

Groton Daily Independent

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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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The Boys Soccer match scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 12th vs Mitchell Christian/Mt. Vernon in Groton has been CANCELLED.

Sunday, Sept. 10

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, rally Sunday, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 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.

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

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship at Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Sisseton, 10:30 a.m.; Worship at Groton Care & Rehab Center at 3 p.m.

Groton Pool: Doggie Day, 3-5 pm

Butch Radke Benefit: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Groton Legion.

Christian & Missionary Alliance: Sunday School for children, youth and adults, 9:15 a.m.; Worship at 10:45 a.m.; Church family picnic at Wylie Park in the afternoon.

Olive Grove: Sunflower Classic, 10 a.m.

11 - Patriot Day

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, creamy noodles, spinach salad, baked apple slices, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Chicken legs, fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

School Board: 7 p.m.

Cross Country: at Webster, 4 p.m.

JH Volleyball: at Ipswich, 7th grade at 4:30 p.m. followed by 8th grade.

JV Football: hosts Redfield-Doland, 5 p.m.

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris

Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

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“Imagination
is in the eye
of the soul.”

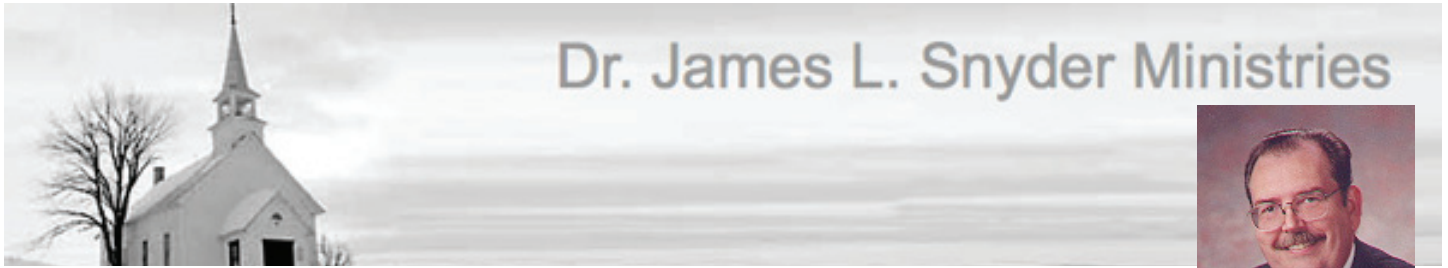
-Joseph Joubert



Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



My Sneeze Is No Gentle Breeze

It has been days (or has it been years) since I have enjoyed a sneeze free day. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told me it is simply that time of the year and I should learn to deal with it. "After all," she opined, "you're not going to die."

That news was not quite encouraging, because it was the hope of dying keeping me alive so far. If my brain was functioning anywhere half-decent, (and I can't remember a time it has) I probably could remember when I felt worse. However, it does not matter how I have felt in the past it is how I'm feeling right now that really matters.

I have gone through a million boxes of tissues this past week.

I would not mind an occasional sneeze every now and then. For example I could live with a simple "aah-choo," and be done with it. But, oh no, my nose has different ideas about the whole thing.

It is what I call the unholy Trinity. It goes something like this.

Aaaaaah Chooooooooooooooooo.

Aaaaaah Chooooooooooooooooo.

Aaaaaaaah Chooooooooooooooooo.

Each sneeze tries to outdo the previous one. I can never sneeze one time, it always has to be in multiples of three.

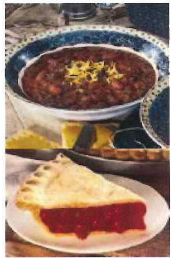
Of course, sometimes my nose tries to outsmart me. For example, when a sneeze comes I gear up for three in a row. Then my nose will sneeze two times and I am ready for the third one and it does not come. It will do this several times in a row, then it will sneeze twice, there is a small pause, and I think it is over and the third thunders forth.

Notwithstanding, this has made certain inconveniences in the life I once enjoyed. For example, in the middle of the night when nature calls I try to be as careful in getting out of bed and going as I possibly can. I never open my eyes so as not to become fully awakened in the middle of the night. Once awake I find it difficult to go back to sleep.

Just the other night I was responding to nature's call as I normally do and was just about ready to get back into bed when my nose realized what was happening and called forth three mighty sneezes.

Not only did it bring me to full awake status, but also the lady sleeping in my bed was aroused to full alertness, and yelled, "What happened?"

I live by one basic rule. Never wake up grouchy. I've learned one thing about what not to do when



**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.**

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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

0817.0914

you have this condition. That is simply never brush your teeth during this condition. My mirror in my bathroom will be shiny bright and never have a cavity, guaranteed.

I have noticed when you are sick and people find out about it they feel obligated to share with you their medical expertise on the situation at hand.

One person said to me, "What you need is plenty of vitamin C. I recommend you drink as much orange juice as you possibly can. That'll take care of it for sure."

I don't know who is worse. The one giving advice or the one taking it.

Being in such desperate straits, I decided to take the orange juice regimen. For one whole day, I drank as much OJ as I possibly could get down. For a while, it seemed to work, but then the inevitable raised

Reminder to Remove Hay Bales from the Right of Way

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds land owners hay remaining in highway ditches after Oct. 1 is deemed illegal.

After Oct. 1, the department will remove or authorize the removal of any illegal hay bales remaining in the public right of way.

Any person wishing to claim ownership of illegal bales must obtain a permit from the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Those permits are issued on a first-come first-served basis and allow permit holders to take ownership of any illegal hay bale.

Permits are available at Department of Transportation area offices in the following communities: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Custer, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Winner and Yankton. Phone numbers can be found on the website at <http://www.sddot.com/dot/region/Default.aspx>.

For more information, contact the Division of Operations at 605-773-3571.

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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")**

The Life of Marty Sippel

Services for Martin "Marty" Sippel, 67, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, September 11, 2017, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. The Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to services.

Marty passed away Wednesday, September 06, 2017 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Martin Howard was born on May 28, 1950 in Britton, SD to Marvin and Margaret (Johnson) Sippel. He graduated from Groton High School in 1969. After high school, he drove semi-truck for several neighbors and did some cattle buying.

He married Eleanor (Ellie) Schmidt on November 27, 1998 in Groton and the couple made their home on the family farm.

Marty was truly a dairy farmer at heart. Cows were his passion. He started in 4-H showing and breeding Brown Swiss cows. He loved every aspect of the dairy industry, which also included selling bulls and heifers to many foreign countries. He also showed cattle at many different fairs around the country for many years.

Marty was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church all of his life. He also belonged to both the National and State Brown Swiss Associations. In his early years, he enjoyed bowling and stock car racing. Later in life he liked going to casinos.

Blessed to have shared in his life is his wife, Ellie, Aunt Lorraine Sippel, Aunt Marie Gengerke, three sisters-in-law, Mildred Henry of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Sharon (Art) Reyes of Orland Park, Illinois and Peggy (John) Christensen of Rapid City and many cousins.

Marty is preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Margaret, his only sibling, Mary Ann Sippel and his God Child, Lisa Sippel.

Casketbearers will be Robbin Green, Matt Johnson, Dave Alberts, Gary Fliehs, Lori Hanson and Chris Sippel.

Second Avenue cross to close

Since the beginning of the SD37 reconstruction project. the crossing at Second Avenue has been open. But that will change on Monday. As work progresses south and the gravel has been laid down, Second Avenue has to be closed to allow for the installation of the new storm sewer main. The crossing at Third Avenue will then be opened up. Fifth Avenue is also opened.

As far as the blinking lights at SD37 and US12, a technician is scheduled to come to Groton a week from Thursday to program them.



A Beacon for Freedom and Opportunity

Almost one in four Americans weren't yet born when the towers fell and the Pentagon was struck on September 11, 2001. For them, the threat of terrorism has always been present, security always enhanced, and shoes always removed at airport security checkpoints. Sometimes I forget that Booker, born less than a year after the attack, is one of these people. He learns about it in history class, but the pages of a textbook can never quite convey what it was like to live through that day.

I remember exactly where I was. Like so many other mornings, it started off as such a normal Tuesday. Get the girls up and off to school, jump in the pickup, and flip on the radio. But then the reports started coming in...

A plane strikes the World Trade Center in New York City. A second tower is hit. The Pentagon too. And then, that chilling moment when New York City's streets fill with dust, the images of which can never be forgotten; the first tower had collapsed. Minutes later, we learn another plane crashed in Pennsylvania. The second tower falls. And America unites in grief, determination, and prayer.

Many of us might even still remember President Bush's words just hours after: "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America... [W]e're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining."

Sixteen years later, radical Islamic terrorists continue to make threats on this beacon of freedom – even waging an attack on our embassy in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012. ISIL, the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and others have sought to expand their physical boundaries and the reach of their violent ideology. These groups are convicted to destroy, not only towers and embassies, but our people and values. They will not succeed. "[America] will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail" – a promise made by President Bush days after the attack and safeguarded by our men and women in uniform every single day.

"The attacks of September 11 were intended to break our spirit. Instead, we have emerged stronger and more united," New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani said in December 2001.

It's undeniable that individual Americans will always have ideological differences, but for those of us who lived through that day, the memory of September 11 binds us together. Particularly in this day and age, that's a message the next generation could benefit from hearing.

When I talk to Booker about September 11, I want him to understand that we mark this day, not only because of the terror carried out, but because of America's resiliency in the face of terror. We were and continue to be the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. No one – not the terrorists who piloted those planes, not those who attacked our embassy in Benghazi, not those waging war in the Middle East today – will keep that light from shining.

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Trade Agreements Vital to South Dakota's Economy

Free and fair trade plays an important role in the American economy. It not only leads to more jobs and higher wages, it allows American producers to promote and sell their goods across the globe by leveling the playing field with other competitors. Our farm economy, in particular, benefits from trade agreements. As our number one industry in South Dakota, I continue to promote and prioritize trade agreements that benefit our farmers and ranchers.

I continue to hear from South Dakota producers and ag groups who are concerned about the future of trade agreements. At Dakotafest, the State Fair and other events across the state last month, producers repeatedly told me that opening up new markets for American exports will greatly benefit their operations. Foreign markets absorb approximately 20 percent of all U.S. agricultural production today, which significantly contributes to the overall health of the farm economy. The economic benefits of agricultural exports also extend to businesses in rural communities, while overseas farm sales help to buoy a wide array of industries linked to agriculture, including transportation, processing and farm input suppliers.

In recent months, President Trump has indicated his desire to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and modify – if not completely withdraw from – our trade agreement with South Korea. Both of these agreements benefit South Dakota producers because we have no tariffs or limits on the quantity or value of products that can be imported and exported with countries such as Mexico and Canada. In 2016, American farmers sent \$20.5 billion worth of exports to Canada and \$17.8 billion worth of exports to Mexico, which is the largest market for U.S. corn and soybean meal, the second largest market for U.S. soybeans and the third largest market for U.S. beef. Additionally, South Korea is one of our top export markets, with \$6.2 billion in ag exports last year alone.

We all want the best deal we can get, and I support the president's goal to make the best possible trade deals that will improve America's ability to export products. However, simply withdrawing from long-standing trade agreements without a similar structure in place would cause significant harm to South Dakota's producers, and I would strongly oppose such action.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the new U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, to encourage him to maintain strong relationships with our allies in NAFTA and work to open up new markets around the world for American ag products. I also met with him prior to his confirmation to discuss increasing trade opportunities for U.S. producers. I was pleased to hear that he agrees with me on the importance of trade for our ag economy, and in fact, this spring, the Trump administration announced an agreement had been reached to allow for U.S. exports of beef, poultry and natural gas into China. South Dakota ranchers are now able to sell high-quality beef in this new and lucrative market. I continue to encourage the administration to increase trade access to markets in other parts of Asia and the Pacific Rim region as well.

As we continue to discuss new opportunities for trade, I will work with the administration to promote and prioritize South Dakota's agricultural industry. Opening up new markets for trade will bring a much-needed boost to South Dakota's farm economy and lead to higher-paying jobs across the state.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

REAPING OUR HARVEST

For centuries, the arrival of autumn has been celebrated at the end of the growing season, commemorating all the hard work. It is an opportunity to look back and see what has been accomplished and what lies ahead for us.

A full cornucopia is a good sign of the bounty of harvest. In looking at what our team has accomplished from planting through harvest this season; I'd say our cornucopia is bursting. With a little germination, we grew our day-to-day goals of obtaining the maximum benefits for our veterans and their families. We supported and assisted war time and peace time veterans as well as reached out to educate, reintegrate, and facilitate the claims for those who have recently served.

Our outreach efforts yielded great results. The Department consistently put forth significant effort to enhance and expand its already extensive outreach operations. In August, we had the honor to address veterans at the Veterans Day at the State Fair and the Healing Wall ceremony in Chamberlain, as well as participate in numerous screenings of "The Vietnam War," the new 10-part documentary film series. We honored 52 South Dakota veterans for their service in Taiwan and awarded them the Republic of China mutual defense commemorative badge.

Our education team assisted veterans to secure all of their educational benefits, as well as enlist them in the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

Our team at Michael J Fitzmaurice Veterans Home embodied the mission to honor and serve our heroes by providing high quality care in a setting that promotes dignity, independence, and a home like environment.

Fall brings many colors to our world in South Dakota. These very same colors play a role in the lives of our service members – ribbons, awards, medals, dress uniforms, daily uniforms, physical training uniforms, and vehicles for the environment they are sent to fight in. Colors are why we stand at ceremonies, games, and at our goodbye to our heroes at their last rights. Colors are an integral part of service to our country and our red, white and blue flag we fight for.

Fall is a time to reap the benefits of our harvest, and enjoy the rich brown, yellow, and red leaves scattered about. It's also a great time to remember and honor our prisoners of war and our missing in action. Governor Dugaard has designated September 15 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in South Dakota. They suffered the horrors of being a prisoner of war and those whose fates were never accounted for. They are our heroes, please honor them.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains were helpful in reducing the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most serious damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1919 - A hurricane struck the Florida Keys drowning more than 500 persons. (David Ludlum)

1960: The center of Hurricane Donna passed over the middle of the Florida Keys between 2 and 3 am on this day. Donna was a Category 5 hurricane over the Atlantic and a Category 4 at landfall. This storm caused the deaths of over 100 in Puerto Rico, 50 in the United States, and 63 in a jet crash. The plane crash occurred on August 29th as a French airliner was attempting to land at Dakar, Senegal during a "blinding rainstorm." The storm was likely a tropical disturbance at the time of the crash. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Miami.

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Caribbean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

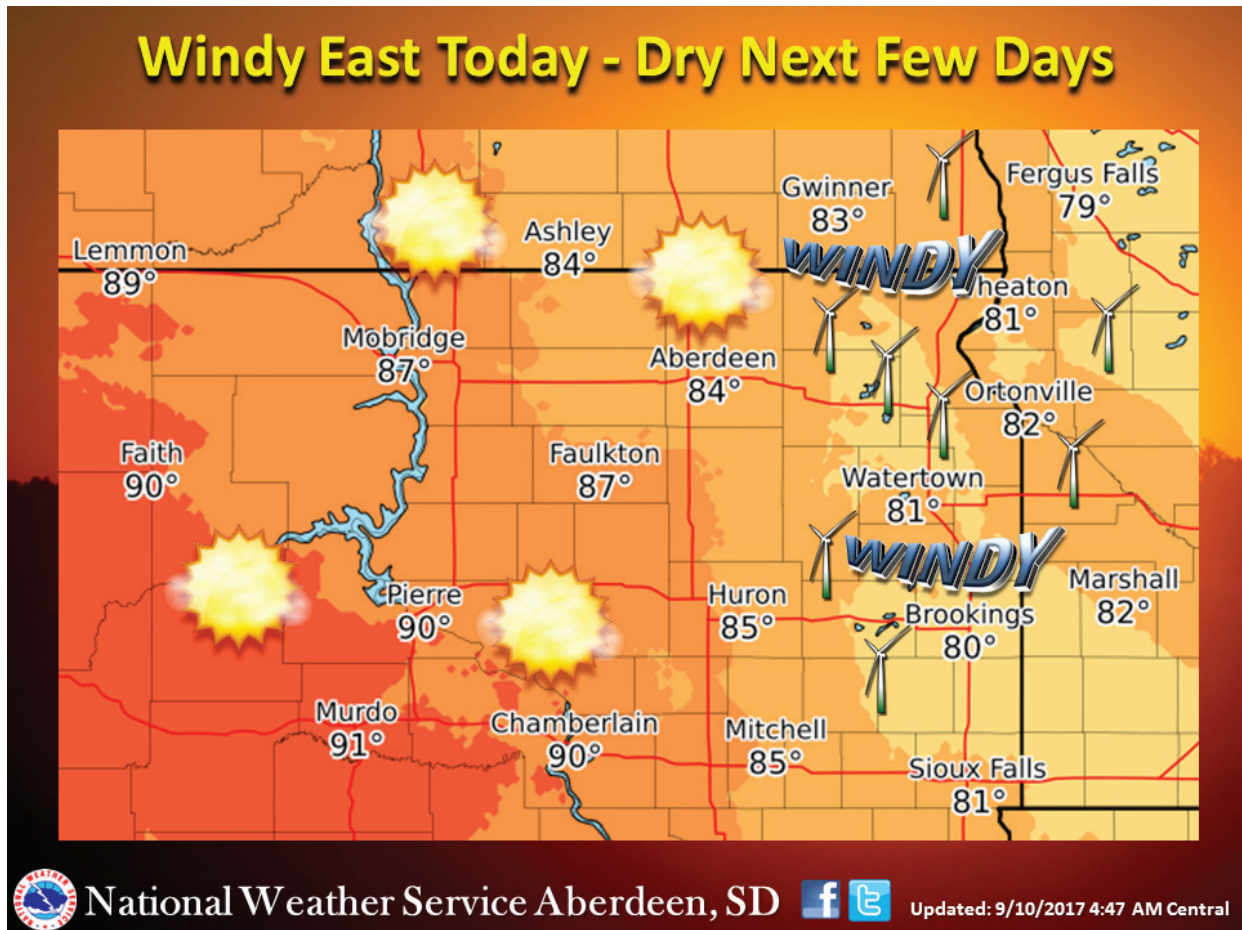
1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused serious river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 86 °F



Once the last of the light showers move out of far eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota later this morning, windy conditions will develop. Along and west of the James valley, winds will be lighter. Hot and dry air moves in for the next few days, probably with a mix of smoke and haze for the Dakotas.

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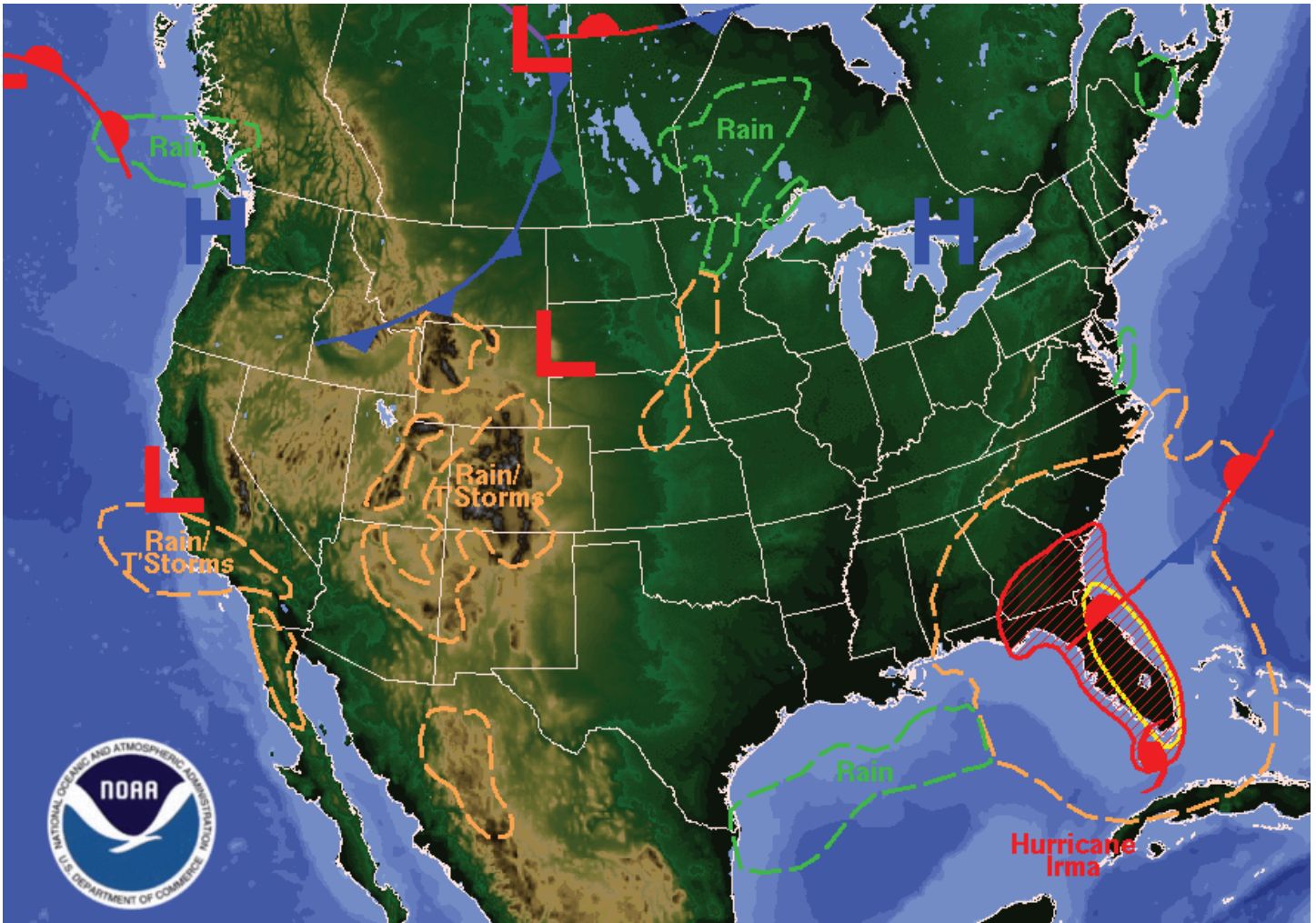
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.4 at 2:13 PM
Low Outside Temp: 57.4 at 7:14 AM
High Gust: 24 mph at 2:40 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1931
Record Low: 27° in 1898
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 48°F
Average Precip in Sept: 0.75
Precip to date in Sept: 0.11
Average Precip to date: 17.04
Precip Year to Date: 9.63
Sunset Tonight: 7:53 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Sep 10, 2017, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Stooms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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ALL OR NOTHING – OR – ONE TOUCH AT A TIME

Crowds followed Jesus for many different reasons. Some out of curiosity. Some for His teachings. Some for the miracle of touch that brought healing. He did what no one else had ever done. He brought love and light, hope and healing, truth and salvation.

Keith Miller wrote an interesting book entitled *The Second Touch*. In it he spoke of Jesus' healing of a blind man. There was one occasion when He touched a blind man's eyes and when he looked around he saw people "like trees walking." Then Jesus touched his eyes again and his eyesight was fully restored. It was the "second touch" from Jesus that completed the miracle.

David needed a "second touch." Feelings of distress and defeat were overwhelming him. But they could not erase previous memories of God's goodness and grace. So he asked God not to withhold His mercy from him and asked God to save him as he had in the past. Though his sin overtook him, he repented.

He began this Psalm by reminding God that on one occasion he waited patiently and God rescued and planted his feet "on a rock." Now, things were different. "God, come quickly! I need You! You saved me before – please do it again. This is more than I can handle." And God reached out – again

There's good news here for all of us. David needed that "second touch." And, later on he would need "more touches." Every time he "needed a touch" he went to God and prayed. And God answered every prayer and gave him many "touches." That's the way God works. His outstretched hand is always waiting to "touch us."

When we go to God in prayer, we always expect "all or nothing." Often, however, our requests are granted in "bits and pieces," or "one at a time."

Prayer: May we never forget, Father, that whatever we have is because of Your love and grace and not what we deserve. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 40:13 Be pleased to save me, LORD; come quickly, LORD, to help me.

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Yankton, 25-20, 25-13, 25-11
Dakota Valley def. Akron-Westfield, Iowa, 21-10, 21-12
Freeman Academy/Marion def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-9, 25-18, 21-25, 25-21
Gregory def. Wessington Springs, 23-25, 20-25, 25-20, 25-22, 15-10
Harrisburg def. Brandon Valley, 25-8, 25-18, 25-14
Little Wound def. Crow Creek, 25-18, 25-16, 24-26, 25-20
Miller def. Potter County, 25-19, 25-16, 25-14
New Underwood def. Dupree, 25-16, 25-15, 19-25, 25-16
Red Cloud def. Todd County, 26-24, 24-26, 16-25, 25-19, 15-10
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Colome, 25-21, 25-16, 14-25, 9-25, 15-13

Arlington Tournament

Arlington def. Burke/Sanborn Central, 26-28, 25-18, 25-20
Arlington def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-20, 25-20
Burke/Sanborn Central def. Deubrook, 25-17, 25-21
Burke/Sanborn Central def. Hamlin, 25-20, 25-18
Deubrook def. Arlington, 25-21, 12-25, 27-25
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Hamlin, 23-25, 25-17, 25-21
Warner def. Hamlin, 25-19, 25-11
Warner def. Arlington, 25-21, 25-19
Warner def. Deubrook, 24-26, 25-4, 25-19
Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-23, 25-9
Warner def. Burke/Sanborn Central, 25-11, 25-23

Big East Conference Tournament

Seventh Place

Flandreau def. Garretson, 19-25, 25-16, 25-22, 23-10

Fifth Place

Baltic def. Howard, 25-22, 25-19, 20-25, 25-23

Third Place

Sioux Valley def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-19, 17-25, 25-14, 24-26, 15-8

Championship

Chester def. Parker, 18-25, 14-25, 25-21, 25-17, 15-4

Clark-Willow Lake Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 2

Redfield/Doland def. Deuel, 25-11, 25-18
Redfield/Doland def. Florence/Henry, 25-23, 25-14

Pool 3

Lake Preston def. Britton-Hecla, 25-18, 25-16
Waverly-South Shore def. Lake Preston, 19-25, 25-22, 25-19

Pool 4

DeSmet def. Webster, 25-16, 27-25
DeSmet def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-22, 25-21
Webster def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-20, 25-23

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Semifinal

Redfield/Doland def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-14, 25-13

Wilmot def. DeSmet, 21-25, 25-20, 25-14

Third Place

Waverly-South Shore def. DeSmet, 25-23, 25-18

Championship

Redfield/Doland def. Wilmot, 25-22, 15-25, 25-20

Lennox Tournament

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Lennox, 20-25, 25-20, 25-20

Aberdeen Roncalli def. West Central, 20-25, 25-16, 27-25

Lennox def. Tea Area, 22-25, 27-25, 25-22

Tea Area def. West Central, 25-17, 25-21

Tea Area def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 28-26, 20-25, 25-23

West Central def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-22

Marshall Tournament

Consolation Bracket

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-17, 25-18

Mobridge-Pollock Tournament

First Round

Faith def. Edmunds Central, 25-14, 25-21

Faulkton def. North Border, 25-14, 25-16

McIntosh def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-18, 25-15

Mobridge-Pollock def. Timber Lake, 29-27, 25-19

Consolation Semifinal

North Border def. Edmunds Central, 27-25, 17-25, 25-13

Timber Lake def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-15, 25-19

Semifinal

Faulkton def. Faith, 25-23, 20-25, 28-26

Mobridge-Pollock def. McIntosh, 25-11, 25-18

Seventh Place

Edmunds Central def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-18, 25-15

Fifth Place

Timber Lake def. North Border, 25-12, 25-20

Third Place

Faith def. McIntosh, 25-15, 25-11

Championship

Faulkton def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-18, 24-26, 25-23

Montevideo Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Litchfield, Minn. def. Milbank Area, 25-21, 25-23

Milbank Area def. Renville County West, Minn., 22-25, 25-17, 25-15

Montevideo, Minn. def. Milbank Area, 25-21, 24-26, 25-23

Fifth Place

G-F-W, Minn. def. Milbank Area, 25-14, 25-20

Philip Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Philip def. Kadoka Area, 25-16, 21-25, 25-14

Philip def. Sully Buttes, 22-25, 25-11, 25-19

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Philip def. Harding County, 25-19, 25-16
Sully Buttes def. Harding County, 17-25, 25-18, 25-16
Championship
Philip def. Bennett County, 25-21, 12-25, 25-16
Plankinton Tournament
First Round
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-22, 25-22
Consolation Semifinal
Corsica/Stickney def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-20, 26-24
Seventh Place
Highmore-Harrold def. Mitchell Christian, 25-22, 25-19

South Dakota State holds off Montana State late, 31-27

By TOM STUBER, Associated Press

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Taryn Christian ran for two touchdowns and South Dakota needed a trick play to hold off Montana State, 31-27 on Saturday night.

The Jackrabbits built a 17-0 lead, but Murray, who fired four touchdown passes, brought the Bobcats back to trail by just three, 24-21 after three quarters.

With 4:26 left South Dakota State opted for a fake field goal and kicker Chase Vinatieri ran 31 yards for a touchdown to make it a 31-21 lead.

"We didn't escape," SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said. "We were ready to win and we responded."

Montana State (0-2) scored to cut the South Dakota State lead to four points and the Bobcats got the ball with 50 seconds only to see time expire.

"I'm angry and disappointed," MSU coach Jeff Choate said. "We put ourselves in a position to win the game and didn't accomplish that."

MSU missed two field goals and threw an interception in the end zone. The Bobcats also saw a would-be go-ahead touchdown pass called back for holding, which led to a missed field goal.

MSU's Mac Bignell forced a fumble with 1:47 to play after the Bobcats just missed recovering an on-side kick, but SDSU running back Brady Mengarelli recovered.

Christian was 25 of 33 passing for 267 yards and added a team-high 57 yards rushing on 13 carries.

Murray completed 23 of 42 passes for 311 yards and four touchdowns. He collected 107 yards on 17 carries rushing to lead Montana State on the ground.

NEXT UP

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE: The Jackrabbits host Drake next in their final non-conference game.

MONTANA STATE: The Bobcats have an open date to prepare for a road game against reigning Big Sky champion North Dakota (1-1).

THE TAKEAWAY

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE: The Jackrabbits continued their prowess on special teams. Along with Vinatieri's TD run the Jackrabbits got a blocked extra point.

MONTANA STATE: The Bobcats made up for its poor play on first down with a nine for 16 showing on third downs and three for three on fourth downs.

More AP college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

06-10-18-29-35

(six, ten, eighteen, twenty-nine, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto

05-19-24-36-41, Hot Ball: 9

(five, nineteen, twenty-four, thirty-six, forty-one; Hot Ball: nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.34 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$76 million

Powerball

06-20-29-57-59, Powerball: 22, Power Play: 2

(six, twenty, twenty-nine, fifty-seven, fifty-nine; Powerball: twenty-two; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$102 million

Second-hand store a big help for people in Pierpont

By KELDA J.L. PHARRIS, Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — On a quiet, curb-less street in the sleepy town of Pierpont, a large but simple sign is an open welcome to those who are on a budget, down on their luck or just masters of frugality.

Michele Riedl calls God's Helping Hands a free clothing store. But that's a humble take on the outpouring of support Riedl has shown Pierpont and surrounding communities. The idea was picked up from a similar venture she was involved in when previously living in Watertown.

"Everything donated to us is given free," Riedl said by phone. "By the grace of God, I'm able to do this. My husband (Dan), when I told him what I wanted to do, he thought I was nuts. I had an extra room, his train store was set up in that room. I was feeling really down at the time. He went in there, packed it all away and said, 'Here's your store.' Then he built on another addition and, a year later, another addition."

Riedl tells the story of a mother of four who'd fled from an abusive boyfriend with little to nothing.

"We clothed those four kids," Riedl said. "I cried. I'm so glad I was able to be here for them. I don't care if even one person stops in, that's why we're here."

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday or by appointment.

The store gets by on donations and a lot of support from the congregation at Rose Hill Evangelical Free Church in Langford, of which the Riedls are members. But it's not just clothing and household goods they offer to help folks get by.

"We do (a) Heart of Christmas Giving Tree. It's kind of like Salvation Army Angel Tree. That's for local kids in a 20-mile radius of Pierpont," Riedl said. "And we just got done (with) 56 book bags with Rose Hill Church. I have kids that go to Webster, Groton, Britton, Langford. They are all area kids and I know each and every one that I do."

The "tree" is only symbolic because Riedl actually just takes envelopes, puts needs for the kids in them and drops them at Rose Hill where they are picked up and taken care of by generous parishioners.

Riedl has a couple part-time helpers but is careful about who she employs since the store is attached to her house.

She also picks up and drops off items, when necessary.

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"I have a doctor, and when she moved I made nine trips to her house. I go through this stuff very carefully," Riedl said. "If there's a rip, stain or otherwise it goes in the garbage."

She's also the person folks call when they are looking for a particular item. More often than not, she can make a few calls and find what's sought.

Since the store opened six years ago, Riedl said its mission has been successful. She refuses to let a painful physical ailment keep her from continuing the work.

"I have lymphedema, elephantiasis," she said.

The illness causes a lot of swelling in her legs.

"It's hard for me to get around but, you know, that store is what keeps me going," Riedl said.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

New Homestake trail retraces the past

By TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Listen long enough as winds comb through the boughs of towering pines and you'll hear the century-old whispers of steam-fired trains chugging through the forest to service the fabled Homestake Gold Mine.

Now, more than 100 years after hundreds of faceless miners scraped and blasted a rail bed through the remotest regions of the Black Hills, hikers and mountain bikers have the opportunity to retrace the route of a narrow-gauge railroad that brought needed supplies from Deadwood to its sister city of Lead and the Homestake Mine, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The new three-mile Homestake Railroad Grade Trail returns to life a major transportation portal that traces its origins to 1890, when the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad constructed the line to haul myriad supplies to the burgeoning gold camp of Lead.

According to Rick Mills, director of the South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City, the region's newest hiking trail allows outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore a segment of Black Hills history that has virtually been erased over time.

"It's significant because this was one of the lines that has not really been explored by historians," Mills said last week. "Three tiers of tracks once existed in Lead, so this allows people to see how they used the grades, the contours of the land, to see Pluma and the east side of Lead."

Mills also said the new trail, established courtesy of an easement from Barrick Gold Corp., the Canadian company that purchased the Homestake Mine and its land holdings, presents vistas that allow hikers to view the ethnic neighborhoods of Lead, as well as the historic neighborhoods of Deadwood.

"You will get to see the different little communities that made up Lead and Deadwood that you otherwise would never see," he said. "This trail presents a whole new perspective, and it allows us to look at our collective past."

Two years in the making and achieved largely through the volunteer efforts of the Northern Hills Recreation Association, the path through the forest begins at trailheads located at the Dog Park near Lead's massive Open Cut and at Deadwood's new Powerhouse Park.

In its fourth year, the nonprofit recreation association, armed with a mission to "promote economic growth through family fun recreation," hosted 48 mountain bikers on the new trail in its Mile High Bike Challenge in July, according to NHRA Vice President Dustin Heupel.

Amid putting the finishing touches on the newly opened trail last week, Heupel credited his organization's most recent success to a diverse membership that includes the towns of Lead, Deadwood and Sturgis, as well as representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state Game, Fish & Parks, Backcountry Horsemen, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, as well as the support of Chicago-based Coeur Mining.

"Hundreds of volunteer hours have gone into this project," Heupel said. "Ideally, we want to link all the communities in the Northern Hills with walking and biking trails, and this was the easy one to deal with first."

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Heupel noted Sept. 9 grand opening and dedication ceremonies of the trail are set for 9 a.m. at the old headframe near the Lead trailhead and at 11 a.m. at Deadwood's Powerhouse Park.

Lead City Administrator Mike Stahl, who represents his community on the recreation association, said the new trail provides tangible evidence of the 141-year-old link between the sister cities of Lead and Deadwood — a connection that was never abandoned, even after the original narrow-gauge track was torn up in 1934.

"We started to realize about five years ago that there was no reason for us to be separate communities, and this trail provides a unique way to link the two towns," Stahl said. "This is economic development, and it will encourage people to come here and stay longer. It's evidence of a good partnership."

That same "partnership" recently led the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission to award a \$9,000 grant to the recreation association for interpretive signage and restroom facilities. As scheduled, eight signs will be placed along the trail next spring that will include trail maps, historical facts and descriptions of the two towns' historic neighborhoods, explore the 125-year history of the Homestake Mine and examine what it took to transport supplies to the largest gold mine in the Western Hemisphere.

But for Stahl and other backers, the Homestake Railroad Grade Trail will give local residents and Black Hills visitors a new opportunity to step back in time and revel in a natural environment away from the worries of their everyday lives.

"This beautiful trail gives users the chance to get away from everyone in just a short time," Stahl said. "In five minutes, you're out in the bushes under a canopy of Ponderosa pines and you can have a solitary experience, a group experience, or a historical experience in just a few moments."

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

The Latest: Florida sheriff: Do not shoot at hurricane

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Irma (all times local):

8:20 a.m.

Florida authorities have issued another stern warning about Hurricane Irma: Shooting bullets into the storm won't help keep you safe.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office tweeted late Saturday: "DO NOT shoot weapons @ (hashtag) Irma. You won't make it turn around (and) it will have very dangerous side effects."

The sheriff's office, which is in the Tampa Bay-area, was responding to a Facebook event page created two Florida men inviting people to shoot at Irma.

The page reads: "YO SO THIS GOOFY ... LETS SHOW IRMA THAT WE SHOOT FIRST ..."

The invitation presumably was a joke, but 80,000 people indicated they were "going" or "interested" in the event.

In a tweet early Sunday, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office asked the thousands of people who had shared the page to also share their request for volunteers needed at hurricane shelters.

8 a.m.

Forecasters say Hurricane Irma's center is poised to blow across the Florida Keys.

The northern eyewall of the storm reached the island chain early Sunday.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said in a public advisory that the center of the storm remained off-shore but was going to make landfall soon. The storm was centered about 20 miles east (30 km) of Key West, and it was moving north-northwest at 8 mph (13 kph)

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph). The National Weather Service reported wind gusts of 90 mph (145 kph) near its Key West office.

After hitting the Florida Keys, Irma was forecast to move up the state's Gulf Coast later Sunday.

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7:55 a.m.

The National Weather Service in Miami has issued tornado warnings for a wide swath of Monroe, Miami-Dade and Broward counties in South Florida.

Officials say the band of rain and tornado producing cells is moving quickly.

There have been no reports of tornadoes touching down.

7:50 a.m.

Authorities are urging people who chose to ride out Hurricane Irma in the Florida Keys to remain indoors until the storm passes.

The storm's eyewall reached the chain of islands Sunday morning. The National Weather Service reported wind gusts of 90 mph (145 kph) near its Key West office.

In a Facebook post early Sunday, Key West Police urged people who stayed for the hurricane to remain where they took shelter until the storm had passed completely. They also urged people not to go outside when the eye of the storm is over there area, a time period when conditions can seem deceptively calm.

John Huston, who is riding out the storm from his home in Key Largo in the upper Keys, says the wind gusts are strong in his area.

"Water level is higher today," he said via text message Sunday morning. "Incredible wind that won't stop."

7:05 a.m.

Hurricane Irma's eyewall has reached the Florida Keys.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami says the storm's northern eyewall reached the lower Florida Keys Sunday morning. The eyewall is a band of clouds surrounding the center of the storm that has intense winds and strong rain.

The hurricane center says Key West International Airport has measured sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph).

7:00 a.m.

Hundreds of thousands of people are without power in Florida as Hurricane Irma's winds and rain lash the state.

Irma's center was over water off Key West early Sunday, but places including Miami were being hit with strong winds and rain.

Florida Power & Light Company said that about 430,000 customers were without power Sunday morning. Miami-Dade County had the most outages with about 250,000. Broward County had 130,000 outages. Palm Beach County had more than 40,000 outages.

The utility said that it has mobilized crews and is working to restore power as it can.

6:30 a.m.

With Hurricane Irma closing in on Florida, the storm's winds are already lashing parts of the state.

In Key West, Carol Walterson Stroud and her family are huddled in a third floor apartment at a senior center.

Stroud said early Sunday that the wind was blowing hard, but her family was OK. In a text message to a reporter, she said: "We are good so far."

As of 6 a.m. EDT, forecasters say the Category 4 storm is centered about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of the island.

The 60-year-old is with her husband and granddaughter and their dog. Stroud says she plans to step outside once the "eye" of the hurricane passes over later Sunday.

Meanwhile, to the north, access to all of Pinellas County's barrier islands, including the popular spring break destination of Clearwater Beach, has been shut off.

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6:10 a.m.

The eye of Hurricane Irma is very close to the lower Florida Keys.

As of 6 a.m. EDT, the U.S. National Hurricane Center says the Category 4 storm is centered about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and is moving northwest at 8 mph (13 kph).

Irma's maximum sustained winds are near 130 mph (215 kph). The hurricane center says weakening is forecast but Irma is expected to remain a powerful hurricane as it moves through the Florida Keys and near Florida's west coast.

6:10 a.m.

France and the Netherlands say their islands in the Caribbean were spared major damage from Hurricane Jose, which passed farther away from the islands than expected.

The Sunday announcements — coming from France's national weather service and the Dutch navy — were good news for islands that had already been devastated by Hurricane Irma last week.

Meteo-France said Jose's center passed overnight about 75 miles (125 kilometers) from St. Martin and 80 miles (135 kilometers) from St. Barts, though it still produced gales of up to 48 mph (80 kph) around the islands.

In a tweet Sunday, the Netherlands' navy says the situation after Jose passed north of the islands overnight is "better than expected." Scores of marines and troops will resume their efforts to restore vital infrastructure and distribute food and water on St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius.

In a separate tweet, the navy said the security situation on St. Maarten, which saw widespread looting and robberies after Hurricane Irma, has improved thanks to patrols by marines and police flown to the island to help overwhelmed local law enforcement.

5:10 a.m.

Hurricane Irma has sped up slightly and its eye is about to move across the lower Florida Keys early Sunday.

The hurricane is centered about 40 miles (65 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and is moving north-northwest near 8 mph (13 kph).

Irma is a Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (215 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center says weakening is forecast but Irma is expected to remain a powerful hurricane as it moves through the Florida Keys and near Florida's west coast.

Tens of thousands in Florida are huddled in shelters as the hurricane threatens to make a catastrophic hit on the state.

5:10 a.m.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander is flying to the Caribbean to meet survivors of Hurricane Irma who were evacuated there from the hard-hit island of St. Maarten.

Meanwhile, Dutch tourists stranded for days on St. Maarten are hoping to finally get flights home.

Willem-Alexander was to fly Sunday to the island of Curacao to visit a hospital where more than 60 patients from St. Maarten who require kidney dialysis were flown for treatment over the last two days by the Dutch military.

If the weather is good enough, the monarch will later fly onward to St. Maarten and two other smaller islands hit by Irma on Wednesday to offer his support to the thousands of residents and Dutch marines helping to clear the island, where some 70 percent of homes were badly damaged or destroyed by the Category 5 storm.

The Dutch navy tweeted Sunday that it plans to evacuate tourists from the island's shattered resorts.

4:10 a.m.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Irma is bearing down on the lower Florida Keys early Sunday.

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A National Ocean Service station on a coral reef near the Keys has recorded sustained winds of 66 mph (105 kph) with a gust up to 85 mph (137 kph). Key West International Airport has measured sustained winds of 43 mph (69 kph) with a gust up to 73 mph (117 kph).

Irma is centered about 55 miles (90 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and is moving northwest near 6 mph (9 kph).

3:15 a.m.

A re-strengthened Hurricane Irma is continuing to move toward the western Florida Keys early Sunday. The hurricane has regained Category 4 status with maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (210 kph) and is centered about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southeast of Key West, Florida.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says the Miami Executive Airport has measured a sustained wind speed of 46 mph (74 kph) with a gust of up to 61 mph (98 kph).

Tens of thousands in Florida are huddled in shelters as the hurricane threatens to make a catastrophic hit on the state.

2:10 a.m.

Hurricane Irma has regained Category 4 strength as it moves toward Florida, where it's feared to make a devastating hit.

Irma's maximum sustained winds increased early Sunday to near 130 mph (210 kph) and it's expected to gain a little more strength as it moves through the Straits of Florida and remain a powerful hurricane as it approaches Florida.

Irma is centered about 70 miles (115 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and is moving northwest near 6 mph (9 kph).

1:40 a.m.

Hurricane Irma is closing in on the Florida Keys with top winds of 120 mph (190 kph) early Sunday as forecasters monitored a crucial shift in its trajectory that could keep its ferocious eye off the southwest Florida coast and over warm gulf water.

Tens of thousands of people huddling in shelters watched for updates as the storm swung to the west, now potentially sparing Tampa as well Miami the catastrophic head-on blow forecasters had been warning about.

But those few miles meant St. Petersburg could get a direct hit, rather than its more populous twin across Tampa Bay.

The leading edge of the immense storm bent palm trees and spit rain across South Florida, knocking out power to more than 170,000 homes and businesses, as the eye approached Key West.

Category 4 Hurricane Irma begins assault on Florida Keys

By TAMARA LUSH and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Residents huddled in shelters watching for updates as Hurricane Irma began its assault on Florida early Sunday as a Category 4 storm, lashing the area with winds near 130 mph (215 kph) and drenching rain.

Irma's northern eyewall reached the lower Florida Keys and the U.S. National Hurricane Center said the hurricane was expected to remain a powerful storm as it moved through the Florida Keys and near the state's west coast.

As of 8 a.m. EDT Sunday, the hurricane was centered about 20 miles (30 kilometers) east-southeast of Key West, Florida, and was moving north-northwest at 8 mph (13 kph). The Key West International Airport measured sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph) with a gust of up to 70 mph (113 kph), according

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to the hurricane center.

The National Weather Service issued tornado warnings for a wide swath of Monroe, Miami-Dade and Broward counties in South Florida. The band of rain and tornado producing cells was moving quickly, officials said. There were no immediate reports of tornadoes touching down.

In the Tampa Bay area, access to all of Pinellas County's barrier islands, including the popular spring break destination of Clearwater Beach, was shut off.

The leading edge of the immense storm bent palm trees and spit rain across South Florida, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses, as the eye approached Key West.

As the hurricane's eye approached the Florida Keys early Sunday, 60-year-old Carol Walterson Stroud and her family were huddled in a third floor apartment at a senior center in Key West.

"We are good so far," she said in a text message just before 5:30 a.m. "It's blowing hard."

Stroud was with her husband, Tim Stroud, and granddaughter, Sierra Costello. Their dog Rocky was also riding out the storm.

Stroud said she planned to step outside once the eye of the hurricane passed over. She said she has stood in the eye of a hurricane before and it's "total peace and quiet."

However, Key West Police urged anyone riding out the storm in that city to "resist the urge" to go outside during the eye. "Dangerous winds will follow quickly," police said in a Facebook post.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott had warned residents in the state's evacuation zones Saturday that "this is your last chance to make a good decision." About 6.4 million people were told to flee.

But because the storm is 350 to 400 miles wide, the entire Florida peninsula was exposed. Forecasters said the greater Miami area of 6 million people could still get life-threatening hurricane winds and storm surge of 4 to 6 feet.

Irma was at one time the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the open Atlantic with a peak wind speed of 185 mph (300 kph) last week. It left more than 20 people dead across the Caribbean and as it moved north over the Gulf of Mexico's bathtub-warm water of nearly 90 degrees, it was expected to regain strength.

Meteorologists predicted Irma would plow into the Tampa Bay area Monday morning. The area has not been struck by a major hurricane since 1921, when its population was about 10,000, National Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said. Now around 3 million people live there.

The latest course also still threatens Naples' mansion- and yacht-lined canals, Sun City Center's retirement homes, and Sanibel Island's shell-filled beaches.

Irma's course change caught many off guard and triggered a major round of last-minute evacuations in the Tampa area. Many businesses had yet to protect windows with plywood or hurricane shutters. Some locals grumbled about the forecast, even though Florida's west coast had long been included in the zone of probability.

"For five days, we were told it was going to be on the east coast, and then 24 hours before it hits, we're now told it's coming up the west coast," said Jeff Beerbohm, a 52-year-old entrepreneur in St. Petersburg. "As usual, the weatherman, I don't know why they're paid."

Nearly the entire Florida coastline remained under hurricane watches and warnings, and the latest projections could shift again, aiming the worst of the storm at other parts of the state.

Forecasters warned of storm surge as high as 15 feet (4.5 meters).

"This is going to sneak up on people," said Jamie Rhome, head of the hurricane center's storm surge unit.

The westward shift prompted Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, to order 260,000 people to leave, while Georgia scaled back evacuation orders for some coastal residents. Motorists heading inland from the Tampa area were allowed to drive on the shoulders.

At Germain Arena not far from Fort Myers, on Florida's southwestern corner, thousands waited in a snaking line for hours to gain a spot in the hockey venue-turned-shelter.

"We'll never get in," Jamilla Bartley lamented in the parking lot.

The governor activated all 7,000 members of the Florida National Guard, and 30,000 guardsmen from elsewhere were on standby.

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In the Orlando area, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World all were closing Saturday. The Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Orlando airports shut down.

Given its mammoth size and strength and its course up the peninsula, it could prove one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit Florida, and inflict damage on a scale not seen here in 25 years.

Hurricane Andrew smashed into suburban Miami in 1992 with winds topping 165 mph (265 kph), damaging or blowing apart over 125,000 homes. The damage in Florida totaled \$26 billion, and at least 40 people died.

Reeves reported from Naples. Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Terry Spencer in Palm Beach County; Gary Fineout in Tallahassee; Terrance Harris and Claire Galofaro in Orlando; and Freida Frisaro, Jason Dearen, Jennifer Kay and David Fischer in Miami contributed to this report.

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER — Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Cuba surveys toppled houses, flooded cities in wake of Irma

By **DESMOND BOYLAN** and **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**, Associated Press

CAIBARIEN, Cuba (AP) — Hurricane Irma ripped roofs off houses, collapsed buildings and flooded hundreds of miles of coastline as it raked Cuba's northern coast after devastating islands the length of the Caribbean in a trail of destruction that has left 22 people dead so far.

As Irma left Cuba and directed its 130 mph (215 kph) winds toward Florida Sunday, authorities on the island were warning of staggering damage to keys along the northern coast studded with all-inclusive resorts and cities, as well as farmland in central Cuba.

There were no immediate reports of deaths in Cuba - a country that prides itself on its disaster preparedness - but authorities were trying to restore power, clear roads and warning that people should stay off the streets of Havana because flooding could continue into Monday.

Residents of "the capital should know that the flooding is going to last more than 36 hours, in other words, it is going to persist," Civil Defense Col. Luis Angel Macareno said late Saturday, adding that the waters had reach at about 2,000 feet (600 meters) into parts of Havana.

As Irma rolled in, Cuban soldiers went through coastal towns to force residents to evacuate, taking people to shelters at government buildings and schools — and even caves.

Video images from northern and eastern Cuba showed uprooted utility poles and signs, many downed trees and extensive damage to roofs. Witnesses said a provincial museum near the eye of the storm was in ruins. And authorities in the city of Santa Clara said 39 buildings collapsed.

More than 5,000 tourists were evacuated from the keys off Cuba's north-central coast, where the government has built dozens of resorts in recent years.

Civil Defense official Gregorio Torres said authorities were trying to tally the extent of the damage in eastern Cuba, home to hundreds of rural communities.

In Caibarien, a small coastal city about 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Havana, winds downed power lines and a three-block area was under water. Many residents had stayed put, hoping to ride out the storm.

Before slamming into Cuba, Irma had caused havoc in lush Caribbean resorts such as St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Thomas, Barbuda and Anguilla.

Many of Irma's victims fled their battered islands on ferries and fishing boats for fear Hurricane Jose would destroy or drench anything Irma left untouched, but Jose veered away before doing much more damage.

On the Dutch side of St. Martin, an island divided between French and Dutch control, an estimated 70 percent of the homes were destroyed by Irma, according to the Dutch government.

Prime Minister William Marlin said about 1,600 tourists had been evacuated and efforts were being made to move 1,200 more.

Marlin said many countries and people have offered help to St. Maarten, but authorities were waiting

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on the weather conditions to see how it could be coordinated. Authorities are still trying to determine the extent of damage to the island but he said 28 police officers lost homes during the storms.

The U.S. State Department worked with the Defense Department to help more than 1,200 Americans fly out of the Dutch side of St. Martin, starting with those in need of urgent medical care, spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

Carol Basch, a 53-year-old tourist from Savannah, Georgia, took refuge during the storm in the bathroom of her St. Martin hotel room after windows shattered. She stayed there praying for about four hours, surrounding herself with pillows.

"I kept saying, 'Lord, please stop this, and soon, soon,'" said Basch, who was evacuated to Puerto Rico. "I'm glad I'm alive. I didn't think I was going to make it."

France and the Netherlands said their islands in the Caribbean were spared major damage from Jose, which passed farther away from the islands than expected.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center downgraded a hurricane warning for Barbuda and Anguilla. A hurricane watch also was discontinued for nearby Antigua.

In a tweet, the Dutch navy said the security situation on St. Maarten, which saw widespread looting and robberies after Hurricane Irma, had improved thanks to patrols by marines and police flown to the island to help overwhelmed local law enforcement.

Rodriguez reported from Havana. Associated Press writers Michael Weissenstein in Havana; Ben Fox in Miami; Ian Brown in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seth Borenstein in Washington; Alina Hartounian in Phoenix; Thomas Adamson and Angela Charlton in Paris; and Mike Corder in The Hague contributed to this report.

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Irma's westward shift now targets St. Pete more than Tampa

By TAMARA LUSH and JAY REEVES, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Irma's leading edge brought hurricane-force winds to the Florida Keys late Saturday, bending palm trees and spitting rain as the storm swirled north with 120 mph (190 kph) winds on a projected new track that could expose St. Petersburg — not Miami or even Tampa — to a direct hit.

St. Petersburg, like Tampa, has not taken a head-on blow from a major hurricane in nearly a century.

The National Hurricane Center's latest tweak to Irma's forecasted track has the storm hugging the Florida's west coast off Fort Myers, but possibly not making landfall there before moving back to the Gulf of Mexico. By moving the likely track a few crucial miles west, the storm would be able to regain strength over water before its deadliest winds hit St. Petersburg and Clearwater, rather than the more populated Tampa.

After that, the storm is now expected to skirt the coast again a bit north of Horseshoe Beach, then finally go inland around Fish Creek, northwest of Ocala, with a hurricane-force wind field well over 100 miles wide.

Irma's forward motion slowed to 6 mph (10 kph) as the storm stuttered off the coast of Cuba. Forecasters say it could still increase in strength, but their forecast didn't show it.

An estimated 70,000 Floridians huddled in shelters as Irma closed in on the Keys, where the storm's center was expected to swirl over land Sunday morning.

"This is your last chance to make a good decision," Gov. Rick Scott warned residents in Florida's evacuation zones, which encompassed a staggering 6.4 million people, or more than 1 in 4 people in the state.

Earlier in the day, Irma executed a westward swing toward Florida's Gulf coast that appeared to spare the Miami metropolitan area of the catastrophic direct hit that forecasters had been warning of for days.

Still, Miami was not out of danger. Because the storm's damaging winds stretch 350 to 400 miles wide, forecasters said the metro area of 6 million people could still get life-threatening gusts and a storm surge

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of 4 to 6 feet.

Irma — at one time the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the open Atlantic — left more than 20 people dead across the Caribbean as it steamed toward the U.S.

It was chugging toward Florida as a Category 3, with winds down considerably from their peak of 185 mph (300 kph) earlier in the week.

Meteorologists predicted Irma would plow into the Tampa Bay area by Monday morning, delivering the area its first major hurricane since 1921, when its population was about 10,000, National Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said. Now the area has around 3 million people.

The new course threatens everything from Tampa Bay's bustling twin cities to Naples' mansion- and yacht-lined canals, Sun City Center's retirement homes, and Sanibel Island's shell-filled beaches.

The course change from Florida's east coast caught many off guard and triggered a major round of evacuations. Many west coast businesses had yet to put plywood or hurricane shutters on their windows, and some locals grumbled about the forecast.

"For five days, we were told it was going to be on the east coast, and then 24 hours before it hits, we're now told it's coming up the west coast," said Jeff Beerbohm, a 52-year-old entrepreneur in St. Petersburg. "As usual, the weatherman, I don't know why they're paid."

Nearly the entire Florida coastline remained under hurricane watches and warnings, and leery residents watched a projected track that could still shift to spare, or savage, parts of the state.

Forecasters warned of storm surge as high as 15 feet.

"This is going to sneak up on people," said Jamie Rhome, head of the hurricane center's storm surge unit.

With the new forecast, Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, ordered 260,000 people to leave, while Georgia scaled back evacuation orders for some residents of the state's Atlantic shore. Motorists heading inland from the Tampa area were allowed to drive on the shoulder.

On Saturday morning, the state was already beginning to feel Irma's effects. More than 75,000 people had lost power, mostly in and around Miami and Fort Lauderdale, as the wind began gusting. By Saturday night, winds near hurricane force were recorded in the Keys.

In Key West, 60-year-old Carol Walterson Stroud sought refuge in a senior center with her husband, granddaughter and dog. The streets were nearly empty, shops were boarded up and the wind started to blow.

"Tonight, I'm sweating," she said. "Tonight, I'm scared to death."

At Germain Arena not far from Fort Myers, on Florida's southwestern corner, thousands waited in a snaking line for hours to gain a spot in the hockey venue-turned-shelter.

"We'll never get in," Jamilla Bartley lamented as she stood in the parking lot.

The governor activated all 7,000 members of the Florida National Guard, and 30,000 guardsmen from elsewhere were on standby.

In the Orlando area, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World all prepared to close Saturday. The Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Orlando airports shut down. The Sunshine Skyway Bridge spanning Tampa Bay was closed.

Given its mammoth size and strength and its projected course, it could prove one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit Florida and inflict damage on a scale not seen here in 25 years.

Hurricane Andrew smashed into suburban Miami in 1992 with winds topping 165 mph (265 kph), damaging or blowing apart over 125,000 homes. The damage in Florida totaled \$26 billion, and at least 40 people died.

Boat captain Ray Scarborough was 12 when Andrew hit and remembers lying on the floor in a hall as the storm nearly ripped the roof off his house. This time, he and his girlfriend left their home in Big Pine Key and fled north for Orlando.

"They said this one is going to be bigger than Andrew. When they told me that," he said, "that's all I needed to hear."

—

Lush reported from St. Petersburg. Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Terry Spencer in Palm Beach County; Gary Fineout in Tallahassee; Terrance Harris and Claire Galofaro in Orlando; and Jason Dearen, Jennifer Kay and David Fischer in Miami contributed to this report.

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Rohingya rebels declare truce as desperation hits camps

By **MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press**

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Rohingya insurgents, whose attack on Myanmar security forces last month triggered savage military reprisals, declared a monthlong truce Sunday as refugees continued to flood across the border into Bangladesh only to face scant basic resources, hunger and illness.

The Muslim insurgents of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army issued the truce statement on its Twitter account and urged Myanmar's government to reciprocate in order to assist all victims regardless of their background.

The government did not comment immediately.

The rebels, who say they're fighting to protect their minority members against government-sponsored persecution, launched their first known attacks last October and again on Aug. 25. According to Rohingya refugees, the military responded with indiscriminate killings, burning entire villages and forcing tens of thousands to flee. The government said most of the 400 dead were "terrorists."

The U.N. said Saturday that an estimated 290,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived in the border district of Cox's Bazar in just the last two weeks, joining at least 100,000 who were already there after fleeing earlier riots or persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. The number was expected to swell further, with thousands crossing the border each day.

Fights were erupting over food and water. Women and children were tapping on car windows or tugging at the clothes of passing reporters while rubbing their bellies and begging for food. Health experts warned of the potential for outbreaks of disease.

"More and more people are coming," said UNHCR spokeswoman Vivian Tan. With camps already "more than full," the new arrivals were setting up spontaneous settlements along roadsides or on any available patches of land.

Within the camps "we are trying our best, but it is very difficult because every day we are seeing new arrivals" with nowhere to go, Tan said.

Many of the newly arrived were initially stunned and traumatized after fleeing the violence. They are now growing desperate in searching for food distribution points that appeared only in recent days, passing out packets of biscuits and 25-kilogram (55-pound) bags of rice.

One aid worker who asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media said "stocks are running out" with the refugees' needs far greater than what they had imagined. "It is impossible to keep up," she said.

At one food distribution point, women were volunteering to help keep order by tapping people with bamboo sticks to gently urge them back in line. Weary women carried infants in their arms while clutching other children to their sides, afraid they might be separated in the crowds.

One 40-year-old man, faint with hunger, collapsed while waiting and could not stand again on his own strength when others tried to help him up. They drizzled water between his lips in an attempt to revive him, to no avail.

At one camp, a mobile clinic set up for the first time Saturday had already seen 600 patients by the afternoon. Patients, mostly children, were coming in with severe diarrhea, fungal skin infections, ear infections and high fever, said Nasima Yasmin, the director of the clinic run by a well-known Bangladesh health group.

Yasmin said their work was barely sufficient given the camp's scale and requirements.

"We need deep tube wells so that there is clean water and people can clean themselves. Also toilets

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are needed," she said, adding that the sheer number of newcomers raised fears of a serious outbreak of disease.

Refugee camps had already been filled to capacity before the influx. Makeshift settlements were quickly appearing and expanding along roadsides, and the city of Cox's Bazar — built to accommodate only 500,000 — was bursting at its seams.

There was an urgent need for more temporary shelters, Tan said. "We are seeing the mushrooming of these very flimsy shelters that will not be able to house people for too long," she said.

The U.N. has asked Bangladesh authorities to make more land available so they can build new relief camps.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement Saturday that it was "very concerned" about the situation and praised Bangladesh for its "generosity in responding to this humanitarian crisis."

It's not known how many Rohingya remain in Rakhine state. Previously the population had been thought to be roughly 1 million. Journalists in Rakhine state saw active fires in areas Rohingya had abandoned, adding to doubts over government claims that Rohingya themselves were responsible for setting them.

Associated Press writers Nirmala George in New Delhi and Katy Daigle in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Follow Muneeza Naqvi at www.twitter.com/mnaqvi10 .

They've been warned: Some insist on riding out Irma at home

By TAMARA LUSH and FREIDA FRISARO, Associated Press

REDINGTON SHORES, Fla. (AP) — Carl Roberts has Chinese food, a case of water and a million-dollar view in his 17th floor Gulf front condo — all he needs, he says, to weather the massive storm coming straight at him.

Authorities have beseeched more than 6 million people in Florida and Georgia to evacuate before Hurricane Irma's storm surge and fierce winds make it impossible to flee or be rescued. Many are staying nevertheless, even boasting about surviving Camille, Andrew, Katrina and other storms.

"No. 1, I don't have anywhere to go," said Roberts, an attorney. "And I'm on the 17th floor. I have security shutters, so I should be quite safe here."

Mandatory evacuation orders apply to all barrier islands around South Florida, including Redington Shores, where Roberts' condo complex towers over a narrow reach of sand. The entire Florida Keys were supposed to be emptied. Firefighters went door to door in mobile home parks, urging residents to get out.

People who refused to evacuate were not being arrested, but were told they wouldn't be rescued once the storm arrives.

"You can call, but we're not coming," Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said.

Carol Walterson Stroud figured Irma would turn elsewhere at first. Then, she didn't evacuate Key West because she's a nervous wreck driving alone, and her husband — "a hard-headed conch" — wouldn't leave.

So as Irma's winds and rain began to lash Florida's southernmost city, she hunkered in a borrowed apartment in the senior center where her husband Tim works, along with their granddaughter Sierra Costello, and dog Rocky. Her daughter, Breanna Vaughn, refused to leave her animals in her home a few blocks away.

"I'm afraid," Stroud acknowledged. "Tonight, I'm sweating. Tonight, I'm scared to death."

Many poor people had few options. People with more resources didn't want to stay in crowded shelters, or risk driving hundreds of miles north.

"If you drive to Atlanta or Tallahassee, you're risking running out of gas and being in your car in a Category 4 hurricane," said Michel Polette, who lives in Miami Beach.

Mobile home parks were subject to mandatory evacuation orders, be they inland or near water, but even there, people stayed put.

"I'm not going anywhere," said Laurie Mastropaolo, 56, at the Treasure Village Mobile Home Park in St.

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Petersburg. Her T-shirt, with a photo of "Grumpy Cat," said, "This is my happy face."

Mastropaolo said she weathered Sandy and other storms on Long Island, and wasn't convinced she had to leave, even after projections moved Irma's most deadly winds from Florida's east coast to the west.

"If I lived in Miami, I'd be outta there," said Mastropaolo. "I'll wait till the last minute. I'm not going to get on the road with the crazy people."

Roger Schwartz, 75, figures several hundred of his mostly retired neighbors were riding out the storm at the sprawling Gulfstream Harbor community of some 800 mobile homes.

"We may be sorry, I hope we're not," said Schwartz, who was staying inside with his wife; his 50-year-old son, Jeff; and their cat, Mr. Murphy. If the wind starts ripping off their roof, they can squeeze into a crawl space underneath, he said.

"I'd rather take the chance and be here, maybe get out and help other people around here," he said. "People in their neighborhood are pretty good darn good here."

A survey of survivors to see why they fled or stayed put produced unexpected results, according to a study published by the American Meteorological Society this year.

"Those who stayed and who were under mandatory evacuation, they had more dependable social networks than those who evacuated," said Jennifer Collins, one of the University of South Florida researchers. "Their neighborhoods and local communities — they felt very comfortable to hunker down with them."

That would include the regulars at Mac's Club Deuce, the most infamous South Beach dive bar, where people were tossing back drinks, shooting pool and playing the jukebox Saturday. Clouds of cigarette smoke floated in the air as Kathleen Paca, 56, was perched on a stool. She had just spray painted "We're Open Irma" on the plywood covering the bar's windows, covering the same defiant statement about "Wilma" in 2005.

"It's not going to be that bad," she said. "I'm on the second floor and have impact windows. I've thrown coconuts at my windows and they don't break."

Others cited special circumstances, like pregnancy, for defying evacuation orders.

Hurricane Andrew badly damaged the Miami neighborhood of Stefani Travieso, 22. Now she's eight months pregnant and her doctor told her to stay in a place where she feels comfortable and safe. Because the roof was replaced after Andrew along with storm windows and a backup generator, she's not moving.

"If I wasn't pregnant, I'd be in the car headed north with my dog and my husband," she said.

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Frisaro from Miami. Contributors include Jason Dearen in Miami Beach, Claire Garafolo in Orlando and Jay Reeves in Ormond by the Sea.

This story has been corrected. The dateline is Redington Shores, not Reddington Shores.

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Stephens tops Keys in US Open final for 1st Grand Slam title

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sloane Stephens' remarkably rapid rise from a ranking of 957th in early August to U.S. Open champion on Saturday began with the slow work of coming back from surgery on her left foot.

After being off tour for 11 months because of her injury, Stephens easily beat her close friend Madison Keys 6-3, 6-0 in the first Grand Slam final for both, becoming only the second unseeded woman to win the tournament in the Open era, which began in 1968.

"I mean, there is no words to describe how I got here — the process it took or anything like that," Stephens said, "because if you told someone this story, they'd be, like, 'That's insane.'"

After the operation in January, Stephens couldn't walk for a month. It wasn't until May that she would get back onto a tennis court — and even then she was off her feet, plopped on a wood table at a practice

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facility at UCLA while aiming her racket at balls tossed by her coach, Kamau Murray. From there, Murray said, Stephens progressed to sitting while rolling around on an armless office chair. Two weeks later, Stephens finally was able to stand in place while working on her swing. Another two weeks, and she was allowed to move.

"Definitely," Murray said Saturday, "not fun for her."

Nor was it all that fun to face a pal with so much at stake. Stephens, 24, and Keys, 22, have known each other for about a decade, first as juniors, then on tour and as U.S. Fed Cup and Olympic teammates. They texted and spoke on the phone early in 2017, when both sat out the Australian Open because of injuries — Keys had surgery on her left wrist during the offseason, then again in June.

When the match ended after only 61 minutes, with Stephens claiming the last eight games, they met at the net for a long hug. While waiting for the trophy ceremony to begin, Stephens walked over and plopped herself down in a courtside chair next to Keys, so they could chat side-by-side.

"Sloane is truly one of my favorite people and to get to play her was really special. Obviously I didn't play my best tennis today and was disappointed," Keys said. "But Sloane, being the great friend that she is, was very supportive. And if there's someone I have to lose to today, I'm glad it's her."

They hammed it up afterward, too. When Stephens was presented with her \$3.7 million winner's check, she grabbed Keys' arm, as if to stop herself from fainting at the sum.

"That's a lot of money!" Stephens said. Keys eyed the check and teased, "I'll hold it for her."

Keys texted Murray a couple of days before the U.S. Open began to arrange a practice session with Stephens. And the two finalists planned to party together Saturday night.

"She can buy me drinks," Keys said. "All of the drinks."

This was only the second time in the Open era that two women were making their Grand Slam final debuts against each other in New York.

Keys acknowledged afterward it was all a bit much for her, and it showed: She wound up with 30 unforced errors.

"I definitely think my play today came down to nerves and all of that," she said, "and I just don't think I handled the occasion perfectly."

Stephens, meanwhile, made only six unforced errors.

Told of that number by a reporter during her engaging news conference, filled with quips and smiles, Stephens slapped a palm on the table in front her, then snapped her fingers and said: "Shut the front door. I don't think that's ever happened to me before. Oh, my God. That's a stat."

Still, she had dealt with jitters beforehand, too.

Murray went to Stephens' hotel room Friday night to check on her, using as an excuse for the visit that he needed to deliver some clean laundry. This is how he said the conversation went:

Stephens: "You wanted to see if I was nervous."

Murray: "Yeah."

Stephens: "I am."

"We just laughed and chuckled and talked about it for about 25 minutes, and after that, it was all good," Murray said. "I mean, probably she was still nervous but, you know, at least give her a chance to get it out."

Stephens' late father, John Stephens, was the 1988 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year for the New England Patriots. And her mother, Sybil Smith, was Boston University's first All-American in women's swimming. In addition to being a super athlete, Stephens seems to thrive in the spotlight: She's now 5-0 in tournament finals.

A year ago, she sat out the U.S. Open altogether because of her foot problem.

In 2017, her season debut came at Wimbledon in July, when she lost in the first round. Lost her next match, too, in Washington.

Since then, she has gone 15-2. Her ranking, up to 83rd at the start of the U.S. Open, will climb to No. 17 on Monday. Oh, and, don't forget: She is now, and forever will be, a Grand Slam champion.

"I should just retire now," Stephens joked. "I told Maddie I'm never going to be able to top this. I mean, talk about a comeback."

More AP tennis coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

Irma turns Caribbean island paradises into nightmares

By ANIKA KENTISH and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — Strung like beads along the northeast edge of the Caribbean, the Leeward Islands are tiny, remote and beautiful, with azure waters and ocean breezes drawing tourists from around the world.

The wild isolation that made St. Barts, St. Martin, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands vacation paradises has turned them into cutoff, chaotic nightmares in the wake of Hurricane Irma, which left 22 people dead, mostly in the Leeward Islands. Looting and lawlessness were reported Saturday by both French and Dutch authorities, who were sending in extra troops to restore order.

The Category 5 storm snapped the islands' fragile links to the outside world with a direct hit early Wednesday, pounding their small airports, decapitating cellphone towers, filling harbors with overturned, crushed boats and leaving thousands of tourists and locals desperate to escape.

The situation worsened Saturday with the passage of Category 4 Hurricane Jose, which shuttered airports and halted emergency boat traffic through the weekend.

Looting, gunshots and a lack of clean drinking water were reported on the French Caribbean territory of St. Martin, home to five-star resorts and a multimillion estate owned by President Donald Trump.

Federal officials deployed C-130s to evacuate U.S. citizens from the French Caribbean island of St. Martin to Puerto Rico. Nearly 160 were evacuated on Friday and approximately 700 more on Saturday.

The amphibious assault USS Wasp evacuated hospital patients from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands to St. Croix and Puerto Rico. The Norwegian Cruise Line turned a cruise ship into an ad-hoc rescue boat, sending a ship with 10 restaurants, a spa and a casino to evacuate 2,000 tourists from St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Norwegian Sky cruise ship was due to arrive Tuesday and take its charges to Miami.

More than 1,100 police, military officials and others were deployed to St. Martin and the nearby French Caribbean territory of St. Barts, where they used helicopters to identify the cars of people looting stores and homes. French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced Saturday night that France would be sending more Foreign Legion troops, paratroopers and other reinforcements to St. Martin starting Sunday.

Philippe said the several hundred gendarmes, soldiers and other security forces there were working in "difficult conditions" and needed help.

The government told all residents to stay inside and put the island and St. Barts on its highest alert level as Hurricane Jose rolled through the area.

The island is divided between French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten, where the Dutch government estimated Saturday that 70 percent of houses were badly damaged or destroyed, leaving much of the 40,000 population in public shelters as they braced for the arrival of Jose.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the situation remained "grim" on the island where widespread looting had broken out and a state of emergency was in force.

Rutte said some 230 Dutch troops and police were patrolling St. Maarten to maintain order and deliver aid and a further 200 would arrive in coming days. The government evacuated 65 dialysis patients from St. Maarten's hospital, which also was hard hit by Irma.

The islands' woes increased as the airport on St. Barts was closed, and those in Anguilla and St. Martin were open only to the military, rescue crews and aid organizations. Others, including St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, banned flyovers.

Late Saturday, St. Maarten Prime Minister William Marlin said about 1,600 tourists had been evacuated and efforts are being made to move 1,200 more.

Marlin said many countries and people have offered help to St. Maarten, but authorities are waiting on

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the weather conditions to see how this can be coordinated.

Before the hurricanes, St. Maarten's Princess Juliana International Airport was one of the former Dutch colony's major tourist draws thanks to a runway that ended just a few meters (yards) from the sandy crescent of Maho Beach, where people could stand and watch as arriving jets skimmed low over their heads.

After Irma, aerial footage shot by Dutch marines showed that Maho Beach's sands had washed away and the airport was badly damaged. The Dutch military are using the runway, which was inundated by high tides during the hurricane, to ferry in aid supplies but say it's not yet open to civilian flights as there are no runway lights or air traffic control. The Canadian low-cost airline and tour agency Sunwing evacuated some Canadian tourists from St Maarten to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic on Saturday.

Ports in St. John, St. Thomas and elsewhere remained closed.

As Jose neared, the last airplane flew in to St. Martin's battered Grande-Case airport Friday carrying workers to help re-establish the island's water supply and electricity. French authorities said some 1,105 recovery workers were deployed on St. Martin and St. Barts. A tanker with 350 tons of fresh water was also on its way.

By Saturday, damage was estimated to have already reached 1.2 billion euros (\$1.44 billion).

France said it hoped to allow commercial boats to go to and from St. Martin and nearby Guadeloupe on Monday, when waters are expected to calm.

French President Emmanuel Macron came under criticism for his government's handling of the crisis.

Once known for pink sandy beaches that attracted celebrities and royalty, the island of Barbuda is now a disaster zone. Virtually all of its 1,500 residents left for the sister island of Antigua, a 1.5-hour boat ride away, ahead of Jose with assistance from

"The biggest problem in Barbuda now is the fact that you have so many dead animals in the water and so on, that there is a threat of disease. You could put all the people back in Barbuda today ... but then you'll have a medical crisis on your hand," Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Fernandez said.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson announced a package of 42 million pounds (about \$55 million) for the relief effort in the British overseas territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks & Caicos

"The UK government is doing everything it possibly can to help those affected by the hurricane," he said.

But Anguilla's former attorney general, Rupert Jones, criticized Britain's response to the disaster.

"It is an insufficient drop in the Caribbean ocean for islands subject to devastation and inhabited by its own citizens," he wrote in an email. "The rebuilding effort is bound to cost a vast amount more and it is hard to see this making a real difference to the three islands."

Weissenstein reported from Havana, Cuba. Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Thomas Adamson and Angela Charlton in Paris and Mike Corder in The Hague contributed.

Follow Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

AP Exclusive: Toxic sites in likely path of Irma **By MICHAEL BIESECKER and JASON DEAREN, Associated Press**

MIAMI (AP) — Dozens of personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency worked to secure some of the nation's most contaminated toxic waste sites as Hurricane Irma bore down on Florida. The agency said its employees evacuated personnel, secured equipment and safeguarded hazardous materials in anticipation of storm surges and heavy rains.

The Associated Press surveyed six of the 54 Superfund sites in Florida before Irma's arrival, all around Miami in low-lying, flood-prone areas. There was no apparent work going on at the sites AP visited this past week. The EPA said that if there was no activity, a site should be considered secured but would be closely monitored. The sites were in various stages of federally directed, long-term cleanup efforts.

At the Miami-Dade Emergency Operations Center on Saturday, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said the EPA workers he's spoken with seem "generally positive" about the prospects for toxic sites remaining secure

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in the coming hurricane. But "they can't guarantee it 100 percent," he told AP.

"EPA feels they got a handle on it," he said. "They think that the risk is real but certainly not as severe as some other places. Not to minimize it — it's something to think about."

AP was not able to fully evaluate each site's readiness for the hurricane.

"If any site in the path of the storm is found to pose an immediate threat to nearby populations, EPA will immediately alert and work with state and local officials and inform the public — and then take any appropriate steps to address the threat," EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said Friday. "So far no sites have risen to this level that we are aware of."

A risk analysis by EPA concluded in 2012 that flooding at such sites in South Florida could pose a risk to public health by spreading contaminated soil and groundwater. Flooding could disturb dangerous pollutants and wash it onto nearby property or contaminate groundwater, including personal wells, said Elizabeth "Betsy" Southerland, who retired last month as director of science and technology in EPA's Office of Water after 30 years at the agency.

"The agency needs to quickly respond with careful monitoring after the storm," said Southerland.

A recent analysis for the Government Accountability Office by two researchers at American University found that a storm surge in South Florida of just 1 to 4 feet could inundate the half-dozen sites visited by AP in recent days. Irma was predicted to push in a wall of water up to 12 feet high.

Of particular concern was the one-acre Miami Drum Services site. It is located over a drinking-water aquifer in a heavily industrial area of Doral, in west Miami-Dade County. The site was once home to more than 5,000 drums of various chemicals, some of which were dumped onsite after the metal containers were washed with a caustic cleaning solution. That solution, mixed with the chemical residues in the drums, leaked into the Biscayne Aquifer, a drinking water source.

The EPA's community involvement coordinator for the site, Ronald Tolliver in Atlanta, told AP he was not sure what the agency was doing to prepare the site or contact residents whose drinking water could be affected by serious flooding from Irma. Bowman said Tolliver was a new employee and may not have been familiar with the EPA's hurricane procedures for Superfund sites.

At the Homestead Air Reserve Base Superfund site south of Miami, it would take only about a foot of storm surge to swamp the nearly 2,000-acre Superfund site. Numerous apartments and a shopping center with a supermarket are nearby.

The EPA needs to do a better job helping people who live near Superfund sites stay informed with accurate information, said Stephen Sweeney, a former graduate fellow in EPA's office of policy and one of the American University researchers who conducted the Superfund flooding study.

"These residents need to be aware of their surroundings, and what could be in their water and the floodwater," said Sweeney, now a private consultant. "There needs to be some sort of public communication. Either mass distribution of information or evacuating residents — it's up to the agency to make that call."

At the Anodyne site in North Miami Beach on Friday, the AP found three sealed steel drums labeled as being filled with "IDW" soil and water in the open, weed-covered field behind a building. IDW is the designation for "investigation derived waste." The drums were labeled, "Do not disturb." Bowman said the barrels were low-risk to human health.

A worker from a nearby building, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation, said he saw workers putting soil and water into the drums. Soil and groundwater at the former industrial site was contaminated with a brew of toxic chemicals, including pesticides, solvents and heavy metals.

After AP inquired about the drums, the EPA said Saturday it dispatched workers to Anodyne to remove the containers. They had contained "drill cutting and purge water" produced during the installation of a new monitoring well the prior week, the agency said.

The EPA has made significant efforts over the last week to publicize its response to flooding at Superfund sites in Texas and allay concerns about similar sites in Florida. That followed an Aug. 26 report by AP that at least seven Superfund sites in the Houston region had flooded during Hurricane Harvey. AP journalists on the scene in Texas surveyed the sites by boat, vehicle and on foot.

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Hours after AP's story last week, the EPA said it had reviewed aerial imagery confirming that 13 of 41 Superfund sites in areas affected by Harvey had flooded and were experiencing possible damage due to the storm. The EPA also confirmed that its own personnel had not yet visited the Houston-area sites.

Since then, EPA has been issuing daily updates about its efforts. On Monday, the agency organized a media tour of one of the Houston sites highlighted in AP's reporting, though AP was not notified about the press event and was not able to attend. After AP informed the EPA in Washington that its reporters had been surveying Superfund sites in South Florida, the agency warned in a press release that "unauthorized entry at any Superfund site, either prior to or following the storm, is prohibited as these sites can be extremely dangerous and can pose significant threats to human health."

Following his appointment by Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has repeatedly said that cleaning up Superfund sites is among his top policy priorities. He appointed a task force to study the issue quickly, adopting 42 recommendations and saying he wanted to develop a "top-10 list" of the most dangerous sites.

Pruitt, who has questioned the severity of consequences from global warming, has been largely silent on the threat posed to Superfund sites by rising seas and more powerful storms.

A nationwide climate change adaptation assessment conducted by EPA under the Obama administration in 2012 determined that more than 500 Superfund sites are located in flood zones. Nearly 50 are in coastal areas that could also be vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge, including several located in Florida.

"There's a sharp contrast between the recommendations left behind for the Pruitt EPA and what his task force examined," said Mathy Stanislaus, who served as EPA's assistant administrator for solid waste and emergency response under President Obama. "They completely omitted any consideration of increasing vulnerability from climate change."

The EPA declined to make Pruitt available for an interview with the AP. But asked about the issue by CNN, he said now is not the time to debate the impacts of global warming.

"To have any kind of focus on the cause and effect of the storm; versus helping people, or actually facing the effect of the storm, is misplaced," Pruitt said Thursday. "What we need to focus on is access to clean water, addressing these areas of superfund activities that may cause an attack on water, these issues of access to fuel.... Those are things so important to citizens of Florida right now."

Biesecker reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Kelli Kennedy in Pompano Beach, Florida, contributed to this report.

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

Submit a confidential tip to The Associated Press at <https://www.ap.org/tips>

Son of ex-Fox News host Eric Bolling dies in Colorado

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — The son of former Fox News host Eric Bolling has died, just hours after Fox announced that Bolling was leaving the network.

Bolling said in a tweet on Saturday that he and his wife, Adrienne, were devastated by the loss of their son, Eric Chase Bolling. A sophomore at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Eric Chase Bolling died Friday night.

Eric Bolling said the cause of his son's death is under investigation but that authorities told him there was "no sign of self harm at this point" and that an autopsy was planned next week.

Boulder police were investigating a death near the university, but Sgt. Nick Smetzer said the department would not release the circumstances of the death or identify the person who died.

The coroner's office typically releases the names of people whose deaths are investigated after a few days.

"Adrienne and I are devastated by the loss of our beloved son Eric Chase last night," Bolling tweeted. "Please respect our grieving period."

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"We are very saddened to hear of the passing of Eric Bolling's son," Fox News Channel said in a statement Saturday. "Eric Chase was a wonderful young man and our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bolling family."

On Friday, Fox News Channel said it had parted ways with Bolling, who had been suspended in August following allegations that he sent lewd photos to female co-workers.

Fox is also cancelling the program Bolling hosted, "The Specialists." Meanwhile, Fox Business Network is reinstating Charles Payne, a host who had been suspended while the network had investigated charges of sexual misconduct.

Bolling had been working at Fox for 10 years and had been considered a rising star, one of its more vociferous supporters of President Donald Trump. He had the lead role on "The Specialists," which aired at 5 p.m. ET.

This story has been corrected to say that Eric Chase Bolling was a sophomore at the University of Colorado in Boulder, not a freshman.

Hurricane Irma lashes Cuba; Jose poses threat elsewhere

By **DESMOND BOYLAN** and **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**, Associated Press

CAIBARIEN, Cuba (AP) — Irma collapsed buildings and battered Cuba with deafening winds and relentless rain Saturday, while a second hurricane, Jose, threatened to lash already-reeling islands elsewhere in the Caribbean.

Across a swath of Cuba, utility poles were toppled, trees uprooted and roads blocked. Witnesses said a provincial museum near the eye of the storm was in ruins. And authorities in the city of Santa Clara said 39 buildings collapsed.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in Cuba in addition to the 22 dead left in Irma's wake across the Caribbean, where the storm ravaged such lush resort islands as St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Thomas, Barbuda and Anguilla.

Many of Irma's victims fled their battered islands on ferries and fishing boats for fear Jose would destroy or drench anything Irma left untouched.

On the Dutch side of St. Martin, an island divided between French and Dutch control, an estimated 70 percent of the homes were destroyed by Irma, according to the Dutch government. Officials said Jose was forecast to dump more rain on the island's buildings, many of which lost their roofs to Irma.

The U.S. State Department helped more than 500 Americans fly out of St. Martin, starting with those in need of urgent medical care, said spokeswoman Heather Nauert.

Carol Basch, a 53-year-old tourist from Savannah, Georgia, took refuge during the storm in the bathroom of her St. Martin hotel room after windows shattered. She stayed there praying for about four hours, surrounding herself with pillows.

"I kept saying, 'Lord, please stop this, and soon, soon,'" said Basch, who was evacuated to Puerto Rico. "I'm glad I'm alive. I didn't think I was going to make it."

Some islands received a last-minute reprieve from Jose as it passed by.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center downgraded a hurricane warning for Barbuda and Anguilla. A hurricane watch also was discontinued for nearby Antigua.

By late Saturday afternoon, Irma passed Cuba and slowly chugged toward Florida with winds of 125 mph (205 kmh). Jose was 85 miles (135 kilometers) northeast of the Leeward Islands, with winds of 145 mph (230 kmh).

As Irma rolled in, Cuban soldiers went through coastal towns to force people to evacuate, taking people to shelters at government buildings and schools — and even caves.

Video images from northern and eastern Cuba showed uprooted utility poles and signs, many downed trees and extensive damage to roofs.

Eastern Cuba, a major sugarcane-growing area and home to many poor, rural communities, faced a

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staggering recovery, with its economy in tatters even before the storm hit due to years of neglect and lack of investment.

Civil Defense official Gergorio Torres said authorities were trying to tally the extent of the damage, which appeared concentrated in banana-growing areas.

More than 5,000 tourists were evacuated from the keys off Cuba's north-central coast, where the government has built dozens of all-inclusive resorts in recent years.

In Caibarien, a small coastal city about 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Havana, winds downed power lines and a three-block area was under water. Many residents stayed put, hoping to ride out the storm.

Looting was reported on St. Martin. Curfews were imposed there and on St. Barts, and French and Dutch authorities announced plans to send hundreds more troops and police to keep order.

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose popularity has been sinking over unpopular domestic policies, held an emergency meeting as he came under criticism from stranded residents in the country's Caribbean territories. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who lost the presidential election in May, accused the government of having "totally insufficient" emergency and security measures.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe insisted that the government's support for Irma's victims isn't "empty words" and that it was "completely mobilized" to rescue and rebuild.

It was not immediately known whether U.S. President Donald Trump's luxury property on St. Martin had been damaged.

On Anguilla, Vanessa Croft Thompson crammed into her home's laundry room with her husband, her best friend and their children along with their cats and dogs, as Irma's floodwaters swamped her house. The storm peeled off her roof, rained water inside, and sheared paint from her walls.

"Our hurricane-proof door was bending in, it was warping ... and the entire house was shaking like it was an earthquake," she said.

Thompson, the head of the English department at Anguilla's only high school, said: "I don't even know something that's not destroyed. There's nothing here that hasn't been ripped apart by Irma."

Rodriguez reported from Havana. Associated Press writers Michael Weissenstein in Havana; Ben Fox in Miami; Ian Brown in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seth Borenstein in Washington; Alina Hartounian in Phoenix; Thomas Adamson and Angela Charlton in Paris; and Mike Corder in The Hague contributed to this report.

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER - Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

As Irma nears Florida, concern for animals a major issue

By TIM REYNOLDS, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The evacuation took 12 seconds.

As bands of Hurricane Irma started making their arrival at Zoo Miami early Saturday morning, Diesel was led from his rain-soaked cage, walked a few feet into a nearby reinforced building and settled in next to another cheetah in their new temporary home with a hay-covered floor. Until Irma passes, that's where they'll stay.

"We're as ready as we can be," Zoo Miami spokesman Ron Magill said when the move was complete.

Such was the sentiment around Florida on Saturday, where zoos, theme parks, rescue centers and other places with animals were bracing for Hurricane Irma's arrival. Five dolphins were moved from the Florida Keys to Central Florida in advance of the storm, but most zoos and the like in the Miami area said they were trying to keep their animals in place and secure from whatever Irma will bring.

Hundreds of thoroughbreds were moved from low-lying areas of Gulfstream Park, near Miami, to other training facilities and barns farther north. Some animal shelters were relocating dogs and cats to safer facilities, and a humane society near Tampa said it needed temporary foster homes for more than 100 dogs

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— a necessary move since Irma's track was headed west toward the Gulf side of the peninsula Saturday. "We live in a hurricane-prone area so our facilities are designed to accommodate these storms," said Brian Dowling, the general curator at Lion Country Safari in Palm Beach County — a facility with lions, chimpanzees, rhinos and more, all of whom stayed put for the storm. "Obviously, everything can't be hurricane-proof."

Many of the animals under the care of Dowling and his staff are taken to specially built pens, designed to hold up even if nearby buildings were lost in storms or tornadoes. Others are kept more in their usual day-to-day habitat, even with the gates chained open in some cases. The reason for that, Dowling said, is simple: the animals sense when things are going wrong, and raising their own stress levels can complicate matters.

"We allow those animals to decide where they want to go," Dowling said. "It actually reduces the stress level considerably. Their instincts tell them how to ride out the storm."

SeaWorld Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay will have workers on-site at all hours to care for and monitor the animals. SeaWorld also took in the five adult male dolphins from Dolphin Discovery in Duck Key, where officials said they will stay "until they can be safely returned to their home in the Florida Keys."

In Key West, when inmates were moved out of Monroe County Jail and relocated to Palm Beach County, residents from the county sheriff's animal farm — 250 animals that have been abandoned, abused, confiscated or donated — moved in. Officials said Saturday the jail cells are much safer for the animals than their regular farm quarters.

And it was not just in Florida: In Cuba, dolphins wrapped in wet towels were airlifted from the northern part of the island nation to a spot more out of Irma's expected wrath.

Regardless of what Irma does or where it hits, the storm is a reminder of what hurricanes have done to the state's ecosystem.

The damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 lingers in Florida's Everglades. The invasive Burmese pythons that researchers say have decimated populations of native mammals are believed to be descended from exotic snake breeding facilities in and around Homestead destroyed by Andrew's winds. Most of the exotic animals that wandered loose in Andrew's wake were recovered, but not the pythons.

The giant constrictor snakes thrived in the wetlands, where only very large alligators can challenge them. It's unknown how many pythons are in the Everglades — estimates range from 10,000 to 100,000 — but the evidence of their presence is the eerie, near-total absence of rabbits or other small animals reported by the hunters now paid by the state to kill pythons on public lands.

Given Zoo Miami's proximity to the Everglades, it was of the utmost importance to lock the facility down as much as possible as Irma neared.

"We needed to secure everything that could become a projectile: garbage cans, wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, all that stuff, making sure the generators are functioning, getting the signage down," Magill said. "We have so many exhibits that need the oxygenation and life-system support for the filtration. We had to make sure all that was functioning."

So while zoos tried to keep a sense of normalcy, countless families who fled Irma brought their pets along for the ride. Miami-Dade County was looking Saturday for more animal-friendly shelters, with three already filled to capacity.

"Life first," said Miami evacuee Manny Zuniga, who had his wife, two kids, two dogs and a ferret with him on his trip to safety in Arkansas. "We'll worry about everything else after."

Associated Press Writers Jennifer Kay and Curt Anderson in Miami contributed to this story.

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Tank failures in Harvey reveal vulnerabilities in storm

By **MATTHEW BROWN** and **LARRY FENN**, Associated Press

More than two dozen storage tanks holding crude oil, gasoline and other contaminants ruptured or otherwise failed when Harvey slammed into the Texas coast, spilling at least 145,000 gallons (548,868 liters) of fuel and spewing toxic pollutants into the air, according to an Associated Press analysis of pollution reports submitted to state and federal regulators.

The tank failures follow years of warnings that the Houston area's petrochemical industry was ill-prepared for a major storm, with about one-third of the 4,500 storage tanks along the Houston Ship Channel located in areas susceptible to flooding, according to researchers.

More of the massive storage tanks could be put to the test in coming days as Hurricane Irma bears down on Florida. The tanks are prone to float and break during floods, and Harvey's unprecedented rainfalls revealed a new vulnerability when the roofs of some storage tanks sank under the weight of so much water.

Federal and state rules require companies to be prepared for spills, but mandate no specific measures to secure storage tanks at refineries, chemical plants and oil production sites.

Although Florida has no oil refineries, it has more than 20 petroleum product storage terminals in coastal communities and about 30 chemical companies with a presence in the state, including a significant number of facilities in the Tampa Bay area, according to the American Chemistry Council and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"Tampa Bay is one of the most vulnerable cities in the country" to hurricanes, said John Pardue, a Louisiana State University professor who has researched problems with storage tanks during storms.

"But there's no requirement that says when you're in a hurricane zone you've got to do things differently," Pardue added. "If we're going to continue to put some of these facilities in harm's way, it would be great to have some specific regulations" to safeguard storage tanks.

The storm surge from Harvey was small enough that the refineries in the Houston Ship Channel appear to have avoided the huge spills associated with past storms such as Hurricane Katrina, when ruptured storage tanks released several millions of gallons of oil including into residential areas, according to Jamie Padgett, an associate professor at Rice University who has inventoried the Houston Ship Channel's storage tanks.

One difference during Harvey was that prior to the storm, some refineries apparently were able to fill up their storage tanks to make them less buoyant and therefore less prone to floating and being damaged, said Kyle Isakower, vice president of regulatory policy at the American Petroleum Institute.

That wasn't the case with about a dozen smaller storage tanks that experienced spills in Fayette County west of Houston, said Ron Whitmire with EnerVest, the Houston-based company that operated the tanks. The capacity of those tanks ranged from about 250 to 400 barrels, which he said was not large enough to resist the force of the floodwaters that swept them away.

"Do we plan for storms and hurricanes? Absolutely," Whitmire said. "But nobody plans for 50-plus inches of rain."

The record rainfall also exposed problems among almost 400 large storage tanks in the Houston area that have "floating roofs" that go up or down depending on how much fuel is inside the containers. The unprecedented rains that came with Harvey caused 14 of those roofs to sink, in some instances allowing the chemicals inside them to escape, according to company reports and Padgett of Rice.

There are no government rules dictating how tanks are designed. But the American Petroleum Institute has established industry standards for tank construction that call for tanks to be able to drain at a minimum 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain over a 24-hour period. Rain was falling at more than twice that rate during Harvey, Padgett said.

At least two of the floating roof failures occurred in gasoline storage tanks at Shell Oil's Deer Park refinery and another occurred at Exxon Mobil's Baytown refinery.

Pollution reports submitted by the companies to Texas regulators blamed the roof problems on Harvey's excess rainfall. The reports said air pollutants including benzene, toluene and xylene were released into the atmosphere. Long-term exposure to such pollutants can cause cancer, although Texas officials said they never reached concentrations high enough in the storm's wake to cause health concerns.

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A Shell representative said in a statement to the AP that the roof problems presented an "extremely rare" circumstance and that company workers had quickly responded by spraying the spilled fuel with foam to suppress any harmful vapors. All the gasoline that was released was contained on-site, Shell spokesman Ray Fisher said.

Exxon Mobil spokeswoman Charlotte Huffaker said safety was a priority for the company and it was able to lessen environmental damage from Harvey by shutting down equipment in advance. Huffaker said Exxon "reported and responded to the event as soon as it was identified."

As state and federal officials investigate the impacts from Harvey, it's uncertain how much spilled material flowed off-site from the storage yards, oil production areas and refineries.

It's expected to take about two weeks from the time of the spills for any contamination in the ship channel to reach Galveston Bay, according to Hanadi Rifai, director of the graduate program in environmental engineering at the University of Houston.

Texas has rules governing protections for underground storage tanks during floods, but not for above-ground tanks found at many refineries and chemical plants, according to Andrea Morrow, a spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Morrow declined to say if the agency planned to investigate the Harvey-related tank failures and whether tanks that failed had been properly secured before the storm.

"We have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting rapid needs assessment at this time," she said. "Due to the widespread impact from Harvey, the TCEQ anticipates conducting many storm-related investigations over the next several months."

Associated Press Correspondent Matthew Brown reported from Billings, Montana. AP data journalist Larry Fenn reported from New York City.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at www.twitter.com/matthewbrownap and get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb> .

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 10, the 253rd day of 2017. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 10, 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

On this date:

In 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot in the Louisiana state Capitol, allegedly by Dr. Carl Weiss.

In 1939, Canada declared war on Germany.

In 1945, Vidkun Quisling was sentenced to death in Norway for collaborating with the Nazis (he was executed by firing squad in October 1945).

In 1955, the Western series "Gunsmoke," starring James Arness as Marshal Matt Dillon, began a 20-season run on CBS-TV.

In 1963, 20 black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authori-

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ties and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1977, convicted murderer Hamida Djandoubi, a Tunisian immigrant, became the last person to date to be executed by the guillotine in France.

In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: Gen. David Petraeus, the top American commander in Iraq, told Congress he envisioned the withdrawal of roughly 30,000 U.S. troops by the summer of 2008, saying the surge in U.S. troops had met its military objectives "in large measure." Academy Award-winning actress Jane Wyman, 90, died in Palm Springs, California.

Five years ago: An airstrike killed al-Qaida's No. 2 leader in Yemen along with six others traveling with him in a breakthrough for U.S.-backed efforts to cripple the terror network's operations in the impoverished Arab nation. Chicago teachers began a seven-day strike, idling nearly 400,000 students in the nation's third-largest school district. Andy Murray became the first British man since 1936 to capture a Grand Slam title, beating defending champion Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich), 7-6 (10), 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 to win the U.S. Open in five grueling sets.

One year ago: John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was released from a Washington mental hospital for good. Angelique Kerber won her first U.S. Open title and the second Grand Slam trophy of her breakthrough season, beating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Baker Hall is 86. Actor Greg Mullavey is 84. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 77. Actor Tom Ligon is 77. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 75. Singer Jose Feliciano is 72. Actress Judy Geeson is 69. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 69. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 68. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 67. Actress Amy Irving is 64. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 63. Country singer Rosie Flores is 61. Actress Kate Burton is 60. Movie director Chris Columbus is 59. Actor Colin Firth is 57. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 57. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 54. Actor Raymond Cruz is 53. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 54. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 52. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 51. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 51. Actress Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 50. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 49. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 49. Actor Johnathan Schaech (shehk) is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 45. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 43. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 42. Actor Jacob Young is 38. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 37. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel is 37. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 35. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 33. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 31. Singer Sanjaya Malakar ("American Idol") is 28. Actor Chandler Massey is 27. Actress Hannah Hodson is 26. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 13.

Thought for Today: "History is the great dust-heap ... a pageant and not a philosophy." — Augustine Birrell, English author and statesman (1850-1933).