authorities continued to monitor the Arkema plant where three trailers of highly unstable compounds ignited in recent days, sending thick black smoke and tall flames into the air. A Harris County fire marshal spokeswoman said there were no active fires at the facility, but six more trailers were being watched.

The soggy and battered city of Houston began burying its dead and taking steps toward the long recovery ahead. Friends and family gathered Saturday in Tyler to remember a former Texas high school football and track coach whose body was found Monday.

The storm is blamed for at least 44 deaths. Also, fire officials in the community of New Waverly, about 55 miles (88.5 kilometers) north of Houston, said a 6-month-old baby was missing and presumed dead after being ripped out of its parents' arms and swept away by floodwaters, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Houston's school district said up to 12,000 students would be sent to different schools because of flood-damaged buildings. Harvey flooding is believed to have damaged at least 156,000 dwellings in Harris County, which includes the nation's fourth-largest city.

Kim Martinez, 28, waited Saturday for insurance adjusters to come to her Southbelt/Ellington neighborhood, a devastated middle-class area of southeast Houston.

"You can be prepared for anything but not a monster storm like Harvey," said her mother, Maria Martinez, 63.

Some were able to count their blessings even as they faced a daunting recovery.

"I'm just praying on some help right now so I can get this over, behind me and try not to think about it," said Georgia Calhoun, whose family is sleeping on air mattresses inside her damaged home after taking ruined furniture to the curb.

Not everyone was able to think about rebuilding yet.

About 200 people waved signs and shouted as they rallied Saturday outside a still-flooded subdivision in the west Houston suburb of Katy, demanding answers about when they will be able to return home. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has warned residents that their homes could remain flooded for up to 15

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days because of ongoing releases of water from two reservoirs protecting downtown. Turner on Saturday ordered mandatory evacuations for an area that's been inundated by water from the reservoirs. About 4,700 dwellings are in the area, and Turner said about 300 people have refused to leave.

The school district assessed its own losses. Twenty-two of its 245 schools had extensive damage that will keep them closed for months. Though school is now set to start on Sept. 11, that could change.

President Donald Trump arrived in Houston for his second visit to the devastated region. He and first lady Melania Trump met with Harvey evacuees taking shelter at the NRG Center in Houston, where they spent time with children and helped to serve food. Later, they helped load trucks with relief supplies at a church in suburban Houston. They also visited Lake Charles, Louisiana, to survey damage.

About 1,000 evacuees remained at the George R. Brown Convention Center, down from a peak of about 10,000, city officials said.

Trump has asked lawmakers for a \$7.9 billion down payment toward Harvey relief and recovery efforts — a request expected to be swiftly approved by Congress, which returns to work Tuesday after its summer break.

Harvey came ashore Aug. 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, then went back out to sea and lingered off the coast as a tropical storm for days. The storm brought five straight days of rain totaling close to 52 inches (1.3 meters) in one location, the heaviest tropical downpour ever recorded in the continental U.S. National Weather Service meteorologists expect what's left of Harvey to break up and merge with other weather systems late Saturday or Sunday.

Another storm was churning far out over the Atlantic. Hurricane Irma was on a course that could bring it near the eastern Caribbean Sea by early this week. The Category 2 storm was moving northwest at nearly 13 mph (20 kph). No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

Associated Press writers Jeff Amy and Johnny Clark in Beaumont, Texas; Frank Bajak, Jason Dearen, Elliot Spagat and Tamara Lush in Houston; Adam Kealoha Causey in Dallas; and Tammy Webber in Chicago contributed to this report.

Sign up for AP's daily newsletter showcasing our best all-formats reporting on Harvey and its aftermath: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>.

In line and in life, Harvey's victims wait and worry

By MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — The line snakes on and on, along a wall inside the shopping mall, each person in search of help after a hurricane swamped their town.

As they wait, they ruminate.

Samantha Cusson, a 31-year-old mother of two, found out just before Harvey hit that she's pregnant with a third. She worries about finding a doctor for checkups and wonders when the Subway shop she works at will reopen. When it finally does, she wonders who she'll find to baby-sit her girls after the storm scattered those she turned to, and how she'll get to work, since her car was flooded. Her next check will be a pittance, the rent is already overdue, and there are no savings.

Most of all, she worries about shielding her children from the reality that washed in.

"I can't show it," she said of her apprehensions. "They're fine because I'm fine."

It's just past 10 a.m. at the makeshift relief center in this community southeast of Houston, and already some 150 people are queued up for supplies. The line stretches through the mall entrance back into a deserted office, where those who wait are presented a checklist of items they need, from toilet paper to blankets to clothing. They'll wind through banks of cubicles where volunteers have sorted clothes into sizes, and amassed all sorts of things — school supplies, dog food, walkers.

Beth Bronikowsky hopes to find a pair of shoes. After her apartment flooded, the 39-year-old slogged around barefoot until her stepfather found a pair of aqua shoes for her. She already had enough on her

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plate, having suffered a stroke that has her walking with a wooden cane and making frequent trips to the doctor. Now, she's preoccupied with the loss of most of her belongings, not to mention the growing stink of mold at home and the nagging feeling she'll have to find a new place.

Her mom, Norma Fexer, says she's lucky to have only 5 inches of water in her southeast Houston home, but her carpets and floors were ruined. Fexer, 65, has no flood insurance and knows she'll have to do the repairs piece by piece, all while worrying another storm could come.

"I feel like I've aged 10 years in the last week," she said.

The fountains at the mall aren't sprouting, the coin-operated carousel isn't spinning, and there are no princess-themed parties at the children's birthday spot. But the roped-off line is alive with coming and going, a clatter of carts jangling across the floor tiles as people push their newfound help outside.

Many saw a foot or less of flooding in their homes and are quick to express concern for those who were hit even worse. But most say they saw struggle before the storm, too, and this has only made it worse.

Candis Cortez, a 46-year-old scaffold builder at a chemical plant, was still processing the loss of her husband last year to cancer. She moved his ashes to a top shelf of a closet and prayed it didn't cave in. She's still struggling to pay the \$7,800 bill for his funeral and learning to be without him after a 27-year marriage. Harvey has made her feel even more vulnerable.

A tin of her husband's Skoal is still tucked away in the fridge's butter compartment, and his closet is still full of his clothes. The smell of the Polo Blue cologne he wore and the Marlboro reds he smoked had long still hung in the air — now sullied with the stench of rot. The boilers in her building got flooded; hot showers are no longer an option. She hopes to pick up some towels here, after using all hers to sop up water that just kept sprouting onto the floor. Most of her furniture, her laptop and her phone were among the casualties, and she still squishes on a carpet that won't seem to dry. She thinks she might need therapy when this is all over. When she thinks of what she's lost, she just thinks of the man she loves.

"All those things," she said of her lost possessions, "my husband worked his butt off to buy."

In Beaumont, two hours northeast, people wait in a mile-long line for bottled water. In San Antonio, three hours west, long waits popped up at gas stations. As commerce began crawling back to normal in parts of Houston, lines formed at fast-food restaurants. And in idle moments, the fears of Harvey's victims creep to the surface.

Here, volunteers in orange vests are swarming. They help carry black garbage bags of clothes and cases of water. Some arrive beaded with sweat after walking in the 91-degree heat. A blast of cool air greets them as they walk through the glass doors.

The day wears on and the pace begins to ease — but still, people arrive in search of a hand.

A school bus driver who needs water and juice wonders how she'd get her diabetic son to the hospital through flooded streets. A young mother pushes her 4-month-old son and 20-month-old daughter in a double stroller, in search of diapers and formula, and she worries they'll be sickened by the growing mold in their apartment. A forklift operator hopes for food to make ends meet and fears his company will continue to be closed.

Each of them stands in line, waiting and worrying.

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Enthusiastic Trump meets with storm victims

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and **JULIE BYKOWICZ**, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — President Donald Trump cupped a boy's face in his hands and then gave him a high-five. He snapped on latex gloves to hand out boxed lunches of hot dogs and potato chips. And he loaded relief supplies into vehicles, patted storm victims on the shoulder and declared the work "good exercise."

An upbeat and optimistic president visited with victims of Harvey on Saturday, touring a Houston mega-shelter housing hundreds of displaced people and briefly walking streets lined with soggy, discarded

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possessions. Trump met the scene with positivity, congratulating officials on an emergency response still in progress and telling reporters that he'd seen "a lot of love" and "a lot of happiness" in the devastation the storm left behind.

"As tough as this was, it's been a wonderful thing," Trump said of the Harvey response after spending time with displaced children inside NRG Center, an emergency refuge housing about 1,800 evacuees.

The trip, to Houston and Lake Charles, Louisiana, was Trump's second to survey Harvey's wake and a chance for the president to strike a more sympathetic tone. He'd rushed to Texas on Tuesday, heading to Corpus Christi and Austin to talk to first responders. "What a crowd, what a turnout," he'd said as he stood outside a firehouse.

He had minimal interaction with residents, saw no damage and offered few expressions of concern while on the ground, unusual omissions for a presidential visit to communities in crisis.

That made Saturday something of a do-over.

Joined by first lady Melania Trump, the president went directly to the NRG Center and was greeted warmly by volunteers and children. The Trumps brought coloring books and crayons and sat with families that had been displaced. Trump lifted one little girl into his arms and gave her a kiss. He signed his name on the cement wall by the children's artwork.

With a wide smile and quick banter, Trump served food in the lunch line — at one point joking about his hands being too big for the sanitary gloves — and then moved on to First Church in the Houston suburb of Pearland. The Trumps greeted a group of volunteers and lavished praise on Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for his state's response.

"I want to congratulate the governor," he said. "I want to congratulate everybody that's worked so hard. It's been an incredible five days, six days. It seems like it's been much longer than that, but actually it's going so well that it's going fast, in a certain sense."

The Trumps then helped load small boxes and bottles of water into pickup trucks and minivans.

"I like doing this," Trump told one of the volunteer coordinators. "I like it."

As Trump visited, the Houston area was still burying its dead and trying to contain the mess. Nearby, the city of Beaumont, Texas, population 120,000, was struggling to restore its drinking water. Firefighters in Crosby, outside of Houston, were warily eyeing the Arkema chemical plant, twice the scene of explosions. Floodwaters had inundated at least seven highly contaminated toxic waste sites in the Houston area, raising concerns about creeping pollution.

Harvey is blamed for more than 40 deaths and believed to have damaged at least 156,000 dwellings in Harris County. The American Red Cross said more than 17,000 people have sought refuge in Texas shelters such as the one Trump visited.

The White House has asked Congress to approve a \$7.9 billion Harvey relief down payment when lawmakers return to Washington on Tuesday.

During his brief stop in Lake Charles, Trump met with first responders and a group of volunteers known as the Cajun Navy, many of whom were in cowboy hats and waders. Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards accompanied him. Trump supporters lined the route to and from the National Guard Armory, and before departing for Washington, the president posed for photos with law enforcement officers who'd led his motorcade.

In Texas, the Trumps were joined by an entourage that included four Cabinet officials, the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Before leaving for Louisiana, he stopped by a street that had only recently become passable.

"These are people that have done a fantastic job of getting things together," he said as people stood near ripped-out drywall and trash bags piled high at their curbs.

He spotted a man wearing a red "Trump is my president" T-shirt and pulled him in front of news cameras. "Look at this guy," he said. "You just became famous."

Bykowicz reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Darlene Superville at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleAP> and Julie Bykowicz at <https://twitter.com/bykowicz>

AP EXCLUSIVE: Toxic waste sites flooded in Houston area

By JASON DEAREN and MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

HIGHLANDS, Texas (AP) — As Dwight Chandler sipped beer and swept out the thick muck caked inside his devastated home, he worried whether Harvey's floodwaters had also washed in pollution from the old acid pit just a couple blocks away.

Long a center of the nation's petrochemical industry, the Houston metro area has more than a dozen Superfund sites, designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as being among America's most intensely contaminated places. Many are now flooded, with the risk that waters were stirring dangerous sediment.

The Highlands Acid Pit site near Chandler's home was filled in the 1950s with toxic sludge and sulfuric acid from oil and gas operations. Though 22,000 cubic yards of hazardous waste and soil were excavated from the acid pits in the 1980s, the site is still considered a potential threat to groundwater, and the EPA maintains monitoring wells there.

When he was growing up in Highlands, Chandler, now 62, said he and his friends used to swim in the by-then abandoned pit.

"My daddy talks about having bird dogs down there to run and the acid would eat the pads off their feet," he recounted on Thursday. "We didn't know any better."

The Associated Press surveyed seven Superfund sites in and around Houston during the flooding. All had been inundated with water, in some cases many feet deep.

On Saturday, hours after the AP published its first report, the EPA said it had reviewed aerial imagery confirming that 13 of the 41 Superfund sites in Texas were flooded by Harvey and were "experiencing possible damage" due to the storm.

The statement confirmed the AP's reporting that the EPA had not yet been able to physically visit the Houston-area sites, saying the sites had "not been accessible by response personnel." EPA staff had checked on two Superfund sites in Corpus Christi on Thursday and found no significant damage.

AP journalists used a boat to document the condition of one flooded Houston-area Superfund site, but accessed others with a vehicle or on foot. The EPA did not respond to questions about why its personnel had not yet been able to do so.

"Teams are in place to investigate possible damage to these sites as soon flood waters recede, and personnel are able to safely access the sites," the EPA statement said.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, speaking with reporters at a news conference on Saturday after the AP report was published, said he wants the EPA "in town to address the situation."

Turner said he didn't know about the potential environmental concerns soon enough to discuss them with President Donald Trump.

"Now we're turning out attention to that," he said. "It is always a concern. The environment is very concerning, and we'll get right on top of it."

At the Highlands Acid Pit on Thursday, the Keep Out sign on the barbed-wire fence encircling the 3.3-acre site barely peeked above the churning water from the nearby San Jacinto River.

A fishing bobber was caught in the chain link, and the air smelled bitter. A rusted incinerator sat just behind the fence, poking out of the murky soup.

Across the road at what appeared to be a more recently operational plant, a pair of tall white tanks had tipped over into a heap of twisted steel. It was not immediately clear what, if anything, might have been inside them when the storm hit.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has called cleaning up Superfund sites a top priority, even as he has taken steps to roll back or delay rules aimed at preventing air and water pollution. Trump's proposed 2018

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budget seeks to cut money for the Superfund program by 30 percent, though congressional Republicans are likely to approve a less severe reduction.

Like Trump, Pruitt has expressed skepticism about the predictions of climate scientists that warmer air and seas will produce stronger, more drenching storms.

Under the Obama administration, the EPA conducted a nationwide assessment of the increased threat to Superfund sites posed by climate change, including rising sea levels and stronger hurricanes. Of the more than 1,600 sites reviewed as part of the 2012 study, 521 were determined to be in 1-in-100 year and 1-in-500 year flood zones. Nearly 50 sites in coastal areas could also be vulnerable to rising sea levels.

The threats to human health and wildlife from rising waters that inundate Superfund sites vary widely depending on the specific contaminants and the concentrations involved. The EPA report specifically noted the risk that floodwaters might carry away and spread toxic materials over a wider area.

The report listed two dozen Superfund sites determined to be especially vulnerable to flooding and sea-level rise. The only one in Texas, the Bailey Waste Disposal site south of Beaumont, is on a marshy island along the Neches River. The National Weather Service said the Neches was expected to crest on Saturday at more than 21 feet above flood stage — 8 feet higher than the prior record.

In Crosby, across the San Jacinto River from Houston, a small working-class neighborhood sits between two Superfund sites, French LTD and the Sikes Disposal Pits.

The area was wrecked by Harvey's floods. Only a single house from among the roughly dozen lining Hickory Lane was still standing.

After the water receded on Friday, a sinkhole the size of a swimming pool had opened up and swallowed two cars. The acrid smell of creosote filled the air.

Rafael Casas' family had owned a house there for two decades, adjacent to the French LTD site. He said he was never told about the pollution risk until it came up in an informal conversation with a police officer who grew up nearby. Most of the homes had groundwater wells, but Casas said his family had switched to bottled water.

"You never know what happens with the pollution under the ground," said Casas, 32. "It filters into the water system."

The water had receded by Saturday at Brio Refining Inc. and Dixie Oil Processors, a pair of neighboring Superfund sites about 20 miles southeast of downtown Houston in Friendswood. The road was coated in a layer of silt. Mud Gully Stream, which bisects the two sites, was full and flowing with muddy water.

Both sites were capped with a liner and soil as part of EPA-supervised cleanup efforts aimed at preventing the contamination from spreading off the low-lying sites during floods. Parts of the Brio site were elevated by 8 feet.

John Danna, the manager hired by the companies to oversee the sites, said in a phone interview that he went there after the storm and saw no signs of erosion. He said he didn't know how high the flooding got in Harvey's wake and that no testing of the water still draining from the area had been conducted. EPA staff are expected to visit in the next week, he said.

A security guard at the Patrick Bayou Superfund site, just off the Houston Ship Channel in Deer Park, said Saturday that flooding came hundreds of feet inland during the storm. The water has since receded back into the bayou, where past testing has shown the sediments contain pesticides, toxic heavy metals and PCBs. The site, surrounded by active petrochemical facilities, is still awaiting a final plan for cleanup.

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site was completely covered with floodwaters when an AP reporter saw it Thursday. According to its website, the EPA was set to make a final decision this year about a proposed \$97 million cleanup effort to remove toxic waste from a paper mill that operated there in the 1960s.

The flow from the raging river washing over the toxic site was so intense it damaged an adjacent section of the Interstate 10 bridge, which has been closed to traffic due to concerns it might collapse.

There was no way to immediately assess how much contaminated soil from the site might have been washed away. According to an EPA survey from last year, soil from the former waste pits contains dioxins

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and other long-lasting toxins linked to birth defects and cancer.

The EPA said Saturday the San Jacinto Waste Pits site is covered by a temporary "armored cap," a fabric covering anchored with rocks designed to prevent contaminated sediment from migrating down river.

McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corp., one of the companies responsible for the site, said in a statement Saturday that its contractors reported that "visible portions of the cap indicated the waste beneath remained in place following the storm." Ken Haldin, a public relations consultant representing the company, said he did not know how much of the 34-acre site was above water at the time of the inspection.

According to an EPA review last year, the cap has required extensive repairs on at least six occasions since it was installed in 2011, with large sections becoming displaced or going missing.

The EPA said its personnel planned to go to the site by boat on Monday.

Kara Cook-Schultz, who studies Superfund sites for the advocacy group TexPIRG, said environmentalists have warned for years about the potential for flooding to inundate Texas Superfund sites, particularly the San Jacinto Waste Pits.

"If floodwaters have spread the chemicals in the waste pits, then dangerous chemicals like dioxin could be spread around the wider Houston area," Cook-Schultz said. "Superfund sites are known to be the most dangerous places in the country, and they should have been properly protected against flooding."

Associated Press writer Jay Reeves contributed to this report. Biesecker reported from Washington.

A video of Associated Press writer Jason Dearen's tour by boat of several Superfund sites in the Houston area after Harvey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erg6azfuP5k&feature=youtu.be>

Follow Jason Dearen at <http://twitter.com/JHDearen> and Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Rare heat wave bakes San Francisco; fires rage through West

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — Vineyards moved their wine harvest to the cool of night and transit trains slowed for fear that some of the hottest weather in San Francisco Bay Area history would warp rails Saturday, as stifling temperatures and the smoky pall of wildfires marked an unofficial end to summer across the U.S. West.

In Los Angeles, a wildfire just north of downtown had grown to the largest in city history, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. Three structures had burned, at least two of them homes, but fire officials said they were confident they could tame the blaze unless winds picked up.

Wildfires also entered a 2,700-year-old grove of giant sequoia trees near Yosemite National Park and have driven people from their homes in Washington state, Oregon, Montana and other areas struggling with a weeklong heat wave that's gripped the region.

San Francisco, meanwhile, set a heat record for the day before noon, hitting 94 degrees. By mid-afternoon, it was 101 in the coastal city — hotter than Phoenix. With an all-time high of 106 on Friday, it became just the third time since the 1870s that San Francisco had back-to-back triple-digit days.

Temperatures reached 115 south of the city. It was a rare heat wave at a time of year that San Francisco residents usually call "Fogust" for its cloudy chill.

The region was so hot that officials with the Bay Area Rapid Transit system ordered trains to slow down on rails that were exposed to sun, expecting the heat would expand and possibly shift the metal track slightly, spokeswoman Alicia Trost said.

The weekend also broke heat records in wine counties north of San Francisco, where Labor Day for some vineyards marks the start of the busy grape harvest.

"We had been hoping for a mellow season," Kat Doescher, senior winemaker at Madrone Estate Winery outside Sonoma, said shortly after sunrise. She inspected the chardonnay grapes that workers had harvested overnight under lights. "But I look at the forecasts, and I see a heat wave that's not getting any cooler."

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Other vineyard managers fretted over how best to soothe and when to pick their own heat-stressed grapes.

In Los Angeles, hundreds of firefighters battled flames that chewed through nearly 8 square miles (20 kilometers) of brush-covered mountains as authorities issued mandatory or voluntary evacuation orders for more than 700 homes in Los Angeles, Burbank and Glendale.

Tourists snapped shots of their planes landing against a backdrop of orange flames in the hills near Hollywood Burbank airport.

Los Angeles resident Tracy Goldman had her car packed in case officials ordered her street to evacuate. "It's very unsettling," she said by telephone as she watched flames that she said had reached within 200 feet of her house.

Mayor Garcetti declared an emergency and asked the governor to do the same so state and federal assistance would be provided quickly.

Fires up and down California's Sierra Nevada and further to the northwest cast an eerie yellow and gray haze. In the Sierra foothills, authorities opened a center where evacuated residents could find out if their home was one of 44 destroyed in a blaze about 70 miles (about 110 kilometers) north of Sacramento.

Another wildfire burning near Yosemite had grown to 8.5 square miles (22 square kilometers) and entered the Nelder Grove of 106 giant sequoias, despite firefighters' efforts to stave it off.

Giant sequoias are among the largest and longest-lived organisms on Earth, and survive naturally only in Northern California.

Fire officials said they had no immediate information Saturday on whether any of the giant trees — including the 100-foot-round, 24-story-high Bull Buck sequoia — had burned.

Around the West, the National Interagency Fire Center said more than 25,000 firefighters and personnel were fighting 56 large uncontained wildfires, including 21 in Montana and 17 in Oregon.

Fire weather warnings were in effect for parts of Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana, where blazes spanned more than 850 square miles (2,200 square kilometers).

In the Pacific Northwest, high temperatures and a lack of rain this summer have dried out vegetation that fed on winter snow and springtime rain. Officials warned of wildfire danger as hot, dry, smoky days were forecast across Oregon and Washington over the holiday weekend.

A fire about 80 miles (129 kilometers) southeast of Seattle has burned more than 23 square miles (60 square kilometers) and led to new evacuation notices Saturday. About 3,800 homes were threatened, authorities said.

Dozens of wildfires in Oregon were sending up large plumes of smoke, causing disruptions in holiday travel as roads close and shutting down camping areas.

The weeklong heat wave was generated by high pressure over the West, the National Weather Service said.

Forecasters said more heat could be expected when remnants of Tropical Storm Lidia move north from Mexico's Baja California during the weekend.

Martha Bellisle in Seattle contributed to this report.

City struggles to restore water service in Harvey aftermath

By JAY REEVES and JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas city that lost its drinking water system to Harvey struggled Saturday to restore service, and firefighters kept monitoring a crippled chemical plant that has twice been the scene of explosions and fires since the storm roared ashore and stalled over Texas more than a week ago.

Officials in Beaumont, population almost 120,000, worked to repair their water treatment plant, which failed after the swollen Neches River inundated the main intake system and backup pumps failed. The Army Corps of Engineers sent pumps, and an ExxonMobil team built and installed a temporary intake pipe in an effort to refill a city reservoir. Exxon has a refinery and chemical plants in Beaumont.

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On Friday, people waited in a line that stretched for more than a mile to get bottled water.

In Crosby, outside of Houston, authorities continued to monitor the Arkema plant where three trailers of highly unstable compounds ignited in recent days, sending thick black smoke and tall flames into the air. A Harris County fire marshal spokeswoman said there were no active fires at the facility, but six more trailers were being watched.

The soggy and battered city of Houston began burying its dead and taking steps toward the long recovery ahead. The school district said up to 12,000 students would be sent to different schools because of flood-damaged buildings. Harvey flooding is believed to have damaged at least 156,000 dwellings in Harris County, which includes the nation's fourth-largest city.

The storm is blamed for at least 44 deaths. Also, fire officials in the community of New Waverly, about 55 miles north of Houston, said a 6-month-old baby was missing and presumed dead after being ripped out of its parents' arms and swept away by floodwaters when the family fled their pickup truck last Sunday, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Kim Martinez, 28, waited Saturday for insurance adjusters to come to her Southbelt/Ellington neighborhood, a devastated middle-class area of southeast Houston.

The mother of two was hosting a watch party for the Floyd Mayweather-Conor McGregor boxing fight last Saturday when floodwaters forced about 15 people to the attic. They escaped the next day. Seven children were rescued by a neighbor's boat. The women and a 115-pound German shepherd used inflatable swim toys, and the men swam or waded through shoulder-high water.

"You can be prepared for anything but not a monster storm like Harvey," said her mother, Maria Martinez, 63.

Valerie Williams returned to her flood-damaged home to find mud covering the walls and everything but her dining room table destroyed.

"People, they say we're praying for you and stuff. Well, we appreciate the prayers. We really do. But what we need is assistance," Williams said.

Some were able to count their blessings even as they faced a daunting recovery.

"I'm just praying on some help right now so I can get this over, behind me and try not to think about it," said Georgia Calhoun, whose family is sleeping on air mattresses inside her damaged home after taking ruined furniture to the curb.

Not everyone was able to think about rebuilding yet.

About 200 people waved signs and shouted as they rallied Saturday outside a still-flooded subdivision in the west Houston suburb of Katy, demanding answers about when they will be able to return home. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has warned residents that their homes could remain flooded for up to 15 days because of ongoing releases of water from two reservoirs protecting downtown. Turner on Saturday ordered mandatory evacuations for an area that's been inundated by water from the reservoirs. About 4,700 dwellings are in the area, and Turner said about 300 people have refused to leave.

The city said the releases are necessary to preserve the reservoirs' structural integrity, but many at the rally said their homes were being sacrificed to save others.

Homeowner Sheetal Parwal said her family now has less than what they had when they emigrated from India 10 years ago, and that their home is now a swamp.

The school district assessed its own losses. Twenty-two of its 245 schools had extensive damage that will keep them closed for months. Superintendent Richard Carranza said the goal is to start the school year on Sept. 11, but that could change.

President Donald Trump arrived in Houston for his second visit to the devastated region. He and first lady Melania Trump met with Harvey evacuees taking shelter at the NRG Center in Houston, where they spent time with children and helped to serve food. Later, they helped load trucks with relief supplies at a church in suburban Houston. They also visited Lake Charles, Louisiana, to survey damage.

Turner said he spoke to the president about the importance of getting storm evacuees out of shelters and into housing, and helping people who are still in their homes but in need of assistance. The mayor

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called his discussions with Trump "very positive."

About 1,000 evacuees remained at the George R. Brown Convention Center, down from a peak of about 10,000, city officials said.

Trump has asked lawmakers for a \$7.9 billion down payment toward Harvey relief and recovery efforts — a request expected to be swiftly approved by Congress, which returns to work Tuesday after its summer break.

The remnants of the storm were fading fast in the Ohio Valley. National Weather Service meteorologists expect what's left of Harvey to break up and merge with other weather systems late Saturday or Sunday.

Harvey came ashore Aug. 25 as a Category 4 hurricane, then went back out to sea and lingered off the coast as a tropical storm for days. The storm brought five straight days of rain totaling close to 52 inches (1.3 meters) in one location, the heaviest tropical downpour ever recorded in the continental U.S.

Another storm was churning far out over the Atlantic. Hurricane Irma was on a course that could bring it near the eastern Caribbean Sea by early next week. The Category 2 storm was moving northwest at nearly 13 mph (20 kph). No coastal watches or warnings were in effect.

Associated Press writers Jeff Amy and Johnny Clark in Beaumont, Texas; Frank Bajak, Jason Dearen, Elliot Spagat and Tamara Lush in Houston; Adam Kealoha Causey in Dallas; and Tammy Webber in Chicago contributed to this report.

Sign up for AP's daily newsletter showcasing our best all-formats reporting on Harvey and its aftermath: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>.

Upbeat Trump pitches in at shelter for Harvey victims

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — President Donald Trump cupped a boy's face in his hands and then gave him a high-five. He snapped on latex gloves to hand out boxed lunches of hot dogs and potato chips. And he loaded relief supplies into vehicles, patted storm victims on the shoulder and declared the work "good exercise."

An upbeat and optimistic president visited with victims of Harvey on Saturday, touring a Houston mega-shelter housing hundreds of displaced people and briefly walking streets lined with soggy, discarded possessions. Trump met the scene with positivity, congratulating officials on an emergency response still in progress and telling reporters that he'd seen "a lot of love" and "a lot of happiness" in the devastation the storm left behind.

"As tough as this was, it's been a wonderful thing," Trump said of the Harvey response after spending time with displaced children inside NRG Center, an emergency refuge housing about 1,800 evacuees.

The trip, to Houston and Lake Charles, Louisiana, was Trump's second to survey Harvey's wake and a chance for a president to strike a more sympathetic tone. He'd rushed to Texas on Tuesday, heading to Corpus Christi and Austin to talk to first responders. "What a crowd, what a turnout," he'd said as he stood outside a firehouse.

He had minimal interaction with residents, saw no damage and offered few expressions of concern while on the ground, unusual omissions for a presidential visit to communities in crisis.

That made Saturday something of a do-over.

Joined by first lady Melania Trump, the president went directly to the NRG Center and was greeted warmly by volunteers and children. The Trumps brought coloring books and crayons and sat with families that had been displaced. Trump lifted one little girl into his arms and gave her a kiss. He signed his name on the cement wall by the children's artwork.

With a wide smile and quick banter, Trump served food in the lunch line — at one point joking about his hands being too big for the sanitary gloves — and then moved on to First Church in the Houston suburb of Pearland. The Trump greeted a group of volunteers and lavished praise on Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for his state's response.

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"I want to congratulate the governor," he said. "I want to congratulate everybody that's worked so hard. It's been an incredible five days, six days. It seems like it's been much longer than that, but actually it's going so well that it's going fast, in a certain sense."

The Trumps then helped load small boxes and bottles of water into pickup trucks and minivans.

"I like doing this," Trump told one of the volunteer coordinators. "I like it."

As Trump visited, the Houston area was still burying its dead and trying to contain the mess. Nearby Beaumont, Texas, population 120,000, was struggling to restore its drinking water. Firefighters in Crosby, outside of Houston, were warily eyeing the Arkema chemical plant, twice the scene of explosions. Floodwaters had inundated at least seven highly contaminated toxic waste sites in the Houston area, raising concerns about creeping pollution.

Harvey is blamed for at least 43 deaths and believed to have damaged at least 156,000 dwellings in Harris County. The American Red Cross said more than 17,000 people have sought refuge in Texas shelters such as the one Trump visited.

The White House has asked Congress to approve a \$7.9 billion Harvey relief down payment when lawmakers return to Washington on Tuesday.

During his brief stop in Lake Charles, Trump met with first responders and a group of volunteers known as the Cajun Navy, many of whom were in cowboy hats and waders. Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards accompanied him. Trump supporters lined the route to and from the National Guard Armory, and before departing for Washington, the president posed for photos with law enforcement officers who'd led his motorcade.

In Texas, the Trumps were joined by an entourage that included four Cabinet officials, the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Before leaving for Louisiana he stopped by a street that had only recently again become passable.

"These are people that have done a fantastic job of getting things together," he said as people stood near ripped-out drywall and trash bags piled high at their curbs.

He spotted a man wearing a red "Trump is my president" T-shirt and pulled him in front of news cameras. "Look at this guy," he said. "You just became famous."

Bykowicz reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Darlene Superville at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleAP> and Julie Bykowicz at <https://twitter.com/bykowicz>

Utah nurse's arrest raises questions on evidence collection

By **AMY FORLITI, Associated Press**

The videotaped arrest of a Utah nurse who refused to allow blood to be drawn from an unconscious patient has raised questions about how far officers can go to collect evidence and has led to policy changes within the Salt Lake City Police Department.

Here are some of the legal issues involved:

WHAT HAPPENED?

Police body-camera video released Thursday shows Salt Lake City Detective Jeff Payne handcuffing nurse Alex Wubbels on July 26 after she refused to allow blood to be drawn from an unconscious patient after a car crash.

In the video, Wubbels, who works in the burn unit at Utah University Hospital, explains she's protecting the patient's rights and she can't take the man's blood unless he is under arrest, police have a warrant or the patient consents.

None of that applied, and the patient was not a suspect. Payne's written report says he wanted the sample to show the victim did nothing wrong.

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The dispute ended with Payne telling Wubbels: "We're done, you're under arrest." He pulled Wubbels outside while she screams: "I've done nothing wrong!"

Wubbels is being praised for her actions to protect the patient, while Payne and another officer are on paid leave. Criminal and internal affairs investigations are underway.

LEGAL ISSUES AT PLAY?

A 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling says a blood sample can't be taken without patient consent or a warrant. But in this case, the officer reportedly believed he had "implied consent" to take the patient's blood.

Implied consent assumes that a person with a driver's license has given approval for blood draws, alcohol breath screenings or other tests if there's reason to believe the driver is under the influence.

Paul Cassell, a criminal law professor at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law, wrote in an opinion piece for The Salt Lake Tribune that state law doesn't permit a blood draw in this situation — especially since the blood was being sought to prove the patient was not under the influence.

Wubbels' attorney, Karra Porter, said the state's implied-consent law "has no relevance in this case whatsoever under anyone's interpretation. ... The officer here admitted on the video and to another officer on the scene that he knew there was no probable cause for a warrant."

MEDICAL PERSONNEL VS. POLICE

Charles Idelson, a spokesman for National Nurses United, said a nurse's prime responsibility is to be a patient advocate and protect patients, especially when they can't consent themselves.

Meanwhile, police are investigators and have to capture forensic evidence, which in the case of a blood draw, is decaying with every passing minute, said Ron Martinelli, a forensic criminologist and certified medical investigator.

"For the officer, the clock is ticking," Martinelli said.

But even with those different objectives, police and medical professionals routinely cooperate and conflicts like the Utah case are infrequent, Martinelli said.

THE OFFICERS

A second officer who was put on leave Friday has not been formally identified, but officials have said they were reviewing the conduct of Payne's boss, a lieutenant who reportedly called for Wubbels' arrest if she kept interfering.

Wubbels, who was not charged with a crime, has said that Payne "bullied me to the utmost extreme." Payne hasn't returned messages left at publicly listed phone numbers.

The Salt Lake City police chief and mayor also apologized and changed department policies on blood draws. Police spokeswoman Christina Judd said the new policy does not allow for implied consent for any party and requires a warrant or consent.

Judd also said the agency has met with hospital administration to ensure it does not happen again and to repair relationships.

Forliti reported from Minneapolis. Associated Press writer Sally Ho in Las Vegas contributed to this story.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti> . More of her work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/amy%20forliti> .

Astros return to Houston for 1st game since Harvey

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Baseball returned to Houston on Saturday with the Astros giving the flood-ravaged city a few hours of entertainment at the end of a terrible and trying week.

The Astros beat the New York Mets 12-8 in a doubleheader opener, the first professional sporting event

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in the city since Hurricane Harvey.

"After the week that we've gone through people ... need a sign that tomorrow will be better than today," Houston mayor Sylvester Turner said. "No better way to do that than for the Astros to play ball. This is a city that regardless of our challenges we play ball."

The crowd of 30,319 included victims of the storm who were staying yards away at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which is the city's biggest shelter and is housing more than 9,000 people. The Astros provided 5,000 tickets to each game for the mayor's office to distribute at the convention center.

"A number of these people that are here are in our shelters," Turner said. "They need something to cheer for. A few years ago people counted the Astros out, now they're contenders for the World Series. A few days ago people counted the city of Houston out. Well no better symbol than the Astros (and) that's why we're playing ball today."

The Astros wore patches on the upper left side of their jerseys with the team logo and the word "STRONG" in block letters as a tribute to those affected by the storm. As George Springer approached home plate after hitting a two-run homer in the second inning, he pounded the patch three times with his right fist and pointed to the fans.

"I hope it provides a smile or two," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "I hope it provides a break from what's going through these people's minds. To keep it in perspective we're a baseball team. We're going to do our part. We're going to try to help return to normalcy and a normal weekend in September has a lot of Astros baseball involved."

The team honored first responders in a pre-game ceremony and played a video with dozens of tweets documenting the heroic work of people across the area in the wake of the storm. First responders were also given tickets to the game and two Coast Guard members were stopped from getting to their seats after entering the ballpark as about a dozen fans lined up to shake their hands and thank them for their work.

Season-ticket holders Susan Welbes and her daughter Sarah stood in the stands and held signs that read "Houston Strong." They came out of the storm OK, but walked around the ballpark before the game making sure all the ushers and concession workers they know were OK, too.

"I think today is the first day in a week that we've felt normal," Susan said. "It's just been so surreal watching what has been happening to our city for the last week and we're just so glad (to be here). This is our happy place ... we can watch baseball and we can forget about everything that's been going on just a little bit."

While the Astros played on Saturday, Houston Rockets star James Harden spent time at the convention center with Turner and announced that he's donating \$1 million to hurricane relief. He caused a stir as he walked through the shelter hugging babies and taking selfie after selfie with evacuees.

"They were hit very hard," Harden said. "So for me to spend time, take pictures and make them smile and let them feel me and feel my energy. That means more than anything. So I'm here and just to see these people smiling when they just got hit hard, it means the world."

One of the people Harden met on Saturday was 14-year-old Ja-Miya Riles, who couldn't stop grinning after getting a selfie with the Rockets star.

"I love basketball. Basketball is just everything. So I was really excited about it," she said.

Ja-Miya, her grandmother Rachial Riles and 11-month old sister Kyler Riles arrived at the convention center on Saturday after water in the walls of their apartment created mold which landed both girls in the hospital for respiratory problems. The doctors told Rachial they couldn't go back to the apartment or they'd get sick again, so she brought the family to the convention center to find help.

"We didn't have anywhere else to go," Rachial said. "I'm here trying to find a place to stay."

Rachial was tending to Kyler and didn't see Ja-Miya with Harden, but beamed when she learned her granddaughter got to meet one of her favorite players.

"It's really just a mood booster after what happened and everything that's going on with Hurricane Harvey," Ja-Miya said.

Clooney depicts American dream as nightmare in 'Suburbicon'

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Affable, handsome George Clooney was all charm at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday, but don't be fooled.

The actor says his latest directorial effort, "Suburbicon," is an angry movie for an angry country — his own. It's a twisted tale of darkness at the heart of the American dream.

"A lot of us are angry — angry at ourselves, angry at the way that the country is going, angry at the way the world is going," Clooney told reporters Saturday in Venice, Italy, where "Suburbicon" is competing for the festival's Golden Lion prize.

Clooney was joined by his wife, human rights lawyer Amal Clooney, on the Venice red carpet Saturday. The couple are parents of twins, born in June, and have an Italian home nearby on Lake Como.

At a news conference earlier in the day, Clooney said the U.S. now is "probably the angriest I have ever seen the country, and I lived through the Watergate period of time."

"There is a dark cloud hanging over our country right now," he said.

America's divisions give an unnerving timeliness to "Suburbicon." The satirical film noir stars Matt Damon and Julianne Moore as residents of a seemingly idyllic — and all-white — 1950s suburban community that erupts in anger when a black family moves in.

It fuses a script by the Coen brothers with a narrative about racial divisions inspired — in a negative way — by Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

"I was watching a lot of speeches on the campaign trail about building fences and scapegoating minorities," Clooney said.

That set Clooney and writing-producing partner Grant Heslov to thinking about other points in United States history when forces of division were in the ascendant. They remembered 1957 events in Levittown, Pennsylvania, a model suburban community where white residents rioted at the arrival of a black family.

They fused that idea to an unproduced script by Joel and Ethan Coen about a similar white-picket-fence community where a crime goes horribly wrong in farcically bloody ways.

The images of white rage in the movie feel unnervingly contemporary, recalling last month's rallies in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"Unfortunately, these are issues that are never out of vogue in our country," Clooney said ahead of the film's red carpet premiere. "We are still trying to exorcise these problems. We've still got a lot of work to do from our original sin of slavery and racism."

On one level, "Suburbicon" is a comedy, in which the best-laid plans of Damon's scheming corporate executive go bloodily astray. Damon and Moore practically explode with suburban repression, and there's a delicious turn by Oscar Isaac as a prying insurance investigator.

Saturday was Damon's second time on the Venice red carpet this week. He also stars in Alexander Payne's "Downsizing," in which — as so often — he portrays a likable everyman.

But Damon also can play the psychopath, as he demonstrated memorably in "The Talented Mr. Ripley." In "Suburbicon," he's a bland suburbanite who becomes a monster.

"I don't really get to play the bad guy a lot, but I do get a nice range of roles," Damon said.

He recalled Payne telling him, "I like you because you don't look like a movie star."

"And I know exactly what he meant," Damon said. "I look kind of like an average American person, so I think directors get to have fun playing with different variations of what that might mean."

For all the bloody fun in "Suburbicon," the social concerns Clooney displayed in previous films he directed — including "Good Night, and Good Luck" and "The Ides of March" — are never far from the surface.

The Clooney Foundation he and wife run gave \$1 million in the wake of Charlottesville to the Southern Poverty Law Center to combat hate groups.

Clooney said he was anxious that "Suburbicon" not be a polemic or "a civics lesson."

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"We wanted it to be funny, we wanted it to be mean," he said. "But it is certainly angry, and it got angrier as we were shooting."

Trump seeks an initial \$7.9 billion in Harvey aid

By ERICA WERNER and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has sent lawmakers an initial request for a \$7.9 billion down payment toward Harvey relief and recovery efforts.

The request, expected to be swiftly approved by Congress, would add \$7.4 billion to rapidly dwindling Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster aid coffers and \$450 million to finance disaster loans for small businesses.

Republican leaders are already making plans to use the aid package, certain to be overwhelmingly popular, to win speedy approval of a contentious increase in the federal borrowing limit.

A senior House Republican, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were private, disclosed the approach. It ignores objections from House conservatives who are insisting that disaster money for Harvey should not be paired with the debt limit increase. Other senior GOP aides cautioned that no final decision had been made, and Democrats, whose votes would be needed in the Senate, are cool to the approach.

For GOP lawmakers who support a straightforward increase in the debt limit, pairing it with Harvey money makes the unpopular vote easier to cast. Congress must act by Sept. 29 to increase the United States' \$19.9 trillion debt limit, in order to permit the government to continue borrowing money to pay bills like Social Security and interest. Failing to raise the debt limit would risk a market-shattering first-ever U.S. default.

"Look, some members are going to vote against the debt ceiling under any circumstances and they want their 'no' vote to be as easy as possible," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa. "The issue is not making the debt ceiling vote easier for the 'no' votes. The issue is making it easier for the 'yes' votes."

The government's cash reserves are running low since the nation's debt limit has actually already been reached, and the Treasury Department is using various accounting measures to cover expenses. Billions of dollars in Harvey aid are an unexpected cost that at least raises the potential that Congress would have to act earlier than expected to increase the government's borrowing authority.

The House is likely to pass the Harvey aid as a stand-alone bill, but GOP leaders are signaling that the Senate may add the debt increase to it. Then the House would swiftly vote again to send it to Trump. The plan is still tentative, but the White House signaled it's on board with the idea. White House budget director Mick Mulvaney urged lawmakers in a letter outlining the aid request to "act expeditiously to ensure that the debt ceiling does not affect these critical response and recovery efforts."

Meanwhile, despite threats from Trump that he would shut down the government if his U.S.-Mexico border wall is not paid for, lawmakers and aides say the White House has eased off that threat and any fight over the border wall will be delayed until later in the year.

"I just don't think a shutdown is in anyone's interest or needed for anyone's interests," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said in an interview Friday with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The initial package of Harvey aid would replenish Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster funds through Sept. 30.

The initial Harvey package is just the first installment for immediate disaster response like housing assistance, cleanup and FEMA-financed home repairs. The White House says more than 436,000 households have registered for FEMA aid. Estimates for longer-term rebuilding costs will take weeks or months to prepare, but the magnitude of the disaster could rival or exceed the damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which cost taxpayers \$110 billion.

An additional \$5 billion to \$8 billion for Harvey could be tucked into a catch-all spending bill Congress must pass in the coming weeks to fund the government past Sept. 30, according to the senior House Republican. The final rebuilding package would be far larger and is likely by year's end.

Ryan said nothing will stop a Harvey aid bill from getting through Congress and he didn't foresee any

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problems with it passing, despite opposition to federal aid from some Republicans following Superstorm Sandy.

"It's going to take us time until we know the full scope of it," Ryan said of Harvey's toll. He said a storm the size of Harvey is unprecedented, and because of that it "deserves and requires federal response."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., concurred, issuing a statement Friday night promising that the "Senate stands ready to act quickly" on the measure.

Associated Press writer Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., contributed.

We're still fighting, more than 150 years after Appomattox

By JAY REEVES and FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — When the Civil War was over, when the dead were buried and the union was reunited, it came time to tell tales and write history. In reunion gatherings and living rooms alike, differing versions of the causes of the conflict became as hardened as sunbaked Georgia clay.

More than a century and a half later, those dueling narratives are with us still.

Did 620,000 die, as Northerners would have it, in a noble quest to save the union and end slavery — the nation's horrific original sin? Or was the "War Between the States" a gallant crusade to limit federal power, with slavery playing a lesser part, as Southerners insisted? Who was worthy of honor — Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, or Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee?

After all this time, it could be argued that it doesn't matter, but the blood that was shed over a statue of Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia, is powerful evidence that it does. The national dispute over the fate of stone and bronze monuments begs this larger question: How does one country with two histories move forward?

The answer, some say, is by seizing a rare chance to build a shared history through small steps.

"This is a moment to acknowledge the incredible change that we have seen among American people when they look at their past," said Peter Carmichael, a history professor at Gettysburg College. "They're not trying to sweep things under the rug. There are no saints and there are no sinners back in 1861. Everyone was to blame, except for the slaves."

Other countries have dealt more forthrightly with the aftermath of horrific violence or oppression. After apartheid's end, South African leaders formed the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation to promote national unity in the early 1990s. Rwanda's community courts investigated the slaughter of as many as 1 million people in 1994. Post-World War II Germany outlawed Nazism and its symbols.

Sanford Levinson, a University of Texas at Austin law professor, said such commissions generally focus on terrorist activity by nationalist governments, killings and torture immediately after they happen to hold oppressors accountable.

The United States could examine aspects of the Civil War, such as military prisons, the massacre of black soldiers or slavery itself, he said. But, "it would turn inevitably into historians testifying," he said. "There aren't concrete individuals who are going to come up and say 'yes, I did this and I really beg your apology.' All those people are dead."

Americans also would need to reach genuine consensus that the Civil War should be confronted, a willingness to dredge up repressed memories and someone to lead the effort, he said.

Academics and others told The Associated Press the road to avoiding a more divisive future may be lined with discussions rather than shouting matches; more complete history lessons; local, rather than state or national action; and a renewed focus on individuals who fought and were impacted by the war, including the deprivations they endured.

The drafting of men for the war, desertions in the Confederate and Union armies, political disagreements and dissent are among things not well represented in the memories of the conflict, especially not through monuments, said Stephen Rockenbach, history professor at Virginia State University. Americans can draw

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on primary sources, including writings of people who lived during that time period and their diaries to understand different viewpoints.

"The danger occurs when you only look at one aspect, one person, one battle, even one time frame," he said.

Historians often don't reach consensus on interpretations of the past and the general public can't be expected to, either, Rockenbach said.

"How then do we convey this huge experience that all kinds of Americans went through in meaningful way?" he said. "Statues do not do a very good job of doing that on their own."

Joe Zuniga, a 60-year-old school teacher in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, wants to see Confederate statues in museums or part of historical sites or battlefields so that visitors have the context they need to understand what happened.

"We are talking about history," said the self-described conservative. "We don't have to have it on top of a building overlooking the city with the idea of it being glorified. But, nonetheless, it is history. Whatever is in a person's heart can be there. It doesn't have to be replicated by granite or marble."

Carmichael, the Gettysburg College professor, said some of the problems of today could be addressed by doing a better job of explaining the war and how it affected a group that generally was ignored by both sides after Appomattox Courthouse: black Americans.

Rather than simply tearing down statues, interpretive markers should be used at Confederate monuments to show the systematic oppression of black people through lynching, the denial of voting rights, and segregation, he said. That way, Americans can understand that the system of slavery destroyed by the Civil War didn't create equality but instead ushered in Jim Crow laws.

Reconciliation won't happen in the immediate aftermath of Charlottesville, he said. The best change might be through local efforts where people who know each other can hash things out.

"The more it's done from far away, the more I think it's likely to provoke resentment and anger, and not lead to anything wonderfully productive," he said.

Civil War veterans reunited on battlefields for years after the fight. But today, organizations composed of descendants of the armies that battled from 1861 to 1865 have few dealings with each other or conversations on a broad level.

The head of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mark Day, said opening a shared dialogue about the nation's history might be a good start.

"We're Americans. We have an ability to hold different opinions and share different opinions," said Day, the national commander. "I think it's a national thing that we maybe have to talk to each other."

Thomas V. Strain Jr. is Day's Southern equivalent, commander-in-chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which is more than three times the size of the Union group with some 33,000 members. Strain doesn't mind talking to Union descendants — he recently attended a gathering of the Northern group — but he doesn't know that discussions will help.

People are more interested today in fighting battles with monuments as proxies than in figuring out what happened long ago, said Strain.

"Until society as a whole changes and we start seeing things for what they are, I don't think at any time we're going to be able to sit down and reconcile," said Strain, of Athens, Alabama.

The Southern descendants' group supports the preservation of Confederate monuments and members often espouse the traditional, Southern view of the war that minimizes the role of slavery in the conflict. But it didn't officially participate in the Aug. 12 demonstration in Charlottesville that ended in multiple injuries and the death of a woman who was killed when a car allegedly driven by a man aligned with white supremacists plowed into a crowd.

The group continues to memorialize its forbears; members were on hand for the dedication of a monument to unknown Confederate dead on private property in rural south Alabama on Aug. 24. The NAACP spoke out against the project, calling it a step backward.

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Bernard Simelton, president of the civil rights group's Alabama chapter, said he's not interested in coming together to reach a consensus on Civil War history while Confederate monuments are still going up.

"The monuments have to come down before you can begin an honest conversation because as long as they are up and that flag is flying it leaves African Americans to say, 'You don't value our feelings, you don't understand our pain,'" Simelton said.

Strain said many on the pro-Confederate side just aren't willing to budge after seeing monuments and Confederate monuments removed. "I think we have to stand firm at this point," he said.

But others say something has to be resolved, and soon.

"In 1861 they came to the point they could no longer talk about their differences. It came to bloodshed," said long-haul trucker R.J. Yong, 37, of York, South Carolina. "I fear that we are coming to that point again."

Musician Bobby Horton, 66, has an unusual vantage point after a lifetime of studying and playing music of the Civil War. He was among the contributors to director Ken Burns' landmark 1990 miniseries, "The Civil War."

Both sides had their favorite tunes during the war, Horton said, and that division continued with post-war songs like "Oh, I'm a Good Ole Rebel," which included the line: "For this fair land of freedom I do not care a damn. I'm glad I (fought) against it, I only wished we'd won."

Yet a new type of music also came about after the war, Horton said: Songs that talked about reconciliation and coming together after years of fighting. One, titled "The Dawn of Peace," included the verse: "No more, no more shall war and strife be heard throughout the land."

Those songs, said Horton, "were mainly from soldiers."

The lesson for today might be for the nation to better educate itself about the shared tragedy of those who fought in the war, the slaves whose lives hung in the balance and the common people, he said. That way, perhaps, people could better see their commonalities.

"Right now it's 'them' and 'us.' And as long as it's 'them' and 'us,' it won't be 'us,'" Horton said.

Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona.

Flames, smoke at Houston-area chemical plant for a 2nd day

By **FRANK BAJAK, REESE DUNKLIN and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press**

HOUSTON (AP) — Thick black smoke and towering orange flames shot up Friday after two trailers of highly unstable compounds blew up at a flooded Houston-area chemical plant, the second fire there in two days.

Arkema says Harvey's floodwaters engulfed its backup generators at the plant in Crosby and knocked out the refrigeration necessary to keep the organic peroxides, used in such products as plastics and paints, from degrading and catching fire. Arkema executive Richard Rennard said two containers caught fire Friday evening, and that there are six more it expects will eventually catch fire.

Arkema spokeswoman Janet Smith said that the company expects the rest of the containers will ignite "within a matter of days."

Preliminary analysis of data captured by Environmental Protection Agency surveillance aircraft Friday did not show high levels of toxic airborne chemicals, agency spokesman David Gray said. No serious injuries were reported in the last two days as a result of the fires.

The height and color of the flames from the plant Friday suggested incomplete combustion of the organic peroxides, Texas A&M chemical safety expert Sam Mannan said. With complete combustion, he said, the byproduct is carbon dioxide and water, posing about the same amount of risk as standing too close to a campfire. But incomplete combustion implies something else is burning.

The fire burned not just the organic peroxides but also the plastic packaging, insulation, and the materials used to construct the trailers, Smith said.

Daryl Roberts, the company's vice president of manufacturing, technology and regulatory services in the Americas, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the floodwater inundating the plant would cause

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any toxins produced by the fire to quickly vaporize. By Friday, the water had receded but Smith could not comment on whether that had changed the calculation of risk.

A 1½-mile buffer (2.4 kilometers) around the plant was established Tuesday when Arkema warned that chemicals kept there could explode. Employees had been pulled, and up to 5,000 people living nearby were warned to evacuate. Officials remain comfortable with the size of the buffer, Rachel Moreno, a spokeswoman for the Harris County Fire Marshal Office, said Friday evening.

Smith reiterated statements executives made earlier Friday that the safest course of action was simply to "let these fires happen and let them burn out."

Arkema officials did not directly notify local emergency managers of the generator failure, Moreno said. It instead came by way of the plant's ride-out crew, who told the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department about it when they were rescued during the storm, she said.

In a conference call with reporters Friday, Arkema President and CEO Rich Rowe apologized and said he was sending a team of employees to Crosby to figure out how best to assist locals.

"I realize this is not a situation that we can help remedy overnight," he said.

Early Thursday, two blasts blew open a trailer containing at least 2 tons of material, sending up a plume of black smoke and flames 30 to 40 feet (9 to 12 meters) high in the tiny town of Crosby, about a half-hour from Houston, authorities said. The Texas environmental agency called the smoke "especially acrid and irritating" and said it can impair breathing and inflame the eyes, nose and throat.

Questions persisted Friday about the adequacy of Arkema's master plan to protect the public in the event of an emergency in flood-prone Houston, a metropolitan area of about 6 million people.

The plant is along a corridor with one of the nation's greatest concentrations of refineries, pipelines and chemical plants. A 2016 analysis led by Texas A&M University researchers identified Arkema's facility as posing one of the region's biggest risks, based on such factors as the type and amount of chemicals and the population density.

In accident plans Arkema submitted to the EPA in 2014, executives said a hurricane and a power loss were potential hazards. Yet the plans, which were supposed to address worst-case scenarios, didn't explain what Arkema would do if faced with either.

Executives also acknowledged Friday that they didn't have materials at the plant that could have neutralized the organic peroxides.

Instead, workers were forced to scramble and move the chemicals away from floodwaters after buildings were engulfed and power was lost. Workers transferred the compounds to refrigerated containers, but those failed, too, causing Thursday's fire.

After days of questions about what was in its chemical inventory, the company posted a list of them on its website Friday, though not the amounts on hand. Asked why it hadn't shared the information sooner, Rowe said, "We're managing our way through a crisis."

State and federal regulators have cited Arkema for safety and environmental violations at the Crosby plant dating back more than a decade, records show.

Texas' environmental commission penalized the plant at least three times. In June 2006, Arkema had failed to prevent unauthorized emissions during a two-hour warehouse fire. Records show a pallet of organic peroxide was poorly stored, resulting in the blaze, and more than a ton of volatile organic compounds were discharged.

More recently, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration in February fined Arkema nearly \$110,000 — later reduced to just over \$90,000 — because of 10 serious safety violations found during an inspection.

"We don't have a perfect record, we understand that," Rowe said. "We strive to get better at every turn and will continue to do so."

Dunklin reported from Dallas. Associated Press writers Michael Biesecker, Matthew Daly and Seth Bornstein in Washington; Luke Sheridan in New York; and Angeliki Kastanis in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Residents who evacuated for Harvey come home to devastation

By JASON DEAREN and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

CROSBY, Texas (AP) — Silvia Casas' eyes welled with tears Friday as she surveyed the damage from Harvey to what was once a working class, mostly Hispanic neighborhood near Crosby, Texas.

Large trees with their roots reaching into the air were pulled from the ground by Harvey's floodwaters. RVs were crumpled like tin cans. Entire houses were picked up and moved 20 or 30 feet from where they once sat, leaving piles of wood and splintered debris and PVC pipes sticking from the ground as the only reminder of once-familiar structures.

Near a 30-foot-high pile of debris, once houses and treasured belongings now stacked against a telephone pole, someone had hung a painting of the Virgin de Guadalupe from a tree branch. Around the corner, a sinkhole had swallowed two cars and was filled with brown, mucky water.

A neighborhood stray dog, fed by everyone, weathered the flood by standing on Casas' roof. Her cinderblock house was one of the few structures that wasn't thrown by floodwaters. But inside, a pile of furniture and splintered belongings sat in the middle of the floor, under a ceiling pocked with peeling paint.

Casas stopped to survey the outdoor kitchen that used to stand on the side of the house where several generations would gather.

"This is where we gathered as a family," she said before choking up and adding: "We're going to miss this place."

A week after Harvey roared into Texas, Casas and her family are among thousands of people seeing their devastated homes for the first time. An estimated 156,000 dwellings in Harris County, or more than 10 percent of all structures in the county where Crosby is located, were damaged by flooding, according to the flood control district.

The community where the Casas family lived doesn't have an official name. It is about 6.5 miles southwest of the Arkema Inc. chemical plant in Crosby that flooded earlier this week, causing a fire and explosion that evacuated a 1.5-mile radius around the plant.

Silvia and Rafael Casas said their family got no official evacuation warning when the floodwaters came last Friday. They were told to leave when they lost power, but the lights stayed on. Their home was in the area that was affected by the release of water from two dams that were in danger of overflowing.

"On Friday, someone, maybe with the city, came and told my parents they were going to open the dam, and that's it. They were supposed to come back and alert people when they opened it (the dam) up, but they never did," Rafael Casas said.

He said the person told him that someone would return and let them know whether to evacuate or cut off the power to this whole area, which would be a sign that they should leave.

"But they never came back and they never cut the power."

Luckily, the family decided to leave anyway.

Robey Bartee was happy to leave the George R. Brown Convention Center on Friday after spending six days there with thousands of other evacuees following Harvey. Bartee loaded his belongings into a relative's car for the 11-mile drive to the old, wood-frame house where he lived with his late wife in East Houston.

What he found was worse than he expected. The house reeked of spoiled meat that went bad while the power was off. The carpet squished with each step. A line of grass and debris showed about a foot of water filled his den and was deeper in a sunken bedroom. His furniture was wet. The wallboards were soft.

Hurricane Rita flooded the same house in 2005, he said, but Harvey was worse.

"This one just wiped me out," said Bartee, 66, a retired city employee. "I didn't completely have to start over on the first one. I was able to save a lot of things and pick up the pieces and go along. But this one here, I don't know what pieces to pick up."

There were bright spots: Both of his old cars started despite being submerged in water for days, and a neighbor had cold bottled water. But Bartee said he plans to go back to the shelter and find another home, as much as he hates the idea.

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Back near Crosby, Mary Ann Avila was thinking the same thing as Bartee once she saw her destroyed home. The only room left standing was her daughter's bedroom.

She sobbed as she walked around picking up items left behind from the flood.

"It's completely gone. I don't know what else to do. Rebuild? Probably not. In two years it'll be the same thing again. I don't think I can start over, not here," she said through tears. "I have a house, I just don't have a home."

Reeves reported from East Houston.

Follow Jason Dearen on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/JHDearen>

No decision yet on who gets Trump's pledge of disaster aid

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is still trying to decide who will get President Donald Trump's pledged \$1 million donation for Harvey storm relief efforts, one of the largest gifts ever given by a president but one that has evoked his checkered charitable past.

The president plans to make the donation, which is expected to come from his personal fortune, early next week, and it may be split among several groups doing relief work in storm-ravaged areas of Texas and Louisiana. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday that the president hasn't finalized where the money will go, raising some concern that charitable groups may end up competing for the money.

For the second straight day, Sanders invited reporters to make recommendations for which groups should get the money.

"If you have suggestions, he is very open to hearing those," Sanders said.

The president met with three relief groups — the Red Cross, Southern Baptist Relief and Salvation Army — in the Oval Office on Friday and pledged the nation's support to those affected by Harvey.

"Families have given food and shelter to those in need. Houses of worship have organized efforts to clean up communities and repair damaged homes," Trump said during an earlier meeting with religious leaders. "People have never seen anything quite like this. Individuals of every background are striving for the same goal: to aid and comfort people facing devastating losses."

There has been some concern that, if Trump opted to donate to only one group or just a few, there could be intense competition among relief agencies for the money and the publicity that comes with it.

But Rick Cohen, communications director for the National Council of Nonprofits, said there's already intense competition among organizations for Harvey donations.

"He should be looking to make an informed contribution, and it seems that he's doing so," said Cohen, noting that the president has stayed abreast of conditions on the ground and is planning to see it first-hand.

White House officials said the donation would come from the president's personal fortune and not his business, the Trump Organization, or his charitable foundation.

"You have to take him at his word," said Leslie Lenkowsky, a professor at Indiana University who focuses on philanthropy and who formerly headed the Corporation for National and Community Service. "If he wants to lead the way, that's one of the things that a president's supposed to do. ... He does like the image of himself as a compassionate person."

Trump's history of charitable donations features bursts of generosity frequently overshadowed by failed promises and questions about the source of the gifts.

The president has claimed to be worth \$10 billion while experts have pegged his fortune at far less. But Trump reportedly donates a far smaller percentage of his dollars than many of his fellow billionaires. The exact extent of Trump's charitable giving is not known since the president has broken with decades of tradition and not released his tax returns.

The Trump Foundation came under heavy scrutiny during the 2016 presidential campaign. It was revealed

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that Trump frequently did not follow through on his charitable promises. Records show that in the 15 years before his campaign, Trump made \$8.5 million in pledges but paid out about \$2.8 million, according to The Washington Post.

In January 2016, Trump held a high-profile fundraiser for veterans' causes, but it took him four months — and pressure from the media — to follow through on his pledge to donate \$1 million of his own money to the cause.

Trump, one of the nation's wealthiest presidents, has also pledged to donate his annual \$400,000 salary to charity. His first two gifts from his presidential earnings were to the National Park Service and the Education Department.

Other presidents, including Barack Obama, would customarily donate a percentage of their income — including money from outside sources like book sales — to charity every year.

Lemire reported from New York.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2017. There are 119 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 3, 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

On this date:

In 1189, England's King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1658, Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, died in London; he was succeeded by his son, Richard.

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1868, the Japanese city of Edo was renamed Tokyo.

In 1914, Cardinal Giacomo Della Chiesa became pope; he took the name Benedict XV.

In 1923, the United States and Mexico resumed diplomatic relations.

In 1940, Artie Shaw and his Gramercy Five recorded "Summit Ridge Drive" and "Special Delivery Stomp" for RCA Victor.

In 1951, the television soap opera "Search for Tomorrow" made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution. Motorists in Sweden began driving on the right-hand side of the road instead of the left. The original version of the TV game show "What's My Line?," hosted by John Charles Daly, broadcast its final episode after more than 17 years on CBS.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1989, a Cubana de Aviacion jetliner crashed after takeoff in Havana, killing all 126 aboard and 45 people on the ground.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the name "AuctionWeb."

Ten years ago: Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, 63, went missing after taking off in a single-engine plane in western Nevada. (The wreckage of the plane and traces of his remains were found more than a year later.) President George W. Bush, accompanied by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary

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of State Condoleezza Rice, paid a surprise visit to Iraq, where he was briefed by U.S. military commanders and Iraqi leaders. Panama blasted away part of a hillside next to the canal, marking the start of the waterway's biggest expansion since it opened in 1914.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama consoled victims of Hurricane Isaac along the Gulf Coast and stoked the enthusiasm of union voters in the industrial heartland, blending a hard political sell with a softer show of sympathy on the eve of the Democratic National Convention. Prolific character actor Michael Clarke Duncan, 54, died in Los Angeles. Sun Myung Moon, 92, a self-proclaimed messiah who founded the Unification Church, died in Gapeyeong, South Korea.

One year ago: President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) sealed their nations' participation in the Paris climate change agreement during a ceremony on the sidelines of a global economic summit in Hangzhou (hahn-joh). Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump visited the Great Faith Ministries International, a predominantly black church in Detroit, to call for a "civil rights agenda for our time." Authorities in Minnesota said they had identified the remains of Jacob Wetterling, an 11-year-old boy kidnapped by a masked gunman in October 1989 near his home in St. Joseph; the case was solved when a man confessed to sexually assaulting and killing the boy.

Today's Birthdays: "Beetle Bailey" cartoonist Mort Walker is 94. Actress Pauline Collins is 77. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 75. Actress Valerie Perrine is 74. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 69. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 62. Actor Steve Schirripa is 60. Actor Holt McCallany is 53. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 52. Actor Costas Mandylor is 52. Actor Charlie Sheen is 52. Singer Jennifer Paige is 44. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 42. Actress Ashley Jones is 41. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 39. Actor Joel Johnstone is 39. Actor Nick Wechsler is 39. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 38. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 34. Actress Christine Woods is 34. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 33. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 31. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 25.

Thought for Today: "It is impossible to persuade a man who does not disagree, but smiles." — Muriel Spark, Scottish author (1918-2006).